

What are Energy communities?

Energy communities are an important enabling model that combines citizen participation, local ownership and renewable energy development.

By organising citizens, municipalities and local businesses around shared energy projects, energy communities can mobilise investment, build social acceptance and support the local implementation of climate policies.

They introduce new governance models, new ownership structures and new forms of participation in the energy system and act as partners, facilitators or co-investors in local energy projects.

How do energy communities work?



What are the advantages?

1. Redistribution of agency in the energy system
2. Democratic energy system & energy justice
3. Local resilience & long-term decarbonization
4. Transformative social innovation
5. Turn passive consumers into co-owners, decision-makers & co-investors

Characteristics

- Usually employed for long-term initiatives
- Focus on electricity production
- Important role in industrial parks and local competitiveness

Example

[City-led Support for Renewable Energy and Energy Sharing](#), Prague, Czech Republic

Prague Renewable Energy Community (PSOE) was an initiative founded by the City of Prague in 2021 to accelerate the development of renewable energy and make clean electricity more accessible for both municipal organisations and citizens. PSOE provided comprehensive support for the preparation, implementation, and long-term operation of renewable energy projects, especially photovoltaic systems installed on public and private buildings.

[Creation of Local Solar Energy Communities on Municipal Buildings](#), Valladolid, Spain

The City Council of Valladolid has granted a concession to install solar panels on municipal rooftops and create local energy communities. These cooperatives will provide shared solar selfconsumption to households within 2,000 meters, benefiting around 390 families. The initiative supports the city's energy transition, prioritises lower-income households, and offers free energy advisory services.