

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES AS IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA

The Government of Colombia is making progress in defining its strategy for implementing Energy Communities throughout all regions of the country.

One of the major policies of the current Colombian government, headed by Gustavo Petro, is the energy transition. To advance in this major commitment, the National Development Plan includes several articles that will allow the country to move forward in this direction through the incorporation of energy efficiency and with the aim of reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The Colombian Government has the fundamental objective of advancing a *fair and sustainable energy transition*, which seeks to ensure the country's energy sovereignty, democratic access to energy and clear actions to confront climate change. This transition will be gradual and will have fundamental pillars that include greater investments in clean energy and decarbonization, the progressive substitution of demand for fossil fuels and greater energy efficiency. The Ministry of Mines and Energy has been entrusted with leading this transition, seeking the collaboration of other national and local institutions of the country.

One of the country's strategies to promote the energy transition consists of the implementation of Energy Communities, in which users generate, market and use their own energy through non-conventional renewable energy sources. The main objectives of this strategy, contemplated in the National Development Plan and Decree 2236 of 2023, are to improve and increase the coverage of the energy service, especially for vulnerable populations, and to democratize energy generation by encouraging more active user participation.

The Government is committed to implementing this strategy by addressing the challenges of creating specific regulations and adequate financial incentives to respond to local populations who have already expressed their great interest in participating, achieving the goal of having 3,000 operational Energy Communities by 2026.

The Government, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, has developed and promoted a website and a series of materials explaining the key characteristics of Energy Communities and the methods of implementing the national strategy. Among these materials is the ABC of Energy Communities.

This document established that the first phase of implementation of the national strategy would consist of the application by the country's interested communities, by filling out a form on the Ministry's website. The application stage began in November 2023 and in April 2024,



when the platform stopped receiving applications, 18,460 communities had registered, demonstrating the great interest generated by this strategy in the country.

Of these requests, the Ministry prioritized 2,475 communities, mostly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, and after a complex process, began the construction of 1,000 energy communities, aiming to build 2,000 Energy Communities by next year. As mentioned, the Ministry's goal is to have at least 3,000 Energy Communities up and running in the country by 2026.

In the first ABC document of the Energy Communities, the Ministry mentions the sources of clean energy available across different regions of the country and that can be utilized to satisfy the demand of the communities:

- Energy from small hydroelectric developments. Energy obtained from small-scale bodies of water.
- Wind energy. Energy obtained from the non-conventional source of renewable energy that consists of the movement of air masses.
- Geothermal energy. Energy obtained from the non-conventional source of renewable energy that consists of the heat that lies in the earth's subsoil.
- Solar energy. Energy obtained from the non-conventional source of renewable energy that consists of electromagnetic radiation from the sun.

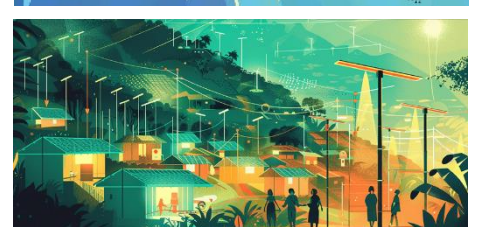
In December 2023, the government issued [decree 2236 - 2023](#), which partially regulates how they will operate and what steps to follow to develop Energy Communities. There, they are defined as: *“Organized communities that arise by virtue of an agreement between natural persons and/or legal entities of public or private law that cooperate with each other through a contract or associative agreement to develop the following activities: generation, commercialization and efficient use of energy through the use of Non-Conventional Renewable Energy Sources -FNCR-, renewable fuels and distributed energy resources.”*

“Energy communities and associations of energy communities may interact with third parties from the public, private and/or popular sectors, through private law agreements and/or public-popular initiative associations to cooperate in projects for the generation, commercialization and/or efficient use of energy through the use of Non-Conventional Renewable Energy Sources (FNCR-), renewable fuels and distributed energy resources.”

The process underway in Colombia is inspired by the experiences of Energy Communities that international organizations, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency IRENA, are successfully promoting in different countries around the world. It also considers the experiences carried out in Colombia, such as [the project led by the EIA University with the support of Public Enterprises of Medellín, carried out in the El Salvador Neighborhood of Medellín](#). In the project users collaborated to generate energy and supply it to the National Interconnected System (SIN) through solar panels, and the results show that they not only managed to reduce the price of their electricity, but also generated profits.

The great challenge currently faced by Colombia could serve as an example for other countries interested in adopting energy decentralization strategies that unlock the great potential of clean energy in each country with the active participation of their local communities.

To know more



[Comunidades Energéticas website](#)

[ABC de Comunidades Energéticas, producido por el Ministerio de Minas y energía.](#)

[ABC de Comunidades Energéticas, producido por el Ministerio de Minas y energía.](#)

[Article in presidencia.gov.co](#)

[Guía para el desarrollo de comunidades energéticas hacia el fomento de economías locales - colombiainteligente.org](#)

[Article in dnp.gov.co](#)

[News - Ministerio de Energía](#)

[Transición energética justa - Minenergía.gov.co](#)

[Energía cooperativa - comunidad energética en energía.coop](#)

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