

Case study Eneco

How to introduce the voice of the customer into your organization



About Eneco

Eneco is a Dutch energy supplier with the stated mission of ‘Sustainable energy for everyone’. The way Eneco pursues this mission goes beyond simply supplying energy; the customer is also seen as a partner.

By fully sustainably meeting the energy needs of its customers, Eneco keeps energy available, affordable and clean for present and future generations. The energy provider considers the future of energy as sustainable and decentralized, with customer cooperation playing a crucial role.

Eneco’s strategy is based on its vision that an energy transition is irreversibly put in motion in the European energy markets. Technology already allows end users to generate their own energy, but in the foreseeable future they will also be able to store this energy and exchange it with each other. The role of energy

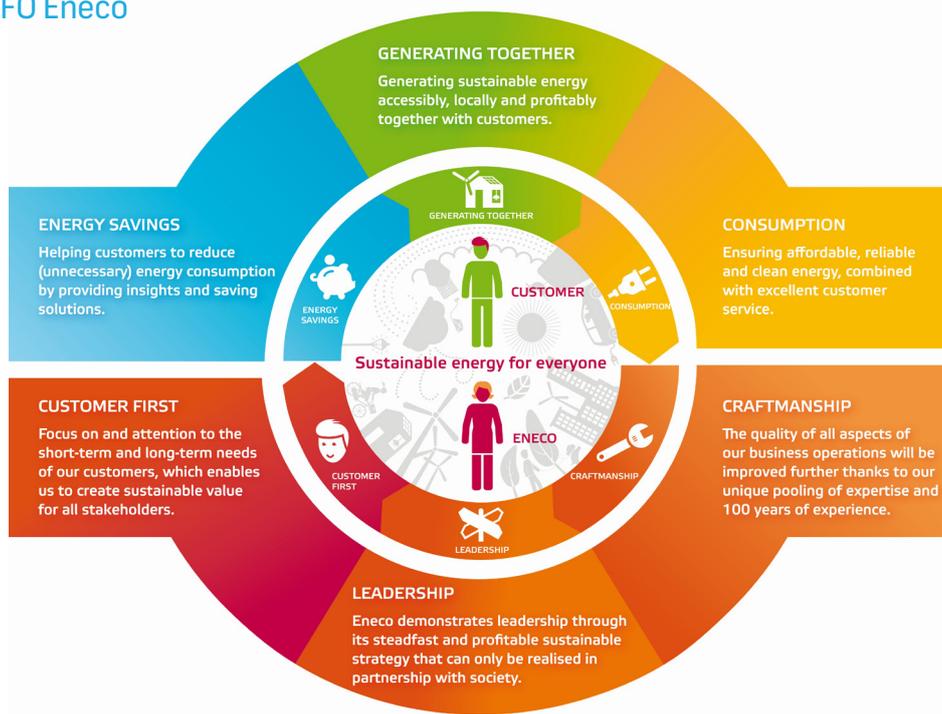
companies thereby changes fundamentally. They are no longer the driving force in determining supply and in developing technologies to generate energy. The energy companies of the future will need to function more as a service provider to end users.

Eneco is committed to providing its customers in each step of this transition with necessary services and support. The strategic framework included below shows how Eneco turns the traditional energy model upside down. Its ambition is realized through craftsmanship, leadership and a strong customer relationship.

‘We evolve from a supplier of commodities to an energy service provider. That is a challenge and a risk. But if we do not change we remain in commodities, which is not an option. We strongly believe that service is our future. Services and commodities are totally different things. This change requires new skills of our people and an open culture where all units are in contact with each other and the customer.’



Guido Dubbeld
CFO Eneco



How to serve the new energy consumer

As consumer preferences continue to evolve and the energy marketplace grows in scope and complexity, engaging consumers will become increasingly important. Whether energy providers focus on improving customer satisfaction, acquiring new consumers, retaining existing consumers, driving behavior change or extending beyond the commodity, consumer engagement will be at the center of these strategies. However, building long-term satisfaction and loyalty increasingly requires innovative approaches that go beyond the traditional energy experience.

New channels, new devices and new types of interaction are creating a new landscape for utilities. Facing this proliferation of options, utilities have an opportunity to create a channel mix dominated by mobile and Web self-service. Doing so not only delivers on the changing preferences of consumers but also can address a range of operational and efficiency goals.

'Anytime, anywhere' is the service mantra of many energy consumers today. Increasingly, consumers prefer the convenience of self-service and Web-enabled channels for a wide range of interactions.

Historically, many utilities have appraised self-service initiatives based primarily on cost reduction. However, with the rise in consumers' desire to proactively manage their own transactions, self-service becomes a key determinant of customer satisfaction and loyalty, serving as a primary enabler in developing and maintaining customer relationships. Further, the impact of near-real-time usage information, energy management and new value propositions that include home monitoring will feed the growing consumer appetite for 24/7 service. With this in mind, new capabilities through self-service are becoming increasingly important to help shift the interaction mix.

'Self-service must be a critical area of focus and represents a key enterprise value lever. Energy providers that can successfully design, implement and deliver excellence in self-service capabilities will reap dividends that extend well beyond the commercial.'

The Accenture logo, featuring the word "accenture" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font with a blue chevron symbol above the letter 'u'.

Source: Accenture, The New Energy Consumer Handbook.



The Eneco Community

Based on the principle of 'everything together', Eneco wants customers to have a say in the organization and contribute to the corporate strategy. The community is the ideal channel for these contributions and an excellent first step towards customer participation.

The community originally started as a pilot project without tangible objectives, because Eneco believed in its potential. It quickly became apparent in that period that customers felt a strong need for a community: from day one, there was a constant flow of new members and new activity. The biggest challenge that Eneco faced

was getting customers involved, due to the low level of customer engagement in the energy sector. Yet at the end of 2014, over 5,000 enthusiastic customers have embraced the community. These customers answer the vast majority of questions and provide Eneco with valuable feedback about its products and services.



‘It’s all about people, content and ideas. We can work with that. It is beautiful to see that people are so actively involved in a company that supplies power.’

Stefan Verhoeve
Community Manager Eneco

Facts & figures



5,000
community members



40,000
questions answered



35,000
visitors per month



1st energy supplier
in the Netherlands with its own community



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'We compared a number of providers, but it quickly became apparent that inSided was our best option. There are many advantages to a SaaS platform that is constantly in development. Secondly, we connected well with the people from inSided. It is a no-nonsense company that knows what it's doing.

The implementation of the community went fast. Offering a number of workshops and a predefined format, inSided walked us through it. This routine gave us a solid grasp on the process. Our main challenge was how to turn it into a serious platform that is supported by the organization.

Collaboration with inSided went very, very well, especially on the interpersonal level. It is always nice to communicate with this company and I am very pleased with how inSided brings customers together and helps them exchange inspiration. The events that are organized make a good contribution to this goal.

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Marijn Pannekoek

Senior Online Marketer Eneco

Online starting point for questions and answers

The information available in the community is used extensively. Customers generally confirm that they have been helped by the available information.

Many customers still call due to their need for personal contact. However, the Eneco online community has quickly become the starting point for questions and answers. Various channels refer to the community content and search engines bring in many new visitors.

Traffic from search engines

The content available in the community leads to high visitor numbers coming from search engines. The community receives 25,000 visitors per month from Google alone. This also generates more traffic for the Eneco website.



Investing in personal engagement

As energy is essentially a low-involvement product, Eneco is constantly looking for ways to involve customers and non-customers more effectively. For example by offering educational programs, opening a wind farm together, and now by offering a community platform.

Need for communication

In many cases, customers do not feel a need for direct communication initiated by Eneco; they do not contact the company until they have questions about an invoice or annual settlement. However, some customers are interested in engaging in dialogue, primarily regarding insight into energy use: “What is the best way to handle energy consumption and what can I do to conserve power?”



Customer ambassadors

There are many experts in the community, which help other members with questions and act as moderators.

It is important for a community to have a shared interest. For Eneco, this is conservation and sustainable consumption of energy. Toon, the smart thermostat, is a topic that is particularly fascinating to people in the community. Toon customers recently received their own platform: 'Friends of Toon', with content from the community.

This platform facilitates dialogue between customers, super-promoters and internal ambassadors. This step is a way for Eneco to increase the loyalty of Toon customers. Eneco also offers ambassadors their own platform for sharing tips, knowledge and experiences, increasing product satisfaction. Friends of Toon only contains authentic user-generated content.

‘On the forum, Eneco staff are visible and easily accessible. They have their own profile and help you get started. This allows for a much more direct and faster contact with Eneco than through phone or email. When there’s no staff available, other customers will help you on your way. The speed, the contact with others and the solution-oriented mentality result in a very pleasant means of communication..’

Jürgen Forum member



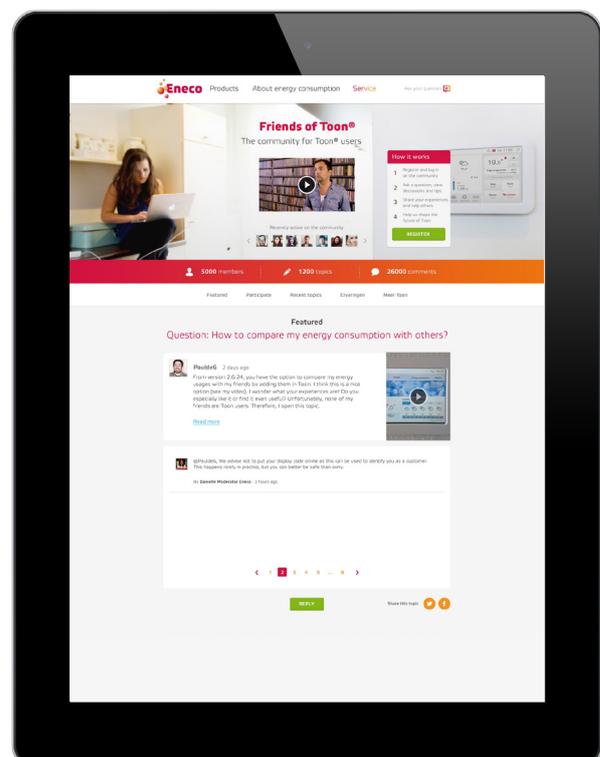
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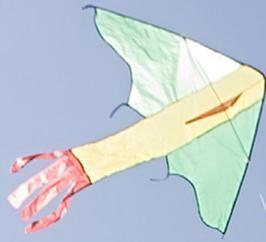
Full of
energy



Comments:

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'I really enjoy the partnership with inSided due to the short lines of communication with their staff and the fact that I always have a single point of contact. As a result, I never have to make an effort to reach them; there is always someone available to talk to me. The one-on-one support goes beyond simple technical delivery of the software. The moderation training sessions are an example. The product is ideally suited to building a community. An organization wants to engage in dialogue with its customers, and you see that concept clearly reflected in the product.'

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Stefan Verhoeve

Community Manager Eneco



Co-creation

Since the launch of the community, a lot of valuable feedback has been provided by its members.

During the renewal of the My Eneco environment, a feedback topic was started which received over 300 responses and resulted in several improvements and enhancements. Co-creation is the next step in this process. Recently, a pilot program began revising certain aspects of communication with customers. In addition to valuable customer insights, this pilot resulted in several relevant improvements in communication such as clearer letters to customers.

‘For now, we are only focused on improving communication, but I can imagine that we will use co-creation for product improvement later. Once we’re much farther along, we can even have customers participate in strategic planning.

Stefan Verhoeve
Community Manager Eneco

“In terms of text, the information in the letter is short, concise and easy to understand.”

“I would include a comment with the recommendation to contact Eneco after about 3 months with the current meter readings to check if the estimate is on track.”

“As a new customer who just moved, you want to know where you stand and to feel welcome. This is a fantastic, clear letter with a friendly tone, not too much text, and helpful headings.”

“Just that first sentence, that doesn’t work well. I’d rather say something along the lines of ‘Thank you for your application..’”

inSided Community Platform

The cloud-based inSided platform delivers an enterprise-grade solution to build, integrate and manage branded customer communities across digital touch points and devices.

On community pages, customers engage with each other and your company, get an overview of all relevant information and can browse new or popular topics related to your brand and products. Content can furthermore be embedded on your website, on your support pages and in your product using plug and play widgets that provide your customers with relevant information when and where they need it.



Q&A forums

Give your customers a place to ask questions, get relevant answers, and engage with each other and your company



Ideas & surveys

Improve products with research and feedback (surveys, ideas, news, tips & sweepstake submissions)



KB / FAQ content

Build a knowledge base as you go, and serve out the most relevant content using machine learning and AI

True SaaS



Content Intelligence



Gamification



Moderation



Analytics



API



SSO & social authentication



CRM integration

Technology is just one click away. Success is not.

Success is much more than just the right technology. As your dedicated partner, it is a mindset for us. Success is about a great kick off, continuous growth, focus on ROI and creating a world class team with thorough experience. Use our proven approach to ensure you get all essential knowledge and support, in every step of the way.



We help you to start and show success within 6 to 12 weeks



We help you to grow your platform and continue to deliver value



We help you set ambitious yet achievable goals and show ROI



We help you to build and train your team, and learn from peers

Drive real, measurable impact

The inSided platform will help you improve user engagement and increase product adoption. It enables an efficient CSM and support organization while keeping service levels high, and improves retention. Our customers typically see 15-25% reduction of support costs, 10-15% higher NPS scores & customer advocacy, and 8% reduction in churn.

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TOMTOM

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