Søren Hermansen

Bio:
Søren Hermansen is the director of Samsoe Energy Academy and the head of the Samsoe renewable energy island project, which he has been working on for 10 years. His mission is to demonstrate that it is possible to create a society which is self-sufficient and 100% based on renewable energy.

In 2008, Søren Hermansen was named one of the ‘Heroes of the Environment’ by Time Magazine. And in 2009 he was awarded the Gothenborg Award – the Nobel prize of the environment. Other and Awards include the Energy Globe 2008 and Eurosolar 2002. Søren Hermansen is Adjunct Professor at Aalborg Universitet.

The history of Samsoe Energy Academy:
In 1997, the Danish government offered a challenge to five populated islands to cut their carbon footprint and increase production of renewable energy. Samsø, an island of 4,100 people west of Copenhagen, won the contest.

The effort started with Hermansen, a former high school environmental studies teacher, going round to community meetings talking up the benefits of clean energy. He set up investment plans for island residents to buy shares in giant wind turbines, large solar panels and straw-fired central furnaces for homes and buildings in heating districts.

Today, the island exports wind-powered electricity to the Danish mainland and has cut its carbon footprint by 140 percent. Most Samsingers still use gasoline for their cars, as the island works on this last step to achieving energy independence. In the meantime, wind power exports more than make up for the carbon from Samsø’s tailpipe emissions.
The island’s energy revolution now draws thousands of visitors from around the world eager to learn how this was accomplished.

**In the media:**

*TIME Magazine (September 2008)*
**Heroes of the Environment 2008**
Link:
http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1841778_1841782_1841789,00.html

*New York Times (March 2009)*
**If you build it, tourists, politicians and the media will come**
Link:

*New York Times (September 2009)*
**Samso Journal: From Turbines and Straw, Danish Self-Sufficiency**
Link:
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/30/world/europe/30samso.html?_r=1&scp=3&sq=s%C3%B8ren%20hermansen&st=cse