

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY FORUM IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

This year's [European Energy Communities Forum](#) takes us to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, and will explore energy communities as catalysts for change and as a bridging factor between people of different backgrounds and communities. Against growing polarisation and climate and energy injustices, collective, democratically governed local projects can ignite new hope and trust in each other and in a sustainable future.

From 13 until 15 May, the European Energy Communities Forum, REScoop is teaming up with its Czech [Member UKEN](#) to bring energy communities from across Europe together in a three day event full of workshops, exchanges and interactive sessions. They will strengthen their efforts to transform the rules of the energy game by offering an alternative to one winner taking it all. This means helping citizens who might still be struggling to get their projects off the ground, offering insights and support for effectively advocating for stronger policy recognition and enabling frameworks, but also diving deeper into how the community energy movement can become more inclusive towards people who have remained underrepresented in climate and energy decision making.

This event will be organized with the support of the European Climate Foundation. They will team up and build on expertise from its member UKEN, a Czech coalition of budding energy communities that, through the support and facilitation of upcoming renewable energy communities, aims to create a clean and decentralised future for the Czech energy system.

[Alongside the European Energy Communities Forum, REScoop.eu will organise its Annual General Assembly](#) on Wednesday 15 May, where they hope to meet their members, look back at the past year and discuss what's to come. They warmly invite their members to participate in the Forum, which will offer numerous opportunities to exchange with colleagues from across Europe, meet new initiatives and learn about the latest developments in Europe's energy transition.

All interested actors can register their intention to participate in the Forum through the following link:

<https://www.energycommunitiesforum.eu/>.



The-RESCOOP is a network of energy cooperatives, a business model where citizens jointly own and participate in renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. We also refer to REScoops as citizen or renewable energy communities. REScoops do not necessarily have the legal statute of a cooperative, but they distinguish themselves by the way they do business.

They typically respect 7 principles outlined by the International Cooperative Alliance, which is why they strongly believe that REScoops are leading the energy transition to energy democracy. The principles are: voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Economic Participation through Direct Ownership; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation among Cooperatives; Concern for Community.

The REScoop model has many advantages. The most important ones are listed below.

- *REScoops keep money in the local economy.* REScoops use local energy sources and include local citizens. This way, they keep money within the local community that would otherwise flow out to external investors. In addition, REScoops stimulate local employment and boost the local economy.
- *REScoops foster social acceptance for renewable energy.* Local opposition to renewable energy projects (typically wind turbines) decreases when citizens are given the opportunity to invest in and co-own the production installations. This is especially true when local citizens are involved from the very start of the project, share in the profits, and have access to clean energy at a fair price.
- *REScoops keep the individual investment affordable.* Not everyone has a roof suitable for solar panels, nor does everyone have the financial capacity to make such an investment. REScoop production installations are typically owned by a large group of citizens, keeping the individual investment affordable.
- *REScoops benefit the local community.* REScoops have a clear concern for the community. They usually share part of the profits with their members and use the rest to develop new projects or benefit the local community as a whole. Some REScoops for example have financed the construction of a local sustainable concert hall, while others have built a charging point for electric bicycles. This way, all citizens benefit from the projects and the profits that the REScoops generate.
- *REScoops take action on energy.* The revenues that result from renewable energy projects are often used to finance energy efficiency measures in public buildings. Some REScoops have paid for insulation material for public buildings, while others pay the wage of a local energy expert who helps citizens and the local municipality improve their overall energy efficiency.

For the activities, REScoops look into all aspects of the energy transition including electricity (production, supply, grid management, etc.), energy savings, heating & cooling and transportation. All across Europe, citizens are taking action, and many have recognized the importance of teaming up with their



municipalities. The activities include Collaboration with municipalities; Energy efficiency; Citizen-led renovation; E-Mobility.

EScoop.eu currently represents over 2250 energy cooperatives and 1,500,000 European citizens, demonstrating that Europe's citizens are ready to "take energy into their own hands". These millions of European citizens, organized in thousands of cooperatives are proposing actions from below and driving a movement that is sweeping across Europe, from the Czech Republic to Sweden and from France to Bulgaria, showing how the energy transition can - in fact - be green and fair for all.

To know more

[European energy-communities forum 2024](#)

[RESCoopeu website](#)

[European energy communities forum in Escoop eu website](#)

[Escoop eu Manifesto](#)

[Reescop model](#)

[Community energy hand book Brand new guidebook on how to set up an energy community](#)

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