



“WE ARE EXPLORING WHAT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT BURDENING THE GRID.”

Remco Bosma

Mayor of the Municipality of Bladel

Claudia Rieswijk

Strategic Policy Advisor Spatial Planning of the Municipality of Bladel

“We consider it an important task to contribute to the Paris climate agreements. We are working on this as a municipality and we are also working on various sustainability initiatives together with the five Kempen municipalities: Bergeijk, Eersel, Reusel-De Mierden, Oirschot and Bladel”, Mayor Bosma explains. One of these initiatives is a policy for the large-scale production of renewable energy. Claudia Rieswijk: “There are numerous plans for solar and wind energy in De Kempen. Together with Enexis, we were discussing which adjustments would have to be made to the electricity grid to accommodate our plans. And then we suddenly received the news that there was insufficient transmission capacity for feeding electricity back into the grid.” Bosma: “This came as an unpleasant surprise. This would have major consequences for the energy transition and for business in the Kempen area.

The five Kempen municipalities decided to take action. Bosma: “We have a strong economy and a lot of entrepreneurs in our area, which is very important for the local economy. This motivated us to rethink our approach. We have to regard grid congestion as a fact and so we should see what is possible without burdening the electricity grid. Claudia Rieswijk: “The Kempen municipalities hired an agency to examine possible solutions, for example, connecting solar and wind energy projects directly to businesses that use a lot of energy, or by working with battery storage on an industrial estate. Enexis is actively involved in thinking about alternative possibilities, shoulder to shoulder.”

Robert Aerts, strategic advisor Energy Transition at Enexis: “This is an innovative and solution-driven region. They are demonstrating that now and their approach deserves a big compliment. At Enexis, we are involved in thinking about alternative possibilities and the impact on our electricity grid. My aim: to tell the story honestly and see what is possible. In this manner, the Kempen municipalities will not be confronted with unpleasant surprises.”