



From setting up energy communities to making them thrive: what are the tools available?

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The European Community Power Coalition



- Promotion of the development of citizen and community ownership.
- Diverse network of 50+ like-minded organisations across Europe
- Energy cooperatives, cities and local authorities, the renewable energy industry, legal experts & NGOs
- Visit our Website:
<https://communitypowercoalition.eu/>

Who we are - What we do



1. Advocacy work

2. Communication

3. Capacity Building

WE DEMAND A FULL AND TIMELY TRANSPPOSITION OF THE EU CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CITIZEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION THROUGH ROBUST AND CLEAR DEFINITIONS

National definitions should acknowledge citizen and renewable energy communities as a different type of market actor, which emphasizes open and democratic ownership and control, and aims to provide community benefits – rather than profit making. National definitions should ensure effective control by citizens, local authorities and small businesses and guarantee autonomy – preventing bigger companies from setting up and controlling energy communities. The definition should clearly distinguish energy communities as a way to organise participation of citizens - rather than focus on technical activities.

2. STRONG INCLUSION OF CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES IN NATIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLANNING

In their 2030 National Energy and Climate Plans, EU Member States should adopt ambitious objectives for renewables production by energy communities, self-consumers and cities. Citizens should be allowed to actively participate in developing and monitoring national and local climate and energy planning.

3. RESPECT FOR NEW RIGHTS OF SELF-CONSUMERS AND ENERGY COMMUNITIES, SUPPORTED BY A STRONG ENABLING FRAMEWORK AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Member States must ensure that national regulations and market rules entitle citizens and energy communities to exercise their rights. Regulators need to ensure that the rights of citizens and energy communities are respected, and that barriers to participating in the market are removed.

4. ENSURE FAIR ACCESS BY RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES TO RENEWABLES SUPPORT SCHEMES

National and EU (e.g. State aid) rules should include specific provisions to ensure renewable energy communities can access renewable energy support schemes on fair and equal terms.

5. SUPPORT A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITION, MAKING SURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

EU Member States must develop programmes, including financial schemes, to ensure vulnerable and energy poor citizens are able to participate economically in energy communities. Rules and incentives (e.g. for energy sharing and collective self-consumption) should ensure energy communities can develop solidarity schemes to benefit vulnerable and lower-income members.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE VALUE THAT ENERGY CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES CAN PROVIDE TO THE ENERGY SYSTEM

Remuneration for renewable electricity and flexibility provided to the grid, and charges (network or otherwise), should incentivise citizens and energy communities to provide the grid operator with services that reduce the need for long-term investments in the grid.

7. CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

The EU Commission and Parliament should continue the work of their predecessors in monitoring, strengthening and guaranteeing a place for community energy in Europe's energy future.

8. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS

EU Member States should adequately translate the Renewable Energy Directive provisions that foresee "regulatory and capacity-building support is provided to public authorities in enabling and setting up renewable energy communities, and in helping authorities to participate directly".



**PUTTING PEOPLE,
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AT THE HEART
OF EUROPE'S ENERGY
TRANSFORMATION**

COMMUNITY POWER COALITION - VISION STATEMENT



Activities



European Community Power Coalition urges EU to drop gas and nuclear from Taxonomy – Statement

By FPCC - January 28, 2022



Community energy campaigners demand safeguards to guarantee a just energy transition.

Do not replicate citizen energy community measures in Gas Market reform proposals – Letter

By FPCC - December 16, 2021



The Commission's commitment to support the development of citizen ownership through renewable and citizen energy communities is commendable but including certain measures related to citizen energy communities within the reform of the EU's gas market rules, could create too many risks, says a letter written by the European Community Power Coalition.

Change state aid to support community energy – letter

By FPCC - November 18, 2021



European Commission reforms of state aid should support community energy projects - not make them compete with large-scale commercial renewables - says a letter by the Community Power Coalition.

Community energy campaigners have [asked](#) to the European Commission to demand EU state aid reforms should be revised to allow more EU governments and regions to support community energy projects.

Community power is part of the solution at COP26

By FPCC - November 10, 2021



As critical UN climate negotiations continue in Glasgow, community power campaigners are demanding EU leaders unleash the enormous potential of community energy

Transposition Tracker Tool

What legal support are different EU countries giving to community energy?

This tool tracks how EU governments are putting the policies in place under the EU's clean energy laws that should support community energy. We refer to two main Directives: the Renewable Energy Directive (REDII) and the Internal Electricity Market Directive (IEMD).

Do you have more information about the situation in your country? [Contact us](#).



FINANCING COMMUNITY ENERGY PUTTING LOCAL ENERGY TRANSITION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AT THE HEART OF THE GREEN RECOVERY

A POSITION PAPER FROM THE COMMUNITY POWER COALITION

The COVID-19 crisis has brought a renewed focus on local economic resilience. As policy-makers all over Europe work to revive our economies ravaged by COVID-19, we call for an economic recovery that ensures our society and our local communities are greener and fairer in the long term. Community energy initiatives are a crucial part of the recovery. They are vital to speeding up the energy transition, delivering increased local resilience and lighting the path towards a sustainable recovery. We welcome the support shown by the European Union towards community energy. Energy Communities are explicitly recognised and their role is acknowledged throughout the Clean Energy Package, in particular in the Renewable Energy Directive II (also referred to as REDII). We also welcome progress towards supporting Community Energy Initiatives, through tools such as cohesion funds, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility within the wider NextGenerationEU instrument. However, a plethora of barriers still exist that slow down or block projects from succeeding and contributing to the recovery. There are many benefits of community involvement in the energy transition, including:

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 1. Increased support for the Energy Transition.** Strong public acceptance for the exploitation of new renewable energy sites will become increasingly important especially for wind.
- 2. Local economic development.** The development of local renewables brings local economic development to all communities and the value is more likely to remain locally as well.
- 3. Supports a flexible, secure and decentralised energy grid.** The net impact of local energy production and use on the electricity grid is positive.
- 4. Strengthens community cohesion.** When people cooperate and achieve things together in their community it increases pride, feelings of connectedness and reduces problems of alienation.
- 5. Tackles energy poverty and other local social problems.** Most community energy projects address energy poverty in some way, by helping with re-insulating or raising people out of energy poverty.



Acceptance of RES & Energy Communities



IMAGINE A
WORLD

WHERE ENERGY IS
CLEAN AND LOCAL

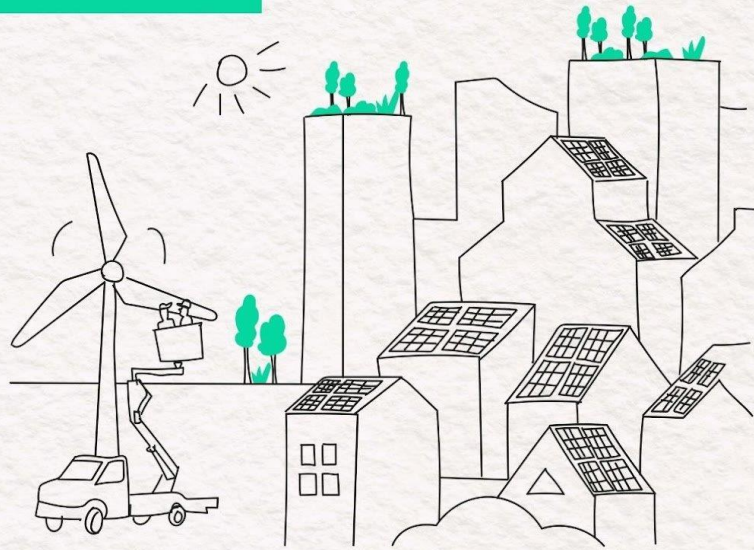
86%

of Europeans
support new wind
and solar projects in
their local area



TOGETHER FOR
100% RENEWABLE
EUROPE

Prosperous. Sustainable. For everyone.



Across Europe, **86% of people** questioned said they would **support new wind and solar projects near to where they live**. They also expressed a strong interest in joining a local energy cooperative and supported government measures to accelerate the rollout of wind and solar power.

This is in a nutshell what is revealed in a recent poll conducted in 10 European countries (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria) to better understand the public support for wind and solar.

IMAGINE A
WORLD

WHERE ENERGY PRODUCTION
IS OWNED BY LOCAL PEOPLE.

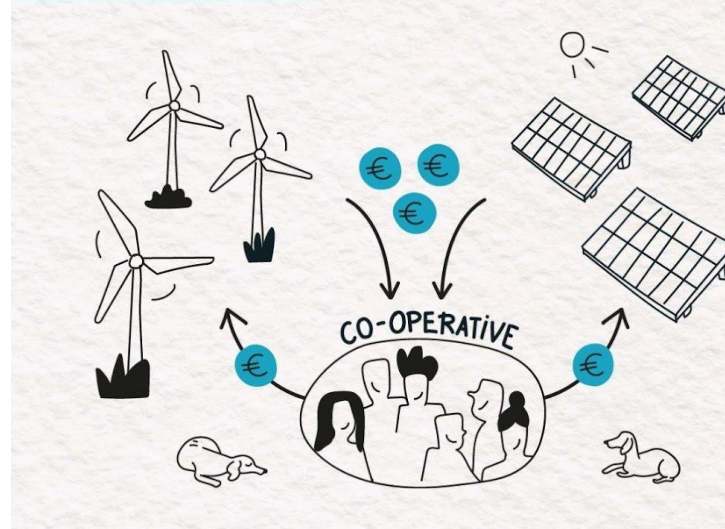
61%

of Europeans would
be likely to join an
energy cooperative
if one were set up in
their local area



TOGETHER FOR
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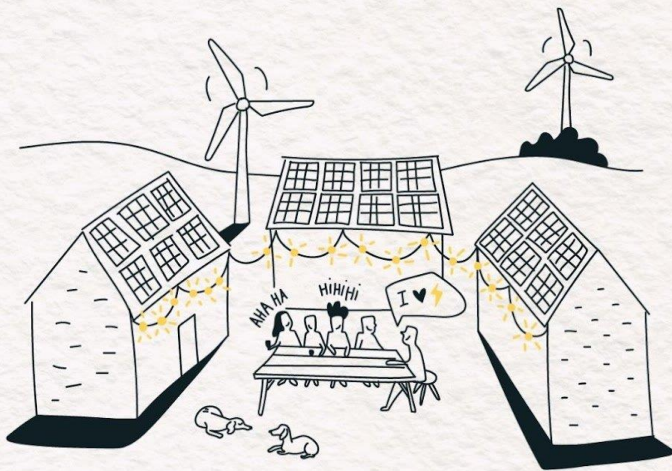


Acceptance of RES & Energy Communities



IMAGINE A WORLD

WHERE COMMUNITY GROUPS GENERATE THEIR OWN CLEAN ENERGY...

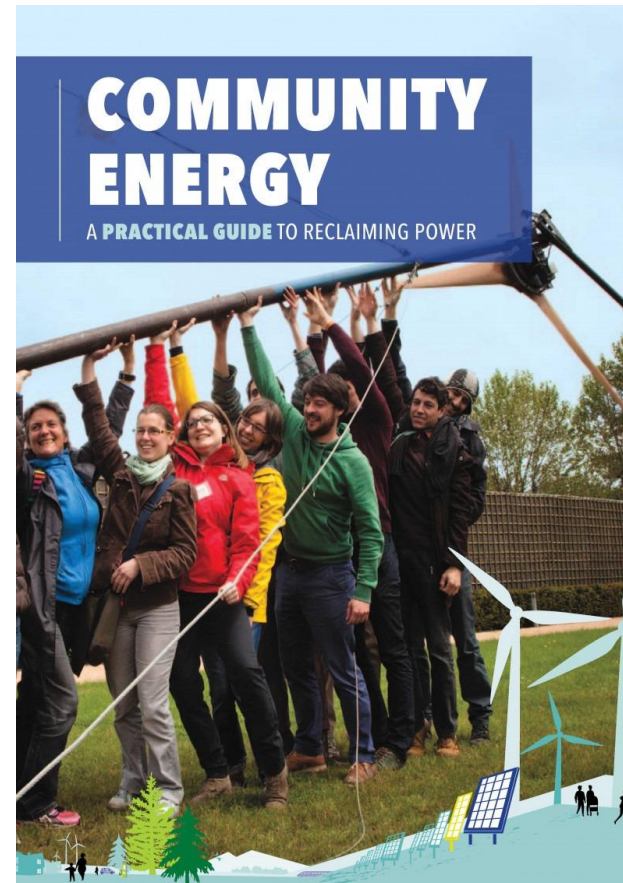


79%

of Europeans want their governments to provide more financial support for community groups to generate their own solar and wind energy

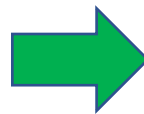


A handbook filled with practical tips and wisdom from projects all across Europe



- 160 pages
- 26 chapters
- 22 inspiring success stories
- Over 80 links to additional resources

Community Energy Guidebook available now in more than 7 languages (English, Czech, French, Portuguese, Greek, Polish and Spanish) – More to come



Main Challenges



**Transposition
of Directive
RED Art.22 –
Adequate
frameworks in
the EU
member states
– REDIII
upcoming
(September)**

**Accessing
financial
capital
-
Funding
resources**

**Auctions,
bureaucracy
-
Grid access**

**EU signals
(Taxonomy,
Gas Package)**

Resources, best practice and information sharing

Article 22

Renewable energy communities

1. Member States shall ensure that final customers, in particular household customers, are entitled to participate in a renewable energy community while maintaining their rights or obligations as final customers, and without being subject to unjustified or discriminatory conditions or procedures that would prevent their participation in a renewable energy community, provided that for private undertakings, their participation does not constitute their primary commercial or professional activity.

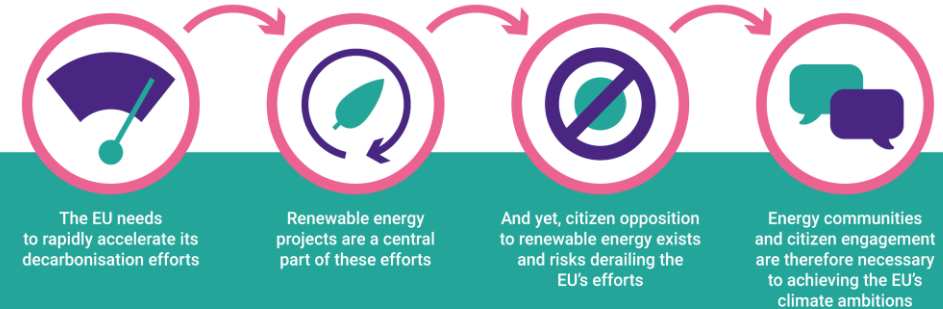
2. Member States shall ensure that renewable energy communities are entitled to:

- produce, consume, store and sell renewable energy, including through renewables power purchase agreements;
- share, within the renewable energy community, renewable energy that is produced by the production units owned by that renewable energy community, subject to the other requirements laid down in this Article and to maintaining the rights and obligations of the renewable energy community members as customers;
- access all suitable energy markets both directly or through aggregation in a non-discriminatory manner.

3. Member States shall carry out an assessment of the existing barriers and potential of development of renewable energy communities in their territories.

*Member States shall
carry out an assessment
of the existing barriers
and potential of
development of
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communities in their
territories
(Article 22(3)).*

WHY ARE ENERGY COMMUNITIES CENTRAL TO ACHIEVING THE EU'S CLIMATE AMBITIONS?



BARRIERS AND THREATS TO THE PEOPLE-OWNED ENERGY REVOLUTION

BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP COVERED BELOW

- Inadequate grid access
- Difficulty accessing financial capital
- Problematic legal framework
- Burdensome bureaucracy and permitting

THREATS TO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP COVERED BELOW

- The switch from support schemes to bidding systems
- Poor definition that allows for abuse
- Nimbyism and local backlash against renewable energy

Energy poverty



Even before the energy crisis

1 in 4 European households currently struggle to adequately light, heat or cool their homes and over 1 billion across the world do not have access to energy. No one should ever have to choose between eating, lighting or warming one's home.

According to the [Right2Energy Coalition](#):

We have identified three essential ways to eradicate energy poverty in Europe:

1. Access to affordable, clean energy as a basic human right
2. Decent, energy-efficient and affordable housing for all
3. **Energy democracy – Energy communities participation**

Energy poverty derives from a series of policies and regulations that result in an unjust resource allocation and rising inequalities.

It is related to multiple social factors.



Right to Energy
Coalition



Alianza contra la pobreza energética



5+1 Opportunities

Energy communities can significantly contribute to

Speed up the energy transition through democratic participation

Tackle energy poverty

Maximize local acceptance of RES

Support local growth through sustainable job creation – Wider benefit allocation

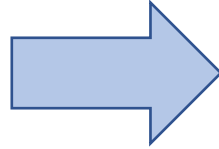
Energy efficiency – Lowering the energy demand

Enhance and ensure solidarity and social justice

**Tools, best
practice and
practical
solutions?**

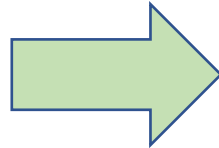
Tools & Solutions

Inform yourself



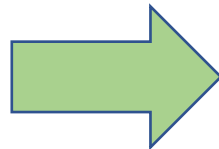
- Information sharing
- Case studies and support measures
- Energy literacy
- Business models

Test your market, your ideas, technologies



- Toolkits
- Business model tools
- Digital & Energy community platform
- Gender audit
- Other platforms

Let's act - get people involved and grow



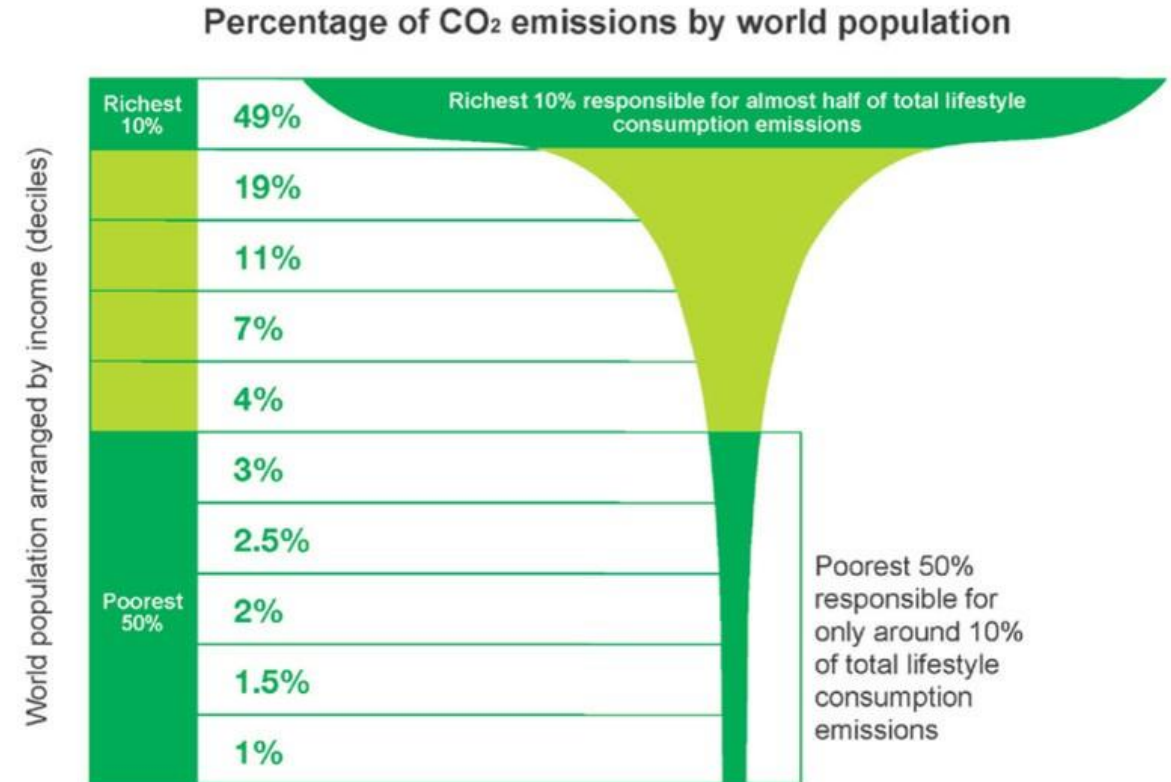
- Energy poverty mitigation
- Energy Citizenship Academy
- E-market tool
- Knowledge Exchange Platform
- Energy Community vision game
- Gender capacity building activities
- Other tools

Wrap-up

- Climate crisis is accelerating with devastating impacts especially to the most vulnerable ones
- Inequalities rising
- Energy crisis as a real threat for middle-class and below – Esp. after the war in Ukraine
- It is time to unleash the immense potential of Community Energy so as to accelerate the energy transition through citizens and municipalities participation that results in:
 - Increased local acceptance for Renewables
 - Wider benefits allocation
 - Solidarity that leads to system transformation
- EU must provide the right signals and protect the most vulnerable
- We must step-up the political pressure of the wider energy democracy movement

Climate & Social Justice!

Figure 1: Global income deciles and associated lifestyle consumption emissions



Source: Knoxville Community-Wide Climate Action Plan

The end



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Thank you!

