

## The island of Gotland

The Swedish island Gotland is the largest island of the Baltic Sea, situated in the middle of the Baltic Sea, roughly 60 miles off the coast of southern mainland Sweden. 57 300 people on the island, a number that changes dramatically during the summer as Gotland is one of Sweden’s most popular summer destinations. Beautiful beaches, rich history and a welcoming climate contribute to the island’s popularity.

## The starting point

In the early 1990s, the municipality started the strategic push to turn the island into a sustainable society by 2025. One of the challenges was to achieve a climate-neutral energy supply. Today, Gotland is a showcase for a number of interesting renewable energy initiatives. The island has Sweden’s highest sunshine figures, enjoys good access to bio fuels and is one of the best European locations for wind power. These natural assets, the entrepreneurship of the islanders and the municipality’s focus on strategic environmental planning have led to the realization of many ideas for increasing the sustainability of Gotland’s local energy supply.



More information on [www.sustainableislands.eu](http://www.sustainableislands.eu) and [www.gotland.se/internationellt](http://www.gotland.se/internationellt)

## **Thanks to SMILEGOV**

Through the SMILEGOV project Gotland has been able to enhance the island's sustainable development and also be positively influenced from other islands. It is vital to get a broader insight to the challenges that need to be overcome and in that way not only move forward in steps but in bigger leaps.

## **This is what we achieved so far**

We have deepened our knowledge of the factors that sometimes prevent sustainable development and also ideas how to overcome them. The work performed by the "think tank" has created a platform for mutual understanding and has proved to be a creative environment.

## **Future hopes and expectations**

For the future we hope and have expectations that the work performed will foster new alliances and projects that will be visible for the inhabitants not only on Gotland but on all other islands in the EU. Islands working together in networks such as ISLENET will move the work performed in SMILEGOV forward in the coming years.