

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY FORUM 2026 AND NEW EU AWARDS FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES

February 2026

REScoop.eu, [the European federation of energy communities](#), announces on its website the [2026 European Energy Community Forum](#) that will take place in Jūrmala, Latvia, on 5–7 May 2026.

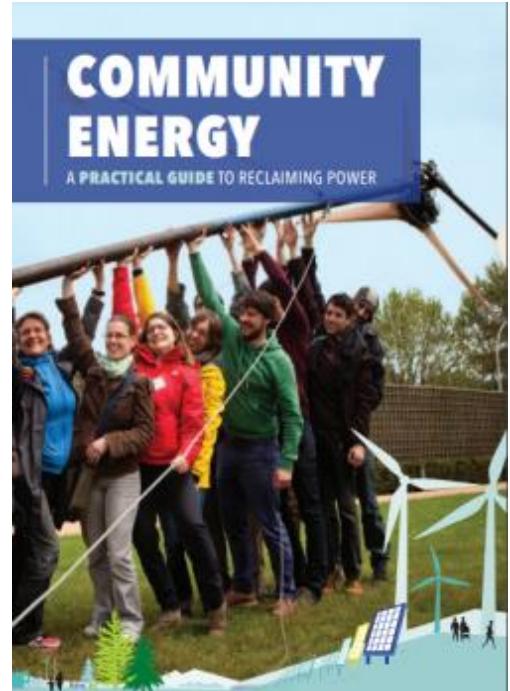
It will be a three-day event full of workshops, exchanges, and activities to meet, discuss and strategise on ways to grow the energy democracy movement and unlock its full potential. Projects will gain tools and insights to develop their energy communities through diverse training sessions. Policy sessions will explore emerging challenges and opportunities, from the local to the European level.

REScoop.eu invites members and allies to join the Forum, to exchange ideas with colleagues from across Europe, learn together, and get inspired. More details on the programme will follow on the REScoop.eu website. Alongside the European Energy Communities Forum, REScoop.eu will host its Annual General Meeting on 7 May 2026, where members will look back at the past year, discuss what's to come, and approve the annual budget.

[REScoop.eu currently represents over 2,500 energy communities operating across Europe and jointly represents over 2 million citizens](#). These millions of European citizens, organised in thousands of cooperatives are proposing actions from below and driving a movement that is sweeping across Europe, showing how the energy transition can - in fact - be green and fair for all.

For the activities, the energy communities represented by REScoops look into all aspects of the energy transition including electricity (production, supply, grid management, etc.), energy savings, heating and 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 for energy efficiency, citizen-led renovation, and e-mobility.

[REScoop is a network of energy cooperatives](#), a business model where citizens jointly own and participate in renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. They typically respect the seven principles outlined by the [International Cooperative Alliance](#), which is why they strongly believe in leading the energy transition towards energy democracy: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Economic Participation through Direct Ownership; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.



The REScoop Federation also announces on its website new initiatives supporting energy communities across Europe, [including the following awards aimed at promoting and scaling up citizen-led renewable energy projects.](#)

Governance Innovations in Energy Communities Prize

This prize, organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, recognises ten outstanding energy communities that have developed creative, inclusive, and effective governance models. These may include new participatory decision-making processes, equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, or innovative collaborations between citizens, local authorities, and local enterprises. The winners will be awarded as follows: 1st place: €350,000; 2nd place: €200,000; 3rd place: €100,000; 4th place to 10th place: €50,000. *Eligibility criteria:* Energy communities with up to 10,000 members. *Timeline:* Registrations are open from 20 January to 25 June 2026.

Fast and Fair Renewables Award

This award, organized by the Fast & Fair Renewables & Grids Initiative, recognises wind energy projects that are reimagining how wind energy can be planned, built, and implemented. The initiative advocates for an accelerated energy transition that goes hand-in-hand with social justice, environmental stewardship, and genuine community engagement. Winners will have the opportunity to gain broad visibility through the Fast and Fair initiative's channels, stakeholder channels, and a media feature. Additionally, all shortlisted projects will receive funding support to attend WindEurope's annual conference. *Eligibility criteria:* Recently accomplished (in the past three years) multi-stakeholder wind energy projects in Europe. *Timeline:* Applications are open until 20 February 2026.

[REScoop.eu is also working to build a global network for energy democracy](#) through meetings and the exchange of practices on community energy. The publication [Community Energy: A practical guide to reclaiming power](#), produced by gathering expertise from 27 projects around Europe, is packed with instructions, practical tips, powerful success stories and invaluable resources to build a local, community-led renewable energy revolution. This Guide is a useful tool published in different languages for cooperatives operating in different contexts and interested in implementing an energy community in their own territories.

To know more

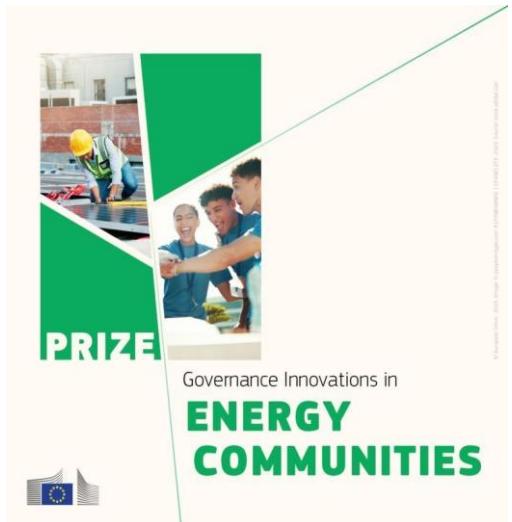
[News on European energy Communities Forum 2026](#)

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[RESCCoop.eu Model](#)

[RESCoop.eu Awards](#)



[Community energy a practical guide to reclaiming power](#)

[RESCoop Policy priorities](#)

[RESCoop 2024 Annual Report](#)

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