Main question of the day: *How can citizens take a (or the) leading role in the energy transition?*

The day started with an welcome by Pauline with a description of the goals for transitioning onto clean energy the next following years.

Afterwards Socrates of the Waag explained the purpose of the Social Tech Tour. The Social Tech Tour beliefs that digital innovation can be an important tool for the energy transition. The Waag has developed an Digital Social Innovation project which has the following goals:
- Understand better what digital solutions and social strategies are employed by DSI projects
- Increase the reach of DSI by drawing in and helping currently non-DSI stakeholders
- Strengthen the network of DSI stakeholders

One important message of Socrates was that citizens are not only passive energy consumers, but are more active and might also be involved in producing and storing energy (so called "prosumers"). The goal of the workshop today is to assess what it is that citizens need to be able to fulfill this more leading role in the energy transition.

The most important is that citizens are in the centre of the entire energy transition. There are three things needed for citizens to be able to fulfill this leading role in the energy transition:
1. All people should have the possibility to thrive in their role as contributors/prosumers!
2. We need a governance model that supports a balanced and efficient flow of resources!
3. We need to halt the trend towards marketization of data, make data commons!

These three beliefs were the centre of the workshop, applied to different cases explained next.

Case 1: Stadionschinkel buurt explained by Pauline Westendorp
This case showed that there already is a thriving energy community, which is a distributed network. People from all places might take part in this community. Seeing that we already have a group of people willing to take part in the energy transition it is only a matter of supplying them with right resources. This leads to following question of where to start? There are different levels of the feasibility of the energy transition that one can look at, that are interesting to examine. One of them being the technical aspect of transitioning, one being the financial aspect, and the third being the social feasibility of wanting to progress with the energy transition. In the neighbourhood of the Stadionschinkel buurt you can see that the social feasibility is there, seeing that there are many people from many areas that are willing to progress onto the energy transition. Now the goal is to provide them the right resources, with which they can make progression.

Case 2: Charging Infrastructure: Energy Community Options and data ethics by Tijs Wilbrink
Tijs is program manager digitalisation at 'Topsector Energie', what they do is offer resources for innovations supporting the energy transition and help finding funds to innovate. The

Netherlands have been a very progressive country, and are part of the innovative top sectors in multiple areas. One thing that Topsector Energie has developed are charging points (Laadpalen) for electric cars. This is also what is used as a case in the workshop about co-creation. Tijs finds 4 issues looking at the question if citizens can take a leading role in the energy transition:

1. Capacity restriction: If all people would switch to electric cars now, we won't have the capacity in the charging infrastructure.
2. Balance Incentives: There is no equal access to electric cars, they are very expensive until now which leads to them being only affordable for people with higher income
3. Your car data isn't yours: Electric cars are often smart cars as well. The data that they create are often shared with other parties, and aren't strictly yours.
4. Whose charging point?: The charging points of electric cars are in the hands of different parties. There are some points owned by the society, displayed on the public street, but there are also privately owned charging points, as well as commercial.

Amsterdam Smart City: Nicholas Been

Nicholas Been is studying Environmental Science at the Amsterdam University College and intern at Amsterdam Smart City. He is currently conducting a research on the collaboration between energy communities and municipalities in the energy transition. In his research we find two problem statements.

Two energy transition problem statements:
(1) How do local energy initiatives structurally organize themselves, and what are their processes of emergence?
(2) What do local energy initiatives need to do in order to efficiently and effectively work together with the municipality?
Methodology:
  (1) Literature analysis
  (2) Interview local energy initiatives

His findings can be categorized as follows. For a successful collaboration between municipalities and local energy communities, it is essential to:
● Mobilize actors within neighbourhoods
● Reach a strong/shared ambition amongst community members
● Build up a sustainable leadership
● Nurture and expand existing skills and expertise
● Communities need to familiarize themselves with the municipal frameworks/schemes

This means that in order for a neighbourhood to become non-reliant on natural gas, for consumption, *ALL* residents in the area must agree and partake in the process. Furthermore, an energy cooperative (as a legal entity) is best equipped to uptake a leading role in the energy transition.

Co-creation workshop:

After having had these presentations we moved onto the 'co-creation workshop' Created by the Waag.