Bærekraftige liv How thinking small, is big

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2008: Three neighbours in Landås, Bergen, decided to invite our local community to something we whished somebody would invite us to...

"Først når noen klarer å beskrive et miljøvennlig samfunn som vi gleder oss til å leve i, kommer ting til å skje - og da kan det skje fort."

Jon Bing

«When somebody describes the future we look forward to, then things will happen. And it will happen fast». Jon Bing

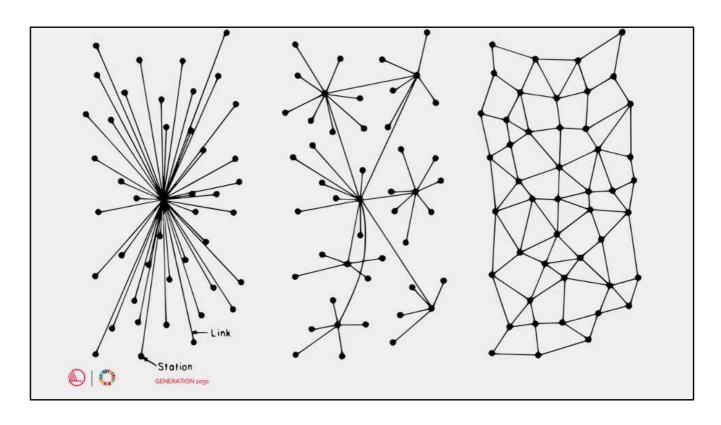


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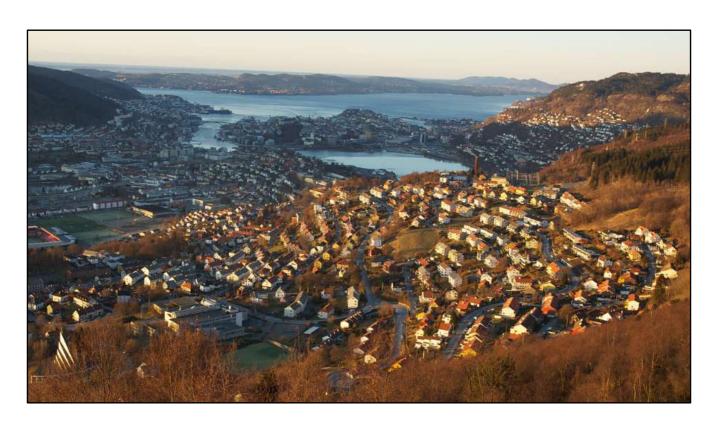




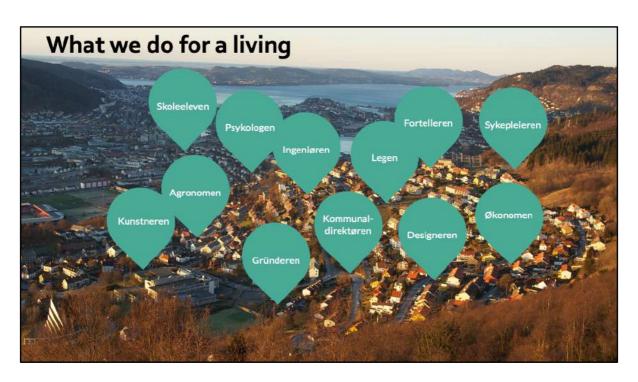
From protest to party



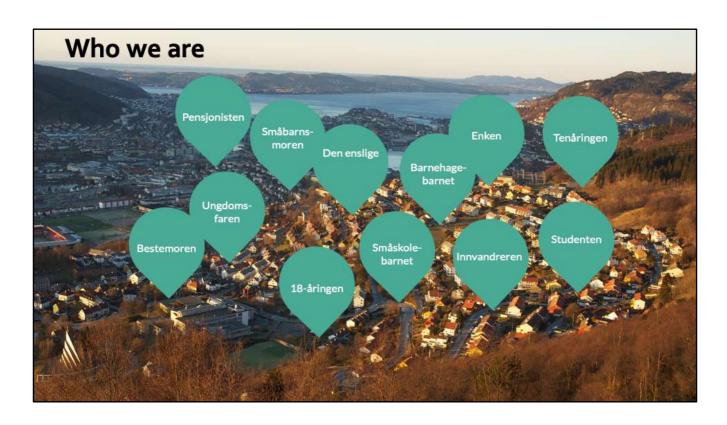
Goal in 2008: get people connected through passion. And solve the global issues locally.



This is my neighbourhood. My place. 8000 people, 3500 households.



Interdiciplinary with the capacity to solve many problems. The only thing is, we are tired from work when we get home. Voulutary work is not for everyone.



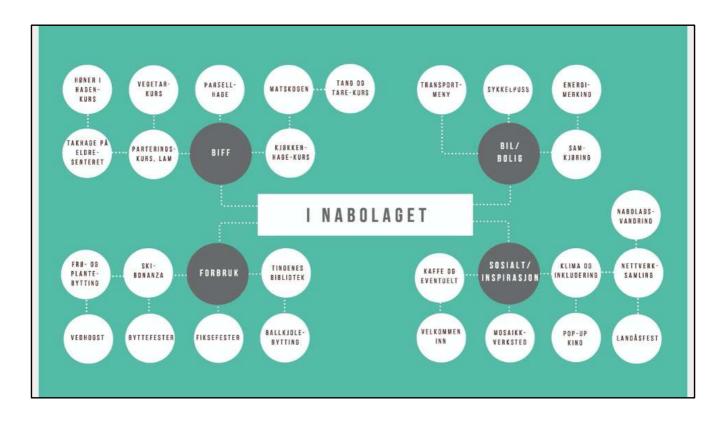
A footprint of society. We have the insight to understand and empathize with most problems at depth.



This is where our spare energy is hidden! Where we get a higher quality of life in return.



Together we have passion for everything and an inner drive to experiment and make things happen.



4 main categories: Food, consumption, energy and transportation. And fun. People are engaged in the most incredible issues.



From protest to party – Fun is good! It makes more people want to join. Be honest. Would you have *wanted* to accept the invitation (not just because it is the right thing to do, but because you actually want to)?

Search outside the box – Be creative. Make attractive posters. Frame the invitation in a way that would make you want to join on a Saturday night...

From action to values – Do, don't talk! Try not to be too predictable. Go with the flow. Freedance with your community. Feel the energy and follow it. Work bottom up – not top down!!



Local energy in so many ways. The woods behind our houses.



Repair nights. Doing boring things together is a boost for many people.



Sharing, donating, co-owning and local makerspace.



Re-skilling. What food grows around our feet, without our knowledge?



Food forest



Food; a universal language that connects us all.



You need to feel the energy you want others to feel. The photo is from the morning after The World Cycling Championship 2017 through our neighbourhood had ended. We decided to cheer the everyday people cycling to work, and reached the national news.



A restaurant in a private home. 3 people came alone, commenting on how liberating it was to see we had 17 seats for sale, signalizing it was ok to come without a partner.



A garden for local kindergartens on the roof of the nursing home. Many have lost their words, but not the hands have not forgotten how to grow plants. A beautiful project that looks for resources first not seen.



Our local community conference gathered more than 100 neighbours on a regular Thursday, to discuss visions for the next 20 years. We have to dare to see ourselves as an important piece of our national (and global) puzzle, in search for solutions.



What if we can grow 1% of our own vegetables? How little is «too small»? If what we do tomorrow is just a little bit better than what we do today, we have started to move. And that is grand.





Before I die, I want to....

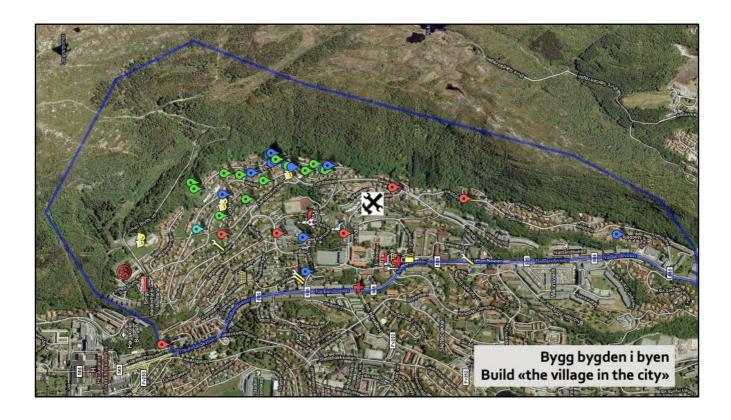
Inviting the neighbours dreams out into the open, builds a feeling of being surrounded by good people.



Things like this, does way more than provide warm clothes.



Mosaic stairs, initiated by a local artist. Made by many!



We need to belong! A strong local identity is something to be proud of.

We belong to communities where we are invited to contribute.



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We invite local resources (people and our dreams) to find our community, innovate and experiment with smart solutions, build community and strengthen relations. That is what we call true progress.



National network. People across the world works with the local community as starting points. This is where our social capital is the strongest. This is where we belong, where we can be visible and contribute with our small piece of the puzzle.



We work on all SDGs on a local level.



A small story at the end. This is Lystgaarden. A center for local recilience and sustainability, started by Bærekraftige liv in 2017. The house was the summer house of the Bergen composer Edvard Grieg when he grew up, and is now owned by the city of Bergen. When we took it over, we found a huge tree in the garden.



We had been told that the tree would be cut, but did not realize that we had to get rid of it ourselves.



Neighbours came and helped, and we could soon use the garden. But - it was still overgrown and not in harmony with the house.



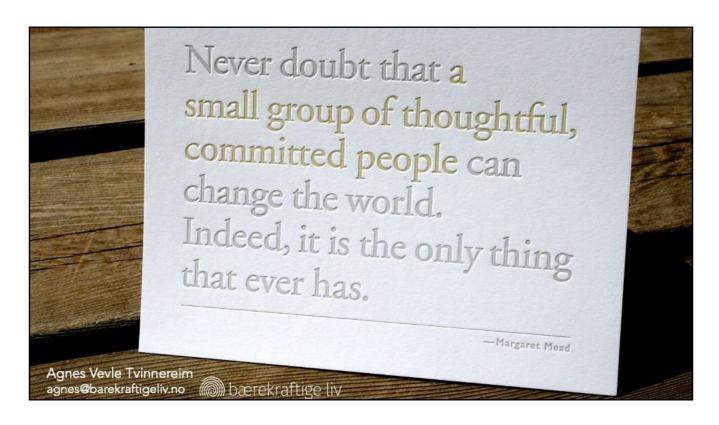
We got funding to re-create the historical garden and had a landscaper help us. It felt as if we were ruining everything...



60 neighbours came to help and worked non-stop from Friday to Sunday.



When we went home Sunday, this was the result. Lesson – we can do anything when we work together. Even change the world $\ensuremath{\odot}$



The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do! (Qoute Apple....)