What are Cooperatives?

A cooperative is an autonomous association of people who raise funds to implement and manage energy-related projects through investors, other citizens, and cooperative banks or subsidized loans.

How does it work?

Cooperatives are established through non-for-profits, which take care of administrative, operational, and financial tasks related to the implementation and management of the project.

What are the benefits?

1. Community-based
2. Can include government and donor funding
3. Takes advantage of growing interest of community-based schemes

Example

Eeklo, Asse & Beersel, Belgium

Local municipalities use revenues from wind power projects to pay for an expert who initiates renewable energy sources and energy efficiency projects.