Challenges and Opportunities: questions about the story and about the path towards the future cVPP

Participants re-read the written story about their initiative and try to imagine the future scenario. With that in mind, they look back to the present.

Looking back to the present allows the participants to consider how today’s choices and actions will affect the possibilities of a future cVPP, what the necessary steps are to achieve the future cVPP, and what challenges and opportunities can be expected on the short and medium term.

CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITIES TEMPLATE

This tool is used in step 5 of the backcasting process.
Challenges and Opportunities: questions about the story and about the path towards the future cVPP

**Task:** Template to be filled in by the participants: Please read the story about your initiative and try to imagine yourself in this future situation. Afterwards, try to answer the questions and fill in the template document. NB: there are no wrong answers. Write down what is relevant to you.

**Ask the question at the end of this assignment:**
Do you have any comments and/or suggestions for changes in the story?

**Values:**

- Have values changed in the process towards realising the cVPP? (e.g. a change in priorities)?
- If so, how? Why?
Challenges and Opportunities

Practices:

Organisational structure in the future situation
- In the process towards realising the cVPP, what were the largest challenges (and/or uncertainties) with regard to the organisational structure, way of governance, and energy-related practices?
- How and when have you addressed these challenges and with what result? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter C?)
- Did you receive external help/support in this? From whom and how?
- What changes in organisational structure were necessary and why?
- What (if any) opportunities have occurred that have affected your organisational structure, governance mode, energy-related practices? When? (please mark these on the timeline below with the letter O).

Practices and routines among households in the future situation
- What have been the most important changes for households that occurred in the process towards realising the cVPP - in terms of changes in their daily practices and routines/ways of doing?

Timeline to mark challenges, opportunities, changes

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Challenges and Opportunities

**Technologies and physical elements:**
- In the process towards realising the cVPP, what were the main technical and physical challenges and uncertainties?
- How and when have you addressed these challenges and with what result? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter C?)
- Did you receive external help/support in this? From whom and how?
- What (if any) opportunities have occurred that have affected the physical and technical choices for the cVPP? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter O?)

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**Infrastructures:**
- In the process towards realising the cVPP, what were the main infrastructural challenges and uncertainties? (e.g. smart meters, connection to the grid)
- How and when have you addressed these challenges and with what result? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter C?)
- Did you receive external help/support in this? From whom and how?
- What (if any) opportunities have occurred that have affected the infrastructural aspects of the cVPP? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter O?)

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Challenges and Opportunities

**Policy:**
- In the process towards realising the cVPP, what have been the main policy and regulation related challenges and uncertainties?
- How and when have you addressed these challenges and with what result? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter C?)
- Did you receive external help/support in this? From whom and how?
- Can you mark when you addressed uncertainties on the timeline below?
- What (if any) opportunities in terms of policy and regulation have occurred? (e.g. subsidies) (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter O?)

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**Resources** | Relational, knowledge (know-how, skills), financial:
- In the process towards realising the cVPP, what have been the main challenges and uncertainties in terms of financial, relational and knowledge resources?
- How and when have you addressed these challenges and with what result? (can you mark this on the timeline with the letter C?)
- Did you receive external help/support in this? From whom and how?
- What (if any) opportunities have occurred in terms of financial, relational and knowledge resources? (Can you mark this on the timeline with the letter O?)

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