

# Private actors' voluntary use of SEA in the energy transition

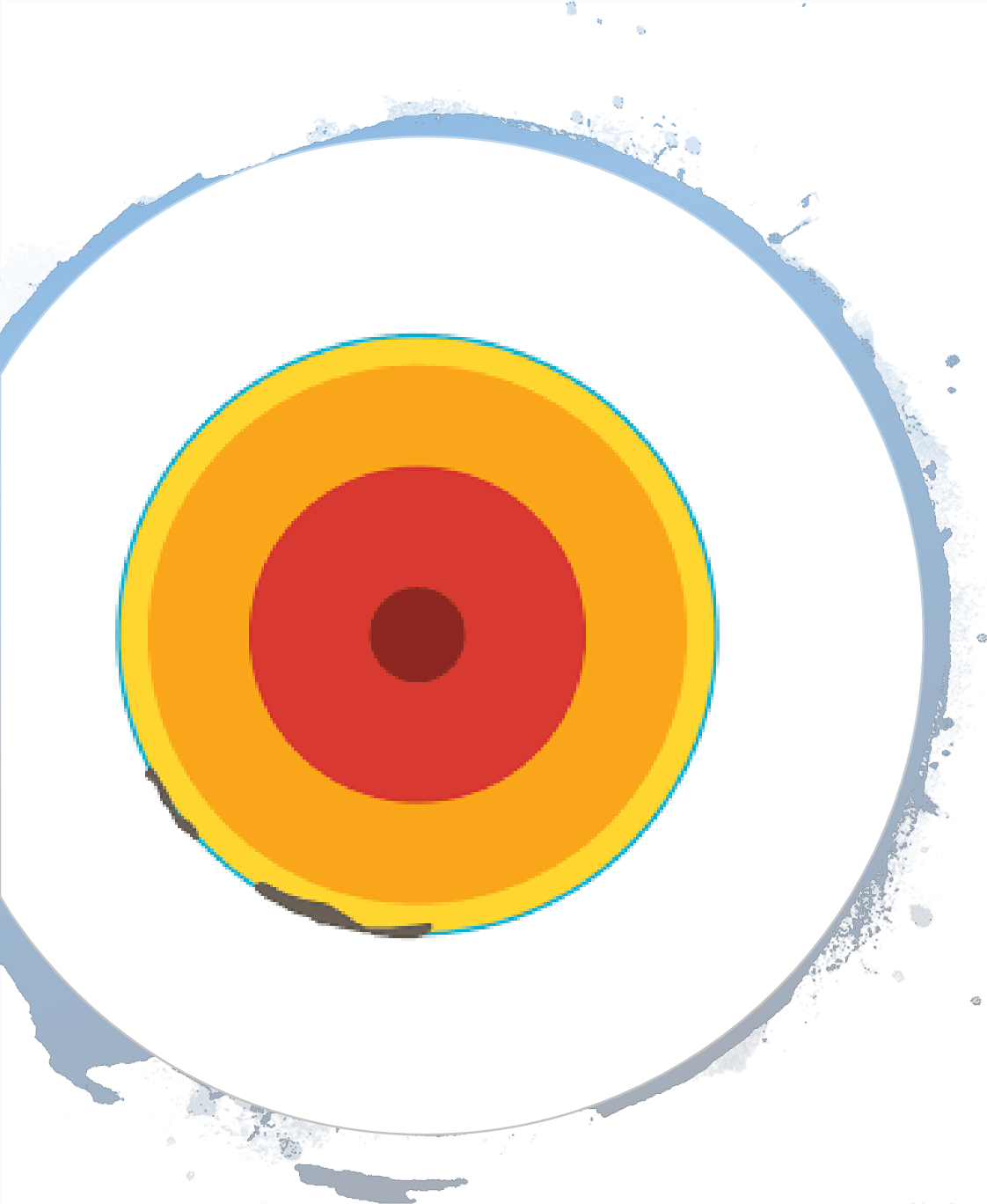
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# Voluntary use of SEA in energy transition

- The energy transition involves a series of strategic decisions of which some is subject to SEA regulation and others are not.
- Voluntary SEA is
  - In accordance with the directive/convention
  - Adapted beyond the directive/convention
  - Used to inform strategic choices



# The case: Geothermal energy in DK

## **Physical context**

- World's best district heating system
- 40-80 degree water at 1-3 km depths (sand)
- 1 existing well-functioning geothermal plant

## **Political situation**

- Political priority as part of green transition
- Higher subsidy on bioenergy and coal challenges implementation
- Strong actors negotiate with municipalities on specific projects

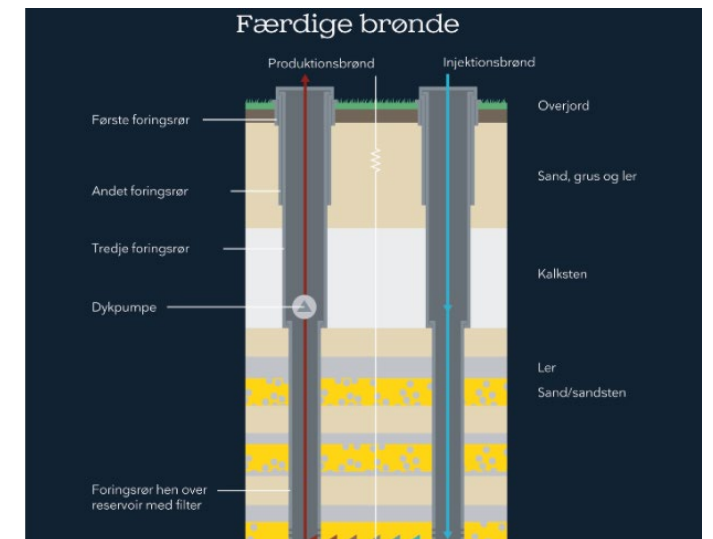


# Voluntary use of SEA on geothermal energy

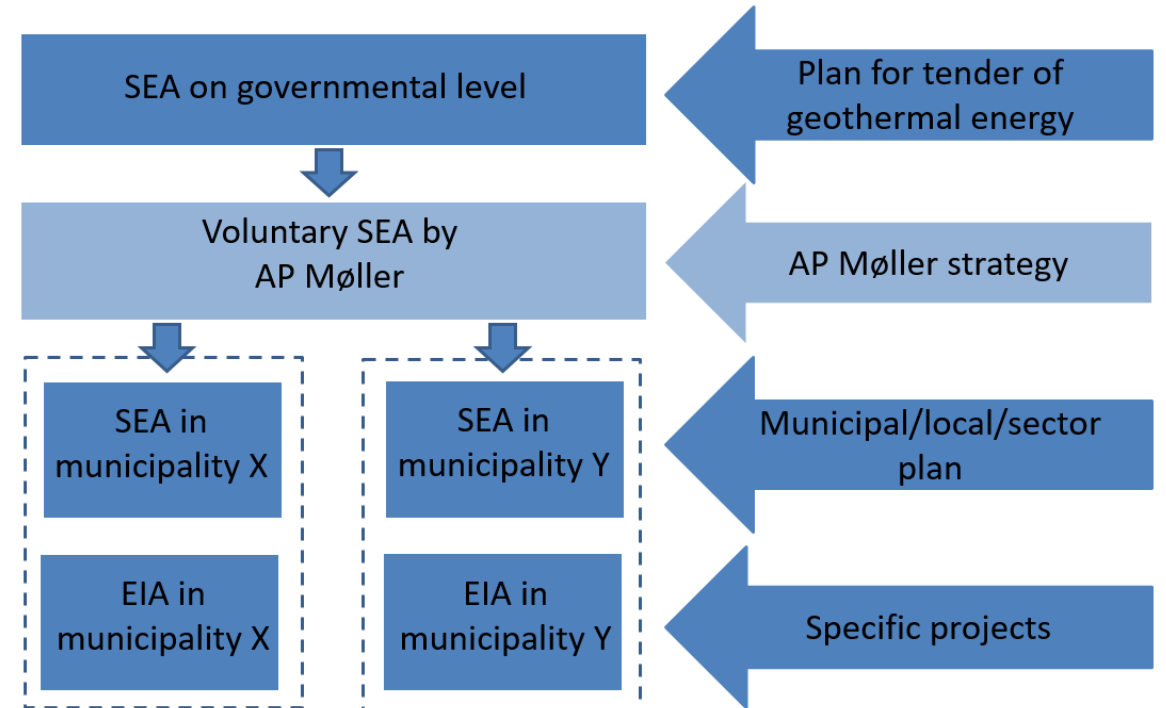
## *Why?*

- Interest in improving solutions
- Interest in attention on choices
- Interest in taking responsibility for environment and citizens

But... hadn't thought about making an SEA

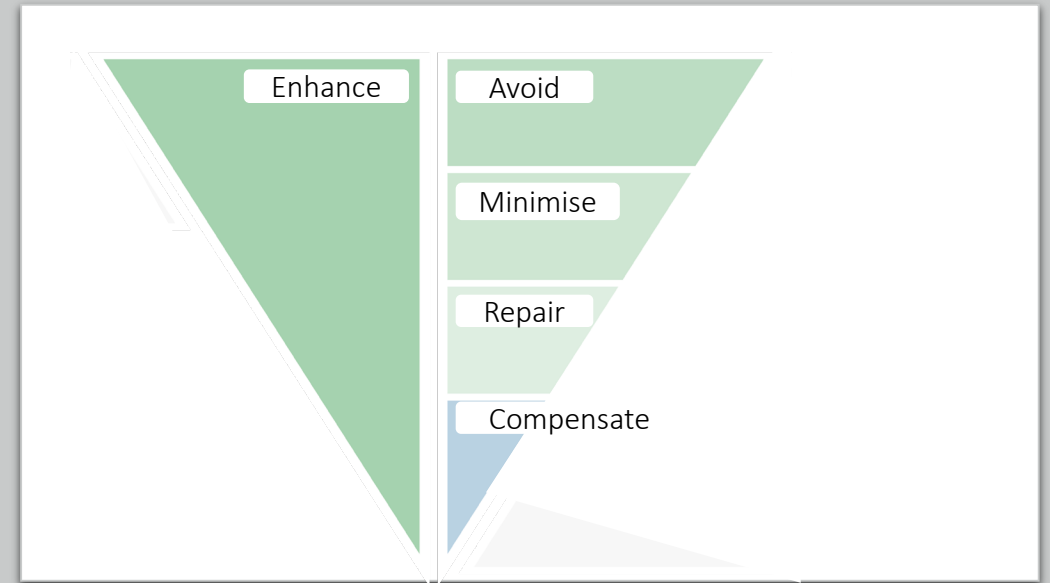


# Early SEA by private actor



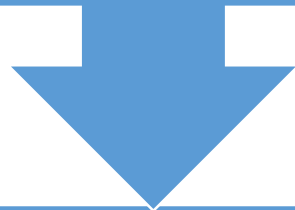
# Voluntary SEA leading to strategic choices

1. Location alternatives
2. Technology
3. Mitigation and enhancement measures
4. Communication and dialogue with the public
  - With input from informal hearing and
  - With consideration of synergies and tradeoffs to SDGs



# 'Co-created' SEA

Teamwork, incorporating all competences, throughout the cooperation. With trust, respect mutuality and humour.

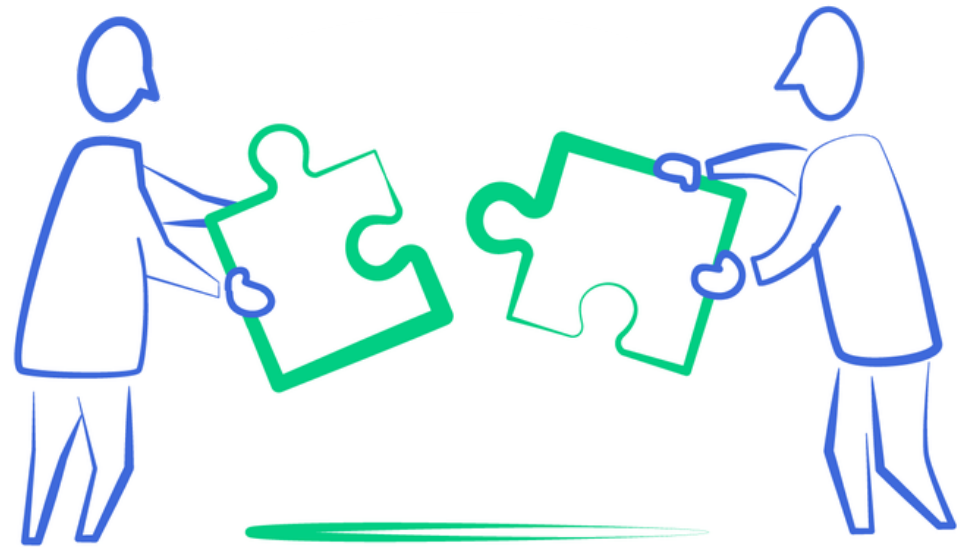


Leading to:

Strong ownership and commitment

Joint creativity and agency

Generation of competences among partners



# What to learn from the case?

- Private actors make strategic decisions in energy transition beyond the scope of the SEA directive
- Voluntary SEA can benefit in various ways private actors
- Voluntary SEA is a good starting point for adopting more sustainable decisions and support proactive dialogue
- Co-creation seems to lead to stronger change agency through SEA



# Thank you for your attention!

If you want to know more:

APMH site on geothermal energy: <https://apmhgeothermal.com/en/>

The voluntary SEA report (in Danish): <https://apmhgeothermal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DREJBOG-final-web.pdf>

More about Collabora Consultants: <https://collabora.dk/profile/>