

COMMUNITY ENERGY PRACTICES ARE SPREADING ACROSS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES OF EUROPE

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[The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#) (CINEA) is diffusing the A new ENERGIZE report highlighting best practices from energy communities across Europe and showing how local solutions can drive the global energy transition.

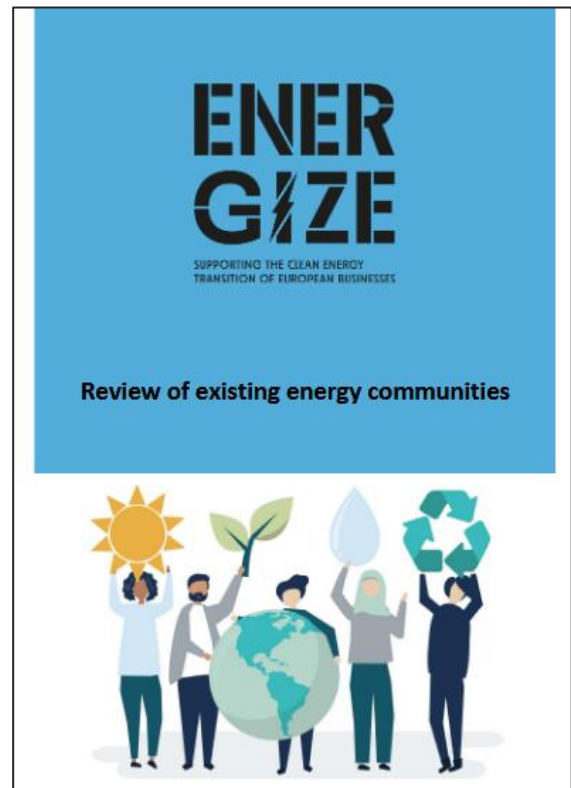
The ENERGIZE project, co-funded by the European Commission under the LIFE Clean Energy Transition program, aims to accelerate the clean energy transition in European industrial zones. ENERGIZE seeks to reduce CO₂ emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and create sustainable skills and job opportunities by fostering collaborative energy models.

Energy communities are a powerful driver of Europe's sustainable transition, generating local renewable energy, improving efficiency, and building resilience from the ground up. The new report from the ENERGIZE project analyses over 60 successful initiatives to identify best practices that combine governance, financing, technology, and, most importantly, community engagement.

[The ENERGIZE Report Review of existing energy communities](#) explores the key success factors in the development of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) across Europe. Energy communities play an essential role in the energy transition, yet their implementation remains complex due to legal, financial, and governance challenges. While European policies actively promote these models, their success depends on a combination of factors, including strong stakeholder engagement, well-defined governance structures, and appropriate financing mechanisms.

Key takeaways from the Report include:

- Local solutions that work: Communities such as Thermo Bello (Netherlands) and Repowering London design projects around local needs, linking energy with heating, water management, and job creation.
- Municipal leadership: Local authorities in Austria, Italy, and Spain support energy communities with policies, governance support, and incentives, proving how municipalities can act as enablers.
- Creative financing models: Energy communities in Greece, Italy, and Spain use crowdfunding, cooperative shares, and public funds to finance projects while ensuring economic stability.



- Engaged citizens: Initiatives like Brixton Solar (UK) demonstrate the power of cooperative models where local residents are directly involved in decision-making and energy education.
- Innovation and ownership: Islands like Eigg (UK) and Samsø (Denmark) lead the way in energy self-sufficiency through local ownership and a circular approach to energy.

The ENERGIZE Report shows that there is no one-size-fits-all model, but successful energy communities share a common ingredient: strong local involvement supported by smart financing and governance.

[The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#) (CINEA) manages European Commission programmes that contribute to decarbonisation and sustainable growth.

Energy community practices are increasingly expanding in European countries and territories. Through energy communities, European citizens are organising themselves to take an active role in the energy transition, delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits to their members and paving the way toward fairer, more resilient societies. REScoop.eu, the European federation of energy communities is a growing network that currently represents 2,500 energy communities and their 2 million citizens across Europe. REScoop.eu members apply the 7 cooperative principles in their daily practice, as outlined by the [International Cooperative Alliance](#), leading the energy transition towards 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.

REScoop.eu manages and maintains the [Energy Community Platform](#) established in 2022. Rescoop.eu [produces and disseminates guides, information, and training materials](#) to further expand the movement and practices of community energy in the various countries and territories involved. [In May 2025 REScoop.eu also organized the European Energy Community Forum in Poland, the annual meeting of the Network.](#)

[The year 2025 has been designated by the UN General Assembly as the International Year of Cooperatives](#), and the REScoop.eu Network is working to use this event to enhance collective action, rooted in fundamental cooperative values such as autonomy, democracy, and solidarity. In this framework, energy communities empower ordinary citizens to decide how they produce and consume energy, fundamental aspects of our societies' resilience and the Network will continue its efforts to defend the voices of citizens and build energy democracy.

To know more

[ENERGIZE Report 2025](#)

[European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)



[Energy Community Forum 2025](#)

[RESCoop.eu Network of Energy Cooperatives](#)

[Energy Community Platform](#)

[Community Energy Practical Guide](#)

[Community Energy Practical Guide PDF](#)

[RESCoop.eu Annual Report 2024](#)

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