

Renewable energy cooperatives: using energy for social innovation

IEA-EGRD - Energy Communities

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REScoop.eu – who are we?

- European Federation established in 2013
- ≈1,500 REScoops from 13 Member States
- Citizens represented: ≈ 1 million
- All committed to ICA Principles
- We provide representation at EU level
- We support our members in developing activities and participating in EU projects



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

REScoops in the energy sector

<p>Production</p>		
<p>Supply</p>		
<p>Distribution</p>		
<p>Services (energy efficiency, renovations, ICT)</p>	<p>CarbonCo-op</p>	<p>energieID</p>
<p>Electrical vehicle sharing</p>		
<p>Financing</p>		

Benefits of community energy ownership

1 revenues from local renewables to meet local needs

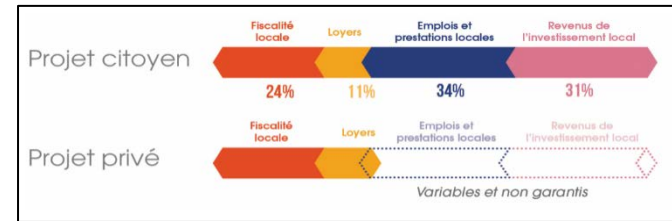
- Local supply of cheap, clean renewables
- Services, education
- Buildings renovation and energy efficiency
- Energy poverty

2 Democratic community ownership, empowerment

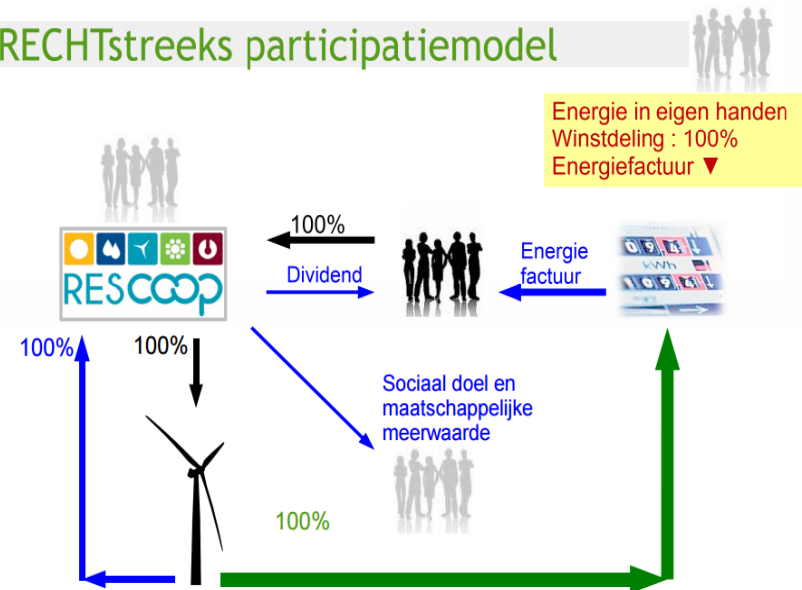
3 Economic benefits for the participants

4 Public acceptance

5 Promoting uptake of clean energy technologies & benefits to the energy system



RECHTstreeks participatiemodel



Positive examples: Hvide Sande Community Foundation, Denmark

- Established by local tourism association, along with local unions, industry and utilities
- Established community foundation to use revenue from 3 MW wind turbine to renovate harbor
- Foundation owns 80% of the project
- 20% owned by citizens
- Association represented by local members, with independence from establishing members
- Harbour benefits from annual rent of DKK 4.8 million
- Contributes €1.2 million per year to local development



The UK: linking technical and social innovation



Creating Local Energy



- 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

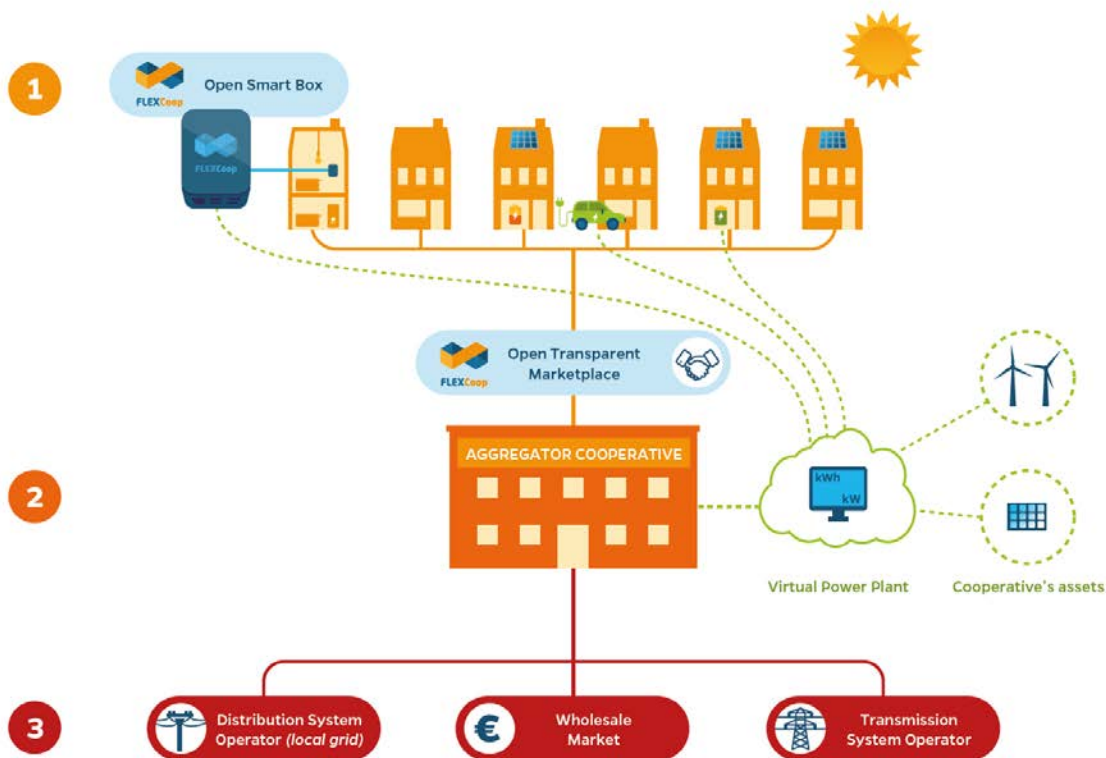


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AND BY THE PEOPLE

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Exploring new business models



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Challenges for community ownership of renewables

Practical

- Lack of information and technical expertise
- Access to finance
- Public participation / engagement / understanding
- Governance, decision-making efficiency

Policy

- Unstable / changing national support schemes for renewables towards more market-based system
- No recognition of / plan for supporting renewable energy communities
- Overburdensome licensing requirements / barriers to competition
- Complex administrative and regulatory burdens / procedures (e.g. setting up a cooperative, local planning, grid connection)



The Clean Energy Package

a policy foundation for energy communities

Acknowledgment:
definitions of renewable
and citizens energy communities

A set of basic rights
to participate
in the market based
on
non-discrimination

Enabling Framework
to promote
& facilitate
development of
energy communities

Equal footing
in accessing
renewables
support schemes

**Proportional
regulatory treatment**
simplification of
administration and
procedures

+

Energy Union Governance:
monitoring & transparency of Member State action

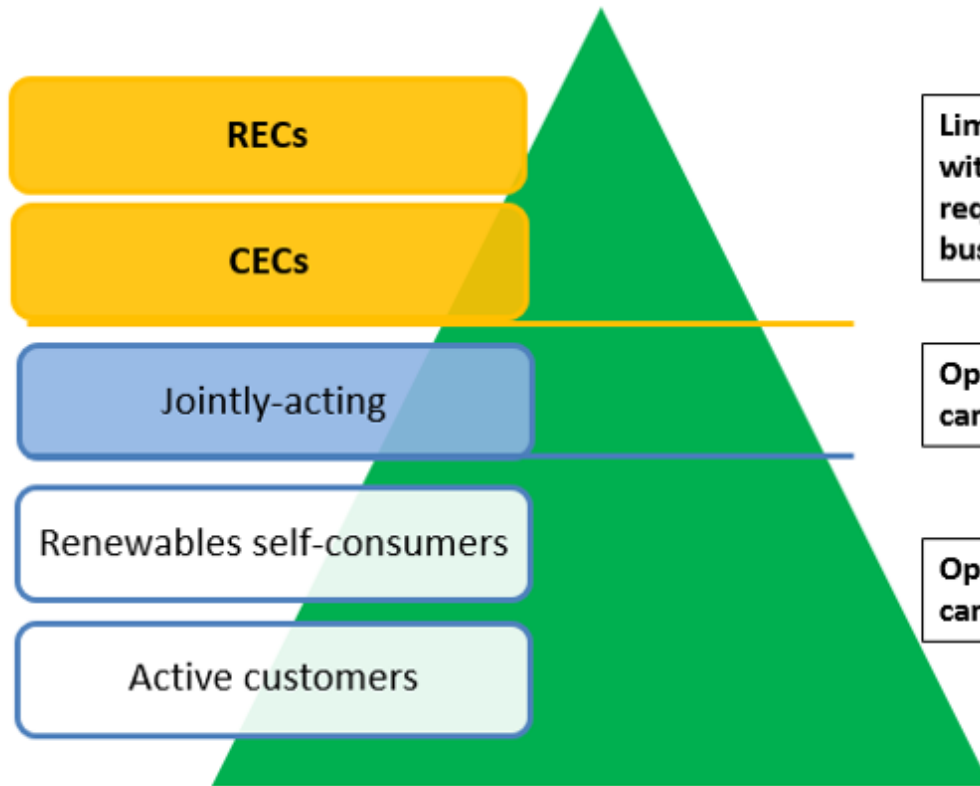
Energy community definitions: an organisational concept

- Legal entity
- Non-commercial purpose
- Open and voluntary membership
- Emphasis on participation by citizens, SMEs and public authorities
- Emphasis on 'effective control' by members not engaged in the energy sector
- For RECs: requirement for autonomy



Distinguishing different types of consumer empowerment in the CEP

CEP Concept



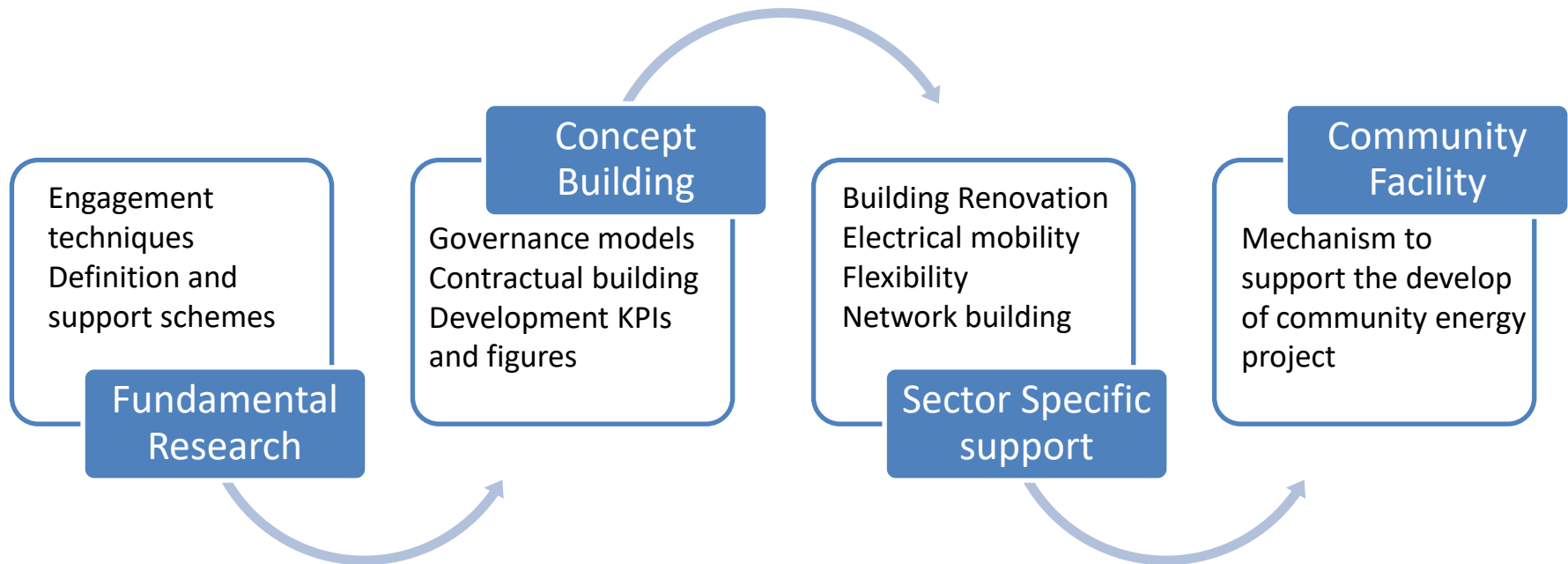
Characteristics

Limited in eligibility; must be a legal entity with specific ownership governance requirements, and based on a non-commercial business model

Open to any consumer on a collective basis; can be facilitated by any business model

Open to any consumer on an individual basis; can be facilitated by any business model

How to encourage the development of Energy Communities through R&I



Recommendations for R&D to support implementation of energy communities

- 1) **Acknowledge/define energy communities as non-commercial market actors**
 - Social concepts based on governance characteristics – not technology
 - Clearly differentiate from other activities/support for other commercial market actors
- 2) **Remove barriers that prevent energy communities from collaborating with other market actors**
- 3) **Promote social sciences/innovation approaches in R&D**
- 4) **Provide dedicated sector-specific support for energy communities**
- 5) **Promote inclusiveness (engaging based on gender, low income households, etc)**

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

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