

Engaging Citizens in Community Heating Projects

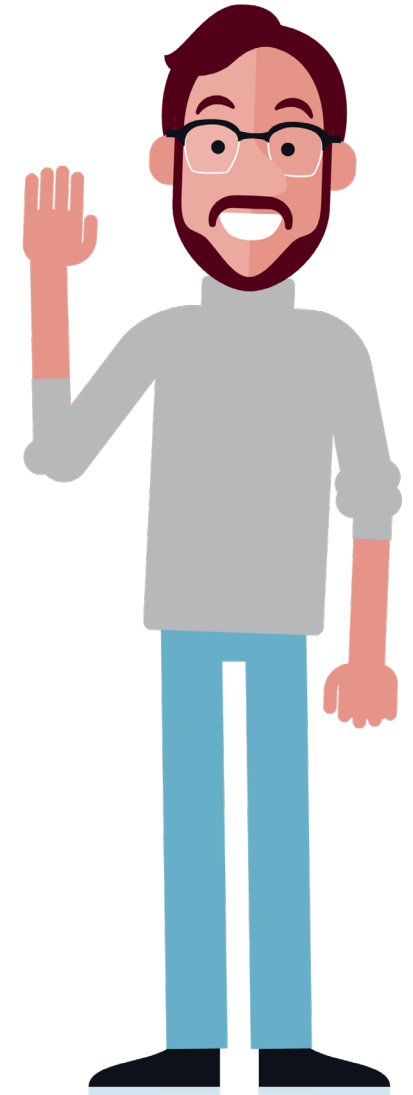
Engaging citizens in H&C planning

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Overview

- Citizen-led activities
 - ✓ Energy Communities + Benefits
 - ✓ H&C Planning in EU legislation
 - ✓ Community-led Heating and Cooling (CH&C) examples
 - ✓ How to start?



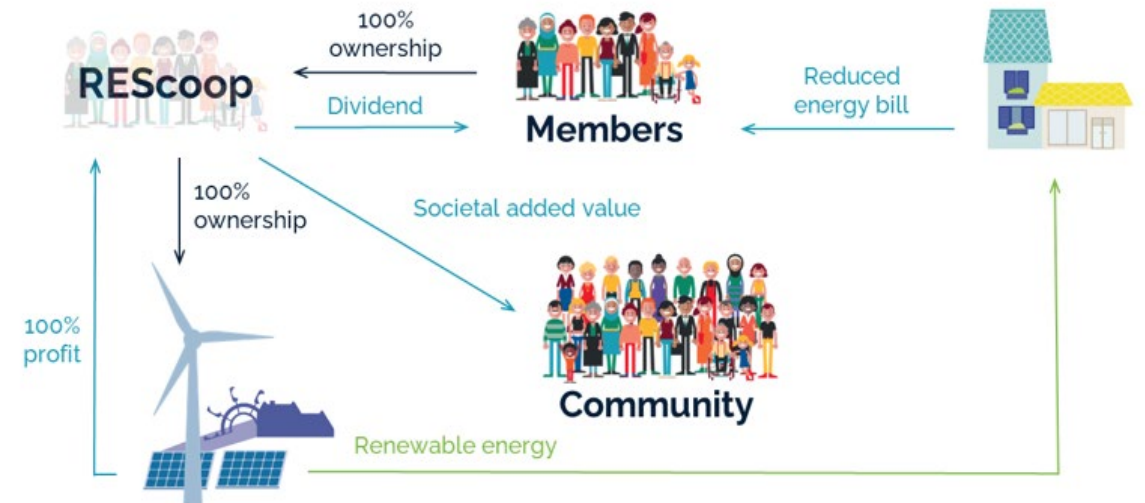
What is an « energy community »?»

REScoops are **energy cooperatives** - officially recognised in the EU's Clean Energy Package as 'citizen' and 'renewable' **energy communities** - a business model where **citizens jointly own and democratically control** an enterprise that works on renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

Benefits of community energy ownership

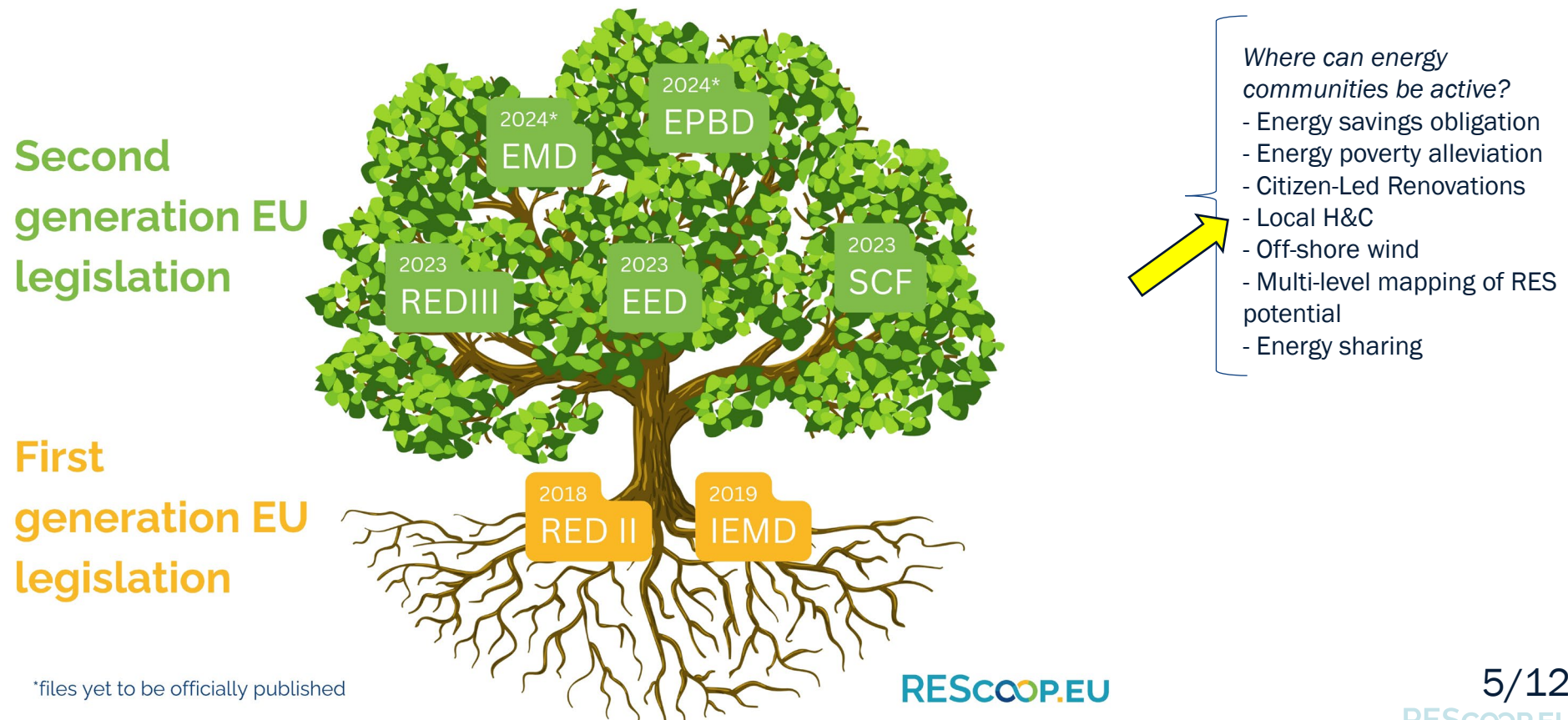
1. Revenues from local renewables meet local needs (e.g. supply, other services, education, renovations/EE, energy poverty)
2. Democratic community ownership, empowerment
3. Benefits for participants (energy bill savings, return on investment, social & environmental benefits etc)
4. Public acceptance
5. Alleviation of energy poverty
6. Promotion of uptake of clean energy

Business model for production and supply



EU Regulatory Framework for Energy Communities – 2nd Generation Laws

EU legislation for energy communities



H&C Planning in EU legislation

- Recast Energy Efficiency Directive (Art.25.6)

→ H&C plans for municipalities > 45,000 inhabitants

→ « Those plans should **at least:** »

(f) Consider the **common needs of local communities** and multiple local or regional administrative units or regions

(g) **Assess the role of energy communities** and consumer-led initiatives that can actively contribute to the implementation of local heating and cooling projects

- Why include citizens?

Democratic governance = social acceptance

Long-lasting citizen-owned projects

Local needs = local solutions through energy community

Economically resilient – No known case of bankruptcy

+ Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) Art.15d
(promote public acceptance of RES through participation of local communities)

+ RED II Art.23.4:
Member States are encouraged to promote RES district heating, « in particular by renewable energy communities »

Community-led H&C Examples

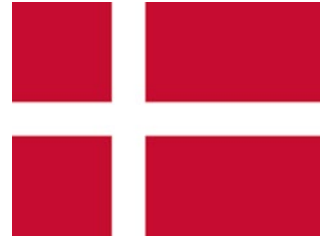


- Middenmeer district in Amsterdam
 - Residential area: 5,000 citizens, 7 schools, 2 churches, SMEs
 - District heating uses waste heat from data centre
- **Collaboration*** between energy community [MeerEnergie](#) + Municipality + Infrastructure operator



* Avoid making citizen participation a box-ticking exercise. Listen to their needs and actively work together.

Community-led H&C Examples



- Waste heat from data center is used in district heating grid, with a heat pump.
- Owned & controlled by all of its members -> 4,500
 - **Social economy:** Non-profit district heating utility (in line with EU definitions)
 - -10% heating bills for citizens
 - Owner of data centre is member in [Energy Community Avedøre](#) (1 vote/shareholder)
 - **Energy democracy:** Has become a platform for local energy ideas



Community-led H&C Examples



Knockatoora (County Tipperary, Ireland), Maura Ryan jokes with her grandson, who is intrigued by the heat pump outside their home. With the help of the energy community [Ecovision](#), Maura and her husband Jim applied the external thermal coating and installed the heat pump:

“Until a few months ago,” says Maura, “we still had a wood stove.”



How to start?

- <https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/guidelines-on-community-led-heating-and-cooling/>



Useful resources

- Guidelines on Community Heating and Cooling: <https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/guidelines-on-community-led-heating-and-cooling/>
- Briefing for municipalities on CH&C: <https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/its-better-when-were-together-briefing-for-municipalities-and-social-housing-providers-on-community-heating-and-cooling>
- Community Power: Model legal frameworks for citizen-owned energy (ClientEarth): https://www.communitypower.eu/images/Clientearth_report.pdf
- RePowerEU Briefing: <https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/repower-communities-not-fossil-fuels>
- 2nd Generation of energy communities legislation: <https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/second-generation-eu-legislation-for-energy-communities>
- Transposition Tracker (REScoop.eu): <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy#transposition-tracker>
- Transposition Guidance (REScoop.eu, ClientEarth): <https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/press/energy-communities-under-the-clean-energy-package>
- Financing Tracker: <https://www.rescoop.eu/financing-tracker>
- Financing guide for Managing Authorities: <https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/following-the-frontrunners-a-public-financing-guide-for-managing-authorities>
- Principles for a Social Climate Fund: <https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/green-solidarity-guiding-principles-for-a-truly-just-social-climate-fund>
- Potential for energy citizens in the EU (CE Delft): <https://cedelft.eu/publications/the-potential-of-energy-citizens-in-the-european-union/>
- The local economic impact of citizen projects (Energie Partagee): <https://energie-partagee.org/ressource/etude-retombees-eco-2/>

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