



Josh Roberts

Advocacy Officer, REScoop.eu

**Renewable Energy
Communities & the EU's
Clean Energy Package: new
opportunities for citizens in
Europe's Energy Transition**

> Who do we represent?

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



> Energy communities: 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



> REScoop.eu: the European Federation

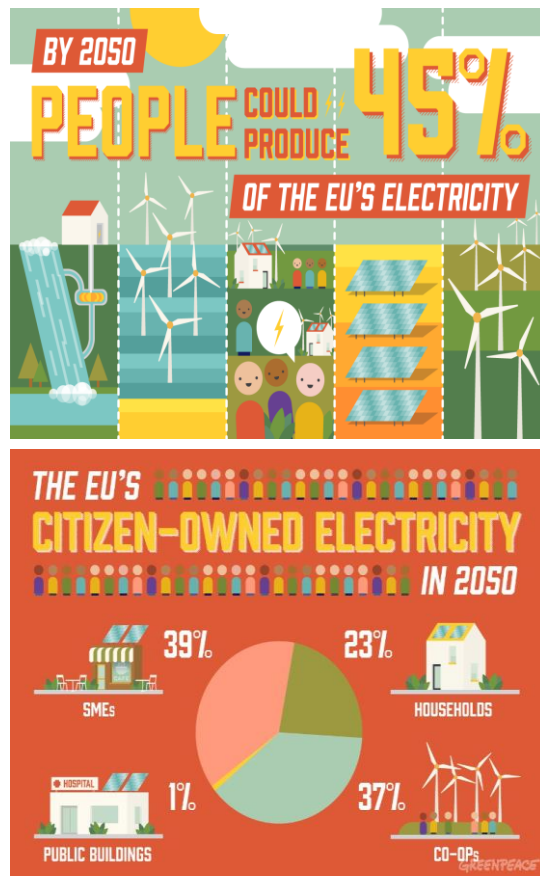
- 1,500 REScoops
- 12 Member States
- Citizens represented: 1 million
- Employed: 1.100 jobs
- Total joint investment: 2 billion euro
- Annual turnover: 750 million euro
- Production: 1GW



By 2050:

≈ **83%** EU households (**113** households) could contribute to:

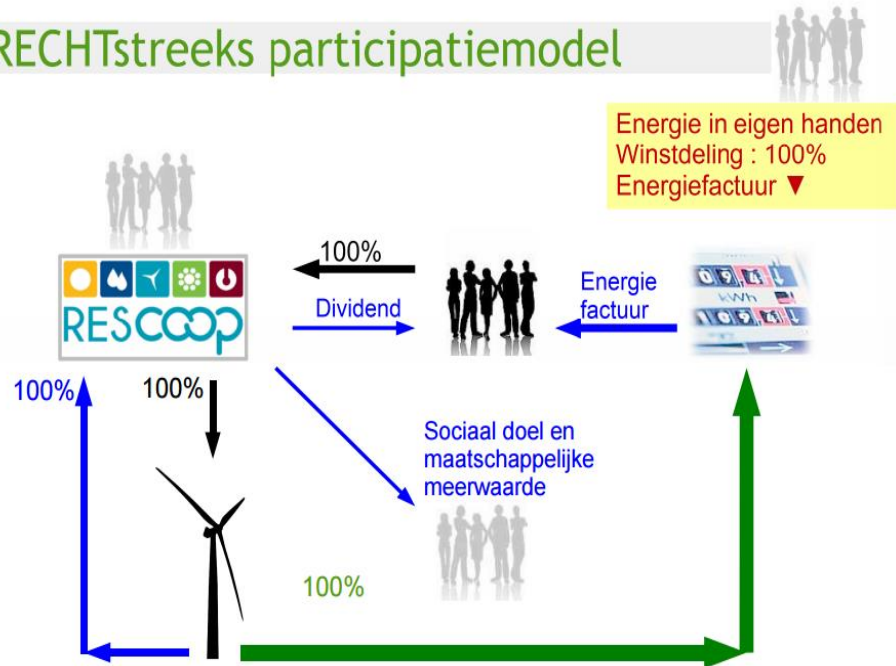
- RES production
- Demand response
- Energy storage



> Just some of the benefits of energy communities

1. Revenues from local renewables to meet local needs
 - Local supply of cheap, clean renewables
 - Renovation of local infrastructure
 - Buildings renovation
 - Energy poverty
 - Housing needs
 - Electrification of transport
2. Collaboration between local actors
3. Democratic community ownership
4. A gateway drug into the energy transition: benefiting the system in time of change

RECHTstreeks participatiemodel



> Current challenges

Policy

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

Practical

- Lack of information
- Access to finance
- Public participation / engagement / understanding



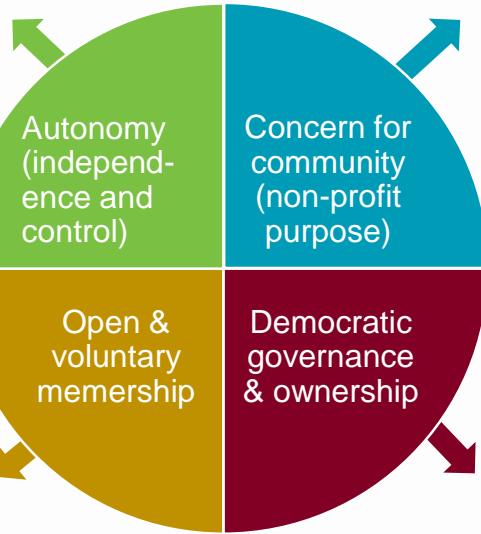
> The Renewable Energy Directive: a policy basis for energy citizens in Europe

1. Acknowledgment (definition) as a distinct from traditional market actors
2. Set of rights
3. An enabling framework for renewable energy communities
4. Requirement to ensure communities are not excluded from support schemes
5. Streamlined procedures, with stronger information and guidance/info and finance, including through admin contact point



Definition of 'Renewable Energy Communities' in the Renewables Directive

Must be a legal entity that is autonomous



Primary purpose = environmental, economic, social community benefits for members or local areas of operation rather than financial profits

Participation must be voluntary

Participation must be open - Participation in renewable energy generation projects should be open to all potential local members based on non-discriminatory criteria.

To avoid abuse and ensure broad participation, renewable energy communities should be capable of remaining autonomous from individual members and other traditional market actors that participate in the community as members or shareholders, or who cooperate through other means such as investment

> A new set of rights for renewable energy communities

- A right for citizens to participate in an energy community while ensuring their consumer rights are protected
- A right to access all organized markets
- Ensure communities are not excluded from support schemes
- Right to engage in energy sharing (e.g. peer-to-peer, blockchain)



> **An enabling framework for renewable energy**
Member States must carry out an assessment of potential, and existing barriers

Member States must develop enabling framework to:

- Reduce barriers
- Ensure a 'just' transition – support for citizens that are vulnerable, low-income, tenants
- Support for collaboration/engagement between municipalities/local authorities and cooperatives
- acknowledge value of active customers & energy communities to energy system – fair, balanced contribution to system costs
- Non-discriminatory treatment
- Access to finance and information



> Some outstanding issues:

- Collective self-consumption: left out in the cold?
- Collaboration between different stakeholders
- Ensuring coherency between agreements in the Renewables Directive and the Market Design
- Market design that provide energy communities with a safe space to operate in the market
- Establishment, ownership and operation of networks and micro-grids
- State aid guidelines – ensuring the clean energy package can do what it is supposed to
- Inclusion in national energy and climate plans (NECPs)

IMPLEMENTATION, REGULATORY OVERSIGHT & ENFORCEMENT!



If you want to know more, please contact us!

Josh Roberts
Advocacy Officer
josh.roberts@rescoop.eu
@REScoopEU

