

# Vuollerim – an energy hub

Vuollerim is a village within Jokkmokk municipality's boundaries in Northern Sweden with about 760 inhabitants. However, in the 50s, about 1600 people lived in the village due to the high need of work force for building of the hydropower plants at the Luleå river. Still today, Vuollerim is an important energy hub for hydro power production from the Luleå river. And despite the decrease in number of inhabitants, there is a comprehensive public infrastructure, a number of private companies like shops and hotels and the community hall Folkets hus.

Most buildings are 50 years and older and energy costs can be a burden for communities and companies. The LECO feasibility study found a high potential for energy efficiency and the use of photovoltaic. Community meetings and interviews in Vuollerim showed that there is a great interest in solar power. However, the relatively high investments for solar power combined with a low value for buildings in Northern Sweden inland is an important barrier. Therefore, there is an interest in developing a cooperative solution, which will benefit the whole community.

## Aims

The goal is to develop an innovative cooperative model for using solar power (photovoltaic), which is economic and allows a great

number of people in the community to participate. Beyond that, the community is working on building a buyers group for e.g. heat pumps or insulation. The idea is to get better prices when the order gets bigger.

## Results

About 50 private households and 17 companies and associations are interested in innovative sustainable energy solutions. With Folkets hus association taking the lead in the local process, the community aims at developing

- a model of shared community solar power plants. This could be ground mounted solar panels or several roof top solar plants.
- a model of building a buyers group for heat pumps or insulation

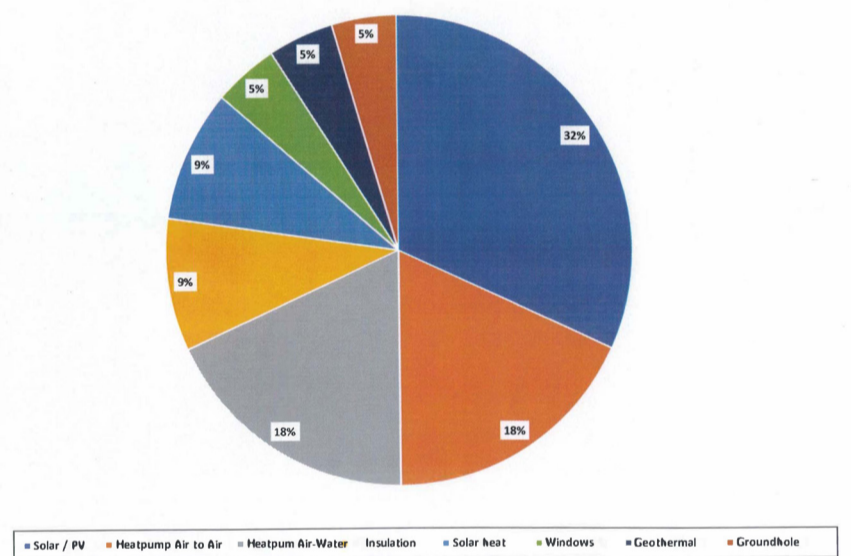
## Next Steps

Due to legal and tax issues, cooperative solar solutions are not common so far and need to be planned in detail for any specific location. Therefore, the next steps are:

- Building a local development group
- Involving important players like energy companies and financing institutions
- Search for a suitable spot for a ground mounted solar plant, alternative a in-depth planning for a roof top solar plant on Folkets hus.



Companies interest in additional sustainable energy



Community Based Energy Solutions for Remote Areas



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Local Energy Communities

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