

"Since everyone needs energy and the wind, the sun and water are common goods, renewable energy cooperatives and other community energy initiatives are the most sensible way of organizing everyone's provision"

Dirk Vansintjan, Member of the Board of Directors of Ecopower



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INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY POWER?

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PROJECT PARTNERS:

Friends of the Earth Europe www.foeeurope.org
CEE Bankwatch Network <http://bankwatch.org>
ICLEI European Secretariat www.iclei-europe.org
Friends of the Earth Czech Republic www.hnutiduha.cz
Friends of the Earth Hungary www.mtvsh.hu
Friends of the Earth Scotland www.foe-scotland.org.uk

ClientEarth www.clientearth.org
WIP - Renewable Energies www.wip-munich.de
Friends of the Earth Spain www.tierra.org
Friends of the Earth Ireland www.foe.ie
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www.communitypower.eu



ENABLING COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ACROSS EUROPE

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WHY COMMUNITY POWER?



Community-owned energy projects have the potential to transform our energy system. Communities and co-operatives all over Europe are creating projects where they own and are actively involved in running an energy resource. This could be solar panels on the roof of the local school, a small wind park on a hill near the village, or insulation purchased collectively for the entire apartment building. Part of what motivates these groups is the need to reduce carbon emissions and prevent climate change. Communities see benefits, from cheaper energy or lower bills, to a sense of pride in what they can achieve together.

PROJECT AIMS



- Speed up the development of renewable projects by creating a favourable legislative environment.
- Build a broad, public coalition across Europe supportive of community renewables projects.
- Inform and educate policymakers, empowering them to put forward enabling legislative frameworks.
- Inform and engage citizens (e.g. by joining workshops, street information stalls, writing letters to MEPs, joining e-mail actions and more).
- Make recommendations to enable legislative change in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Hungary, Ireland, Scotland and Belgium and recommendations to support community energy projects in EU legislation.
- Create opportunities for public-private finance of community renewables projects in Eastern European countries.

THE BENEFITS



- Citizens and communities are involved and make decisions about their energy future. This ensures strong public support for renewable energy across Europe.
- Stronger, healthier communities are created. Working together in a community and achieving a goal provides a sense of purpose, pride and achievement.
- By mobilizing people community energy provides a valuable new source for the much-needed investment in renewables, storage and energy savings.
- It raises awareness of locally generated and locally consumed renewable energy as well as promotes efficient use of energy.

