

# EVENT BRIEFING

From setting up energy communities  
to making them thrive:

**WHAT ARE THE TOOLS AVAILABLE?**



- Are you setting up an energy community?
- Would like to join one but don't know where to find it or where to start?
- You are part of a community energy initiative and want to find tools to help you develop, manage and grow?

On April 26, 2022, 9 projects shared insights into the tools they provide to organise/plan/grow a community energy initiative.

Discover in this briefing all tools and support measures available, or soon-to-be.



These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the EC², BECoop, DECIDE, eCREW, UP-STAIRS, COME RES, NEWCOMERS, POWERPOOR, and W4RES projects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.



# INFORM YOURSELF



W4RES provides flexible and cost-effective support measures for women leading RHC\* projects, that are deployed on the field, offering technical and business support to cut down project development timings and efforts as well as to sidestep legal, institutional, and financial challenges, setting in motion feasible and sustainable business models that fit to the market.

\*Renewable heating and cooling

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Support measures and case studies - Target users: women in the RHC sector



eCREW presents a new business model in addition to REC and CEC.\* A virtual platform managed by a Community Administrative Entity (CAE), like an energy retailer, is used as base ground.

\*Citizen and Renewable Energy Communities

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Business model tool, digitalization, enablers and barriers - Target users: energy retailers/utilities, prosumers and consumers interested in establishing an energy community.



This Handbook, made by the NEWCOMERS project, explores different aspects and viewpoints regarding energy generation and consumption, energy transitions more broadly, and the role energy communities play in this complex system, offering energy community members to improve their knowledge on different energy-related topics.

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Energy Literacy for Energy Communities Handbook - Target users: energy community members and all others, interested in energy communities.

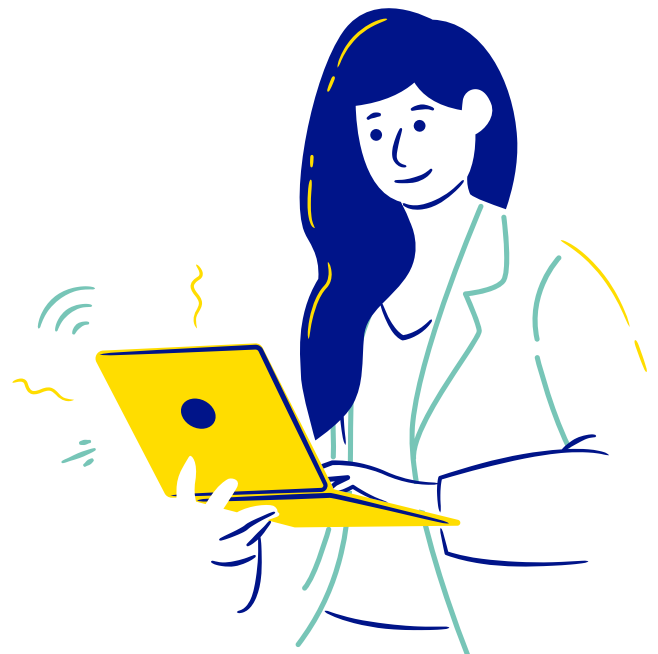


DECIDE aims to gain a better understanding of how energy communities and collective actions are established and managed and to test and transfer knowledge across Europe. One tool is the Knowledge HUB, an information gateway directing visitors to the existing and emerging initiatives, provides links to repositories, marketplaces, databases, platforms and projects among others.

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Knowledge HUB - Target users: for whoever want to approach the topic of energy collective actions for the first time and is looking for inspiration/information.





# TEST YOUR MARKET, YOUR IDEAS, TECHNOLOGIES



The BECoop (self) assessment tool to assess the status and potential for community bioenergy with recommended technical and business actions.



(Self) assessment tool - Target users: for inexperienced users seeking to assess the current state of a cooperative/ community bioenergy project, provider, facility operator.

The BECoop toolkit, an online repository of existing open-source tools completing the support services required for community bioenergy project development.



BECOOP Toolkit - Target users: new or existing energy communities, developers and operators of community bioenergy and heating projects.



W4RES offers a gender audit for energy utility companies, network and organisations and will develop recommendations for gender-just energy initiatives, as part of the support measures program.



Gender Audit - Target users: women in the RHC sector, organisations - Stage: Ongoing



This platform will gather all available resources for energy communities in one place, so that they are easily accessible. These resources will be classified based on the stage of development of the community energy initiative, among other criteria. Users will be able to take a test on the website to determine the development stage of their project.



Energy Community Platform - Target users: citizens and communities that want to advance their energy community projects - Stage: Available June 2022



The UP-STAIRS digital platform connects citizens, who are aiming to set up citizen energy communities or renewable energy communities, with implementation champions and offers collaboration, communication and project management tools to support these common goals.



Digital Platform - Target users: mainly citizens, but also other stakeholders (e.g. municipalities) in CECs or RECs - Stage: 70% ready



The Our Energy platform, developed by the NEWCOMERS project, explores energy communities and energy related topics with short, interactive, multimedia content. By including an array of different experts from various fields, it inspires, educates and advises its users.



Our Energy Platform - Target users: energy communities, academics, policy-makers, active/interested citizens



We offer a digital platform to connect households incl. An incentive scheme with real-time tariff-settings. In addition we have experiences from our three Lighthouse Communities which we can share providing enablers and barriers.



Digital Platform - Target users: energy retailers / utilities, prosumers and consumers interested in establishing an energy community





# LET'S ACT - GET PEOPLE INVOLVED AND GROW



This Toolkit includes three tools. **POWER TARGET** uses a simple data driven approach to identify energy poor citizens. **POWER ACT** creates profiles and proposes behavioural changes and small scale no regret energy efficiency interventions enabling energy poor people to lower their energy consumption and expenses. **POWER FUND** is a one-stop-shop of information about setting up and operating an energy community or a cooperative.

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[Energy Poverty Mitigation Toolkit](#) - Target users: can be used by all stakeholders, citizens, representatives from municipalities or energy communities & cooperatives, etc.



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The BECoop Knowledge Exchange Platform is a one-stop-shop lifting collaboration barriers across regions and sectors to share information and knowledge.

[Knowledge Exchange Platform](#) - Target users: RESCoops, community initiatives, municipalities, RE and bioenergy industry actors, investors, etc.

The BECoop bioenergy energy communities e-market environment connects supply chain stakeholders and supports them when developing a community bioenergy project.

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[e-Market Environment](#) - Target users: supply chain stakeholders, biomass owners/ suppliers/ management companies, equipment manufacturers, ESCOs and installers, cooperatives/energy communities/RESCoops, investors, research centres, public institutions and many more.



The EC2 project's Energy Citizenship Academy aims to provide knowledge and co-created tools to make the (local) energy initiatives people-centric and inclusive.

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[Energy Citizenship Academy](#) - Target users: community energy actors, local and national authorities, engaged citizens, CSOs and NGOs, renewable energy industry - Stage: Release date April 2023



W4RES/WECF will start a capacity building program for women empowerment in the renewable heating and cooling (RHC) sector. The program offers a series of 2 half-days capacity building seminars with a regional focus. This aims to build private sector capacities and to some extent decision-makers on women empowerment and women's market uptake of the RHC sector. The seminars are completed by a series of webinars enabling access of the capacity building program to an international audience.

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[Capacity Building Programme](#) - Target users: private sector and decision-makers of the RHC sector - Stage: Starts in May



To better understand the visions people have about their local energy transition, DECIDE has developed a game approach which enables decisions along four different aspects: Different actors, asking with whom people would organize their local energy transition together; different roles, learning more about how people would participate; ways of implementations, which refers to the types of actions people would support and motivators, asking why people would take part.

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[Energy Game](#) - Target users: (existing / potential) members of a collective energy initiative.



Tools for households are: Enablers and Barriers, Digital Platform – virtual community - user app guide, Split incentive scheme, Best practices and lessons learned, PV-installment savings and self consumption assessment, Engagement and network report, Exchange and Follower Community Events.

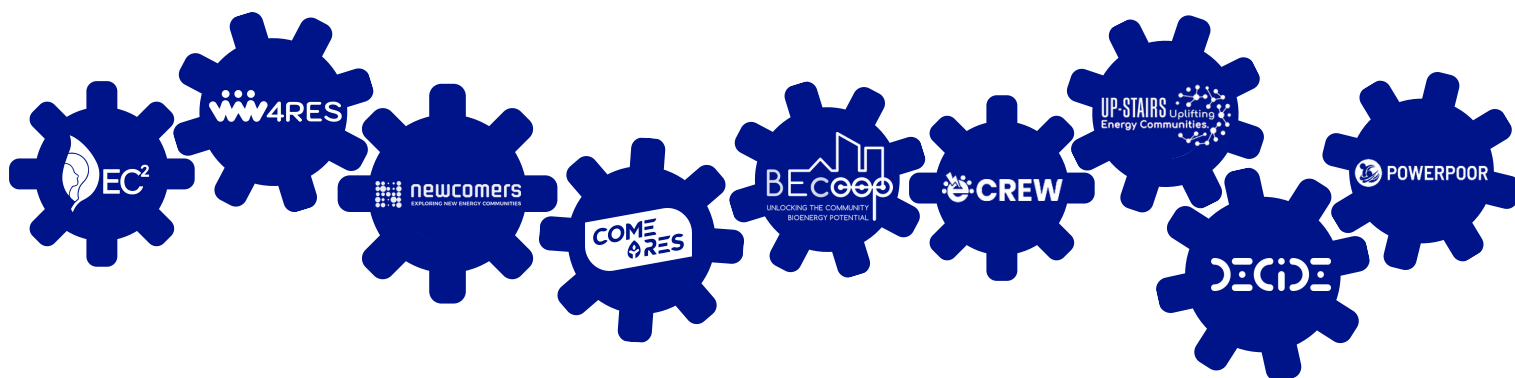
Tools for energy retailers are: White Book Compendium – Business Model declaration, CEO Handbook, KPIs for community progress and measurement, Best practices and lessons learned.

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[Tools for households and tools for energy retailers](#) - Target users: energy retailers/utilities, prosumers and consumers interested in establishing an energy community.

# THE PROJECTS



EC<sup>2</sup> is an EU-funded project that gathers empirical evidence on how the set-up of energy communities fosters or hinders energy citizenship. Based on an inter- and transdisciplinary conceptualization of energy citizenship, EC<sup>2</sup> deliberates economic trends, identifies economic conditions, business model innovations, public support policies, and legal regulations that are needed for the emergence of energy citizenship and its potential contribution to the low-carbon energy transition. EC<sup>2</sup> focuses in particular on energy communities as emerging entities within the energy sector and as potential key actors to promote energy citizenship. The objective is to gather empirical evidence on how the framework and the set-up of energy communities foster or hinder energy citizenship and its conduciveness for broader policy goals and under which circumstances energy communities and energy citizens benefit most from each other.

Website: <https://ec2project.eu/>  
Contact: [yu-yi.huynh@iclei.org](mailto:yu-yi.huynh@iclei.org)



## POWERPOOR

The main aim of POWERPOOR is to design and develop support programmes for energy poor citizens and encourage the use of joint energy initiatives leveraging alternative financing schemes. POWERPOOR facilitates experience and knowledge sharing, as well as the implementation of small-scale energy efficiency interventions and the installation of renewable energy sources, increasing the active participation of citizens. Pilot energy poor support programmes are designed, developed, and implemented in eight countries across Europe led by a network of certified Energy Supporters and Mentors with the support of the National Stakeholder Liaison Groups. An ICT driven Energy Poverty Mitigation Toolkit is developed to support the process. Energy Poverty Alleviation Offices have been set up in municipalities across the 8 pilot countries (namely, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Portugal, Spain) implementing the POWERPOOR approach & further supporting energy poor citizens.

Website: <https://powerpoor.eu/>  
Contact: [ekanelou@epu.ntua.gr](mailto:ekanelou@epu.ntua.gr)



UP-STAIRS is an EU-funded program to establish so-called "One-stop-shops" helping to set-up Citizen Energy Communities / Renewable energy Communities and foster energy efficiency measures carried out by end customers. All of this by providing information, advice, capacity building, energy auditing, financing and implementation support as well as monitoring the impacts and benefits. The concept of the One Stop Shop foresees the support of identifying and implementing sustainable energy investment projects through the technical, financial and organisational expertise of the UP-STAIRS implementation champions, people ready to deliver their expertise to citizens interested in collective renewable energy actions within their municipality.

Website: <https://www.h2020-upstairs.eu/>  
Contact: [padraig.lyons@ierc.ie](mailto:padraig.lyons@ierc.ie)



For a fair and people-powered energy system, BECoop (2020-2023), a project funded by the European Horizon 2020 programme, aims at putting communities in charge of their local renewable (bio)energy generation. The ambition of BECoop is to provide the necessary conditions, technical as well as business support tools, for unlocking the underlying market potential of community bioenergy, fostering new links and partnerships. The project is backed by a multidisciplinary consortium of 12 partners including 4 pilot cases in Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain.

Website: <https://www.becoop-project.eu/>  
Contact: [marine@ieecp.org](mailto:marine@ieecp.org)



The NEWCOMERS project (New clean energy communities in a changing European energy system) is a Horizon 2020 project, researching energy communities with the aim to deliver practical recommendations about how the European Union as well as national and local governments can support new clean energy communities to help them flourish and unfold their potential benefits for citizens and the Energy Union.

Website: <https://www.newcomersh2020.eu/>  
Contact: julia.blasch@vu.nl



DECIDE - *Developing Energy Communities through Informative & Collective actions*, is an Horizon 2020 project which aims to gain a better understanding of how energy communities and collective actions are established and managed. It also intends to identify which kind of communications and interactions work best to encourage participation in energy communities for specific types of individuals and groups, and to test and transfer knowledge in pilot projects across Europe.

Website: <https://decide4energy.eu/>  
Contact: Lucija@think-e.be



COME RES is a Horizon2020 project that aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the electricity sector. To do so, the project focuses on advancing renewable energy communities in nine European countries, learning from regions with advanced community energy development and supporting target regions with the potential to further develop energy communities

Website: <https://come-res.eu/>  
Contact: lucy.russell@iclei.org



W4RES is a 3-year-EU-funded project, which aims at scaling-up the involvement of women in the market deployment and uptake of Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC) solutions via replicable support measures tested and validated across 8 European countries.

Website: <https://w4res.eu/>  
Contact: suchet@eurec.be



eCREW coordinates and supports the roll-out of an innovative scheme of household cooperation in energy management. These are Community Renewable Energy Webs (CREWs), in which households jointly exploit household-level electricity generation and battery storage capacities and optimize energy efficiency and expenditures. The key purpose is to support the transition of passive consumers to active participants in the local energy system through informed decisions and collective actions. In eCREW, three energy companies rolled-out the eCREW approach to their clients. A strong and diverse Follower Community is supported to give the eCREW approach a "go", too. Together, 240,000 households will be enabled to join a CREW during the project, establishing numerous CREWs with thousands of participants, saving at least 13 GWh/year. Cooperation within a CREW is facilitated through an award-winning smart phone app (PEAKapp), exploiting smart meter data to stimulate an increase in energy efficiency and uptake of local renewable electricity generation. Administration of CREWs, including billing of consumption and generation, is covered by electricity retailers.

Website: <https://ecrew-project.eu/>  
Contact: slacik@energieinstitut-linz.at