



Energy Cooperatives

Energy democracy in sustainable heating and cooling

Who am I?

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REScoop.eu

REScoop.eu is the European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives.

Citizen energy cooperatives are groups of citizens who cooperate in energy transition projects.



What is a citizen energy cooperative?

- Citizen collective (also local authorities & SME's)
- Energy transition projects: various activities and business models
- Legal model varies
- Cooperative principles
 - Open, democratic, autonomous, economic participation, social



Energy Cooperatives & Communities

Energy cooperatives are the '*golden standard*' for energy communities

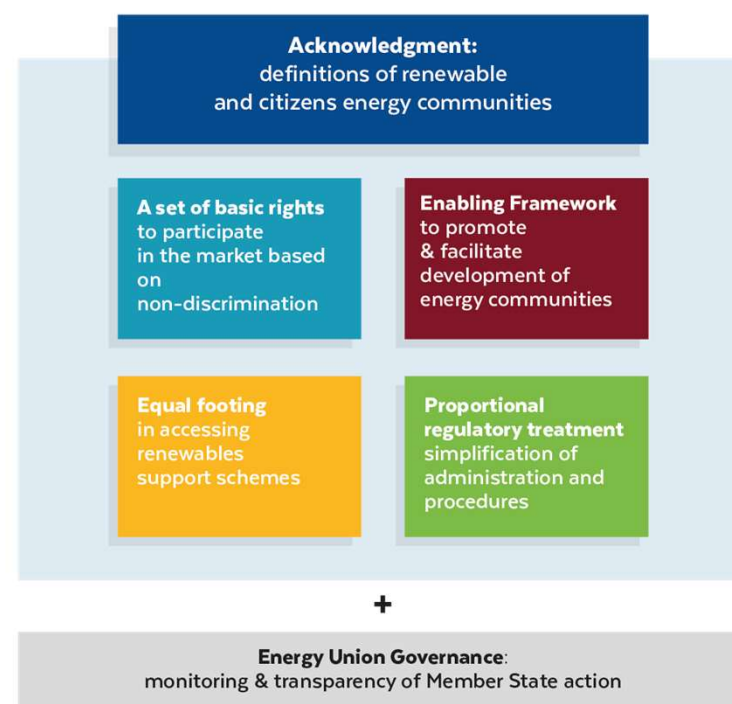
Energy cooperatives are an example of:

- o *Renewable Energy Communities* or REC (Article 2(16), Renewable Energy Directive II)

and

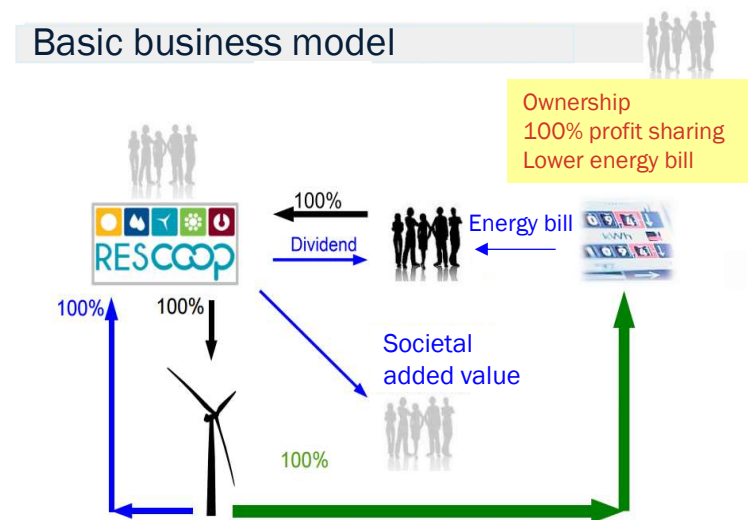
- o *Citizen Energy Communities* or CEC (Article 2(11), Internal Electricity Market Directive)

The Clean Energy Package a policy foundation for energy communities



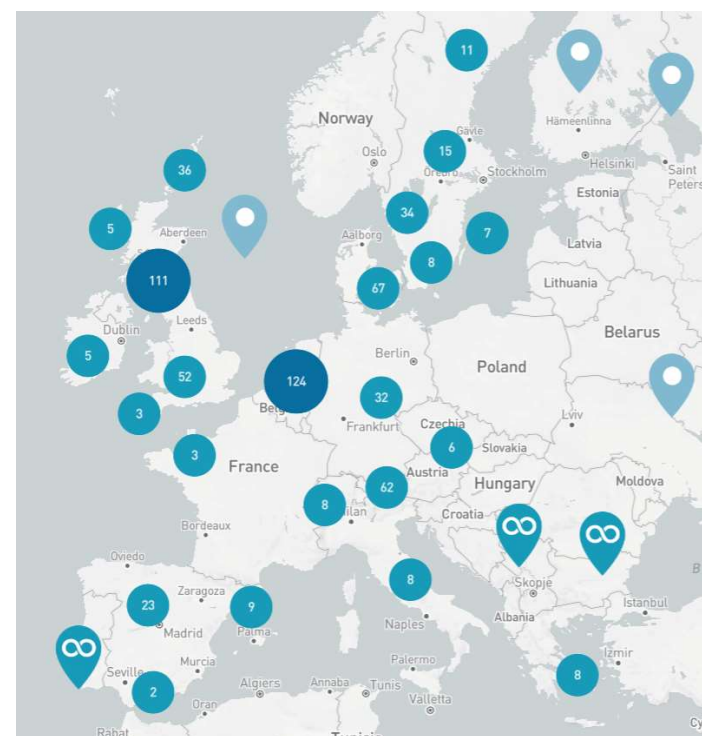
Basic business model for energy cooperatives

- 1) **Local benefits:** revenues from renewables & local employment
- 2) **Collaboration** between local actors
- 3) **Democratic community ownership**



The cooperative movement across Europe

Production	 
Supply	 
Distribution	 
IT services	
EV-sharing	 
Financing	 
Citizen-led renovation	  
Heating/cooling	  



Collective/district heating



Images: Bioenergiedorf Oberrospehe

Images: Energiebedrijf
Thermobello REScoop.eu

Buurtwarmte, the Netherlands

- Neighborhood approach to develop local sustainable heating systems.
- Supporting citizens and municipalities in collective decision making processes and business model development
- Coalition with: DSO's, Municipalities, and Finance providers
- Characteristics:
 - For private homeowners, private tenants, and social housing
 - Low-mid temperature (30-70 C.)
 - Organizational model: ownership by the residents preferred
 - Can be combined with building renovation
 - Build and management outsourced to technical company



Example: district heating Wageningen

- Initiative coming from local citizens
- 'Joint venture' between citizen cooperative, municipality, and heating provider
- 400 homes, 1000 residents
- 18 different home-owner associations + social housing
- Construction starts in 2022



Citizen-led renovation programs

- Energy advice
- Home assessment
- Project coordination
- Finding and training contractors
- Financing
- Sourcing and collective purchasing

Also as 'one-stop-shop'

Carbon Co-op



EnerGent, Gent (Belgium)



- Focus on investment in renewables (including heating), energy services for citizens, innovation projects.
- Engaging citizens through collective neighborhood based renovation ('Wijkwerf') and collective purchasing schemes
- Since 2015: 11 neighborhoods, 804 renovation plans, 324 measures implemented.
- Integrated service: support throughout renovation journey
- Value for households: free-of-charge renovation coordinator and reduced costs of measures through collective bargaining



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