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EEG Salzburger Seenland

Inside Austria's unique town-to-town shared electricity scheme

11 towns decided to pool their solar power as a way to maximise use and increase flexibility of their self-produced energy. To simplify the process, they leveraged on an existing regional governance structure. This very first 100% municipal energy community powering very different types of public buildings is a great example on how to collectively reduce public spending and increase energy resilience of a wider area.


Photo: Hans Ziller

The challenge

Beginning of the 2010s, every municipality in the region had equipped some of its public buildings with photovoltaics. To optimize production and reduce energy costs, they wished they could use the generated PV electricity in buildings that did not have their own system. But how to do this without any comparable initiative and without creating a completely new legal entity?

Salzburger Seenland region (Salzburg Lake District)| Austria
44,000 inhabitants

Readiness level:
Operational

Energy sector:
☑ Electricity
Type of plant(s):
☑ Solar PV

Energy activity:
☑ Production ☑ Sharing ☑

Who was in lead:
The regional association of local councils called Regionalverband Salzburger Seenland

Key partners:
- 11 towns, members of the regional association
- Salzburg Institute for Spatial Planning and Housing (SIR) acting as the provincial coordinator for energy communities
- DSO
- National Climate & Energy Fund

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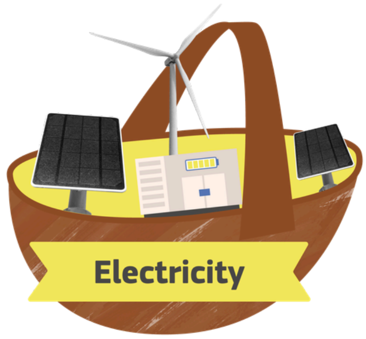
The local solution

The towns of Salzburg Lake District that are also part of the federal 'climate and energy pilot regions' programme are grouped in a regional association for over 30 years now. It seemed natural to create an energy community by using this existing governance structure as the central vehicle that would manage the energy sharing scheme amongst the municipalities – rather than creating a completely new organisation. This avoided additional bureaucracy, made the adoption quicker and the implementation smoother.



Ultimately, the result was the establishment of a purely local authority-run energy community within the regional association of local councils in 2024, the EEG Salzburger Seenland.

Since then, 1,2 MWp total capacity has been installed by the 11 local authorities which self-consume as much as possible of their annually produced 700 MWh PV power in their municipal buildings. **Surplus electricity is supplied to the energy community which remunerates according to jointly agreed tariffs. Electricity that is not immediately used by another member is fed into the grid.** In return, the local authority producer gets a remuneration from its usual electricity supplier. To allow for load shifting, many towns are also investing in e-vehicle charging stations and batteries for own use.

Like almost all energy communities in Austria, EEG Salzburger Seenland uses a dynamic allocation system and, for some consumers, a participation factor. The tariffs are set in consultation with the SIR and are approved by the regional association's Board. They are based on OeMAG market prices and the tariffs of other energy communities.

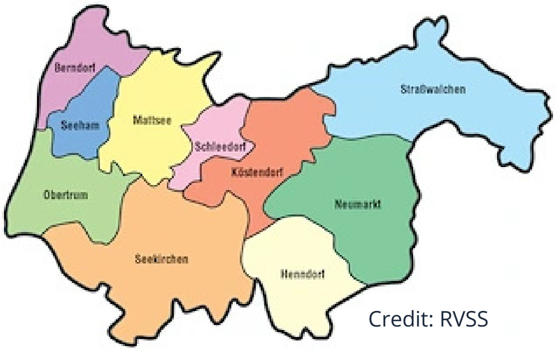
Implementation insights

It took two years between a detailed feasibility study in 2022 and the launch of the energy community with 30 metering points in 11 towns in 2024. The prosuming buildings have diverse consumption profiles: schools, administrative offices, swimming pools, community halls, kindergartens, retirement homes, pumping stations, etc.

Each municipality has designated a contact person with regard to the energy community. The towns' Mayors meet several times per year in the framework of the regional association. Discussions and decisions regarding the energy sharing scheme (e.g. setting electricity prices) are part of these meetings. Billing is managed by the regional association's accountant staff which already deals with shared waste or public transport services between towns.

Credit: Bernhard Seidl - Obertrum PV-Anlage

Role of the municipality and partners



Credit: RVSS

The regional association of local councils was initiator and implementor of the energy sharing scheme. However, the initial signal was given by the federal government in 2022 through new funding opportunities. Support from the then recently established provincial coordination office for energy communities at Salzburg Institute for Spatial Planning and Housing was key in turning the idea into reality. In addition, the DSO Salzburg Netz GmbH provided excellent support: Communication is exemplary, and queries and issues are dealt with promptly.

What was harder than expected

- **Data exchange** with the national EDA Platform: things are running smoothly since the energy community obtains energy data via Enox Share, a service provider.
- **Tax issues** proved to be an even bigger obstacle, but with support from Salzburg Institute for Spatial Planning and Housing and several tax consultants these were addressed.
- **Convincing towns to participate in something completely new** required trust-building during regular meetings of the regional association and evidence from the feasibility study. Initial doubts about whether individual local authorities might be drawing 'too much' electricity under the energy community were dispelled and did not materialize in the end.

What changed in practice?

- **~ 650.000 kWh was collectively produced** and **~250.000 kWh electricity was shared** in 2025.
- **29 producers** (public installations) and **106 consumers** (public buildings) by April 2026.
- Municipalities maximised their local production with a current **40% self-sufficiency rate**
- **Continuously growing**: shared electricity and the number of metering points
- **Financial savings**: In 2025, the energy community achieved savings in grid costs and charges of around 5 cents/kWh of electricity consumed
- **Knowledge transfer on electricity sharing** in the region

Conditions to grow something similar in your place!

- Look for an existing governance structure that could serve as the energy community manager
- Seed funding like the climate fund in Austria was essential for this energy sharing to emerge
- An energy community one-stop-shop for municipalities helps civil servants entering unknown waters

[> Regional association of local councils Salzburger Seenland]
[> DSO Salzburg Netz]

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