



Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

Nijmegen School of Management
MSc in Strategic management

If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together. A case study into stakeholder involvement of onshore wind farms in Gelderland, The Netherlands.

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Abstract

Compared to similar countries in Western Europe, the implementation of renewable energy systems like wind turbines has been relatively slow in the Netherlands. Due to the lack of social acceptance, little support has been realized for wind power project development, and resistance has increased. The present study aimed to find how stakeholder involvement in the development of wind farms could potentially increase local acceptance of onshore wind turbines by creating a broader, psychological sense of ownership. Stakeholder involvement was studied from a justice perspective, in which the consequences of procedural, distributive, interpersonal, and informational justice on local acceptance and sense of ownership were identified. To investigate this relationship, fourteen interviews were conducted among four wind farms in Gelderland the Netherlands. The present study finds how different forms of stakeholder involvement could create a feeling of justice. These feelings of justice in turn contribute to the local acceptance. Interpersonal justice and informational justice seem to contribute to local acceptance directly. Distributive justice and procedural justice appear to contribute to local acceptance through sense of ownership. Moreover, the interrelatedness of the different forms of justice is extensively discussed. Also, the influence of the legal structure of the project is discussed, while both cooperatives and commercial projects are capable of using the same structural elements to create stakeholder involvement, cooperatives have an easier time creating local acceptance. The present study has provided a framework on how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance and therefore lays the groundwork for future research into local acceptance of onshore wind farms. Future research is necessary to draw statistical conclusions on the relationships as proposed in the developed framework

Preface

This thesis is the culmination of the Master's program in Business Administration with a specialization in Strategic Management at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. The thesis studies how stakeholder involvement influences the local acceptance of onshore wind farms in the Netherlands. By addressing this social problem in the development of a more sustainable society, I hope to contribute to securing a sustainable future. The process of writing this thesis has tested my perseverance especially during the long periods of lockdown. I could not have completed the thesis without the help and support of all who in one way or another contributed to the completion of this thesis.

I sincerely express my gratitude to my supervisor, dr., ir. Ziggers, for his patience, guidance, and support over the past months. His supportive comments as well as critical notes have pushed me to conduct this research to the best of my abilities. Moreover, I would like to thank my second supervisor MSc Breet. Further, I would like to thank my friends for providing the necessary distractions after a long day of writing. Furthermore, I would like to especially thank my girlfriend Lotte for listening to all my stories about the thesis and studying with me. By the same token, I would like to thank my parents for all the support during the past years. Lastly, I am deeply thankful to each interviewee that participated in this research. Without their willingness to share their experiences, I would not have been able to complete this thesis.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Problem indication

Over 70 governments worldwide have put in place policies and targets to bolster renewable energy technologies, motivated predominantly by climate-change mitigation (Philibert, 2011). Increasing the use of renewable energy sources is high on the political agenda in countries around the world. In the Netherlands, the national government is aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 49% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels (Klimaatberaad, 2019). One of the ways they want to achieve this goal is by switching to renewable energy sources, in 2030 a minimum of 27% of all energy used in the Netherlands should be generated by renewable sources (Rijksoverheid, n.d.). The success of renewable energy policies varies, but wind energy stands out with the most impressive growth (Wüstenhagen, Wolsink, & Bürer, 2007).

Wind energy is generated by wind turbines, which transform the kinetic energy of the wind into electricity for homes and businesses. There are different types of wind energy, such as onshore and offshore. Onshore wind energy has been used for more than two thousand years (Bilgili, Yasar, & Simsek, 2011). Nevertheless, On-land turbines are by many people seen to have more severe impacts in comparison to off-shore wind turbines (Ladenburg, 2009). Against this is the increased necessity of capital investment as offshore wind farms are more expensive (Enevoldsen & Valentine, 2016). Moreover, offshore locations can potentially have higher environmental costs than on-land locations (Ladenburg, 2009). Therefore, the need for onshore wind turbines remains ever-present.

Moreover, wind parks can either be community-owned wind farms (cooperatives) or commercially owned wind farms. Renewable energy cooperatives envision an alternative way of organizing the energy system. They self-organize for the establishment of renewable energy projects in their local environment, on a local scale. They are characterized by resource pooling, democratic decision making, and by activating energy citizenship (Proka, Loorbach, & Hisschemöller, 2018). In contrast, there are commercially owned wind farms that build and own wind turbines to commercially exploit them (Agterbosch, Vermeulen, & Glasbergen, 2004). In the present study, both types of initiatives will be addressed.

Compared to similar countries in Western Europe, the implementation of renewable energy systems like wind turbines has been relatively slow in the Netherlands (Flacke & De Boer, 2017). Although the Netherlands was once a forerunner in wind energy, they are now severely

lagging behind compared to other European nations, like Denmark, Spain, and Germany (Agterbosch et al., 2004; Breukers & Wolsink, 2007). The reason for this low pace of renewable energy project development is twofold. First of all, the strong focus on a centralized policy limits the institutional capacities of local decision-makers concerning renewable energy policy, especially wind energy (Breukers & Wolsink, 2007). Second, the substantial opposition from local communities towards large-scale renewable energy projects in their surrounding (“Not in my backyard effect”) (Devine, 2011). Wüstenhagen et al. (2007) capture both reasons in the concept of social acceptance, which he identifies as the main barrier to the realization of the climate goals.

1.2 Problem statement

Due to the lack of social acceptance, little support has been realized for wind power project development, and resistance has increased. However, surprisingly, locally-owned wind projects are becoming increasingly successful in the Netherlands (Breukers & Wolsink, 2007). This effect can be ascribed to the positive relationship between community co-ownership of wind energy projects and the social acceptance of the local population towards them (Musall & Kuik, 2011; Warren & McFadyen, 2010). The effect of ‘sense of ownership’ on social acceptance has also been tested for other sustainable projects, like a hydroelectric dam in Myanmar or water supply projects in Kenya (Marks & Davis, 2012; Shi & Yao, 2019). However, these studies have always used a narrow definition of sense of ownership, which only considers legal/economic ownership. This while evidence indicates that a socialized perspective of sense of ownership, thus more extensive than just legal/economic sense of ownership, could also positively contribute to local acceptance (Musall & Kuik, 2011). Accordingly, we can conclude that involving stakeholders in the project by offering financial participation increases the sense of ownership and thus increases social acceptance. However, in commercially owned projects, stakeholders are generally not offered any financial involvement. Nevertheless, it remains essential to increase social acceptance to lower the increasing resistance.

The present study aims to find out how stakeholder involvement in the development of wind farms could potentially increase local acceptance of onshore wind turbines by creating a broader, psychological sense of ownership. By comparing both commercial projects and cooperative projects, in which often similar stakeholders are involved, the present study intends to find to what degree and in which ways stakeholders should be involved in future projects to

optimize local acceptance. Involvement will be studied by focusing on the amount of procedural, distributive, information, and interpersonal fairness during the planning and implementation of both community wind energy projects and commercial wind energy projects. Studying the perception of fairness allows for studying how the level of stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance.

Along these lines, the present study uses an in-depth case study approach to answer the research question: How does the level of involvement of stakeholders influence the community's acceptance of the nearby onshore wind turbines for both commercially owned and community-owned projects?

The present study takes a two-part approach to this question. First, it compares a commercially owned and a cooperative owned project to determine the extent to which each satisfies or falls short creating distributive fairness, procedural fairness, interpersonal fairness, and informational fairness and its relationship to local acceptance. Second, based on these empirical findings, the present study will form a piece of advice on how to enhance involvement, to maximize local acceptance for both commercial as cooperative owned projects.

Sub questions:

- How are stakeholders involved in wind park development?
- What is meant with stakeholder involvement?
- How and why does stakeholder involvement influence local acceptance of wind farms?
- What are the differences in stakeholder involvement between community-owned and commercially owned wind farms?

While answering the above-stated research question, two important contributions flow from this work. First, this research responds to calls for a study into a broader sense of ownership in studying onshore wind farms. Thereby the present study enriches our understanding of the currently under socialized concept 'sense of ownership'. Second, the present study is the first to apply the justice theory in the context of stakeholder relations of windfarm development.

The first contribution arises from the positive relationship between 'sense of ownership' and 'community acceptance' of onshore wind turbines. Both Wüstenhagen et al. (2007) and Cowell and Strachan (2007) identify the need for further research into the link between sense of

ownership and community acceptance. Moreover, evidence indicates that investors from outside the community are facing more difficulties in finding social acceptance for wind energy projects than ‘locals’ for a more extensive reason than just local legal ownership. Musall and Kuik (2011) performed a case study in Scotland, where residents of Gigha have named their windmills ‘the Three Dancing Ladies’ indicating a positive psychological effect of community ownership. Therefore, the present study aims to enrich our understanding of the concept of ‘sense of ownership’ which is currently dominated by under socialized economic-based approaches in which legal/economic ownership is considered the only determinant.

The second contribution lies in the use of justice theory to predict local acceptance. Husted (1998) confirms that justice theory can be very useful in providing specific advice for the design of stakeholder relations, as there is much congruence between the two concepts. Yet, this congruence has scarcely been recognized in literature (Husted, 1998; Phillips, Freeman, & Wicks, 2003). Nevertheless, some scholars have used it in this context (e.g., Ariño & Ring, 2010). Moreover, Hosmer and Kiewitz (2005) propose that justice theory is suitable for stakeholder research. Although they predict that increased perceptions of fairness by stakeholders will result in performance improvements, it has never been tested as a whole in relation to local acceptance. The present study will examine whether stakeholders’ involvement contributes to the local acceptance of wind farms through sense of ownership or directly. A higher sense of ownership may result in better acceptance, caretaking, and more long-term behavior change toward the target of ownership (Pierce, Kostova, & Dirks, 2003; Wilson, Mutter, Inkster, & Satterfield, 2018).

In the coming years, many turbines will be replaced by larger and more expensive turbines. Moreover, the wind parks are constantly growing larger which requires a huge investment (Musall & Kuik, 2011). Although energy cooperatives give communities a chance to become involved in projects they remain limited in their number and impact (Breukers & Wolsink, 2007). Also, in countries like Denmark, large multinationals have started to displace small cooperatives as the main player, as the wind industry has outgrown community involvement, significantly increasing public opposition (Möller, 2009).

Ergo, a large share of wind farm development projects will become commercially owned. Currently, energy cooperatives involve local stakeholders in the project by offering financial participation, where citizens are shareholders to create a sense of ownership (Breukers &

Wolsink, 2007; Warren & McFadyen, 2010). Commercially owned projects however are not able to let local stakeholders have substantial active financial participation. Hence, studying how the involvement of stakeholders can influence sense of ownership in a broader sense than just financial ownership, increase the possibility to create local acceptance for commercially owned wind farms.

1.3 Outline

To answer the research question, the remainder of this thesis is structured as follows. Chapter 2 describes a theoretical framework and the formation of propositions. The goal of the theoretical framework is to analyze earlier research and evaluate theories and concepts used in the present study. Chapter 3 will provide an insight into the methods of research deployed to study the research question. In chapter 4 the main findings of the study will be presented. Next, the conclusion will reflect on the meaning and impact of the results and provide an answer to the research question. The final sections will consist of limitations, providing boundaries to the scope and suggestions for further research.

2. Theoretical background

The present study aims to qualitatively explore how stakeholder involvement in the process of wind farm development, influences sense of ownership of the local population, thereby increasing local acceptance. In the brief literature review that follows, the present study explores two theoretical perspectives and the insights they provide on stakeholder involvement in wind energy development projects. Stakeholder theory has made many contributions to this topic, but to the best of my knowledge the potential value of understanding stakeholder involvement through justice theory has largely been ignored in the context of wind energy development. Moreover, proposition will be formed about the different concepts. Last, the proposed mechanisms relating the different concepts will be visualized.

2.1 Stakeholder theory

Planning for wind energy development requires support and acceptance from various stakeholders. Stakeholder theory claims that corporations have duties to multiple stakeholders (Freeman, 1984). The concept was first defined by Freeman (1984, p. 46), as “any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of the organization’s objectives”. He argued that companies need to understand relationships with both traditional groups, like suppliers, employees, or customers, but also with non-traditional groups, like NGOs or the government, to manage their business more effectively. “Stakeholder theory advocates for treating all stakeholders with fairness, honesty, and even generosity” (Harrison, Freeman, & Abreu, 2015, p. 859). The traditional stakeholders, which are easily defined as stakeholders because of their involvement in the value creation process (employees, managers, shareholders, financiers, customers, and suppliers) are called primary stakeholders (Phillips, 2003). Secondary stakeholders have a less direct influence or are less directly influenced by the company, like environmental groups (Castka & Prajogo, 2013). Next, scholars also differentiate between social stakeholders and non-social stakeholders. Formerly, scholars focused primarily on the social stakeholders within stakeholder theory, but recently non-social stakeholders have started to gain attention to incorporate environmental issues in stakeholder theory (Lozano, Carpenter, & Huisingh, 2015).

Table 1, shows the different examples of primary, secondary, social and non-social stakeholders in the stakeholder theory context.

Table 1.

Source: Adapted from Lozano et al. (2015)

	Primary stakeholders	Secondary stakeholders
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shareholders and investors - Employees and managers - Customers - Unions - Suppliers and other partners - Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government and regulators - Civic institutions - Social pressure groups - The media and academia - Trade bodies - Competitors - General public
Non-social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future generations - Non-human species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental pressure groups - Animal welfare groups

Stakeholder theory advocates that treating all stakeholders well and fair, creates a sort of synergy (Parmar et al., 2010). It works especially well when managing organizations in a highly complex and turbulent environment (Freeman, 1984). Stakeholder theory is an efficient theory since: “stakeholders that are treated well tend to reciprocate with positive attitudes and behaviors towards the organization, such as sharing valuable information (all shareholders), buying more products or services (customers), providing tax breaks or other incentives (communities), providing better financial terms (financiers), buying more stock (shareholders), or working hard and remaining loyal to the organization, even during difficult times (employees)” (Harrison et al., 2015, p. 859). In sum, the stakeholder theory provides a broader understanding of how to engage with different groups that are influenced or influence the organization (Lozano et al., 2015).

Several studies have viewed wind energy development projects from a stakeholder perspective. For example, to examine the barriers to wind energy in Canada, or to identify the stakeholder group’s interests in Denmark (Ahsan & Pedersen, 2018; Richards, Noble, & Belcher, 2012). Stakeholder theory argues that a firm should create value for all stakeholders, not just shareholders. Yet, discussions of stakeholder theory have become preoccupied with the distribution of typically financial outcomes, therefore important issues of procedural fairness as well as the distribution of non-financial goods are underemphasized (Phillips et al., 2003). This while it has been found that people are more accepting of outcomes when the procedure

of wind farm development is perceived as fair, even in situations where the outcome itself is poor (Lind & Tyler, 1988). Hence, the present study uses justice theory to not only focus on the outcome of the procedure, but also on the perceived fairness of the procedure itself. The procedure in the context of the present study includes the process from prospecting and land securing until actual construction and operations of the wind farm.

2.2 Justice Theory

The development of wind farms affects individuals in many ways. The decisions being made during such a process can have both economic and socioemotional consequences for the local population. The importance of decision-making causes individuals to judge it with a very critical eye. The first question they will ask in the course of a decision is “Was it fair?” (Colquitt, 2001).

The first scholars to examine the fairness theory argued that individual assessments of fairness were based upon their perception of *distributive justice* (Are outcome allocations perceived as being fair? (Adams, 1965; Homans, 1961), and *procedural justice* (Are the procedures used to make allocations perceived as being fair (Leventhal, 1980; Thibaut & Walker, 1975). Research that applied distributive and procedural justice, found solid support for this two-factor conceptualization (Greenberg, 1990). Nevertheless, this two-factor model was extended by the concept of *interactional justice*. Bies (1986) defined *interactional justice* as: Is the interpersonal treatment accorded individuals during the implementation of procedures perceived as being fair? Later, Greenberg and Cropanzano (1993) argued *interactional justice* could be divided into two concepts. *Informational justice* (Is the rationale for decisions explained adequately? And *Interpersonal justice* (Are people treated with respect and sensitivity during the implementation of procedures perceived as being fair?

Greenberg and Cropanzano (1993) argued these four different types of organizational justice could be ordered along two independent dimensions. The first dimension is the focus on either procedures or outcomes. The second dimension is about whether they are structural or interpersonal. Procedural and distributive justice are about the structural part of decision making, while interpersonal and informational justice are on the social side. In other words, Greenberg and Cropanzano (1993) created a 2 x 2 framework. Procedural justice (procedures, structural), distributive justice (distributions, structural) informational justice (procedures,

social), and interpersonal justice (distributions social). Many scholars have since used this perspective to differentiate these four components (Colquitt, 2001; Fischer et al., 2011).

In literature, Equity theory (Adams, 1965) is used most frequently to address justice e.g. (Deutsch, 1975; Leventhal, 1976). Equity theory entails that actors compare their ratio of inputs and outcomes of interactions, to the input-output ratio of others. Equity theory has had a significant influence on organizational justice research. Moreover, “Considerations of equity in the distribution of costs and benefits have been shown to be important in renewable energy projects in general” (Goedkoop & Devine-Wright, 2016, p. 6). Nevertheless, this approach has also been criticized as being too narrow in its explanation of how justice judgments are formed. Folger and Cropanzano (2001) for example argued, the theory only considered material or economic goods when forming justice judgments. In situations of shared ownership (cooperative project) issues on distributional justice are likely to involve the share of ownership that is offered to the community and rules put in place about the shared purchase (e.g. how the price is determined, do they receive favorable prices compared to people from outside the community) (Goedkoop & Devine-Wright, 2016).

Many scholars have studied the fairness theory at the organizational level. Next, it has also been studied in the context of a firm and the relationship between headquarters and subsidiaries (Kim & Mauborgne, 1991). Moreover, the theory has been studied in the context of an inter-organizational relationship, like alliances (Ariño & Ring, 2010). However, the theory has found limited application in the context of stakeholder relations. Nevertheless, Husted (1998) confirms that justice theory can provide specific advice for the design of stakeholder relations, while stakeholder theory can broaden the scope of current inquiries into organizational justice. Moreover, he shows how justice theory may be used in the context of groups such as suppliers, community organizations, and governmental agencies. This paper will therefore use justice theory to develop a coherent framework, to evaluate stakeholder involvement. To evaluate how the perception of fairness of stakeholders influences the local acceptance of both commercial and community-owned wind energy development projects.

2.3 Dependent variables

2.3.1 Local acceptance

In a general sense, local acceptance in windfarm development could be defined as the absence of protest (Sonnberger & Ruddat, 2017). Taking a closer look at the concept, it becomes clear this conceptualization is too simplistic as local acceptance is not only based on not actively protesting, but also related to a positive mindset (Sonnberger & Ruddat, 2017).

Two general approaches can be identified to study social acceptance. The first one is oriented on the public opinion, both local and global. This variant works with opinion polls or discussion groups to identify the motivation and attitudes of the public. The second analyses how a project or program is constructed to understand why it is accepted or rejected, focusing mostly on the actors behavior during implementation (Jobert, Laborgne, & Mimler, 2007). The present study uses the second approach, through the use of case studies. Acceptance in the present study is viewed as the goal of the developer and his or her allies in the project. The way the developer strives for acceptance, namely through stakeholder involvement, is the topic of investigation.

According to Wüstenhagen et al. (2007) three different forms of acceptance can be distinguished. First of all, socio-political acceptance: where the acceptance object is a certain technology or associated policy and the acceptance subjects are the general public, central stakeholders and politicians. Second, market acceptance, here, the acceptance objects are technological products or services and the acceptance subjects are the potential consumers, investors, and companies. Third, local acceptance, for which the acceptance object is a specific technology project at local level and the acceptance subjects are local stakeholders and the local population. In the present study we focus on this third type of acceptance, local acceptance.

Ergo, in the present study, we examine the local acceptance of onshore wind farms (acceptance object) among the local residents (acceptance subject). Where local acceptance is conceptualized as local residents having a positive attitude towards onshore windfarms in their community.

2.3.2 Sense of ownership

Ownership is a multidimensional and complex concept that can be studied from many theoretical viewpoints, like philosophical, juridical, sociological, economic, and psychological

(Lähdesmäki & Matilainen, 2014). In this research, ownership is studied from the perspective of an individual's feelings. Therefore, the present study will adopt the theoretical concept of psychological ownership. Psychological ownership has mostly been used in the context of organizational research (Pierce, Kostova, & Dirks, 2001; Pierce et al., 2003).

Sense of ownership is frequently cited as a significant characteristic of community development (Lachapelle, 2008). Psychological ownership can be defined as a state in which individuals feel as though the target of ownership (material or immaterial) or a piece of it is theirs (Pierce et al., 2001). Psychological ownership can be associated with the feeling "it is mine". Feeling psychological ownership does not require having legal/economic ownership and vice versa (Matilainen et al., 2019). This concept has later been extended to include the potential for a shared group mindset, known as collective psychological ownership (Pierce & Jussila, 2010).

Many scholars have evaluated the concept of psychological ownership in an organizational setting. In these studies, it has been shown that a sense of ownership can be created by allowing employees to become familiar with and exert influence/control over the organization (Pierce, O'driscoll, & Coghlan, 2004). This increased sense of ownership by the workers, in turn, leads to higher job satisfaction, self-esteem, and citizenship behavior. The insights from the psychological ownership literature, suggest that within the wind energy sector, higher involvement of stakeholders could lead to a higher sense of ownership of the community members.

As for the present study we are interested in the individual sense of ownership of the local residents. Therefore, in the present study sense of ownership will be conceptualized in the following way: A state in which local residents feel as though the local wind farm or a piece of it is theirs. Therefore, local residents should associate the wind farm with a feeling "it is mine".

Evidence indicates a positive relationship between sense of ownership and local acceptance of onshore wind turbines (Musall & Kuik, 2011; Warren & McFadyen, 2010; Wüstenhagen et al., 2007). This sense of ownership is often created through distributing the benefits of the wind farm among the local residents. Consequently, the present study expects sense of ownership to explain the positive contribution of distributive justice to local acceptance.

2.4 Independent variables

2.4.1 Distributive fairness

Distributive justice mainly evolves around “content – the fairness of the ends achieved” (Greenberg, 1990, p. 400). Or, in other words, “Justice (...) conceived in terms of the distribution or sharing out of goods (resources) and bads (harm and risk) (Walker, 2012). The bads or burdens can take many forms, for example noise complaints or cast shadow. While the goods are mostly in the form of financial compensation (Frate, Brannstrom, de Morais, & de Azevedo Caldeira-Pires, 2019). The concept of distributive fairness can be ascribed to the way in which benefits are introduced and shared within communities (Rawls, 2020). In the context of wind energy, benefits can take many forms. For example, tax revenues for municipalities, community funds, or even sharing in the profits of the project (Cowell, Bristow, & Munday, 2011). In case these benefits are not identified, accepted, or created by individuals in the local communities, resistance is more likely to appear (Walker & Baxter, 2017). The concept does not only incorporate the distribution of benefits between developers and communities but also within communities (Aitken, 2010). Concerns regarding distributive justice are not exclusive to commercial initiatives but also hold for cooperative projects. For example, a very successful wind farm, which was community-owned, disrupted an inter-community debate about the distribution of the costs/benefits among locals (Cass, Walker, & Devine-Wright, 2010). In the present study distributive fairness will be conceptualized as: A fair distribution of benefits and burdens caused by the wind farm among the local residents.

In the context of wind turbine development, several studies have been done which include the concept of distributive justice. For example, community owned windfarms create a higher local acceptance as the benefits are divided more fairly (Warren & McFadyen, 2010). Therefore, the present study proposes that distributive fairness positively contributes to local acceptance of the residents.

2.4.2 Procedural fairness

Procedural justice concerns “the process through which decisions are made” (Folger & Greenberg, 1985, p. 142). Thus, the fairness of procedures of distributing or allocating the outcomes in an exchange (Thibaut & Walker, 1975). Research on procedural justice in wind energy tends to focus on the participation of locals in wind energy planning and the conditions of that participation (C. Walker & J. Baxter, 2017). To achieve procedural justice, “community

members and other stakeholders ideally need to be engaged in open dialogue and to have a significant influence in the decision-making process regarding the terms of acceptability for new or continuing operations” (Hall, Ashworth, & Devine-Wright, 2013, p. 206). Procedural justice is a critical element of justice theory as, several scholars have found the fairness of the process (procedural fairness) to be more important than the distribution of benefits from turbines (distributive fairness) (Gross, 2007; Ottinger, Hargrave, & Hopson, 2014). Community opposition to wind farm development can often be understood as a demand for procedural justice (Ottinger, Hargrave, & Hopson, 2014). Procedural justice in this context “refers to the ability of people and communities whose environment and health stand to be affected by a sitting decision to participate as equals in the decision-making process” (Ottinger et al., 2014).

According to Ottinger et al. (2014), the participatory process will be considered fair when the participatory process meets the following criteria. First, the participatory processes must be accessible to affected parties. For example, meetings must be held during non-work hours, close to the community and in an understandable language so everyone can participate (Cole & Foster, 2001). Second, recognition is an important prerequisite, which can be defined as decision makers acknowledging the legitimacy of community members’ participation. For example, viewing their input as a valuable contribution to decision-making (Schlosberg, 2009). Third, the chance that the contribution influences the outcome of the decision should be reasonable (Schlosberg, 2009). Last, attempts must be made, to alter pre-existing power disparities between partakers (Gauna, 1998; Schlosberg, 2009). Ergo, in the present study procedural justice will be conceptualized as local residents being able to participate as equals in the decision-making process about the wind farm being developed.

In previous research on wind projects, the fairness of decision-making processes (‘procedural justice’) during project implementation has been identified as an important factor in shaping local acceptance. For example, Gross (2007) found that the perception of procedural fairness does influence the local acceptance of the outcome in Australian wind energy development. Moreover Liebe, Bartczak, and Meyerhoff (2017) indicate that citizens show higher levels of acceptance when they have had the opportunity to participate in the decision making process regarding the implementation of a specific energy project. Therefore, the present study proposes that procedural fairness positively contributes to local acceptance.

2.4.3 Interpersonal fairness

Whereas procedural and distributive justice are concerned with structural aspects of the decision process, interpersonal justice focuses on the treatment of individuals and emphasizes the social enactment of the structural elements (Greenberg & Cropanzano, 1993). Interpersonal justice focuses on the way the parties treat each other during the process of negotiations. In other words “is interpersonal treatment accorded individuals during the implementation of procedures perceived as being fair?” (Ariño & Ring, 2010, p. 1057). While procedural justice concerns the ‘fairness of the process’ interpersonal justice is about the quality of interpersonal treatment they receive during the enactment of organizational procedures (Bies, 1986). Bies (1986) identified two rules that determine interpersonal justice: Respect and Propriety. Respect includes being sincere and showing dignity, while propriety entails nonprejudicial language and appropriate language. If actors adhere to this behavior, they are viewed as interpersonally fair. According to Ariño and Ring (2010), interactional justice is about the quality of interpersonal treatment during the enactment of organizational procedures. So, involving stakeholders in the process of wind farm development with respect and propriety. Ergo in the present study interpersonal fairness will be conceptualized as local residents being treated with respect and propriety by the developer during the development of the wind farm.

Interpersonal fairness has the ability to increase local acceptance. For example, interpersonal fairness increased the acceptance of a corporate smoking ban among heavy smokers in a company (Greenberg & Cropanzano, 1993). Moreover, interpersonal fairness was found to affect the local acceptance of the procedure in different sectors like nuclear energy (Besley, 2012). Also, for an Australian mining company, interpersonal fairness was critical in creating local acceptance of the mining operation (Mercer-Mapstone, Rifkin, Louis, & Moffat, 2018). Therefore, the present study expects that interpersonal justice as perceived by the local residents positively contributes to the local acceptance of the windfarm.

2.4.4 Information fairness

Informational justice focuses on the kind of information parties share, and the way that they share this information (Ariño & Ring, 2010). In other words, is the rationale for the decision properly explained (Colquitt, 2001). It might be attained by providing knowledge about procedures that demonstrate regard for people’s concerns. In an employer-employee relationship, an example might be: People who receive negative outcomes, like a denied job, are more likely to accept this outcome as fair when they receive a solid explanation regarding

the procedure. Explanations are perceived to be fair when they contain the following characteristics: Genuine in intent and based on sound reasoning (Greenberg & Cropanzano, 1993). Informational fairness is closely related to procedural fairness as informational fairness is the belief that the decision makers have provided appropriate and meaningful information over the decision making process (Botetzagias, Malesios, Kolokotroni, & Moysiadis, 2015). Therefore, in the present study, informational fairness is conceptualized as a state in which local residents feel like they have been provided with the appropriate and meaningful information about the development of the wind farm.

The adequacy, timeliness, scope, objectivity, and availability of information have been proven to be significant issues to stakeholders in wind projects (Gross, 2007). Therefore, a lack of clear notification and information could create loud opposition to the project. Moreover, the provision of information about wind energy development, increases the chance for project support (Bidwell, 2016). Ergo, solid communication of information could create local acceptance. Therefore, the expectation is that informational fairness positively contributes to local acceptance.

2.4.5 Summary

Table 2.
Definition of the concepts in the present study

Concept	Definition	Adapted from
Local acceptance	Local residents having a positive attitude towards onshore windfarms in their community.	(Sonnberger & Ruddat, 2017)
Sense of ownership	A state in which local residents feel as though the local wind farm or a piece of it is theirs.	(Pierce et al., 2001)
Distributive fairness	A fair distribution of benefits and burdens caused by the wind farm among the local residents.	(Walker, 2012)
Procedural fairness	The ability of local residents whose environment stand to be affected by a wind farm development project to participate as equals in the decision-making process.	(Ottinger et al., 2014)

Interpersonal fairness	Local residents being treated with respect and propriety by the developer during the development of the wind farm.	(Bies, 1986)
Informational fairness	A state in which local residents feel like they have been provided with the appropriate and meaningful information about the development of the wind farm.	(Botetzagias et al., 2015)

2.5 Community or commercially owned

“In policy and activist discourse, there is often an expectation that community wind energy projects will avoid conflicts and local opposition often associated with private-developer-led developments” (Simcock, 2016, p. 467). Nevertheless, there have only been a few studies that validate such findings (Devine-Wright, 2005; Warren & McFadyen, 2010). Some studies demonstrate that community-owned projects can also encounter significant local opposition (Simcock, 2014; G. Walker, Devine-Wright, Hunter, High, & Evans, 2010). Nevertheless, community-led projects result in greater local support compared to private development schemes. Some studies have attributed this effect to narrow financial ownership of a wind energy development project by the local population (Warren & McFadyen, 2010). However, as community-owned energy initiatives require input from community members, and allow them to benefit, it is likely, stakeholders will be more involved (Rogers, Simmons, Convery, & Weatherall, 2008). Therefore, the present study expects community owned projects to positively contribute to the local acceptance.

2.6 Propositions

The literature review has led to the following proposition:

- P1: Distributive fairness positively contributes to local acceptance
- P2: Procedural fairness positively contributes to local acceptance
- P3: Interpersonal fairness positively contributes to local acceptance
- P4: Informational fairness positively contributes to local acceptance
- P5: Cooperative legal structure positively contributes to local acceptance
- P6: Distributive fairness positively contributes to local acceptance through sense of ownership

Therefore, the present study aims to find how fairness can be created through stakeholder participation. Also, it studies how and why an increased perception of fairness might contribute to an increased local acceptance. Hence, the present study does not only aim to study the relationship between fairness, acceptance and sense of ownership but also wants to unveil the mechanisms and processes which explain it. The proposed mechanisms can be visualized in the following way.

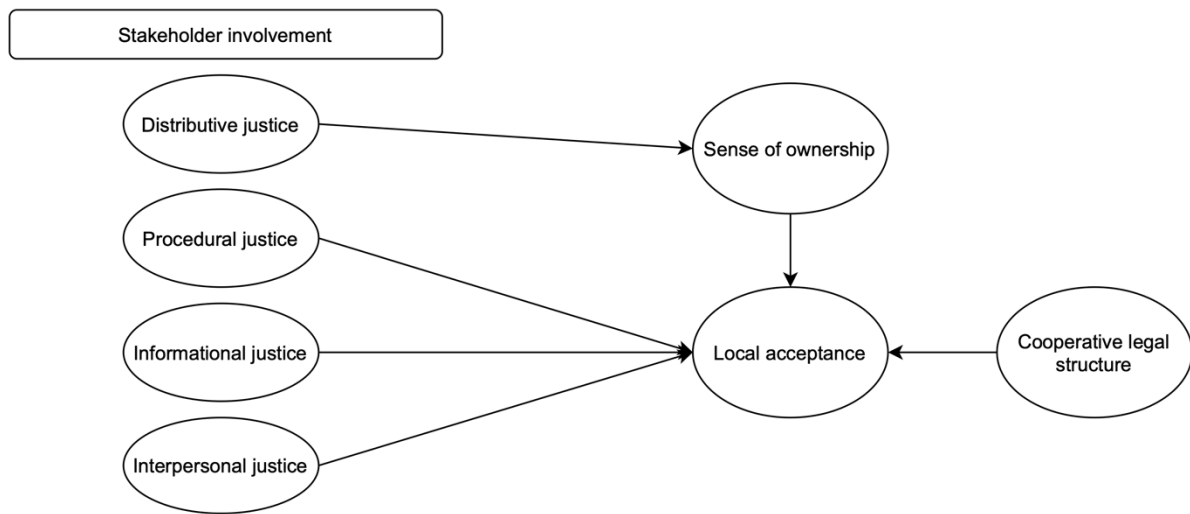


Figure 1: Proposed mechanisms

3. Methodology

This chapter will elaborate on the execution and quality of the measurements used. The emphasis lies on explaining the decision-making process that led to the chosen strategy and methodology. First, the methodological approach will be described, followed by the units of analysis. Next, this section will reflect on the research methods. Then the theoretical lens will clarify how the theories from chapter 2 are connected to the research. Furthermore, attention will be paid to the operationalization and the data analysis. Finally, limitations and research ethics will be discussed.

3.1 Methodological approach

The conducted study is a qualitative case study research. A case study aims to investigate a contemporary phenomenon in its real-world context in which relevant behaviors cannot be manipulated. The need for a case study arises out of the desire to understand a complex social phenomenon, and allows one to focus on the case while retaining a holistic and real-world perspective. Moreover, case studies are best suited to answer more explanatory ‘how’ questions. Furthermore, case study research is appropriate since the present study aims to analyse a phenomenon that unfolds within a specific environment (Yin, 2014). As gaining sense of ownership through stakeholder involvement is problematic in wind farm projects, it seems to be difficult to separate the phenomenon from the context. Ergo, case study research is preferred.

There are numerous variations in case studies. The present study will use a multiple case approach (i.e. comparative case study) to contrast results between energy cooperative initiatives and commercial initiatives. This will enable the exploration of differences and similarities between the cases (Yin, 2014). As the present study uses a qualitative case study approach, it is important to keep the research iterative. As the researcher gains knowledge, it allows him to make adjustments during the process to bring the desired result closer to discovery.

Qualitative methods, intend to describe a phenomenon occurring in a specific context, leading to a clearer understanding of the particular phenomenon (Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012). This aligns with the particular research, as the present study aims to gain a deep understanding of the phenomena “stakeholder involvement”, “local acceptance” and “sense of ownership” of stakeholders of wind development projects. Where stakeholder involvement is conceptualized as ‘fairness’. Moreover, because wind energy projects can either be developer-owned or

community-owned and differ in level of success, it is important to take their context into account. For example, when studying the effect of stakeholder involvement, it is important to make sure that the effects on sense of ownership are actually caused by stakeholder involvement and not by positive media coverage. Therefore, it is important to take the context of wind energy development projects into account. While, qualitative data allows the researcher to take into account the context of the respondents, quantitatively collected data tries to quantify the data and is suitable to examine relationships between variables (Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012). The present study does not aim to identify causal relationships or correlations and will not try to quantify the data. Instead, it aims to create an insight into stakeholder involvement in wind energy development projects and how stakeholders describe the local acceptance regarding the project. The present study will do its part in this endeavor, by collecting data through semi-structured interviews.

The semi-structured interviews will be analyzed and coded through a deductive analysis approach. A deductive approach allows the researcher to base the analysis on theories of stakeholder involvement and sense of ownership, as defined in the theoretical background (Bleijenbergh, 2015).

The present study will adopt a phenomenological perspective, which indicates that subjectivity and interpretation play a crucial role in both the ontological and epistemological levels (Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012). Kvale (1996) states that phenomenology is interested in the motives behind the decisions. “Phenomenology is about understanding social phenomena from the actors’ perspectives and describing the world as it is experienced by the interviewees” (as cited in Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012, p. 22). Nevertheless, phenomenology requires the research to be neutral and unbiased about the issue in play. The present study will through semi-structured interviews, present the results through the description of the subjective experience of the interviewee. Next, the research aims to describe the process and provide a framework that can be used in future research and/or practice.

3.2 Units of analysis

3.2.1 Community-owned wind schemes

The definition of a community wind energy project is flexible, while several groups apply the term to various schemes (G. Walker & Cass, 2007). For this paper, the definition of (Rogers et al., 2008) will be adopted. A community wind energy scheme is the “installation of one or more renewable energy technologies in or close to the community, with input from members of that community. The scheme must benefit the community either through the supply of energy to multiple properties or a community facility or indirectly e.g., through the sale of energy generated to the grid. Community members’ input may be in various forms, for example, project initiation, administration, construction, financial support or decision making” (Rogers et al., 2008, p. 3). It must be noted that community wind power is not only about ‘small’ projects, although community wind power started with relatively small projects (Toke, 2005). At the moment there are more than 500 cooperatives with around 40.000 members active in the Netherlands, and this amount is growing (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, 2019).

Cooperative case 1: Windpark Nijmegen-Betuwe:

Wind park Nijmegen-Betuwe consists of four wind turbines, which were constructed in 2016. Residents of the region Nijmegen, together own the windmills. They organize themselves within the Energy cooperative WPN. 1000 people put together two million euros to build the wind farm. The four windmills together produce enough electricity for 7.100 households. Recently they have started plans to add a solar park with 17.000 solar panels to the energy landscape, also owned by the energy cooperative.

Cooperative case 2: Windpark Koningspleij:

Four windmills are currently under construction in Arnhem along the Peijroute (N325). Three of the four windmills will be developed by Rijn en IJssel Energiecooperatie (REIJE), a local energy cooperative. The energy cooperative consists of 566 members, which all partially own the wind park. The windfarm is being developed by Prowind, but after development, it will be taken over by energy cooperative Rijn en IJssel.

3.2.2 Commercial wind scheme

Commercially owned projects are owned and managed by professional private entities (Berka, Harnmeijer, Roberts, Phimister, & Msika, 2017).

Commercial case 3: Bijvank, Zevenaar:

This wind park has been developed by Pure Energy, a sustainable energy company. The wind park contains a total of four windmills, which have been built in 2020. Today the wind farm produces around 36 million kWh per year.

Commercial case 4: Culemborg:

Windwinning Culemborg aims to build six new windmills in Culemborg near the Pavijen. The wind farm is scheduled to be built in 2024. Their permit application was recently denied as the windmills were considered too high and too much energy would be generated. All involved parties are currently back at the drawing board to consider their options.

3.3 Operationalization

3.3.1 Stakeholder involvement

As described in the theory section, the present study uses the concept of organizational justice to measure stakeholder involvement in the development of wind energy projects. In the theory section, the present study has presented a four-factor view of justice. Confirmatory factor analysis supports the four-factor structure with the dimensions: distributive, procedural, interpersonal, and informational justice as distinct dimensions (Colquitt, 2001). There are many different indicators and definitions of organizational justice. The miscellaneous definitions and indicators of justice, make it a complex and multidimensional concept. To deal with this complexity and multidimensionality, the present study will adapt the operationalization first used by Colquitt (2001), which contains 19 items divided over the 4 dimensions of organizational justice. The different dimensions and indicators can be found in Appendix 3. The table in Appendix 3 also provides the source on which the item was originally based by Colquitt (2001). Note that the items as presented in table 1 have been tailored to the specific context of wind farm development.

The specific measure has been chosen because it discriminates between interpersonal and procedural justice, which is not always done and could mask important findings. Moreover, the measurement model differentiates between interpersonal and informational justice components, which again could prevent masking important findings. Next, the scale possesses good internal consistency and reliability. The measure has been adopted by hundreds of studies since it was developed, and several have even provided factor-analytic support for the distinctive dimensions (e.g., Ambrose, Hess, & Ganesan, 2007). The dimensions found in Appendix 3 will

be used as a base, to create the interview guide and provide structure to the interviews. Hence, these dimensions will be used as themes and topics for the conversation.

3.3.2 Local acceptance

To measure local acceptance, the present study uses the measure designed originally by Johansen and Emborg (2018) to measure the effect of a co ownership scheme on the local acceptance of a Danish windfarm. The indicator can be found in Appendix 3 and will be used as a theme in the interview guide to provide structure to the interviews. Respondents are actively asked to elaborate on their answer and provide the reason / rationale behind their answer.

3.3.3 Sense of ownership

To measure sense of ownership, the present study adapted the validated individual psychological ownership scale (POQ) to assess psychological ownership for specific wind development projects (Avey, Avolio, Crossley, & Luthans, 2009). The psychological ownership questionnaire is widely used, as an instrument to quantitatively measure psychological ownership. The present study adopts the four-factor structure of the POQ, as indicators in the semi-structured interview. These dimensions can be found in Appendix 3 and will be used to provide structure to the interviews as the researcher uses these dimensions as themes for the interviews.

3.4 Data collection

The data were collected through semi-structured interviews. All semi-structured interviews have been conducted by the author of the present study. Semi-structured interviews allow the researcher to create a guide with certain themes and key issues which were determined in advance. By conducting a semi-structured interview, the researcher can generate knowledge, as well as stimulate interviewees' reflections on several pre-selected themes (Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012). As mentioned before, the present study aims to qualitatively explore how stakeholder involvement in the process of wind farm development, influences the sense of ownership of the local population, thereby increasing local acceptance. To fulfill the aim of the present study, it was necessary to gather information on the level of involvement of the stakeholders in energy development projects, and the sense of ownership as perceived by the stakeholders. The stakeholders had to react to the questions which were based on the theory, so they could be evaluated after the semi-structured interviews. Therefore, a semi-structured

interview can be considered appropriate (Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012). Additionally, interviewees are given room to add additional insights which the stakeholder might bring to the surface, which might be important for the results (Justesen & Mik-Meyer, 2012). An interview guide of 31 questions has been created, before the semi-structured interviews were conducted, to ensure coverage of all 6 propositions. These questions aided in fulfilling the aim of the present study. All interview questions can be found in Appendix 7.

All semi-structured interviews have been conducted via zoom/skype in week 15 - 19 (2021). The semi-structured interviews varied in length and lasted between 35 and 120 minutes. The semi-structured interviews were transcribed shortly after the interview by the author of the present study. Due to Covid19, the researcher was unable to conduct the interviews face-to-face and chose to conduct them via Skype. Conducting interviews via Skype instead of face-to-face comes with some disadvantages. For example, because the researcher does not share the same space as your participant, a bit of social contact and energy is lost. A simple act like making a cup of coffee could create a connection. Nevertheless, with interviews on skype, there is some interaction between the researcher and the participant, which enables the researcher to engage with the data and understand the personality and emotions of the participant. Moreover, Skype opens up new possibilities to contact participants in a time-efficient and financially affordable manner. Also, the participants are less worried about time because they were already at home, so in a comfortable environment (Lo Iacono, Symonds, & Brown, 2016).

Interviews with human respondents (i.e. stakeholders of wind farm development projects) have been conducted to collect data. Therefore, some ethical considerations had to be taken into account. These can be found in section 3.6 on research ethics.

3.5 Data analysis

The transcripts will be analyzed and coded after all the semi-structured interviews have been conducted. The interviews have been transcribed carefully and in full detail. Fragments of these transcripts have been labelled with codes, called 'open coding' (Bleijenbergh, 2015). The codes that are applied to the interviews are based on the operationalization of the theory. The coding scheme can be found in Appenidx 8. These codes enable the different fragments of text to be categorized and support the researcher to link what has been observed in the interviews to abstract theories or general statements that can be made on behalf of this (Bleijenbergh, 2015). The present study uses a deductive approach of operationalization, which serves as a base for

coding the interviews. The program utilized for coding and analyzing these codes is Atlas.ti, which is a qualitative data analysis software. While coding the transcripts, the interviews were carefully assessed whether they provide good coverage of the concepts, and if not, it was possible to add open codes. The coded interviews were used to compare coded fragments that fell into the same categories, therefore providing insights into certain patterns, which were at the basis of the analysis.

3.6 Quality Criteria

Obtaining high reliability is an important goal in conducting the research. Reliability is ensured, when the study can be repeated (i.e., replicability) and gives the same results (Yin, 2014). To ensure reliability, complete transparency is given about the process of finding respondents, collecting the data, and analyzing the data (Grossoehme, 2014). Nevertheless, replicating a study and getting the same outcomes, is nearly impossible for qualitative research, as the researcher is part of the study and therefore influences the outcomes (Grossoehme, 2014). Nevertheless, the aim is still to ensure reliability. One of the ways, the researcher will strive for reliability is by asking the same questions to each respondent with the same words. By using the exact same words, the difference in answers cannot be attributed to the questions asked, which limits the researchers' influence, therefore increasing replicability.

Second, the present study strives for construct validity. Construct validity can be defined as using the correct operational measures for the constructs being studied (Yin, 2014). To check for construct validity, the transcribed semi-structured interviews will be forwarded to the respondents (i.e. stakeholders of wind farm development projects) for them to evaluate the answers they have given. By offering the stakeholders an opportunity to correct any misinterpretations, they might adapt their answers. This entails that the concepts being studied in the present study, are more likely to be correctly measured, therefore this process increases construct validity. Third, internal validity needs to be ensured when examining a causal relationship (Yin, 2014). However, the present study is not aiming to establish causal relationships. Nevertheless, the present study aims to make some notes about how the level of involvement of stakeholders is related to the local acceptance.

Finally, external validity ensures the generalizability of a study (Yin, 2014). The present study aims to generate results that are generalizable across wind energy development projects across the Netherlands. In qualitative research, obtaining high external validity is challenging as the

exact outcomes can rarely be generalized (Bleijenbergh, 2015). This applies to the present study, as the research is confined to a particular sector and only a limited number of cases were studied. Nevertheless, it might be possible to generalize the patterns discovered in the analytical generalization, when the concepts as defined in the present study remain similar across different research settings (Yin, 2014)

3.7 Research ethics

The present study has been conducted with great care. It has been acknowledged that all stakeholders who participate, put themselves in a vulnerable position. Conducting qualitative academic research requires adhering to strict ethical standards (Yin, 2015). As a researcher, you are responsible for protecting human subjects in your study. In his book, Yin (2015) states several ethic codes, which were summarized from several academic ethics associations. In the present study, all codes are adhered to, i.e., transparency, discreteness, guarantees of anonymity if requested, and truthfulness in dealings with personal information and data.

Interviews with human respondents (i.e. stakeholders of wind farm development projects) have been conducted to collect data. Therefore, some ethical considerations had to be taken into account. First and foremost, the researcher has adopted a professional attitude, including an open approach towards the participants (Bleijenbergh, 2015). At the start of each semi-structured interview, the stakeholder was informed about the goal of the study, including which kind of questions they could expect. Moreover, all stakeholders have been asked permission, to record the semi-structured interviews. Furthermore, before the start of the interview, they were ensured that their answers would be used only for scientific purposes and the interviewees were offered to opportunity to obtain the results. Next, they were offered anonymity, if they did not want their name mentioned in the present study. Finally, respondents participated voluntarily, which entails they are not in any way forced and could stop or choose not to answer a question without any consequences (Bleijenbergh, 2015; Yin, 2014, 2015).

An integrity form has been signed by the researcher and added to the present study as Appendix 2, to confirm academic integrity. Moreover, the researcher follows strict APA rules in his work, guarantees transparency in the processing of obtained data as well as in the presentation of the data and results (Nijmegen school of management, 2021).

4. Analyses

In preceding chapters, the theoretical framework was delineated, a proposition was formed and the methodological approach was characterized. Consequently, the collected data is analyzed to answer the research question:

“How does the level of involvement of stakeholders influence the community’s acceptance of the nearby onshore wind turbines for both commercially owned and community-owned projects?”

This chapter is concerned with the analysis of the interviews based on the coded transcripts. The remainder of the chapter is structured in accordance with the sub-questions as provided in the introduction. First, the respondents are discussed. Thereafter, the different forms of stakeholder involvement as found in the different cases are presented. Third, the analysis of how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance through different forms of justice is presented. Furthermore, the difference between the commercial or cooperative nature of the projects will be discussed. Subsequently, the interrelatedness of the different forms of fairness will be presented. Finally, the role of sense of ownership is reviewed.

4.1 Response

Four wind energy development projects in Gelderland, the Netherlands were included in the research. In total 14 respondents were interviewed. The respondents are all stakeholders with a different range of functions, from the director of the windfarm to local politician. Each respondent has received a brief introduction of the topic, explanation of the concepts, purpose, goals, and the research question. The number of respondents per project differs, as the number of stakeholders necessary to understand the full picture also differs per wind farm. The table in Appendix 4 provides an overview of the respondents, their function, and the windfarm they are associated with.

4.2 Stakeholder involvement

In the following paragraphs, the coded data is analyzed and presented. As stakeholder involvement is a complex concept, it is necessary to outline the different forms of stakeholder

involvement utilized by the different projects. This will offer a holistic view of what stakeholder involvement looks like in practice in the context of wind farm development.

The first form of involvement can be described as gatherings. During the plan development of wind projects, often gatherings will be organized to inform the local residents and others affected by or interested in the wind farm. The objective of these gatherings is primarily to take away fear by providing information, as illustrated by one of the developers:

“I think the primary objective of the evening gatherings is the provision of information, as many people are not familiar with the matter.” (Interview Koningspleij 2) ^{.1}

The second form of involvement can be described as the windfarm community fund. A community wind fund is a name for all initiatives in which part of the wind park returns are given to the local community. The rationale behind the community fund is to enable the local residents to not only carry the burden of the wind park but also to share in the benefits. Most developers follow the NWEA guideline, which states the reference amount is € 0,40 tot € 0,50 per generated MWh. The money can be spent in either of two ways. First of all, the money can be spent on financing local community projects like a playground or park, which are in the public interest.

“The goal is to support and subsidize projects in the neighborhoods which I just named. The projects have to be sustainable in the broadest sense of the term. This could be a green project, an energy project, but also doing things together and therefore connecting the residents of the neighborhood with each other, we call this social sustainability.” (Respondent Nijmegen-Betuwe 1) ^{.2}

Second, the money gathered in the windfarm community fund can also be spent on a yearly annual compensation for local residents. Moreover, a hybrid solution can be chosen in which part of the money is given to local residents as compensation and part is reserved for community projects, as illustrated by the following quote

“The participation plan which we initially did not support said €5000,- for the 2 surrounding villages and €15000,- for the local residents.” (Respondent Bijvanck 2) ^{.3}

The third form of involvement can be described as a community advisory board (in Dutch: OAR). For this OAR, generally, representatives from neighborhood associations, people living closest to the project area, as well as nature and other interest organizations are invited to participate. The goal of the OAR is to provide participation and consultation for local residents.

“The OAR’s main purpose was to channel the participation and questions from the direct living area. So, the main actors in the OAR are representatives from the most important neighborhoods which are closest to the wind farm. (Respondent Koningspleij 3) .⁴

The fourth form of involvement is a citizen platform (in Dutch: BP). The BP differs from the OAR: while the OAR contains all stakeholders involved, like the developer, local government, and local citizens, the BP only contains local citizens and sometimes a representative from the developer. Often the members of the OAR will be recruited from the BP.

The fifth form of involvement is financial participation. When financial participation is offered, individual investors, including local residents can take an interest in the wind park to earn a return. The goal behind this financial participation is to increase local acceptance and decrease the number of nuisance complaints by enabling people to share in the profits of the wind park instead of giving the profits away to a large company or investor.

“I think that with a commercial party you often feel like a sort of colony. A large party puts in money, afterward they pull out all money for the shareholders and no returns remain in the area.” (Respondent Culemborg 1) .⁵

The sixth form of involvement is through social and mainstream media. Through social media two-way communication is possible, giving the opportunity of creating engagement as is illustrated by the following citation:

“We have a newsletter, besides that, we are also on Twitter and LinkedIn, where we get a lot of feedback. This way we really try to create a conversation with our stakeholders” (Respondent Culemborg 1) .⁶

The interviewees agreed stakeholder involvement is essential in creating acceptance for the wind park. As was stated by one of the initiators of wind park Nijmegen-Betuwe:

“If you have a ready to use plan, no matter how good it is, when you present it to the local residents, the first thing they will say is: We were not involved, we are against this plan.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .⁷

Moreover, involvement was often stated as the most important factor to influence local acceptance. For example, when the question was posed, which factor has the largest influence on local acceptance? The following answer was given:

“I most definitely think involvement, you should at least have the feeling that you have something to say about the wind park.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1) .⁸

Hence, there are many forms of stakeholder involvement. Moreover, in the studied cases the different forms of involvement seem to contribute to the local acceptance of the wind farm.

4.3 The effects of fairness

So, as presented in the previous paragraph there are many forms of stakeholder involvement present in the analyzed cases. Moreover, the general consensus in the cases seems to be that stakeholder involvement has the capability to contribute to the local acceptance. Nevertheless, this paper aims to find how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance. Therefore, the coming paragraphs will present how the perception of fairness of the different levels of stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance.

4.4 Distributive fairness

According to the literature, a fair distribution of the number of local benefits is an important predictor of project support (Walker & Baxter, 2017). This section will explain how distributive fairness can be created by local stakeholder involvement. Nevertheless, there are many pitfalls in which stakeholder involvement can harm local acceptance. In the essence, distributive justice is all about the division of the burdens and benefits of the wind farm.

4.4.1 Burden/Benefits

The nuisance, burden, and anxiety experienced by the local residents of a wind farm development area are extensive. The burdens can be divided into four major themes: Noise,

appearance, blighted landscape, and cast shadow. Distributive justice is conceived in terms of the distribution of sharing out of goods and bads. Following this line of reasoning, distributive justice can only be established when the burdens for the local population are understood. The following quote illustrates how the noise of a wind park can be experienced by local residents:

*“During the daytime, the noise is doable, but when you get a beer in the evening you hear the sound of large industrial fans *woesh woesh*. It is an incredible orchestra of sound; People tell me you cannot get used to it. You might think it is the sea that hits the beach, but there is too much regularity in the sound. But even worse, it goes on day and night, there is no end to it. A tractor that passes is gone in a minute. We used to sleep with the windows open, they have to be shut tight, even de Velux covers are closed.” (Bijvanck 2) ^{.9}*

On the other hand, there are wind parks where the nuisance is experienced as very minimal.

“The only thing I once in a while hear or see is on the neighborhood app. We have a Nextdoor app. In this app they sometimes talk about noise, it is sometimes about the boats who pass by the river but also sometimes about the wind turbines. Other than that, I hear little or no complaints.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 5) ^{.10}

There are many explanations why the nuisance complaints would be higher for one wind park than the other, but one of them is the level of distributive fairness. The benefits received by the local residents have to be in some kind of proportion as compared to the burdens. Across the different cases, it becomes clear that financial compensation could create more distributive fairness. Financial involvement in the wind farm is considered to be a form of compensation for the bads experienced, like a devaluation of the value of your house:

“So, if we would get ownership of the wind park, it would be a compensation for what it has cost us. All people here think their house has been devalued by the wind farm.” (Bijvanck 2) ^{.11}

From the interviews the present study finds that the negative aspects of the windfarm can be compensated by financial compensation. Therefore, stakeholder involvement in a financial sense makes sure the benefits received from the wind farm are more in proportion to the negative aspects, thereby increasing the distributive fairness. In turn, the increased distributive fairness enhances the local acceptance of the wind farm.

“It enhances the local acceptance of the wind farm. People now not only share the burdens of the wind farm, but they also share in the benefits.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1) .¹²

So, by increasing the distributive justice through stakeholder participation, the local acceptance of the wind farm is enhanced. Yet not all compensation increases the distributive justice, the compensation does need to be perceived as reasonable compared to the burdens as illustrated by the following quote:

“No, the opponents will say, you try to get rid of us for a few nickels and take the big money home yourself” (Koningspleij 2) .¹³

There are several ways to involve local stakeholders financially as a form of compensation as will be illustrated in the following paragraphs.

4.4.2 Local ownership

The first way to involve stakeholders financially is through local ownership. Local residents can be involved with the wind farm by buying a stake in the wind park. Local ownership is one of the ways to increase local acceptance. Local acceptance is increased as people feel like the wind farm is partly theirs. When the interviewees were asked why financial participation was so important, both the enhanced distributive justice and sense of ownership came up.

“Yes, on one site, of course, it is of course to make a profit, but on the other hand it is also a feeling of, that windmill belongs to us.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 5) .¹³

This local ownership has the ability to create more justice as it again is found to be a way to compensate for the bads when the compensation is perceived as reasonable. As illustrated by the following quote:

“The local ownership takes away a sense of injustice, even more than accepting the local acceptance. Such a windfarm has such a negative influence, so you wish to profit from it just like those farmers, which sometimes do not even live in the area, profit from the wind farm.” (Bijvanck 2) .¹⁴

Besides creating more distributive fairness, a psychological sense of ownership is created among the stakeholders, which enhances the local acceptance of the wind farm.

“When you are a member of the cooperative, then it feels different because the windmills work for you. It is a psychological effect in which you feel like they are partly yours.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .¹⁵

Although most interviewees state local ownership creates distributive justice and therefore enhances the local acceptance of the wind farm, there are a lot of ifs and buts. Providing local ownership does not guarantee a high local acceptance as stated by one of the interviewees.

“The idea that cooperative projects are successful, while non-cooperative projects are not, that’s really just plain nonsense.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .¹⁶

Moreover, there is scepticism about the functioning of financial involvement as it does make the project increasingly fair when comparing the goods versus bads as talked about previously, nevertheless it could create social inequality as illustrated by the following quote:

“I am always a bit skeptical about financial participation. It is often thought of as the golden bullet for local acceptance of wind farms. But first of all, you need to have money and second, you need to be able to commit the money to a windfarm project for a long time.” (Culemborg 1) .¹⁷

In practice, this means only people with enough money can benefit from this form of stakeholder involvement. In the countryside, this is mostly the farmers, who already profit the most from the wind farm. This mechanism fosters inequality and therefore decreases distributive justice as the benefits are awarded to a specific group, while the burden is shared by all local residents. In all cases the wind farm developers have pointed out this problem, for example:

“We also want to go and actively recruit members in neighborhoods where there is little interest until now to see if we can widen because otherwise, it remains an elitist affair for people with money.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4) .¹⁸

As a solution, all cooperatives which were analyzed decided to bring down the price of shares for future projects so a wider array of residents would be able to participate in the project. Besides the fact that only the wealthier people can participate, the high-income neighborhoods from which many people are financially involved in the project, are often far away from the wind farm. Distributive justice was created by compensating for the ‘bads’ with ‘goods’, but in these cases, the people who benefit from the involvement are not the ones experiencing the ‘bads’ as the following quote illustrates:

“I think when you do an analysis, the neighborhoods who have direct sight of the Pleij are the low-income neighborhoods. At the same time the division of financially involved participants will have its center of gravity in the high-income neighborhoods, which are all in Arnhem Noord, far away from the Pleij.” (Koningspleij 3) ¹⁹

This inequality could lead to a point where local ownership, designed to increase distributive justice could have the opposite effect on the local acceptance. In smaller communities, which are often the places affected by wind farms, it could also detriment the social cohesion. Neighborhood associations are bitterly divided into two and the ones who profit are blamed by the ones who do not profit.

“You become rich and we are hurt, both financially as in happiness” (Bijvanck 2) ²⁰

When the social cohesion is hurt, the local acceptance of the project drastically drops as people no longer want to be associated with the wind farm. Besides social inequality, there are more facets to take into consideration when financially involving stakeholders to increase distributive fairness. The timing of offering financial participation is crucial. When the local residents are still trying to prevent the wind farm from happening, offering financial participation is often not a good idea. Not only will local residents perceive the offer as a bribe or an indulgence, but they will also most probably choose not to participate. A better moment to offer financial participation would be when it has become certain the wind farm will be built. As long as people litigate the wind farm, they will not become a member of the cooperative, causing areas with high resistance to have low levels of financial involvement when financial participation is offered too early.

“While people are going to court against the wind farm, they, of course, will not become a member of the cooperative because the aim of the cooperative is to develop the wind farm.” (Bijvanck 1) ^{.21}

So, by involving stakeholders through local ownership, developers can create distributive fairness. Conversely, local ownership can also create distributive unfairness as it could potentially foster social inequality. Besides that, developers need to be aware of the timing of the offering and the location where participants live. Only if these factors are taken into consideration and dealt with, true distributive fairness can be created, increasing local acceptance.

4.4.3 Windfarm community fund

A second way to financially involve stakeholders is through a windfarm community fund. A wind farm community fund is designed to share a small part of the benefits with the local community. As described before this can either be spent on community projects, but also on individual households as compensation. Again, the idea is to compensate for the ‘bads’ of the wind farm by providing some more ‘goods’ for the local residents, thereby creating distributive justice and local acceptance. In the four analyzed cases, the influence of the wind farm community fund on the local acceptance has been minimal. In the cases where the local acceptance was rather low, the influence of the fund was considered a drop in the ocean by the local residents as illustrated by the following quote:

“It is 500,- euro per address per year. Everybody considers that peanuts compared to the damage done. We told them ones, we are willing to pay 5000,- euro per year just to make sure they are not spinning during the night. So this 500,- euro feels like a little candy.” (Bijvanck 2) ^{.22}

In projects with rather high initial local acceptance, the fund was seen as a welcome little extra. In these cases, paying for community projects does create distributive fairness as illustrated by the following quote:

“The average neighborhood resident does not participate and they are also not compensated like the people who live directly under the wind farm. Yet these people look upon the wind farm

from their window and through the community wind fund they are still partly compensated.”
(Nijmegen-Betuwe 4) ^{.23}

“I believe it helps the local acceptance as part of the profits flow back to the people. They notice, hey we can get a grip of the windmills because they are partly spinning for me.”
(Bijvanck 1) ^{.24}

Ergo, the effect of the community wind fund is too small to change the minds of local residents who do not want the wind farm. Contrarily for people who have a neutral or positive stance toward the wind farm, the community wind fund enhances the perceived distributive justice and local acceptance.

4.4.4 Individual financial compensation

Another attempt to create local acceptance through distributive justice is by offering individual financial compensation to the people experiencing the biggest nuisance. One way of compensating people is through the ‘loss resulting from government planning decision compensation’ (planschade in Dutch). Yet, the Planschade seems not to provoke any distributive justice as people find it very low as compared to the nuisance experienced. Another option is to make private agreements with the local residents to compensate them. This seems to be way more successful, and the cases using this technique exhibit a higher local acceptance. This success can be attributed to the height of the financial compensation on one side, but also the level of involvement of the local residents in designing the compensation other than just handing them a ready-made compensation plan. As illustrated by the following quote:

“A feeling of, being together and arranging stuff for the wind farm. A feeling of being involved with the wind farm.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) ^{.25}

4.4.5. Nuisance limiting measures

Until now this chapter has discussed how to increase the ‘goods’ to compensate for the ‘bads’ to create more distributive justice which when done right helps the local acceptance. Though, by decreasing the ‘bads’ the initiatives can also increase the level of distributive justice. All projects try to agree with the local residents on cast shadow, noise, lights, color et cetera, to limit the burden experienced by residents. These measures are important in creating local

acceptance. As the burden decreases the project becomes fairer, in a distributive sense. In one of the projects, they managed to transfer a hamlet with a lot of initial resistance into a neighborhood with a lot of supporters through nuisance limiting measures.

“I think they have become enthusiastic about the effort being made to reduce the nuisance as much as possible.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4) .²⁶

4.4.6 Distributive justice conclusion

Hence, distributive justice positively contributes to local acceptance of wind farms. This finding confirms proposition 1. Yet stakeholder involvement, intended to increase distributive justice often has unintended consequences. To create distributive justice, stakeholders are often involved in a financial way, such as local ownership or a windfarm community fund. However, when these forms of stakeholder involvement are introduced without contemplation of the negative consequences, the distribution of bads and goods will not become more just. The results call for careful consideration of the use and design of compensation schemes. In which attention must be paid to the contextual factors, the timing of the compensation and distributing a fair amount and equal access by local citizens. Moreover, local citizens must be included in designing and defining the appropriate schemes to consider them as fair. Therefore, distributive justice is reliant upon procedural fairness as will be discussed more extensively in section 4.8.

4.5 Procedural fairness

In the interviews it becomes apparent that to achieve procedural justice open dialogue is needed, moreover, stakeholders need to have a significant influence in the decision-making process regarding the terms of acceptability. Also, in all of the analyzed cases procedural justice is critical in obtaining local acceptance of the project. Even more apparent when stakeholder involvement is not perceived to be fair in a procedural sense, it provokes a lot of resistance.

“If participation is not filled in the way people expected it to be, they feel cheated on and start to resist the project. This can of course never be the intention of the participation process” (Culemborg 3) .²⁷

4.5.1 Stakeholders influence the outcome or only the details

First of all, stakeholders need to have a significant influence over the outcome of the project to create local acceptance. Involving the community in the decision-making even has the power to turn members of the community from opponents to supporters of the windfarm. The local residents felt like they influenced the project as their complaints of noise, cast shadow, and compensation were taken seriously and solved in dialogue with the developer.

“The fact that they could always come with complaints and we would actually do something about it, that increased the local acceptance. We took them and the effect on their living environment seriously and they were involved in determining the noise, cast shadow, and also compensation.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4) ^{.28}

Stakeholder involvement in the development process is seen as essential by many developers to get the local acceptance needed. Local residents need to be given a sense of influence, otherwise the process will not be perceived as fair.

“If people do not have influence, they automatically become mistrustful.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1) ^{.29}

Yet, it is incredibly complicated to provide this feeling of control for the local stakeholders. This is also where the developers are struggling, they want to give the stakeholders influence to increase local acceptance, yet only a small amount of influence can be given. The following quotes illustrate how developers look at this issue:

“It is indeed the question if people really have something to say.” (Koningspleij 3) ^{.30}

“So yes, influence, really really influence on the actual process, I might be a bit skeptical about it myself. They often talk about it, but it is hard to actually do.” (Konngspleij 2) ^{.31}

So paradoxically, developers do want to give stakeholders influence over the outcome to increase local acceptance, yet not too much as it harms the development process. Therefore, a lot of developers have chosen the following stance: The wind farm will be developed and it will be developed here, if you want to be involved, we can decide together on how it will look like and which measures will be taken to limit the nuisance. This however is often not perceived as

true influence over the decision process, as needed to create procedural justice. This is a struggle experienced by the developers, which greatly reduces the local acceptance of wind farms.

“Sometimes residents tell us we don’t want them so you have to listen to us, why else would we be involved? But we approach it from the following stance: The windmills will be built, and now we can talk about what they will look like and other conditions. This is where I think it often goes awry.” (Culemborg 1) .³²

Besides the fact that developers do not want to give too much influence away as it would hinder the development of the project, the government has not clearly indicated what participation should look like. From a government perspective, stakeholder involvement does not entail significant influence over the outcome of the wind farm. Therefore, the way stakeholders are involved in the cases does often not feel procedurally just.

“That is a very difficult point, from a government perspective participation is the following: We determine the boundaries, and you can have influences on some parts, but in the end, we determine what happens.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 3) .³³

Accordingly, if you do not want the wind farm in the first place, the participation process will be a bitter pill. Consequently, the involvement of stakeholders through the OAR does not always lead to a higher local acceptance.

“If I talk to people who have been in the OAR, their biggest annoyance is the fact that the developer already knew the outcome of the OAR beforehand. So why did they bother us, why did they take us along in a process where it seemed local residents would actually matter.” (Culemborg 2) .³⁴

So, the effect of stakeholders having an influence over the outcome of the project on the local acceptance remains limited as the influence allowed for is limited. Yet, the ability to think along about nuisance-reducing measures does have the ability to increase the local acceptance. This also relates back to distributive justice as it causes the burden experienced by the residents to be lowered. Nevertheless, a lot of people are disappointed in the stakeholder involvement as their expectations exceed the amount of actual influence.

4.5.2 Open dialogue

Open dialogue appears to be of critical importance to create local acceptance. Moreover, the cases show the critical importance of when this dialogue is started. This often happens too late, causing low local acceptance as the process is viewed as unfair.

“They have made the same rooky mistake which I already talked about, which drastically lowered the local acceptance. About you, without you. No, you have to create a dialogue with the local residents immediately.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) ^{.35}

If the developer, government, and landowners make plans together without informing the local residents, local residents feel like they are cheated upon. The local acceptance drops as the process is no longer perceived as being just.

“People here really feel like they are being cheated upon. This can never be the intention of a stakeholder involvement process. You feel like this because the landowners already have agreements, also concerning benefits. If I have to speak for myself, I do not consider that fair.” (Culemborg 3) ^{.36}

Although starting the open dialogue in an earlier phase would foster local acceptance, in reality, developers do not consider this possible. They argue that without ground contracts, you have no right to speak. Besides that, you are opening up the place to competitors as you have no contracts to claim the spot yet. So, although most developers agree, they are always too late with starting the dialogue with the local residents, they do not see a solution for this.

“So I think all criticism on this approach is nonsense as it is completely devoid of any knowledge of the business.” (Koningspleij 3) ^{.37}

Yet, people do not consider this way of development fair, which greatly harms the local acceptance. The agreements being made between developer, local government and ground owners also harms procedural justice as people no longer consider the procedures of the local government just. Thus, although open dialogue creates local acceptance, due to the way the permit and land contracts are awarded, the dialogue always starts too late, harming local acceptance.

“We have very early in the project contacted the local residents. But with wind projects it is tricky at which moment to contact them. Look the point is, you are always too late, per definition.” (Culemborg 3) .³⁸

4.5.3 Government

Procedural justice is not only formed by the relationship between the local residents and the developer. The relationship with the municipality and the province also plays a major role in this. In cases where the local acceptance is low, this is largely caused by the perceived procedural unfairness of the local government.

“What I see all the time, everywhere the local acceptance of a wind farm is really low, the government organized their own resistance.” (Bijvanck 2) .³⁹

It is often believed the local government is in cahoots with the developer. This causes the local residents to feel powerless and like they are having no influence over the process. Consequently, the procedural justice of the process plummets and as a result causes resistance. For governments to create procedural justice they need to be completely transparent when involving stakeholders.

“The only thing we were allowed to read was the date and yours sincerely, all else was blacked out. So that’s a mortal sin, it is very normal for the province to meet with the developer, but if whole letters are blacked out, you start thinking, why are we not allowed to see this?” (Bijvanck 2) .⁴⁰

So also, the government has its role in providing procedural fairness. When done right, it can create a high local acceptance through open dialogue. Yet when the local residents feel the local government or province is not transparent, high resistance can develop.

4.5.4 Procedural fairness conclusion

Procedural fairness has the potential to strongly influence local acceptance through giving stakeholders a significant influence in the decision-making process, by open dialogue and transparency. Thereby these findings confirm proposition 2. Yet in the studied cases providing true procedural justice to the stakeholder’s proofs difficult to organize. First of all, there is often

incongruence between the expectation of influence by local residents and the limits of influence set by the developer. Moreover, due to the way the permit request and business are structured, developers are always too late in providing stakeholder involvement. Finally, governments are struggling to gain the trust of the local residents. So procedural fairness has the potential to increase local acceptance, yet both developers and local governments need to be careful of the pitfalls as described.

4.6 Interpersonal fairness

Interpersonal fairness concerns itself with the treatment of individuals and emphasizes the social enactment of the structural elements (Greenberg & Cropanzano, 1993). So interpersonal fairness is all about whether the parties perceive the way they treat each other during the implementation of procedures as being fair.

From the analysis, it can be derived that interpersonal fairness is of the utmost importance to create local acceptance. Where distributive justice and procedural justice, are about the structural elements through which involvement can be created like the community wind fund or OAR. Interpersonal fairness is about the social enactment of these procedures. What becomes very apparent throughout the interviews is the extent to which the sense of distributive fairness and procedural fairness are reliant upon interpersonal fairness. Most stakeholder involvement procedures are created to support either distributive justice (community fund, financial participation) or procedural justice (gatherings, OAR, citizen platform). Yet, all interviewees emphasize the importance of interpersonal fairness in these procedures. Some even indicate how interpersonal fairness is more important than the actual results, which could be classified as procedural or distributive justice.

“So, the question remains whether the results of the conversation are important or the way the conversation is conducted. I personally think the way the conversation is conducted is most important. Not so much the concrete results which you can achieve in such a process, but the conversation itself.” (Koningspleij 3) ⁴¹

Involving stakeholders in a just way through creating a personal relationship has the power to increase local acceptance. In Reeth, where there used to be a lot of resistance, the good personal relationship with the developer made the local residents accept the wind farm in the end.

“The people from Reeth were litigating until the very end, but when they finished the process and lost it we had built such a good relationship with them, they were able to switch and accept the wind farm would be built.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .⁴²

Such a personal relationship is not built overnight and can take several years to develop. While involving stakeholders in an interpersonally fair manner, several aspects are of the utmost importance to create local acceptance. First of all, the interviewees indicated the relationship needs to be based on trust. Although it takes time to build such a relationship based on trust, it gives provides many advantages in creating local acceptance. Second, this relationship is easier to form when the initiators are locals. It creates the opportunity to visit the people on your bike for a cup of coffee, which is much appreciated by the local residents. Moreover, it allows the local residents to identify with the person they are speaking to. Also, the person will know what is happening in the neighborhood and what kind of people live there and therefore anticipate that information.

“Those conversations as you could call them, just a cup of coffee or having a beer, that helped the local acceptance tremendously.” (Nijmegen Betuwe 4) .⁴³

Third, it is very important to try and be on the same side as the local residents. In one of the cases, this did not happen, therefore the perception of the cooperation which developed the wind farm changed from ‘our cooperation’, to ‘their developer’ which harmed the local acceptance.

“It is like you change from being the good guy to the bad guy” (Culemborg 3) .⁴⁴

Fourth, multiple interviewees indicate the importance of having one point of contact for the local residents to form a relationship. Fifth it is important for the developer to have an outward perspective, as the uniform opinions of the people within the energy cooperative do not help the relationship with local residents. The developers need to be able to understand the viewpoint of the local resident.

“Cooperatives are often very uniformly aligned. I mean, they only look after the interest of the solar or wind farm, and therefore often have a bit of a tunnel vision.” (Nijmegen Betuwe 2) .⁴⁵

Finally, to create local acceptance, the contact needs to be based on respect and needs to be personal.

“They have always continued talking, this was always based on mutual respect, which helped a lot in the acceptance of the wind farm.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4) .⁴⁶

Yet, interpersonal justice alone does not create local acceptance, there needs to be procedural and distributive justice as well. In one of the cases, which scored very low on both procedural and distributive justice, the local acceptance of the project was very low. Still, when a solar park was developed in the same area later, local residents chose the same developer to do the job as had done the wind farm as the process had been considered interpersonally just.

“In the end, our way of working gave us the goodwill. They told us if we are going to do it with someone, we would like to do it with you, as we have always been treated decently.” (Bijvanck 1) .⁴⁷

So interpersonal justice increases the local acceptance of wind farms, thereby also proposition 3 is confirmed. Interpersonal justice is created through stakeholder involvement in which forming a personal relationship is of the utmost importance. Interpersonal fairness is all about the social enactment of the procedures developed to create distributive and procedural fairness. Yet this social enactment is in many cases even more important than the procedural or distributive outcome of the involvement. Moreover, there is no conflict for the developers like with procedural justice or distributive justice. Therefore, although it seems self-evident, developers need to put a lot of emphasis on interpersonal contact, to bolster the local acceptance.

4.7 Informational fairness

Informational fairness is about the kind of information parties share, and the way they share this information (Ariño & Ring, 2010). For example, providing knowledge about procedures that demonstrate regard for people's concerns could lead to more informational fairness.

In the interviews, it has become clear that informational fairness is important in creating local acceptance in all studied cases.

“Also, in Ressen and Oosterhout people were not happy about the wind farm. There, the conversation, meetings, and gatherings we visited to provide information helped to create local acceptance in an early stage.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .⁴⁸

Interviewees have indicated several important aspects which are capable of creating this acceptance. First of all, quick and good information is capable of increasing local acceptance by taking away people’s concerns. In the first stages of development, this often happens through information evenings and local newspapers. Second, the transparency of the communications is often named as an important factor in creating local acceptance. This includes making sure people are never surprised by developments in the project.

“You need to make sure people feel involved. You should make sure there are no surprises, you have to make them feel part of the project. This includes informing them at the moment we find out something and communicate in a completely transparent manner.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)

.⁴⁹

Contrarily, a lack of transparency creates resistance, as happened in one of the studied cases.

“The deficit of transparency is in the fact that as a resident you notice that the province and developer act as one party. The more examples you get, the more resistance it arouses. You start with calmly informing, what is going to happen here. When you notice they block you out from any information, you become anti. If a week or month later you again feel like you are being fooled, this resistance gets fiercer.” (Bijvanck 2) .⁵⁰

Third, the information provision can create an enhanced local acceptance through clear expectation management. As has already been discussed in the part on procedural justice, having different expectations about for example the amount of stakeholder influence can be disastrous for the local acceptance. Therefore, by providing clear expectations through information provision, local acceptance can be enhanced as procedures will be more in line with what local residents are expecting.

Fourth and last, being clear in your information provision enhances local acceptance. This includes tailoring the information to the recipient. For example, a woman called the developer to ask for clarification.

“Do not explain it to me in a way like it is on page 839 in of the 1500-page environmental impact report. I can’t use such a report, I cannot find my own house on the map and have no idea what 42 Lden means.” (Culemborg 1) .⁵¹

An example of making information understandable was given by one of the anti-wind-farm groups, who made signs on which the height of the windmill was compared to the Eifel tower. This made it very apprehensible for people. A pitfall that some of the windfarms experienced was not to include newly build neighborhoods into the communication as there was no representation from the neighborhood yet. Moreover, there were no addresses yet to deliver information booklets. These are exactly the neighborhoods they are now experiencing protest from, again confirming the importance of informational justice.

“Opponents have made a very good campaign to influence local residents from a neighborhood that was not properly informed about the wind farm. This neighborhood felt passed over and now gets flyers delivered like there is a big disaster coming their way. As these people were not informed and activated by us at first, they are now suddenly being activated by the negative campaign.” (Culemborg 3) .⁵²

So informational justice increases local acceptance of the wind farm. This entails proposition 4 is also supported. Informational justice influences local acceptance by taking away peoples’ concerns. Moreover, it creates trust when complete transparency is offered. Next, it enhances local acceptance through clear expectation management. Finally, tailoring the information to the recipient creates a higher local acceptance as it becomes understandable for local residents.

4.8 Relating the forms of fairness

Up until now, the present study has studied how involvement is capable of creating increasing local acceptance of wind farms through the different forms of justice. The following relationships have been thoroughly explained in the previous sections.

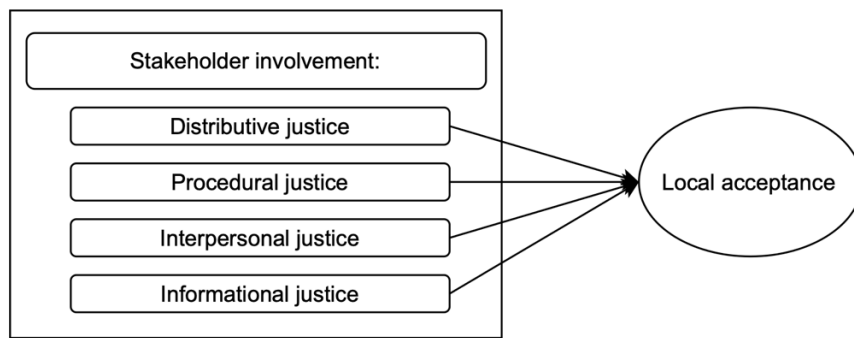


Figure 2: The influence of stakeholder involvement on local acceptance

This raises the question, how the different forms of justice are related and impact each other. From the analysis, it has become apparent that the different forms of fairness can influence local acceptance individually. Yet each form of justice, which is not perceived to be fair also has the capability to raise resistance. Therefore, in practice all four variants of justice are needed to create a locally well-accepted project. Moreover, they are in many ways interconnected and interdependent upon each other.

Informational fairness is seen as a precondition to create distributive and procedural fairness as neither of these is possible when based on limited or wrong information. For example, procedural justice is sometimes not achieved, as people expect too much of the process. The provision of information could play a major role in preventing this, by clearly justifying what is possible and what is not.

Distributive fairness is about the outcome of the process, while the other three forms of fairness are about the process itself. But no matter how good the outcomes of the process are, when people have had no influence over the outcome, they will not accept it. Therefore, distributive fairness is really important, but how you decide and agree on a just division of burden and benefits is critical. Therefore, no distributive justice can exist without procedural justice. In the cases when informational, interpersonal, and procedural fairness are good, distributive justice is likely to be high as well as people have been able to influence the results based on solid information and a fair personal relationship.

Procedural fairness is maybe the most difficult to create as developers are not always capable of giving stakeholders the influence they want. To create procedural fairness, there needs to be informational fairness and interpersonal fairness. When the influence people have is not based

on solid information it will not feel procedurally just. Moreover, when the parties feel like they are not treated fairly, there will be no base to build procedural fairness upon.

Interpersonal fairness is next to informational fairness needed to create procedural fairness. The way in which the parties treat each other influences not only interpersonal fairness but also distributive and procedural fairness. Yet, informational justice is needed in order to create interpersonal fairness. Without complete openness and the provision of the appropriate information, it is impossible to feel treated in a fair manner.

Hence, all forms of justice can create an increased local acceptance. Yet when one of the 4 types of justice, is not perceived as being just they arouse resistance. Informational and interpersonal justice are the easiest to create and form the basis for procedural justice. Procedural justice is harder to create, and developers often have problems with this. Procedural, informational and interpersonal justice form the basis of creating distributive justice. Distributive fairness is often the result of the influence people have over the process (procedural fairness), which is based on a fair relationship (interpersonal fairness) and solid information (informational fairness).

Table 3: The interdependence of fairness

Type of fairness	Other forms of fairness needed for existence of type of fairness:
Distributive fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedural fairness - Interpersonal fairness - Informational fairness
Procedural fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interpersonal fairness - Informational fairness
Interpersonal fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informational fairness
Informational fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be present without presence of the other forms of fairness

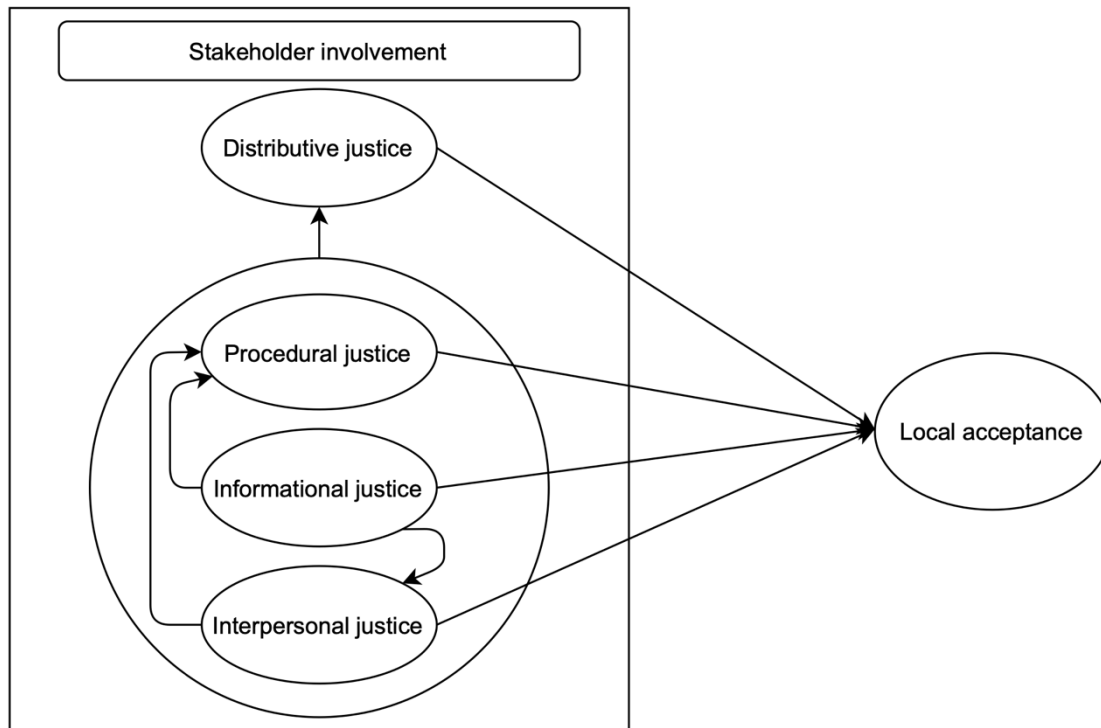


Figure 3: The interrelatedness of the different forms of fairness

4.9 Cooperative vs commercial projects

Thus far this paper has described how the different forms of fairness influence local acceptance. Yet we have not described whether and how this differs for commercial and cooperative projects. The idea of cooperative projects creating high local acceptance while commercial projects are struggling is pure nonsense as confirmed by many of the interviewees. Thereby proposition P5 is rejected. Yet, cooperative projects do give more chances to create a sense of distributive, procedural, informational, and interpersonal fairness and therefore local acceptance.

The advantage of cooperative initiatives is not so much in the structural elements as all of the stakeholder involvement mechanisms which were discussed in the first section of this chapter can also be offered by commercial initiatives. Still, the stakeholder involvement efforts are often perceived as fairer when offered by a cooperative developer as compared to a commercial developer. This can be explained by the way local residents feel about large commercial developers as compared to local people who run the cooperative.

“I think that with a commercial party you often feel like a sort of colony. A large party puts in money, afterward they pull out all money for the shareholders and no returns remain in the area.” (Respondent Culemborg 1) .⁵³

“For cooperatives, it is easier to get stakeholders involved than for a commercial party. This is purely an emotional matter because the turbines are not different, the nuisance is no different and even the flow of funds is not much different. It is just the people who are locals.” (Bijvanck 1) .⁵⁴

So, the first large advantage cooperative parties have over commercial parties is the locality of the people. They know what is going on in a neighborhood, they know the people and how to deal with them. This gives cooperatives an advantage in creating interpersonal justice. Moreover, by knowing the concerns of the people they can tailor information to meet their specific needs, giving them an advantage in creating informational justice.

“Yes, being a cooperative organization definitely helps. They know what is going on, they have a large reach, know the region, and know how to deal with things in that region.” (Koningspleij 2) .⁵⁵

The second advantage cooperatives have over commercial parties is their perceived intentions which reflect on the fairness. Local residents believe cooperatives will try to keep the benefits local, and will look after the residents. Therefore, stakeholder involvement through cooperatives is viewed as more genuine, although the same structural elements are used by commercial parties. Because local residents believe cooperatives will look after their interests, it is easier to create procedural justice as local residents feel like they are able to have a significant influence in the decision-making. Moreover, as local residents perceive cooperatives to take more regard for the local interests, they also believe they are capable of keeping more benefits in the area while limiting the burdens causing distributive justice.

“The role of the cooperative is to make sure that all local interests are being cared for. They have mostly been active to see whether or not, besides the burdens, we can also get the benefits locally. In this way, we keep as much money local as possible.” (Culemborg 3) .⁵⁶

So, although the cooperative and commercial developer is able to utilize the same structural mechanisms to create stakeholder participation. Through the perceived locality and intentions of the cooperative, they have an easier time creating perceived fairness and thereby local acceptance. Nevertheless, having a cooperative project offers no guarantee for success, just like a commercial project could also create high local acceptance by developing a project locally.

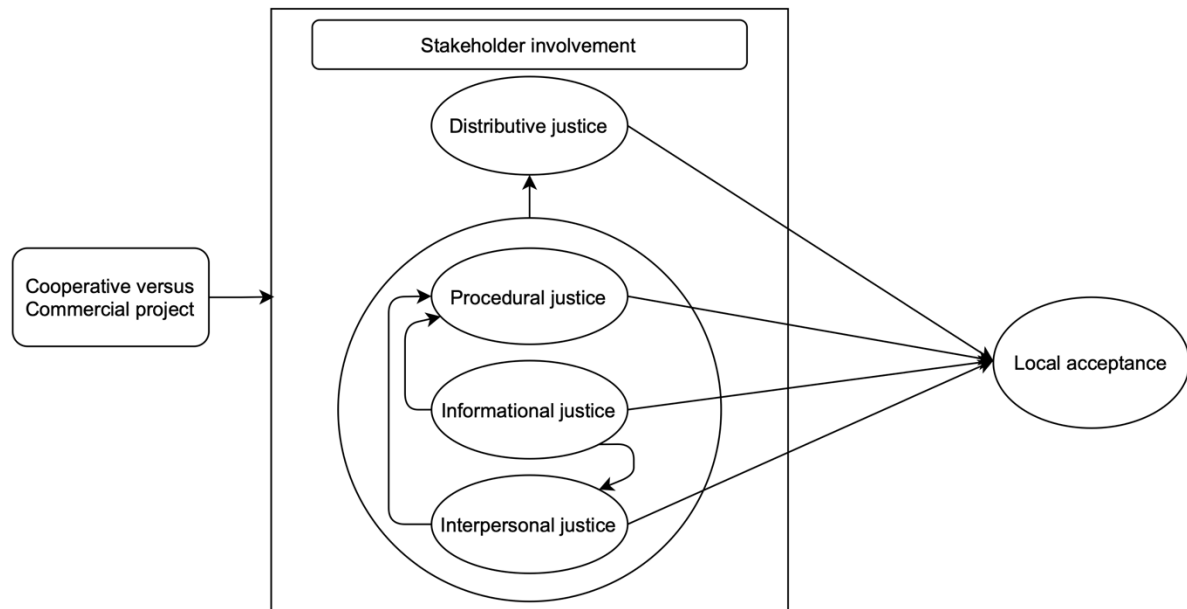


Figure 4: The influence of the projects' legal structure

4.10 Sense of ownership

It has been discussed how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance through the different forms of justice. Moreover, the interrelatedness of the different forms of justice has been discussed and the influence of cooperative or commercial projects. To complete the picture, this section will place sense of ownership in this picture.

From the interviews, it can be deduced that sense of ownership does indeed contribute to a higher local acceptance. This sense of ownership is not necessarily about financial/legal ownership, but also psychological ownership of the wind farm. According to the interviewees' sense of ownership is created by fair stakeholder involvement. Sense of ownership is mostly created by distributive justice and procedural justice. Both the effects of procedural and distributive justice on local acceptance can be explained by sense of ownership. Distributive justice can aid sense of ownership in a literal way by offering local ownership, but it can also create a psychological sense of ownership in which people feel the windmill is theirs.

“Yes, on one site of, course, it is of course to make a profit, but on the other hand it is also a feeling of, that windmill belongs to us.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 5) .⁵⁷

“When you are a member of the cooperative, then it feels different because the windmills work for you. It is a psychological effect in which you feel like they are partly yours.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .⁵⁸

Also, procedural justice is capable of creating a sense of ownership which is indicated by feeling responsible and a feeling of belongingness, as illustrated by the following quote:

“A feeling of together being responsible for organizing things for the wind farm. A feeling of belongingness.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2).⁵⁹

Consequently, the sense of ownership which can be created through either procedural or distributive justice is capable of positively influencing the local acceptance.

“I think the belongingness of civilians is super important for the local acceptance.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1) .⁶⁰

Thus, the influence of distributive justice on local acceptance can be explained by the effect of sense of ownership. Thus, proposition P6 is also confirmed. Surprisingly, the influence procedural justice has on local acceptance can also be explained by sense of ownership, which was not expected from the literature review. Informational justice and interpersonal justice seem not to directly influence sense of ownership as strongly as distributive and procedural justice do. Yet these two types of justice do form the basis for distributive justice and procedural justice. Moreover, they do impact local acceptance, but not through sense of ownership. They impact local acceptance directly as is illustrated by the following quote, which is an example of how interpersonal justice increases local acceptance without the influence of sense of ownership:

“They have always continued talking, this was always based on mutual respect, which helped a lot in the acceptance of the wind farm.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4) .⁶¹

Also, informational justice increases local acceptance without creating a sense of ownership to explain the relationship.

“Also, in Ressen and Oosterhout people were not happy about the wind farm. There, the conversation, meetings, and gatherings we visited to provide information helped to create local acceptance in an early stage.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2) .⁶²

Hence, the role of sense of ownership in the question of how does stakeholder involvement influence local acceptance can be graphically depicted in the following manner:

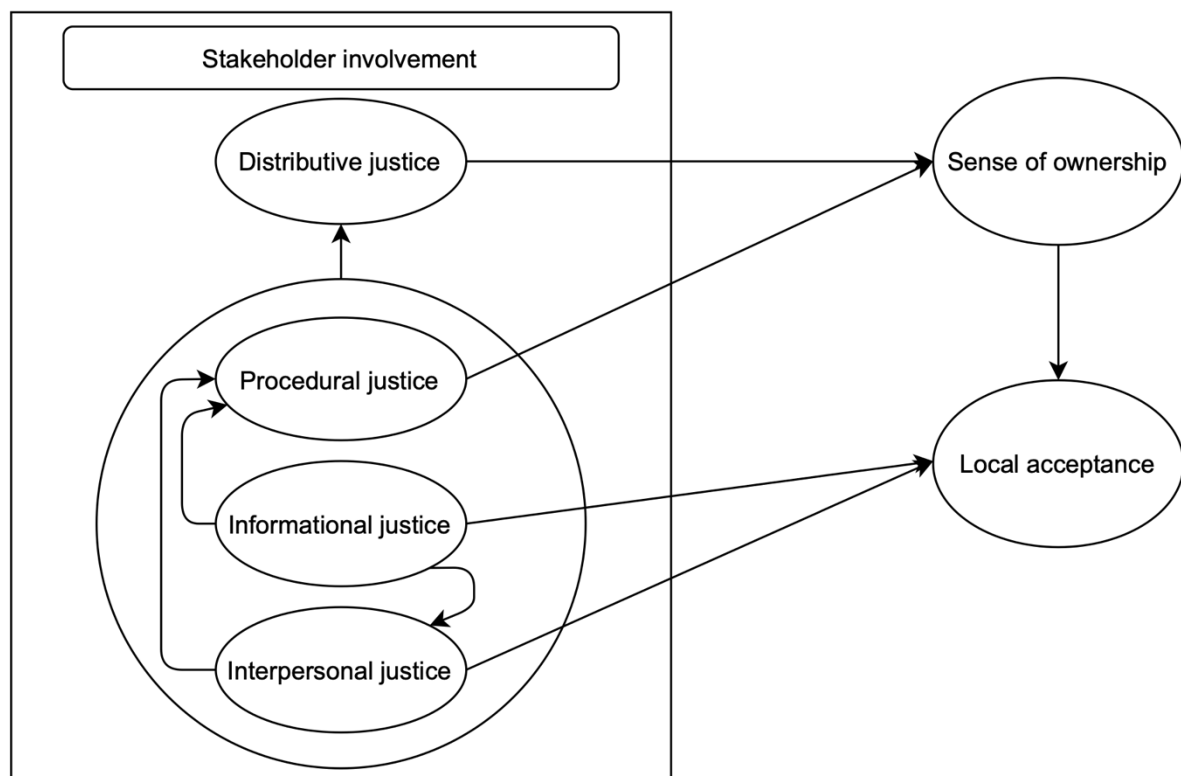


Figure 5: The role of sense of ownership

5. Conclusion and discussion

In the present study, qualitative research was conducted to understand how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance of wind farms. Four wind farms in the Netherlands were compared to understand the influence of the four types of justice and answer the following research question.

“How does the level of involvement of stakeholders influence the community’s acceptance of the nearby onshore wind turbines for both commercially owned and community-owned projects?”

In this final chapter, the question is concisely answered in the conclusion, building upon the research results as presented in the previous section. Moreover, in the discussion, the theoretical and practical implications will be discussed, as well as the limitations of the research and suggestions for further research.

5.1 Conclusion

The present study set out to find how stakeholder involvement in the development of wind farms could potentially increase local acceptance of onshore wind turbines. The present study has shown that when stakeholder involvement creates distributive, procedural, informational, or interpersonal justice it positively influences local acceptance.

The research has shown that distributive justice can be created through the financial involvement of stakeholders. Examples of financial involvement are: Offering local ownership, a windfarm community fund, individual financial compensation, or nuisance limiting measures. The studied cases confirmed that financial stakeholder involvement can positively influence local acceptance through creating increased distributive justice. Nevertheless, when trying to create distributive justice, stakeholder involvement often has unintended consequences like a lowered social cohesion, increased inequality, and the people who profit often do not experience the burden. So, when these forms of stakeholder involvement are introduced without contemplation of the negative consequences, the distribution of bads and goods will not become more just and the local acceptance will diminish.

The second major finding is that procedural fairness has the potential to strongly influence local acceptance through giving stakeholders a significant influence in the decision-making process, by open dialogue and transparency. Surprisingly, all cases had trouble creating true procedural justice. These results may be explained by the fact that there is often incongruence between the expectation of influence by the local residents and the limits of influence set by the developer. Another possible explanation for this is the way the permit request and business are structured. Developers need ground contracts and permits before they can start an open dialogue with the local residents, therefore this dialogue is often considered as too late. Finally, governments are struggling to gain the trust of local residents as they are often accused of colluding with the developer. Thus, procedural justice has the potential to increase local acceptance, yet there are many pitfalls for both developers as local governments which could potentially decrease local acceptance.

Third, the results show how interpersonal justice is capable of increasing the local acceptance of wind farms. Interpersonal justice is created through stakeholder involvement in which forming a personal relationship is critical. Interpersonal fairness is created through the social enactment of the procedures developed to create distributive and procedural fairness. Nevertheless, the social enactment of these procedures is in most cases even more important than the procedural and distributive outcome of the involvement. Besides, there is no conflict for the developers, like with procedural or distributive justice. Therefore, developers can create interpersonal justice to bolster the local acceptance in all cases.

The fourth major finding is how informational justice is capable of increasing the local acceptance of a wind farm. Informational justice positively influences local acceptance by taking away people's concerns. Moreover, when complete transparency is offered, it creates trust. Third, it enhances the local acceptance through clear expectation management of the participation process. Last, by tailoring the information to the recipient, the local acceptance can be increased even further as the information becomes understandable for local residents.

Hence, all forms of justice can create an increased local acceptance. Yet when one of the four types of justice, is not perceived as being just they arouse resistance. Informational and interpersonal justice are the easiest to create and form the basis for procedural justice. Procedural justice is harder to create, and developers often have problems with this as explained before. Procedural, informational, and interpersonal justice form the basis of creating

distributive justice. Distributive fairness is often the result of the influence people have over the process (procedural fairness), which is based on a fair relationship (interpersonal fairness) and solid information (informational fairness).

Both commercial parties and cooperative organizations have the capability to utilize the same mechanisms for stakeholder participation. Yet, through the perceived locality and intentions of the cooperatives, they have an easier time creating perceived fairness and thereby local acceptance. Nevertheless, having a cooperative developer offers no guarantees for success. A commercial project can be just as successful, but the project would have to put in more effort to create fairness.

Finally, the role of sense of ownership is discussed. It becomes apparent that local acceptance is partly explained by sense of ownership. The influence distributive justice has can be explained largely by the effect of sense of ownership. Also, the contribution of procedural justice can be explained by sense of ownership. Informational justice and interpersonal justice do not influence sense of ownership but influence local acceptance directly.

All results together allow for creating the following graphical depiction of how the different constructs in the present study are related to each other. Therefore, the present study proposes the following framework:

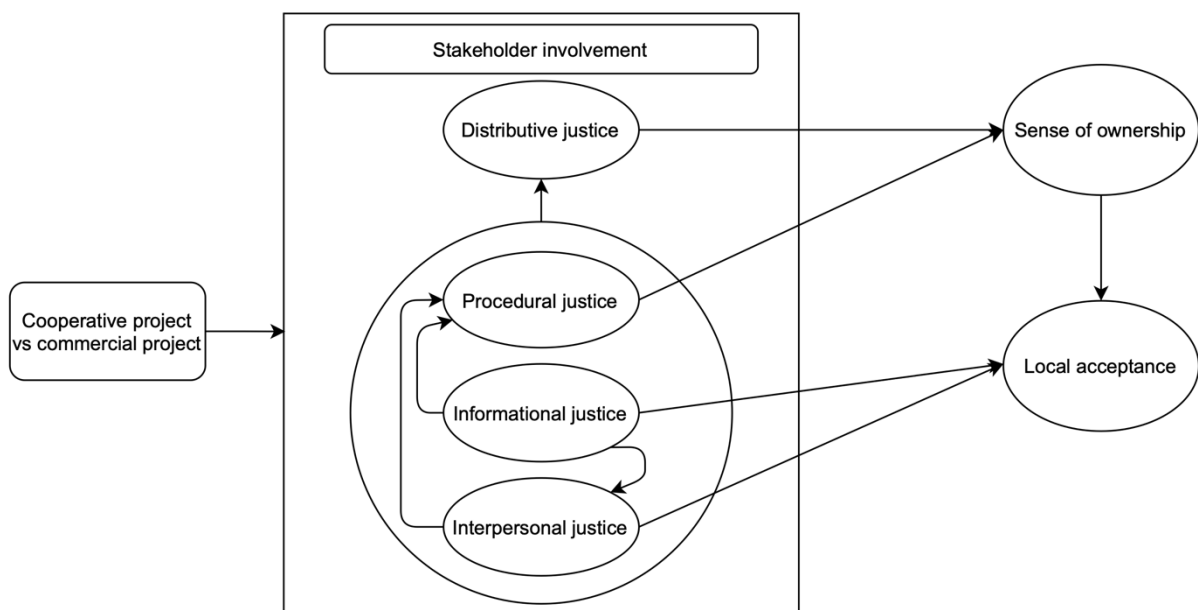


Figure 6: The complete framework

5.2 Discussion on the main findings

In this discussion, the academic and practical contributions of the research are discussed. Thereafter, the limitations of the present study are briefly addressed. Finally, the suggestions for further research are made.

5.2.1 Academic relevance

The present study is the first comprehensive investigation of justice theory in the context of local wind farm acceptance. The present study thoroughly examines how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance through an increased perception of justice. The findings make several contributions to the current literature.

The first contribution lies in the use of justice theory to predict local acceptance. The present study adheres to the recommendation of Husted (1998) who explains justice theory can be useful in providing specific advice for the design of stakeholder relations. There are several examples of authors who use justice in the context of stakeholder relations (e.g., Ariño & Ring, 2010). Moreover, there are authors who have applied part of the justice theory to investigate local acceptance of wind farms. For example Gross (2007) who found an increased distributive justice increases the local acceptance of windfarms in Australia. Or Jørgensen, Anker, and Lassen (2020) who use distributive justice to find how compensation schemes influence local acceptance of windfarms. Yet, the present study is the first to apply all four types of fairness of the justice theory on stakeholder relations in the context of wind farms. Thereby the present study is also the first to study the relation between the different forms of justice in this context. The present study finds that an increased perception of justice positively contributes to local acceptance in the context of wind farm development. Consequently, the present study has created a coherent framework to evaluate stakeholder involvement. The results of the present study support the idea that increased stakeholder involvement could increase local acceptance through an increased sense of justice. Yet as described in the results not all forms of stakeholder involvement automatically create more fairness. These findings have significant implications for the understanding of how stakeholder involvement should look like to bolster local acceptance. Moreover, the research confirms the richness of justice theory as suggested by Gross (2007) which encourages the use of justice theory in future research in order to improve community involvement.

Second, the present study responds to calls for a study into a broader sense of ownership in studying onshore wind farms. As has been noted by Wüstenhagen et al. (2007) and (Cowell & Strachan, 2007) there has been little attention for exploring the effects of the effects of sense of ownership on local acceptance. This while, creating a sense of ownership of the outcome is often stated as a goal of stakeholder involvement (Armeni, 2016). The present study enriches our understanding of the currently under socialized concept 'sense of ownership'. The present study finds that local acceptance is not only influenced by a legal (narrow) ownership, as suggested by Warren and McFadyen (2010) but also by a more socially defined sense of ownership. This more subjectively defined sense of ownership, which can be defined as a state in which local residents feel as though the local windfarm or a piece of it is theirs, rather than actual legal ownership, positively contributes to the local acceptance. Moreover, the study identifies two determinants of this more subjectively defined sense of ownership: Procedural justice and distributive justice.

Third, in policy and activist discourse, it is often expected that community wind energy projects avoid conflicts and local opposition associated with private-developer-led developments (Simcock, 2016). Yet there have only been a few studies that validate such findings (Devine-Wright, 2005; Warren & McFadyen, 2010). Surprisingly the present study found that both commercial and cooperative organizations have the capability to utilize the same mechanisms for stakeholder participation. Nevertheless, cooperatives have an easier time creating fairness and thereby local acceptance because of their perceived locality and intentions. So, the way stakeholders are approached is more important than the legal form of the organization. Thereby, the present study has provided a deeper insight into the influence of the legal form on the relationship between stakeholder involvement and local acceptance.

Next, the present study has provided a deeper inside into the interconnectedness of the different forms of fairness in the context of wind farm development. While Gross (2007) discusses the interrelatedness of procedural and distributive justice, no other study discusses the interrelatedness of all four forms of justice in this context. These results add to the rapidly expanding field of justice theory and provide a schematic view of how the different forms of fairness are related to each other.

Finally, the methodological contribution of this research is discussed. The present study has studied how the different forms of justice influence local acceptance. The use of qualitative methodology allows for studying and understanding the relationship, how the forms of justice can be created and how they influence local acceptance. This while justice theory up until now has mostly been studied from a quantitative perspective neglecting the complex nature of justice as a construct (e.g. Colquitt, 2001; Johnson, Korsgaard, & Sapienza, 2002; Luo, 2005, 2008). There are some exceptions, for example Zoellner, Schweizer-Ries, and Wemheuer (2008) who used qualitative methods to investigate the impact of procedural justice on renewable energy systems in Switzerland. Yet none of these qualitative studies which studied the relationship with local acceptance included all four types of justice, moreover, they did not investigate the interrelatedness between the forms of justice. Other authors which did include all forms of justice in their study, often studied inter organizational processes, or corporate agreement making like joint ventures (e.g. Ariño & Ring, 2010).

5.2.2 Practical implications and recommendations

Besides theoretical implications, this research also provides practical implications. The present study aimed to find out how stakeholder involvement in the development of wind farms could potentially increase local acceptance of onshore wind turbines. The insights gained from this study may be of assistance to wind farm developers and policymakers. This research provides policymakers and wind farm developers with an extended understanding of how stakeholder involvement can create local acceptance through the different forms of fairness and sense of ownership. This research encourages developers and policymakers to involve stakeholder as it creates justice and therefore local acceptance. Yet, as extensively discussed in the results stakeholder involvement also has many pitfalls, which should be avoided as they could diminish local acceptance.

The research is relevant for both cooperative developers as commercial developers, as the implications of the different legal forms are also discussed. The research argues how commercial and cooperative parties can utilize the same structural mechanisms for stakeholder involvement. Nevertheless, commercial parties need to put in extra effort to create local acceptance as cooperatives have the advantage of ‘local people’ and ‘perceived intentions’ which help them to create local acceptance out of stakeholder involvement.

Prior to the present study, it was difficult to make predictions on how stakeholder involvement would influence perceived justice, and how the perceived justice would influence local acceptance. This new understanding should help to improve stakeholder involvement for wind farm development projects and thereby local acceptance.

5.2.3 Limitations

Regardless of the outcomes of the present study, it is important to acknowledge and recognize the methodological and theoretical limitations of the study.

First of all, the research design contains one considerable limitation. Due to the qualitative nature of the present study, the local sense of ownership is measured through a neighborhood or village representative. Accordingly, the present study is not able to measure the sense of ownership of individual citizens and has to assume the representatives correctly recapitulate the local feeling.

Second, the results of the present study are mostly descriptive and bound to the experiences and perceptions of the interviewed stakeholders. As some lines of reasoning are based on a limited number of quotes, the findings can only serve as ‘first insight’ into how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance.

A case study was chosen as a research approach, because it allowed for in-depth investigation of the justice and local acceptance of the wind farms. Needless to say, generalizing from four case studies is risky business. Case studies generally provide a weak basis for generalizations, as the results of them are based on relatively few subjects (Yin, 2014). As stated by Saunders, Lewis, Thornhill, Booij, and Verckens (2011) the results can be generalized to a theory. For the present study, this is also the case as the results are based on (only) four wind farms and fourteen interviews. Yet the study did create a framework of how stakeholder involvement is capable of contributing to the local acceptance of a windfarm.

Moreover, there is an inequality in the number of interviews per wind farm. Therefore, one of the wind farms might be overrepresented in the data compared to the other three. Furthermore, the four selected wind farms were relatively homogeneous. They have been selected to differ in legal structure, yet they were all relatively small wind farms based in Gelderland, The Netherlands. Conducting research into a higher number of wind farms with a greater variety in

size and location gives more certainty that the results are valid for the whole country and industry.

Furthermore, a methodological drawback of the present study relates to the limitations of in-depth interviewing. Although it does allow for an insight into in-depth personal experiences and viewpoints, the results might be biased as interviewees may be inclined to give socially desirable answers (Bleijenbergh, 2015). Moreover, the analysis requires an interpretation of the data, which raises the issue of subjectivity of the researcher (Bleijenbergh, 2015). To counter these problems, the analysis was based on the literal transcriptions of the interviews, to assure objectivity and correct representation of the data. Besides, the bias was limited through ‘member-checking’. The transcriptions of the interviews and a summary were sent back to the participant to make sure the results were documented correctly.

The above-named limitations compose an obligation to state that the present study provides for a limited base to build final conclusions upon. Moreover, the generalizability of the present study is limited. However, this research does form a useful basis for further research, as will be discussed in the next section.

5.2.4 Future research

The present study lays the groundwork for future research into local acceptance of onshore wind farms. The present study has provided a framework on how stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance. However, the generalizability of the present study is limited. To create more generalizability to interpret the findings, it is important to conduct quantitative research to draw statistical conclusions on the relationships as proposed in the developed framework.

So far, the graphical depiction of the model and individual relationships between involvement and local acceptance has analyzed the influence of justice theory and sense of ownership. However, to delve deeper into the topic, future research could determine whether there are more variables influencing the local acceptance. For example, what is the effect of the demographics, political preference, wealth, et cetera on the way stakeholder involvement influences local acceptance. More research could extend the proposed framework to include more factors.

The effect of procedural justice on local acceptance shows a conflict for developers between giving stakeholders influence over the outcome or limiting the amount of influence. Giving stakeholders influence over the outcome provides local acceptance while limiting the amount of influence speeds up the process. Future research could study this tension and look for an optimum amount of stakeholder influence in the process, if such an optimum exists.

The data in the present study provide support for an argument that fairness can be a critical element to the success of wind farm development. By influencing the local acceptance of the windfarm either directly or indirectly through sense of ownership. Therefore, I hope these initial efforts will encourage others to examine wind farm development in more detail, relying on both qualitative and quantitative techniques.

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6. Appendix

Appendix 1: Original citations (In Dutch)

1. *“Ik denk dat het doel van de inloopavonden vooral informatievoorziening was. Heel veel mensen zijn toch niet bekend met de materie.”* (Koningspleij 2)
2. *“Dat heeft als doel dat om projecten in die wijken die ik net noemde een subsidie te geven om een geldelijke ondersteuning. En het moet duurzaam zijn in de breedste zin van het woord, dus dat kan met groen te maken hebben, energie, maar ook samen dingen doen, dus de wijk meer met elkaar verbinden: sociale duurzaamheid noemen we dat dan.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1)
3. *“Dat was het participatieplan waar wij in eerste instantie niet aan mee hebben geholpen daar stond in €5000,- voor 2 dorpen en €15000,- voor de direct omwonende.”* (Respondent Bijvanck 2)
4. *“De functie van de omgevingsraad was hoofdzakelijk het kanaliseren van de inspraak en vragen vanuit de directe woonomgeving. Dus daar zijn vertegenwoordigers uit de belangrijkste wijken die zicht hebben op het project in vertegenwoordigd.”* (Respondent Koningspleij 3)
5. *“Ik denk dat hem dat zit in het feit dat je je bij een commerciële partij vaak een soort wingewest voelt. Een grote club stopt geld erin, en trekt daarna al het geld eruit voor de aandeelhouders en er blijft niks over in het gebied.”* (Culemborg 1)
6. *“We hebben ook een nieuwsbrief, daarnaast zitten we op twitter en LinkedIn waar we ook veel commentaren terugkrijgen. En zo proberen we toch echt in gesprek te gaan.”* (Culemborg 1).
7. *“Als jij een kant en klaar plan hebt hoe goed het ook is en je legt het in de omgeving dan is het eerste wat je krijgt, wij waren niet betrokken, we zijn tegen.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2).
8. *“Ik denk zeker betrokkenheid dat je in ieder geval het gevoel hebt dat je er iets over kunt zeggen.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1).
9. *“Overdag valt het geluid nog mee, maar als je s avonds een pilsje pakt dan hoor je de ventilatoren van een grote fabriek hal *woesh woesh*. Het echt een onvoorstelbaar orkest. En mensen zeggen dan kun je er niet aan wennen. Ja je kunt denken dat het de zee is ofzo die tegen de rotsen klotst, maar er zit veel te veel regelmaat in. Maar erger nog, het gaat dag en nacht door, er komt geen eind aan. Een tractor die voorbijkomt is zo weer weg. Wij sliepen altijd met de ramen open en die moeten nu pot dicht. Zelfs van de Velux ramen moeten de klepjes dicht.”* (Bijvanck 2)
10. *“Het enige wat ik weleens hoor, of zie is iets op de buurtapp, ik weet niet of je daarvan weet, we hebben een Nextdoor app. Daar wordt weleens over geluid gepraat, dat gaat soms over de boten die voorbijvaren, maar ook over het windpark. Verder hoor ik er eigenlijk niet zo heel veel over, laat ik het zo zeggen.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 5)

11. *“Dus als we eigenaar zijn zou het eerder een compensatie zijn voor wat het ons heeft gekocht. Alle mensen hier vinden dat hun huis veel minder waard is geworden.”* (Bijvanck 2)
12. *“Nee, de tegenstanders zullen eerder zeggen, je scheept ons af met een paar stuivers en je gaat er zelf met het grote geld vandoor, zo zullen zij dat zien”* (Koningspleij 2)
13. *“Het verhoogt de lokale acceptatie van de windmolens. Mensen delen nu namelijk niet alleen mee in de lasten van de windmolens, maar ook in de baten.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1)
14. *“Uhh ja aan de ene kant is het natuurlijk profiteren van maar aan de andere kant is het ook een gevoel van die molen is van ons.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1)
15. *“Maar het lokale eigenaarschap moet het onrecht gevoel wegnemen, dus niet zo zeer de acceptatie vergroten, maar het onrecht gevoel wegnemen. Zo'n park heeft zo'n negatieve invloed, dat je eigenlijk wel zou willen dat je net als die boeren, die soms ook nog eens heel ergens anders wonen zou meeprofiteren.”* (Bijvanck 2)
16. *“Want nu hebben wij wel eens waar een hele goede relatie met de mensen uit Reeth, maar als je lid bent van een coöperatie dan voelt het nog anders want dan draaien die windturbines voor jou. Dat is een psychologisch effect waarin je voelt dat ze deels van jou zijn.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)
17. *“De gedachte dat coöperatief werkt wel en niet coöperatief werkt niet, dat is eigenlijk gewoon pure onzin.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)
18. *“Ik ben altijd een beetje sceptisch over financiële participatie. Het wordt gebracht als een golden bullet voor de acceptatie van windparken. Maar goed dan moet je ten eerste geld hebben. Ten tweede moet je het maar voor lange tijd kunnen vastleggen in windmolens.”* (Culemborg 1)
19. *“We willen ook wat actiever gaan werven in wijken waar er tot nog toe weinig belangstelling is om te kijken hoe we het toch kunnen verbreden, want anders blijft het toch een beetje een elitaire aangelegenheid voor mensen met geld.”* (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)
20. *“Ik denk als je de analyse doet dat de meeste wijken die recht uitkijken op de Pleij dat zijn de lage inkomenswijken. Ik denk dat de verdeling van de participanten, die zal toch een zwaartepunt hebben in de hoge inkomenswijken. Die zitten allemaal in Arnhem Noord ver weg van Pleij.”* (Koningspleij 3)
21. *“Jij wordt er vet van en wij worden erdoor benadeeld, financieel maar ook in leef geluk.”* (Bijvanck 2)
22. *“Want zolang mensen aan het procederen zijn tegen je windpark kunnen ze natuurlijk geen lid worden van de coöperatie. Want het doel is dat windpark ontwikkelen.”* (Bijvanck 1)
23. *“Dat is 500 euro per adres per jaar. Dan vindt iedereen echt peanuts vergeleken met de schade. We hebben weleens uitgedrukt iedereen wil zoo 5000 euro op tafel leggen om ervoor te zorgen dat die dingen s nachts stilstaan. Dus die 500 euro is een snoepje.”* (Bijvanck 2)

- ²⁴. “De gemiddelde wijkbewoner participeert namelijk niet en krijgt ook geen vergoeding zoals de omwonende. Toch kijken ook deze mensen op de molens uit en willen we via het omgevingsfonds toch een stukje compenseren.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)
- ²⁵. “Ik denk dat het wel bijdraagt aan de acceptatie, dat er ook wel wat terugvloeit naar de mensen. Dat ze nu ook merken van hee we kunnen er wel grip op krijgen want die molen draait ook een beetje voor mij.” (Bijvanck 1)
- ²⁶. “Een gevoel van wij zijn samen met het windpark bezig dingen te regelen. Een gevoel van betrokkenheid.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)
- ²⁷. “Ja ook maar ik denk eerder nog dat ze enthousiast zijn geworden over dat er zo veel mogelijk gedaan wordt om de overlast te beperken.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)
- ²⁸. “Als de participatie niet op die manier wordt ingevuld als de verwachtingen die men had, men voelde zich echt bedrogen en schiet met in het verzet. Dat kan natuurlijk nooit de bedoeling zijn van een participatieproces.” (Culemborg 3)
- ²⁹. “Het altijd terecht kunnen met klachten en dat er met die klachten dan ook echt weer iets gedaan werd. Daar ging de acceptatie wel van omhoog. Het serieus eropin gaan wat voor een effect het heeft op de leefomgeving van de bewoners, en het betrekken van bewoners in afspraken over geluid, slagschaduw en ook compensatie.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)
- ³⁰. “Als mensen geen invloed hebben dan worden mensen vanzelf argwanender.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1)
- ³¹. “Het is de vraag of die mensen inderdaad iets te zeggen hebben.” (Koningspleij 3)
- ³². “Dus ja. Uiteindelijk, echt echt invloed op het proces daar ben ik misschien zelf een beetje sceptisch over. Dat wordt wel heel veel geroepen, alleen doe het maar eens.” (Koningspleij 2)
- ³³. “Soms zeggen inwoners, wij willen ze niet, dus jullie moeten maar luisteren waarom mogen we anders participeren. Maar bij ons de insteek is de windmolens komen er, en nu gaan we praten over hoe ze er komen en met welke randvoorwaarden. Dat is denk ik waar het wel eens scheef gaat.” (Culemborg 1)
- ³⁴. “Daar zit natuurlijk wel een lastig punt, want vanuit de optiek van de overheid is participatie vaak het volgende: Wij geven de kaders aan, je mag op bepaalde onderdelen nog wel meepraten, maar wij bepalen uiteindelijk toch wat er gebeurt.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 3)
- ³⁵. “Nou ik denk als ik mensen uit die gebiedstafel hebben gezeten terug hoor, dan is ook hun grootste irritatie, ja als de ontwikkelaar van tevoren al wist dat die windmolens er zouden komen en dat dit het resultaat was. Waarom hebben ze ons dan lastig gevallen, waarom hebben ze ons dan meegenomen in een proces wat er echt op leek alsof omwonende ertoe zouden doen.” (Culemborg 2)

³⁶ “Ze hebben dus daar diezelfde beginnersfout gemaakt die ik net al zei, die heeft de acceptatie drastisch verminderd. Over u, zonder u. Nee je moet meteen met de omgeving gaan praten” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)

³⁷ “Men voelde zich echt echt bedrogen. Dat kan natuurlijk nooit de bedoeling zijn van een participatieproces. Je voelt het al aan, als er natuurlijk grondeigenaren zijn die al afspraken hadden, ook omtrent opbrengsten op hun gebied. Als ik dan even voor mezelf spreek, ik vind dat niet eerlijk.” (Culemborg 3)

³⁸ “Dus ik vind kritiek op die handelswijze die slaat helemaal nergens op, die is volledig gespeend van enig zakelijk besef.” (Koningspleij 3)

³⁹ “We hebben al heel vroeg in het project contact gehad met de omwonende. Bij windprojecten is het een beetje lastig om welk moment je dat het beste kunt doen. Kijk het punt is, je bent eigenlijk altijd te laat, per definitie.” (Culemborg 3)

⁴⁰ “Ja, maar dat zie je eigenlijk overal wel. Daar waar het echt heel erg fout gaat met de acceptatie van windmolenparken, daar heeft de overheid haar eigen tegenstand georganiseerd.” (Bijvanck 2)

⁴¹ “Dus het enige wat je kon lezen was datum en vriendelijke groet, verder was alles zwart. Dus dat is doodzonde, het is heel normaal dat een provincie overlegt met een aanvrager maar als er dingen zwart worden gemaakt ga je je direct achter de oren krabben waarom is dit nou zwartgemaakt.” (Bijvanck 2)

⁴² “Dus de vraag is ook in hoeverre het resultaat van het gesprek belangrijk is of de manier waarop het gesprek gevoerd wordt. Ik denk dat het gesprek zelf het belangrijkste is. Dus niet zo zeer dat je concrete resultaten in zo'n proces kunt bereiken, maar het gesprek zelf.” (Koningspleij 3)

⁴³ “De mensen uit Reeth hebben tot het einde eigenlijk geproduceerd, maar toen ze die procedure achter de rug hadden en verloren hadden, hadden wij wel zo goede relatie met hun opgebouwd dat ze de knop hebben kunnen omzetten en konden accepteren dat het windpark er kwam.” (Nijmegen Betuwe 2)

⁴⁴ “Die gesprekken zou je kunnen zeggen, en gewoon het kopje koffie en het biertje drinken dat heeft de lokale acceptatie enorm geholpen.” (Nijmegen Betuwe 4)

⁴⁵ “Het is alsof je van de goodguy naar de badguy gaat, als het over vakjes gaat.” (Culemborg 3)

⁴⁶ “Want wat je niet moet vergeten, coöperaties zijn vaak heel eenzijdig gericht. Ik bedoel, gericht op het belang in dit geval op het zonnepark of windmolens, en daardoor leiden ze ook wel een beetje tot tunnelvisie.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)

⁴⁷ “Zij zijn altijd blijven praten, en er is altijd heel veel wederzijds respect geweest en dat heeft heel goed geholpen bij de acceptatie van het windpark.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)

^{.48} “Uiteindelijk in onze manier van werken hebben we toch wel de gun factor gekregen. Van nou goed als we het dan met iemand gaan doen dan toch wel graag met jullie, omdat we toch altijd wel netjes behandeld geweest zijn.” (Bijvanck 1)

^{.49} “Ook in Ressen en Oosterhout stonden mensen niet te springen. Daar hebben de gesprekken die we hebben gehad, de vergaderingen van de dorpsraden waar we op bezoek kwamen en mensen informeerde, die hebben ertoe geleidt dat men daar al in een vroeg stadium heeft geaccepteerd dat het windpark er zou komen.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)

^{.50} “Je moet zorgen dat mensen zich betrokken voelen. Je moet niet mensen in de buurt voor verrassingen laten staan, je moet ze deel laten voelen van het project. Dat betekent dat wij ze gelijk op de hoogte stellen als we ergens achter komen en volledig transparant communiceren.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)

^{.51} “Maar het gebrek aan transparantie zit erin dat je als bewoners heel duidelijk merkt dat provincie en aanvrager een partij zijn. Hoe meer ik daar voorbeelden van krijg, hoe meer tegenstand dat oproept. Dus je begint rustig met informeren, wat gaat hier gebeuren. Als je dan merkt dat er een block gaande is dan word je anti. Als er dan een week later of een maand later dan weer blijkt dat je bij de neus genomen bent, wordt dit alleen maar feller.” (Bijvanck 2)

^{.52} “Leg het me niet uit op een manier van daar staat het op pagina 839 in een milieueffectrapport van 1500 pagina's. Ik kan niks met zo'n rapport, ik kan op zo'n kaart niet mijn eigen huis vinden en heb al helemaal geen idee wat die 42 Lden betekent.” (Culemborg 1)

^{.53} “Vervolgens hebben de tegenstanders een hele goede pr-campagne gevoerd om mensen uit een wijk die niet geïnformeerd was over het windpark te beïnvloeden. Deze wijk voelde zich gepasseerd en krijgt nu flyers in de bus alsof er een hele grote ramp op hen af gaat komen. Daardoor zijn die mensen die dus niet geactiveerd waren ineens op de negatieve tour wel geactiveerd.” (Culemborg 3)

^{.54} “Ik denk dat hem dat zit in het feit dat je je bij een commerciële partij vaak een soort wingewest voelt. Een grote club stopt geld erin, en trekt daarna al het geld eruit voor de aandeelhouders en er blijft niks over in het gebied.” (Culemborg 1)

^{.55} “Voor coöperaties is het makkelijker om participatie te bereiken dan voor een commerciële partij. Dat is puur een gevoelskwestie, want de turbines zijn niet anders, de overlast is niet anders, de geldstromen zijn niet veel anders. Het is echt gewoon, het zijn mensen die lokaal zijn.” (Bijvanck 1)

^{.56} “Ja een cooperatie zijn helpt zeker. Die weten veel beter wat er speelt, ze hebben een groter bereik, die weten hoe de regio in elkaar zit, die weten hoe ze dingen moeten aanpakken.” (Koningspleij 2)

^{.57} “De rol van de coöperatie is met name om te zorgen dat eigenlijk alle lokale belangen behartigd worden. We zijn vooral actief geweest om te kijken of we niet alleen de lasten lokaal kunnen krijgen maar ook de lusten. Dus dat er zoveel mogelijk geld in het gebied blijft.” (Culemborg 3)

^{.58} “Uhh ja aan de ene kant is het natuurlijk profiteren van maar aan de andere kant is het ook een gevoel van die molen is van ons.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1)

^{.59} “Want nu hebben wij wel eens waar een hele goede relatie met de mensen uit Reeth, maar als je lid bent van een coöperatie dan voelt het nog anders want dan draaien die windturbines voor jou. Dat is een psychologisch effect waarin je voelt dat ze deels van jou zijn.”

(Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)

^{.60} “Een gevoel van wij zijn samen met het windpark bezig dingen te regelen. Een gevoel van betrokkenheid.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)

^{.61} Ik denk dat betrokkenheid van burgers echt super belangrijk is voor de acceptatie. (Nijmegen-Betuwe 1)

^{.62} “Zij zijn altijd blijven praten, en er is altijd heel veel wederzijds respect geweest en dat heeft heel goed geholpen bij de acceptatie van het windpark.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 4)

^{.63} “Ook in Ressen en Oosterhout stonden mensen niet te springen. Daar hebben de gesprekken die we hebben gehad, de vergaderingen van de dorpsraden waar we op bezoek kwamen en mensen informeerde, die hebben ertoe geleidt dat men daar al in een vroeg stadium heeft geaccepteerd dat het windpark er zou komen.” (Nijmegen-Betuwe 2)

Appendix 2. Research Integrity Form

Name: Tom Janssen	Student number: S4718615
RU e-mail address: T.Janssen@student.ru.nl	Master specialisation: Strategic Management

Thesis title: If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together. A case study into stakeholder involvement of onshore wind farms in Gelderland, The Netherlands.

Brief description of the study: A case study into the influence of stakeholder involvement on local acceptance through the use of justice theory.

It is my responsibility to follow the university's code of academic integrity and any relevant academic or professional guidelines in the conduct of my study. This includes:

- providing original work or proper use of references;
- providing appropriate information to all involved in my study;
- requesting informed consent from participants;
- transparency in the way data is processed and represented;
- ensuring confidentiality in the storage and use of data;

If there is any significant change in the question, design or conduct over the course of the research, I will complete another Research Integrity Form.

Breaches of the code of conduct with respect to academic integrity (as described / referred to in the thesis handbook) should and will be forwarded to the examination board. Acting contrary to the code of conduct can result in declaring the thesis invalid

Student's Signature:  Date: _____

To be signed by supervisor

I have instructed the student about ethical issues related to their specific study. I hereby declare that I will challenge him / her on ethical aspects through their investigation and to act on any violations that I may encounter.

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 3. Key concepts, dimensions & indicators

Table 4: Key concept 1: Stakeholder involvement

Dimension 1.1: Procedural justice	Source on which item was originally based
The following items refer to the procedures used to arrive at the outcome	
Indicator 1.1.1: Expression of views and feelings during those procedures	(Thibaut & Walker, 1975)
Indicator 1.1.2: Influence over the outcome arrived at by those procedures	(Thibaut & Walker, 1975)
Indicator 1.1.3: Consistent application of procedures	(Leventhal, 1980)
Indicator 1.1.4: Procedures free of bias	(Leventhal, 1980)
Indicator 1.1.5: Procedures based on accurate information	(Leventhal, 1980)
Indicator 1.1.6: Procedures upheld ethical and moral standards	(Leventhal, 1980)
Dimension 1.2: Distributive justice	
The following items refer to your outcome	
Indicator 1.2.1: Does the project outcome reflect the effort you have put into it	(Leventhal, 1976)
Indicator 1.2.2: Does the project outcome compensate for the burden you experience	(Leventhal, 1976)
Indicator 1.2.3: Does the project outcome reflect what you have contributed to your society	(Leventhal, 1976)
Indicator 1.2.4: Is the project justified, given your performance	(Leventhal, 1976)
Dimension 1.3: Interpersonal justice	
The following items refer to (the authority figure who enacted the procedure)	
Indicator 1.3.1: Has (He/She) treated you in a polite manner	(Bies, 1986)
Indicator 1.3.2: Has (he/she) treated you with dignity	(Bies, 1986)
Indicator 1.3.3: Has (He/she) treated you with respect?	(Bies, 1986)
Indicator 1.3.4: Has (He/she) refrained from improper remarks or comments	(Bies, 1986)
Dimension 1.4: Informational justice	
Indicator 1.4.1: Has (He/she) been candid in (his/her) communications with you	(Bies, 1986)
Indicator 1.4.2: Has (he/she) explained the procedures thoroughly?	(Bies, 1986)
Indicator 1.4.3: Were (his/her) explanations regarding the procedures reasonable?	(Shapiro, Buttner, & Barry, 1994)
Indicator 1.4.4: Has (he/she) communicated details in a timely manner?	(Shapiro et al., 1994)
Indicator 1.4.5: Has (he/she) seemed to tailor (his/her) communications to individuals specific needs	(Shapiro et al., 1994)

Table content modified from (Colquitt, 2001)

Table 5: Key concept 2: Sense of ownership

Dimension 2.1: Self-efficacy
Dimension 2.2: Self identity
Dimension 2.3: Belongingness
Dimension 2.4: Accountability

Table content modified from (Avey et al., 2009)

Table 6: Key concept 3: Local acceptance

Indicator 3.1: What is your overall attitude towards the plans for near-shore wind farms in your local area?

Table content modified from (Johansen & Emborg, 2018)

Appendix 4: Description of interviewees

Table 5: Function and related project of respondents

Project	Respondent	Function
Culemborg	<i>Culemborg 1</i>	Public affairs management
	<i>Culemborg 2</i>	Project manager
	<i>Culemborg 3</i>	Councilor CDA
Nijmegen-Betuwe	<i>Nijmegen-Betuwe 1</i>	Chairwoman Omgevingsfonds
	<i>Nijmegen-Betuwe 2</i>	Initiator Windpark
	<i>Nijmegen-Betuwe 3</i>	Chairwoman cooperative WPN
	<i>Nijmegen-Betuwe 4</i>	Ex board member WPN, member Wiek II
	<i>Nijmegen Betuwe 5</i>	Board member Theater de Klif
Bijvanck	<i>Bijvanck 1</i>	Project manager
	<i>Bijvanck 2</i>	Boardmember NLVOW, Stichting windfonds & Hoorde windwaait.
	<i>Bijvanck 3</i>	Project manager for Province of Gelderland
Koningspleij	<i>Koningspleij 1</i>	Project manager large scale energy generation, for municipality of Arnhem
	<i>Koningspleij 2</i>	Project manager Prowind
	<i>Koningspleij 3</i>	Board member energy cooperative RijnIJssel

Appendix 5: Interview agreements

Table 6 : Interviewee consent (Recording, Transcript, Anonymity, and Citations)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Approval of recording</i>	<i>Transcript Sent</i>	<i>Transcript approved</i>	<i>Citation Approval</i>	<i>Anonymity</i>
<i>Odilia Kortsmit</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Marion Visser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Alex de Meijer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Pim van Bussel</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Jan Jaap Tiemersma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Ivo Thonon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Leidy van der Aalst</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Ineke de Jongh</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Inge Nuijten</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Tim Logtenberg</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Derk te Bokkel</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Marco van Zandwijk</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Irma Bijker</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Arjen Schamhart</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Appendix 6. E-mail to possible respondents

Beste “name stakeholder”,

Mijn naam is Tom Janssen (23 jaar). Ik ben momenteel bezig aan mijn master Strategic Management aan de Radboud Universiteit. Voor mijn master scriptie zou ik graag met u in contact komen vanwege uw rol als “function / type of stakeholder” in de ontwikkeling van het windpark “name wind farm”.

Ik doe onderzoek naar “The influence of stakeholder participation on the psychological sense of ownership of the local population”. Ik zou u dus graag een aantal vragen stellen over uw rol in het laten participeren van stakeholders/ in hoeverre u bent betrokken bij het ontwikkelen van het windpark.

Als u open staat voor een interview (+- 30 min), zou u mij dan kunnen aangeven wanneer het u het beste uitkomt?

Ik kijk uit naar uw reactie

Met vriendelijke groet,
Tom Janssen

Appendix 7: Interview guide

Intro & Outro:

Goedendag,

Ik ben Tom Janssen, master student aan de Radboud Universiteit. Allereerst zou ik U graag heel erg willen bedanken voor het vrijmaken van tijd voor dit interview. Mijn eerste vraag aan u, is of u het goed vindt als ik dit gesprek opneem. Dit maakt voor mij de analyse van het interview een stuk gemakkelijker, de opname zal anoniem blijven en niet verder worden verspreid. Ik wil u wel vragen of ik uw naam mag benoemen in het onderzoek en in de lijst van respondenten. Ik doe dit interview vanwege mijn master scriptie waar ik onderzoek doe naar de lokale acceptatie van windmolens, een onderwerp dat mij zeer aanspreekt. Dit gesprek heeft als doel om de relatie tussen de ontwikkelaars, de lokale bevolking en andere betrokkenen beter te leren begrijpen. Ik heb u gevraagd voor dit onderzoek vanwege u rol als (.....). Wanneer u liever geen antwoord geeft op een vraag is dit geen probleem en kunt u dit aangeven. Aan het einde van mijn onderzoek zal ik de resultaten aan u terugkoppelen. De tijdlijn hiervoor staat nog niet volledig vast maar dit zal rond juni/juli zijn.

Voor we beginnen, heeft u nog vragen voor mij?

(Naam van de geïnterviewde) hartelijk bedankt voor uw hulp bij het verduidelijken van mijn vragen over de betrokkenheid van de lokale bevolking bij windprojecten. Uw hulp is van grote waarde voor de uitkomst van het onderzoek! Ik zal de komende week een transcript maken van het interview. Het zou fijn zijn als u kunt controleren of ik dat zo heb gedaan zoals u het bedoelt heeft, hiervoor zal ik het in de loop van volgende week per email aan u toesturen. Dan rest mij nog een vraag, kent u misschien nog mensen binnen u netwerk die (.....) en mij daarom kunnen helpen?

Nogmaals heel erg bedankt voor uw tijd!

Questions:

1. Zou u zichzelf kunnen introduceren
2. Hoe bent u betrokken bij windpark (naam windpark)
3. Zou u kort kunnen omschrijven hoe het windpark er nu voor staat, en in welke fase van ontwikkeling het zich bevindt
4. Wat is het doel van het omgevingsfonds bij de ontwikkeling van dit windpark?
5. Wat vindt de u belangrijk bij de ontwikkeling van een windpark?
6. Als u op een schaal van 1 tot 10 moet aangeven hoe makkelijk de ontwikkeling verloopt, wat zou het dan zijn?
 - Wat zijn de positieve aspecten van dit project?
 - Wat zijn de uitdagingen van dit project?
7. Hoe heeft eerlijkheid/rechtvaardigheid van de ontwikkeling van het windpark ervaren
8. Burger participatie is een veel besproken term de afgelopen jaren, als we kijken naar windpark (Naamwindpark)
 - Wat is volgens u het effect dat het omgevingsfonds heeft op de lokale bevolking?
 - Hoe is het samenspel tussen het omgevingsfonds en andere vormen van participatie?
 - Waarom is participatie volgens u belangrijk?
 - Heeft een vorm van participatie voor u de voorkeur?
 - Wat is het effect van burger participatie?
9. Hoe belangrijk zijn eerlijkheid en rechtvaardigheid van de participatie voor de lokale bewoners in de ontwikkeling van het windpark?
10. Hoe ervaren burgers volgens u de besluitvorming omtrent het omgevingsfonds en de ontwikkeling van het windpark?
 - Wat was hierbij belangrijk?
 - Wat had beter gekund?
 - Waarom?
 - Wat is de rol van eerlijkheid en rechtvaardigheid in deze besluitvorming?
 - Hoe creëer je een perceptie van eerlijkheid onder burgers?
11. Wat voor invloed heeft het bedrijfsmodel – commercieel dan wel coöperatief op het succes van het project volgens u?
 - Heeft dit invloed op de eerlijkheid voor de lokale bewoners
 - Heeft dit invloed op de betrokkenheid van de lokale bewoners

12. Wanneer/waarom wordt er gekozen om samen te werken met een coöperatie?
13. Hoe belangrijk is het om een gevoel van eigenaarschap te creëren onder de lokale bevolking? (Eigenaarschap houdt in dat je je ergens verantwoordelijk voor voelt en deze verantwoordelijkheid neemt)
 - Hoe proberen jullie bij te dragen aan het creëren van dit gevoel?
14. Welke factoren spelen volgens u een grote rol in de acceptatie van het windpark door de lokale burger
 - Waardoor komt dit?
 - Hoe zien jullie dat?

Local acceptance:

15. Hoe zou u de acceptatie vóór de lokale bevolking van het windpark beschrijven

Procedural justice:

16. Op wat voor manier krijgen burgers de kans tijdens de ontwikkeling van het windpark om hun gevoelens en meningen te uiten?
17. Hoe waarborgen jullie dat burgers ook echt invloed kunnen uitoefenen op het proces?
18. Op welke manier heeft de informatievoorziening over de procedure plaatsgevonden, wat was hier fout of goed aan?
19. Als u terugkijkt op de procedure van ontwikkeling tot nu toe, is deze dan altijd gebaseerd geweest op juiste en onbevooroordeelde informatie?

Distributive justice:

20. Op wat voor manier zijn burgers in staat invloed uit te oefenen op de uitkomst van de ontwikkeling van het windpark.
21. Hoe heeft de ontwikkelaar zich opgesteld in het proces?
22. Waar moet een project aan voldoen om in aanmerking te komen voor het omgevingsfonds
23. Wanneer bent u tevreden met de uitkomst van het project?
24. Wanneer is de uitkomst van een project eerlijk volgens u?

Informational justice:

25. Hoe gaan jullie om met burgers tijdens ontwikkeling van een windpark
 - Hoe is dit gegaan bij windpark Nijmegen-betuwe
 - Is er altijd over en weer respect en begrip geweest

Interpersonal justice:

26. Wat is belangrijk in de communicatie met burgers tijdens de ontwikkeling van een windpark (Goede uitleg, details, op tijd, aanpassen aan behoefte)
- Waarom is dit belangrijk
 - Hoe is de communicatie verlopen bij windpark (naam windpark)

Sense of ownership:

27. Naar uw idee, voelt de burger zich betrokken bij dit windpark?
- Waardoor komt dat?
28. Denk u dat burgers zich in staat voelen het proces te beïnvloeden?
- Wat is hiervan het effect
29. Is het windpark iets geworden waar burgers graag deel van willen uitmaken?
- Waardoor komt dit?
30. Wat voor type mensen voelen zich betrokken bij dit windpark?
- Waardoor komt dat?

Closing

31. Is het project succesvol in uw ogen?
- Wat zijn daar in de doorslaggevende factoren?
 - Wat zijn verbeterpunten

Appendix 8: Summary of codes

Distributive justice:

- Local ownership
- Cooperative advantage
- Nuisance limiting measures
- Individual financial compensation
- Omgevingsfonds
- Social cohesion
- Accept financial compensation after defeat
- Want financial participation after defeat
- Burden
- Benefits
- People who financially participate often not the ones who carry the burden
- Solar park
- Price wind share
- Socialized land payments
- Fake local ownership
- Financially impossible
- Want participation after defeat

Interpersonal justice:

- Personal relationship with neighbours
- Trust
- Local initiators
- Meetings disturbed by emotions
- Local people
- Speak the same language
- Try to be on the same side
- One point of contact
- Relationship with government
- Respect
- Try to find underlying reason

Procedural justice:

- Stick up for living environment
- Participation during legal proceedings
- Consensus seeking
- New neighborhoods
- Omgevingsraad
- Motivation
- Zienswijze procedure
- Making plans without including the neighbors
- Have an outward perspective
- Procedural control local government
- Never discuss different place / no park
- Motivate location
- Equal treatment
- Procedure understandable

- Procedure difficult
- Not activated
- Ground contracts before talking to neighbors
- Only influence of details
- Biased government
- Provinciaal inpassingsplan
- Think along while still at Raad van state
- Let people express their emotions
- Activate people

Informational justice:

- Conversations with neighbors
- Quick and good information
- Information evenings
- Recruiting members
- Honest communications
- Transparency
- Expectation management
- Clarity
- Social media
- Understandable
- Do not interpret information

Sense of ownership

- Public acceptance
- Resistance
- Luck
- Involvement
- Positive image
- Wind turbines are partly mine
- No complaints
- Admiration
- Awareness
- Social involvement
- Similar people who feel attracted to each other

