

Renewable energy communities & self-consumption: exemplary cases from Europe

Presentation CWaPE

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Who do we represent?

- Renewable Energy Sources cooperatives, Community power, or community energy initiatives (i.e. **citizens and renewable energy communities**)
- Groups of citizens who cooperate on RES or EE
 - Production
 - Supply
 - Distribution
 - Storage
 - Services
 - Electrical vehicle sharing
- Legal entity < ICA principles



Renewable energy cooperatives: a different way to do business



1. Voluntary & open membership
2. Economic participation
3. Democratic ownership
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Training & education
6. Cooperation amongst cooperatives
7. Concern for community

Just some of the benefits of community energy

1 revenues from local renewables to meet local needs

- Local supply of cheap, clean renewables
- Services, education
- Buildings renovation and energy efficiency
- Energy poverty
- New activities (e.g. electrification of transport)

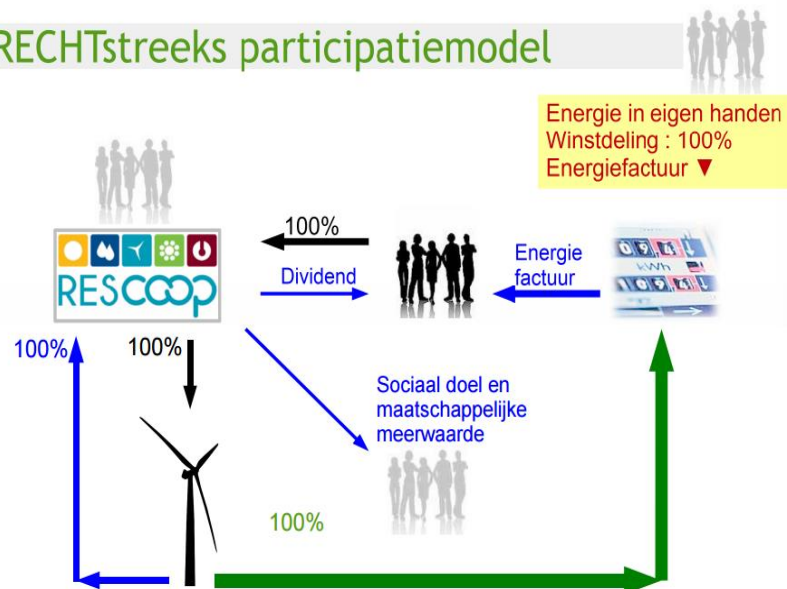
2 Democratic community ownership

3 Economic benefits for the participants

4 Public acceptance

5 Bringing people on board the energy transition: benefits to the energy system

RECHTstreeks participatiemodel

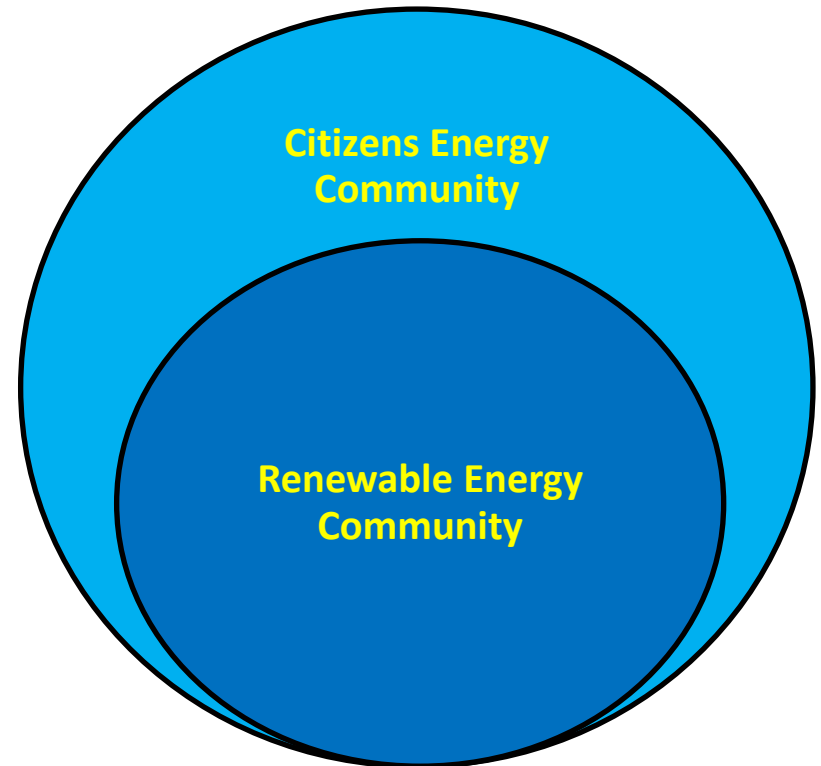


Energy communities: a different type of actor in the energy market

'Renewable energy community'

- a legal entity:

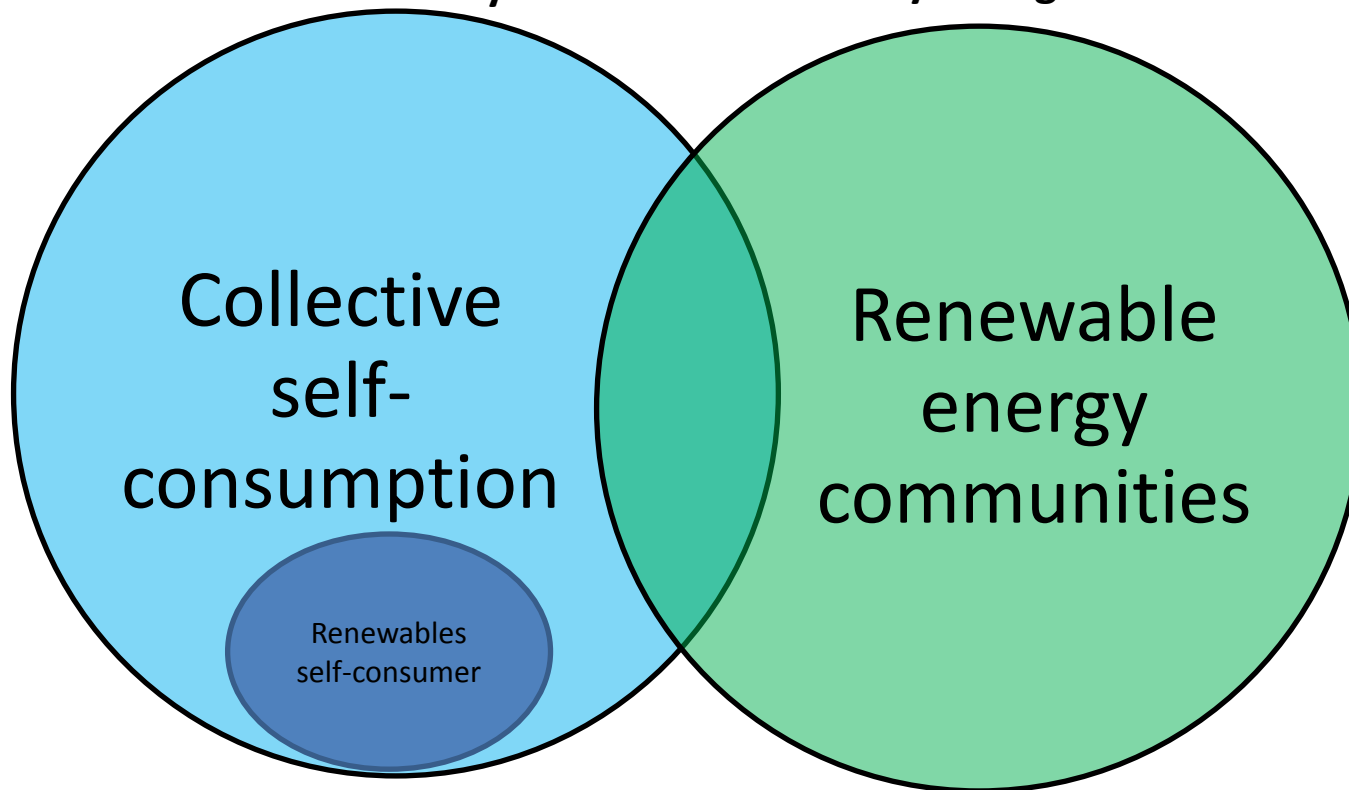
- Based on **open** and **voluntary** participation
- **Autonomous** in their decision making
- Effective control: by **local** shareholders or members;
- Can include **natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities**
- Primary purpose: to provide **environmental, economic or social community benefits** for its shareholders or members or for the **local areas where it operates**, rather than financial profits;



Link between renewable energy communities and self-consumption:

Article 21
the activity

Article 22
a way to organise



DE: Mieterstrom (tenant electricity)

Highlights from the framework:

- Incentive = small bonus per kWh
- Allows tenants to be involved as customers
- Possible for housing cooperative to be the producer, with tenants as the members

Issues:

- Operator of the plant needs to be the consumer (same natural or legal person) – not possible for several households to jointly operate a plant together
- Still needs to pay 100% of the renewable energy surcharge

Heidelberg Energy Cooperative – “new home” nussloch



445.5 kWp / 370,000 kWh per year

FR: Experimenting by REScoops

The details:

- Opened up geographical scope (limited to one branch of the distribution network)
- Energycoop Midi-Pyrenees manages the rooftop installations (36 kWp) and interacts with DSO
- Supply store Lou Cussou Biocoop and Clinic Codomier-Masset + other local customers
- Excess electricity makes up supply of Enercoop

Issues:

- Policy framework is very unstable (constant changes)
- Data collection to invoice client
- Special tariff has yet to materialise
- Possible to be required to pay for two balance responsible parties

Enercoop Midi-Pyrénées



The UK: linking technical and social innovation



- Solar PV cooperative projects on social housing estates throughout London
- Agreement with local Council to lease roofs
- Reduced investment requirement for residents of estates
- **Energy savings fund:** portion of profits go into EE/renovation initiatives, education
- **Brixton Energy:** block-chain powered peer-to-peer energy trading to allow cheap, clean electricity supply
- Now extending to schools, gardening initiatives



POWER TO, FOR
AND BY THE PEOPLE

verv



Greece: virtual net metering

The details:

- Eligible activity or energy communities, municipalities and groups of farmers
- Eligibility is based on separate legislation that defines and supports energy community
- Installations up to 1 MW eligible
- Municipalities using to provide renewable electricity to their own buildings (e.g. social housing)
- Results in reduction to energy bill and grid charges
- Eligible within regions and in neighboring regions

Municipality of Thessaloniki



Issues:

- ~~Municipalities can only supply their own buildings~~

Belgium: new decree on collective self-consumption?

The details:

- Municipality to install and own a communal wind turbine and 1000 solar pv panels
- Will offer electricity to residents and companies within the area for free
- Customers will still have to pay for grid fees and taxes
- Storage is envisioned & would like to supply social housing
- Made possible with new decree on collective self-consumption

**“Free Power for You” -
Crisnée**

Issues:

- Framed mainly around renewable energy community – the right approach?
- TBD... Implementing decree?

Takeaways and recommendations

1. *Need to distinguish between concepts of renewable energy communities and collective self-consumption in legislation*
2. *The ability to collectively self-consume should be guaranteed for renewable energy communities along with other market participants and business models*
3. *Geographical restrictions should not be too narrowly defined – limit who can participate, raising fairness questions*
4. *Incentives should take into account energy, distribution and other components of consumers' energy bills and reflect benefit to the system, society and the environment*
5. *Metering and responsibilities between different parties needs to be clear*

*If you want to know more, please
contact us!*

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