RURAL YOUTH EUROPE

Powering Change
Building your own energy community
A step by step guide

Powering Change

Building your own energy community

This guide is part of "Powering Change: Empowering Rural Youth for Energy Communities", an initiative by Rural Youth Europe (RYE) aimed at inspiring and supporting young people in rural areas across Europe to participate in and create energy communities. It provides practical steps, checklists, and tips to help rural youth organise their first team, find funding, plan projects, and operate successful community-energy initiatives. It is designed to be a hands-on companion for rural youth across Europe in powering change in their own communities.

Series Note:
This booklet is the first in a two-part series:
Part 1: Getting Started with Rural Energy Communities
Part 2: Building Your Own Energy Community – A Step-by-Step Guide

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1. Introduction

Welcome back to the series about "Powering Change: Empowering Rural Youth for Energy Communities!", a broader initiative led by Rural Youth Europe (RYE) that aims to empower rural youth across Europe to actively co-create and participate in energy communities. If you've read the booklet Part 1: Getting Started with Rural Energy Communities, you already know that we explored what energy communities are and why they matter. We unpacked the EU's key energy and climate policies that make energy communities possible. We looked at how they give rural areas the power to produce, manage, and share their own clean energy — keeping value local, cutting emissions, and building stronger, more resilient communities. We also met inspiring examples from across Europe:

- Guzmán Renovable (Spain): a group of seven young people who brought solar power to their small village, and with that formed a new sense of community.
- IZGREI BG (Bulgaria): two young brothers who started an energy company that uses renewable power and cooperative principles to solve their village's water problems.
- Our Power (Austria): a social enterprise connecting citizens to rural renewable producers through a cooperative digital platform.
- Ilmtal eG (Germany): a long-standing rural cooperative showing how collective ownership of renewables brings stable, long-term benefits.
- Allons en Vent (Belgium): a cooperative where the average member is just 26 years old, proving that young people can lead large-scale wind projects.

These stories show that there's no single model for success, but all share the same principle: people coming together to shape their own energy future.

We're going to be honest with you: starting an energy community isn't always easy. You might face challenges like complex regulations, lack of startup funding, or simply not knowing where to begin. You might need to convince people around you about the potential and benefits your initiative can bring to your rural community. That's exactly why this guide exists. In the next pages, we'll walk you through a **step-by-step roadmap to launch your own project** — from forming your first team to planning, financing, and running a community energy initiative that works. You'll find **checklists, tips, dos and don'ts, along with useful resources** that can guide you further for every step. By the end, you'll have the tools, inspiration, and confidence to take the next step, turning ideas into action and helping your community become part of Europe's clean energy future.

This guide builds on research and practical insights drawn from leading European networks and projects, including the European federation of energy communities (REScoop.eu) and the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH), whose publications are featured as key resources in the next sections. It combines their lessons, toolkits, and case studies into a hands-on roadmap for rural youth who want to start or grow their own energy communities.

2. Time for action: Building your own energy community

Ready to make a change? First, check if an energy community already exists in your area - see what it does, who's involved, and if its goals match yours. Joining can be the quickest way to learn and make an impact. If not, why not start your own? We'll walk you through every step - from forming your first team to producing clean, community-powered energy.

1. Organise your crew and shape a vision
2. Brainstorm, assess and connect
3. Get official and raise start-up finance
4. Plan and get permissions
5. Deliver
6. Operate, engage and monitor
7. Scale, reinvest and influence

2.1 A step-by-step guide
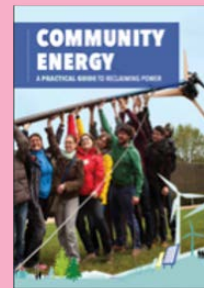
Step 1: Organise your crew and shape a vision

Checklist

☐ **Shape a committed core team** (aim for 4—12 people to start).

☐ **Decide how you will make decisions** (e.g., consensus, majority).

☐ **Create a vision** and write it down as a purpose statement.

☐ **Assign responsibilities** and tasks fairly (e.g., meeting chairing and note-taking, research, communications).

☐ **Set regular meetings,** even at the very beginning.

☐ **Create a shared online folder** and start gathering documents and resources.

☐ **Create social media accounts** and start recording your journey.

☐ **Support your team** in becoming energy literate early on.

Building change takes resilience! *Conflicts, power struggles, or burnout can happen. To prepare for when things get tough, check Chapters 9 and 10 of this* [Community Energy guide](#) *for quick tools on staying inclusive, solving conflicts, and keeping your team motivated and united.*

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HELPFUL TIPS

- *Turn your crew formation into social events — a BBQ or a local sports night works better than formal invites.*
- *Aim for diversity, because including people with different skills and perspectives will strengthen your team.*
- *Use creative tools like a vision board (with images, quotes, local photos) to bring your shared dream to life.*
- *Ask yourselves: What kind of future do we want for our community? Your vision should focus on people and planet, not just profit.*
- *End meetings with clear actions and start with quick progress updates.*
- *Social media ideas: introduce your crew, visually present your vision.*
- *Organise learning and training sessions for your team on topics such as energy systems, cooperative governance, and finance.*

Step 2: Brainstorm, assess and connect

Checklist

☐ **Hold a creative brainstorm session** to list possible activities and technologies.

☐ **Map local assets** — sun, wind, water, and farm-waste potential.

☐ **Select one or two ideas that fit community needs,** skills, and resources; check feasibility, ownership, and permits early.

☐ **Do a one-hour "site safari"** to visit, photograph, and rank promising sites.

☐ **Decide on your first project!**

☐ **Map your project stakeholders** and actively engage with them (citizens, authorities, companies etc).

☐ **Promote the community energy concept to the local council** and seek a public commitment to renewable energy goals.

☐ **Consult local experts** to estimate energy output and costs.

☐ **Keep a contact list** with names, numbers, and notes for follow-up.

☐ **Find supportive professionals** such as lawyers, accountants, or regional development agencies who can act as "middle actors."

HELPFUL TIPS

- *Start with a quick-win project to build skills and confidence.*
- *Energy includes electricity, heating, and transport — think broadly.*
- *Match youth needs with energy ideas (e.g., solar-powered Wi-Fi at a youth centre).*
- *Use online solar/wind maps and create a simple asset map of rooftops, land, and resources.*
- *Engage farmers and landowners for land or biomass.*
- *Organize public events such as Q&A sessions, discussion panels, tours of other energy community installations.*
- *Build a good communication channel with local authorities for legitimacy and support while helping them meet green goals.*
- *Seek mentorship from national and EU energy cooperatives, networks, organisations.*
- *Encourage your city council to sign initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors or to issue a statement backing community energy.*
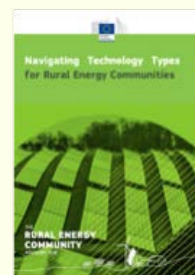

Pictured: Agricultural Photovoltaics fixed shade system over raspberry farming.
Source: SolarPower Europe's briefing

Technology Idea: Agricultural Photovoltaics for Climate-Resilient Farming

Agricultural Photovoltaics let farmers produce food and solar energy on the same land. Covering just 1% of EU farmland could generate about 700 GW of clean power. The panels also protect crops, reduce water loss, and boost farm income — making agriculture more climate-resilient without taking up extra land. Learn more in SolarPower Europe's briefing on agricultural photovoltaics and its role in future energy and farming policy.

If you are curious about other technologies you can use this short guide that tells you all you need to know when it comes to technologies in rural energy communities. Take a look!
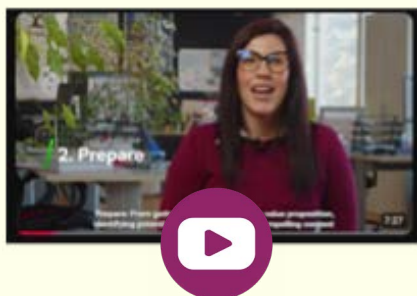
Step 3: Get official and raise start-up finance

Checklist

- [ ] **Choose the right legal form** depending on your ambition and national regulations.
- [ ] **Draft clear, simple statutes** or use NGO/government templates.
- [ ] **Open a dedicated group bank account**, separate from personal ones.
- [ ] **Apply for seed grants** to fund feasibility studies and initial costs (e.g., legal or accounting).
- [ ] **Design a starter financing mix:** small member shares, micro-crowdfunding, local business contributions, seed grants, revolving funds (check the financing ideas below for more detailed funding options).
- [ ] **Prepare a transparent pitch for potential members** — explain risks, repayment plans, and how democratic control works.

HELPFUL TIPS

- *Register as a Renewable Energy Community or Citizens Energy Community to unlock national and EU support.*
- *Explicitly include the seven International Cooperative Alliance principles in your statutes.*
- *Search for guides in your language from NGOs or expert networks — they often explain each registration step.*
- *Remember: adopting a cooperative model builds trust — everyone gets one vote, regardless of investment.*
- *Early funding from members, family, or local businesses can cover setup costs before larger grants arrive.*

See how ZEZ, a green cooperative in Croatia, runs its crowdfunding campaigns — check out their [short video!](#)

Start-up financing ideas that worked

Low-Cost Share Offers: In Spain, the cooperative GoiEner helps new energy groups raise the €3,000 needed to register by offering low-cost shares. Locals invest €10—€100, while small businesses or institutions add around €1,000. Everyone still gets one vote, keeping power in citizens' hands. [1].

Micro-Credit Crowdlending: Communities can raise quick start-up money through small citizen loans. In Greece, Hyperion raised €40,000 in three months via Greenpeace's Genervest, offering a 6% return. [2]. In Croatia, the cooperative ZEZ raised €30,000 in just 10 days from 53 local investors, with a minimum stake of €130 and maximum of €1,300, proving how fast community enthusiasm can turn into real project funding [3].

Revolving Funds: These funds help cover early costs before your project earns income. In Scotland, the CARES Scheme gives grants that become loans only if your project succeeds - repaid money then supports new projects [4]. In the Netherlands, the Development Fund covers up to 70% of start-up costs for solar and wind coops. If a project fails, the loan becomes a grant [5]. In France, Énergie Partagée's EnRciT fund invests early to cover legal and technical studies when communities need it most [1].

Step 4: Plan and get permissions

Checklist

- [ ] **Commission or run a basic feasibility check:** expected output, cost estimate, tech options, revenue model.
- [ ] **Check grid connection early** — talk to the DSO (the company that manages and maintains the local electricity distribution network) and map distance/costs.
- [ ] **Apply for planning and permits** (include environment and land use checks).
- [ ] **Draft land/roof lease agreements or MOUs** (Memorandum of Understanding) with owners and municipal authorities.
- [ ] **Prepare a community benefit and communications plan** (how benefits are shared locally, community jobs are created etc).
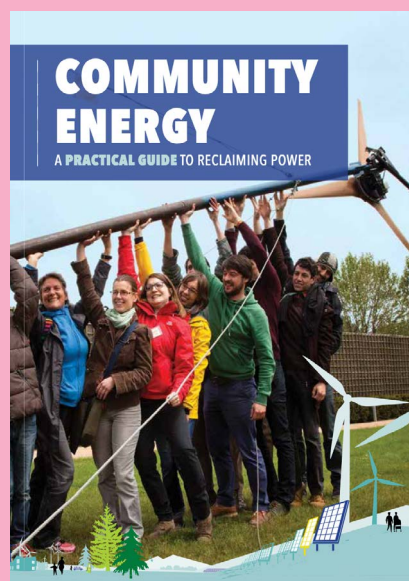
HELPFUL TIPS

- *Partner with a local university or technical school for feasibility assistance (win-win: students get projects).*
- *Put a FAQ page on the project website answering local concerns.*
- *People working in local administration can guide you through planning permits, site restrictions, and local development rules. Good relationships make approvals faster and smoother.*
- *Be transparent and secure with formal agreements about who contributes what and how everyone benefits — for example, offering discounted energy, shared revenues, or community reinvestment.*
- *Paperwork, permits, and financial-related communications take time — form a team of 3 to 6 people to split the tasks and avoid burnout.*

Your vision needs a solid plan! A business plan turns big ideas into real, fundable projects. It helps you stay focused, attract partners or banks, and keep your goals clear.

Check Chapter 25 of this [informative guide](#) for tools and a checklist to shape your mission, plan your strategy, and secure financing. Remember: your business plan is a living document — build it together and keep it growing as your project evolves!

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Step 5: Deliver

Checklist

☐ **Finalize financing package** (usually a mix of equity, loans, grants — see our financing tips below!).

☐ **Tender and sign construction and maintenance contracts.**

☐ **Install monitoring and data systems** (e.g., smart meters and energy management systems).

☐ **Plan a public launch day** to celebrate and increase visibility and membership.

☐ **Celebrate milestones** - from permits to your first kilowatt.

☐ **Explore Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) opportunities,** i.e., long-term deals to sell your electricity.

HELPFUL TIPS

- *When seeking financing through loans, skip traditional banks that don't understand community projects — go for ethical or cooperative banks that share your values and support early-stage initiatives.*
- *Finding money through grants can be difficult. Ask experienced people to review your application, and don't give up if you need to revise or reapply.*
- *Use local workers and suppliers for construction and maintenance to keep jobs, skills, and income in your community.*
- *PPAs with local partners, such as schools or other public facilities, can guarantee steady income.*

Cracking the funding code of energy communities

Building your main project takes serious funding. But don't worry - energy communities have many ways to raise the money! Most use a mix of member investments (equity), loans (debt), and grants. Here are some typical ways to finance your energy community:

Citizen shares: Community members buy small shares to co-own the project.
Crowdfunding/Crowdlending: People give or lend small amounts online repaid later with interest.
Cooperative Funds: Larger cooperatives invest in smaller ones.
Debt Financing: Borrowing loans from commercial, ethical, or cooperative banks.
Grants and Subsidies: Public funds that don't need to be repaid (EU, national, or local).
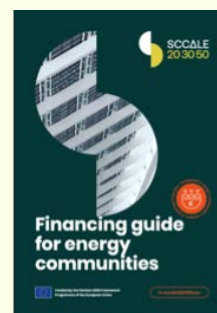**Feed-in-Tariffs:** Fixed payments for renewable energy fed into the grid, guaranteed over time.
Revolving Funds: Public or cooperative funds that act as loans if the project succeeds or turn into grants if it fails.

Want to crack the funding code for your community energy project? These three must-read guides make financing simple, showing you how to mix shares, loans, and grants while keeping your project democratic and community-led.

Start with the SCCALE Financing Guide for hands-on tips, explore Friends of the Earth Europe's report for the EU policy and funding landscape, and dive into the RECAH Guidance for rural-specific strategies that take you from idea to operation.

Check out the Extra Resources at the end of this guide for ways to discover ongoing funding opportunities!

Step 6: Operate, engage and monitor

Checklist

☐ **Create simple governance** — hold open monthly meetings, rotate chairing so everyone gets a turn in leading.

☐ **Track your impact** by monitoring energy produced, money saved, members joined, and stories of change.

☐ **Communicate constantly**, with short updates on social media, flyers at the market, mini-videos of milestones on social media.

☐ **Engage your local community** and make sure the benefits reach everyone.

☐ **Keep a "what-if" file**, where you note key risks (e.g., tech failures, volunteer burnout) and your backup plans.

☐ **Plan the decommissioning** or refurbishment of the renewable energy installation for the end of its life cycle.

☐ **Maintain regular, open communication with members** and residents near installations.
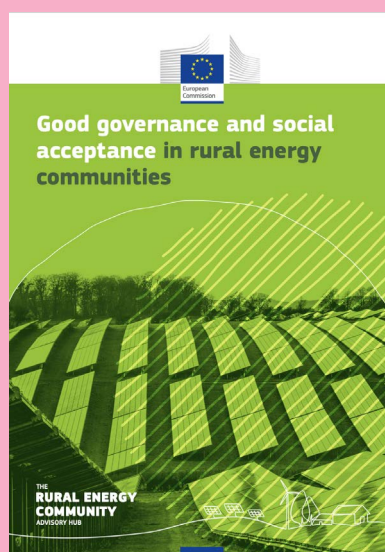
HELPFUL TIPS

- *Post a 1-minute recap video or infographic after every big vote so everyone feels included.*
- *Publish easy-to-understand updates about production, revenues, and community benefits to strengthen legitimacy and keep members informed and proud.*
- *Mix work and fun: run a "solar jam" evening or pizza-and-planning night.*
- *Turn monthly data into a scoreboard ("This month we powered 2 homes!").*
- *Run mini-workshops for local people, especially youth.*
- *Host an "energy festival": music + food + DIY demos (e.g., build a phone solar charger, pedal-power the DJ booth).*
- *Form Working Groups or Taskforces that plan and implement actions on specific issues such as gender inclusivity or energy poverty*
- *Organize feedback meetings, info sessions, or social events near the site.*

Operating an energy community is equally challenging with creating one - even more so.

This guide is meant to assist rural energy communities in successfully governing their energy projects and in getting public acceptance.

European Commission

Good governance and social acceptance in rural energy communities

THE **RURAL ENERGY COMMUNITY** ADVISORY HUB

Step 7: Scale, reinvest and influence

Checklist

- [ ] **Adopt a clear reinvestment policy** — decide how surplus funds will benefit the community.
- [ ] **Explore expansion into new areas,** e.g., heating, transport, energy-saving, renovations.
- [ ] **Document your model** and create a **mentoring pack** for nearby villages.
- [ ] **Create stable partnerships** with other energy communities.
- [ ] **Join regional and national networks** (e.g., REScoop.eu) to connect and grow.
- [ ] **Engage in advocacy:** ask local and national authorities for stronger support for energy communities.
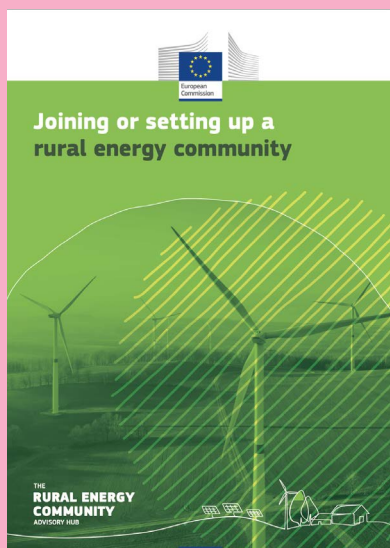
HELPFUL TIPS

- *Set up a "community ideas box" so locals can suggest how surplus funds are used.*
- *Offer free home energy checks, host DIY insulation demos, run a contest for the biggest household energy saver.*
- *If some projects sound far off (e.g., grid ownership), map out what steps could make it real in 5 — 10 years, starting with one pilot or partnership today.*
- *Pair with other initiatives to swap knowledge, apply for grants, or co-host renewable energy workshops.*
- *Write an open letter or make a short video message for leaders, showing what your community has achieved and what support you need next.*

Still nervous about setting up your first rural energy community?

This short guide explains everything in detail from the beginning to the end. Take a look!

Joining or setting up a rural energy community

THE RURAL ENERGY COMMUNITY ADVISORY HUB

✔ Do

Start small and visible. Begin with simple, local projects (like solar panels on a school or a small energy-saving campaign) to build trust and early wins before scaling up [4].

Plan before you build. Do quick feasibility checks on resources, sites, and legal needs to avoid delays and costly surprises [4].

Work with local authorities. Involve municipalities early for permits, land access, and technical help. Their support adds legitimacy and funding power [4].

Bring farmers and local leaders in. They offer land, networks, and credibility, and connect energy projects with local potentiall and needs [6].

Connect with experts and peers. Ask existing energy coops, engineers, or lawyers for advice. Learn from their mistakes instead of repeating them [7].

Engage, listen, and adapt. Meet locals in cafés, schools, or markets. Listen to worries and adjust plans visibly [3].

🚫 Don't

Let outsiders dominate. Don't hand control to profit-driven companies; keep ownership and values in community hands [2].
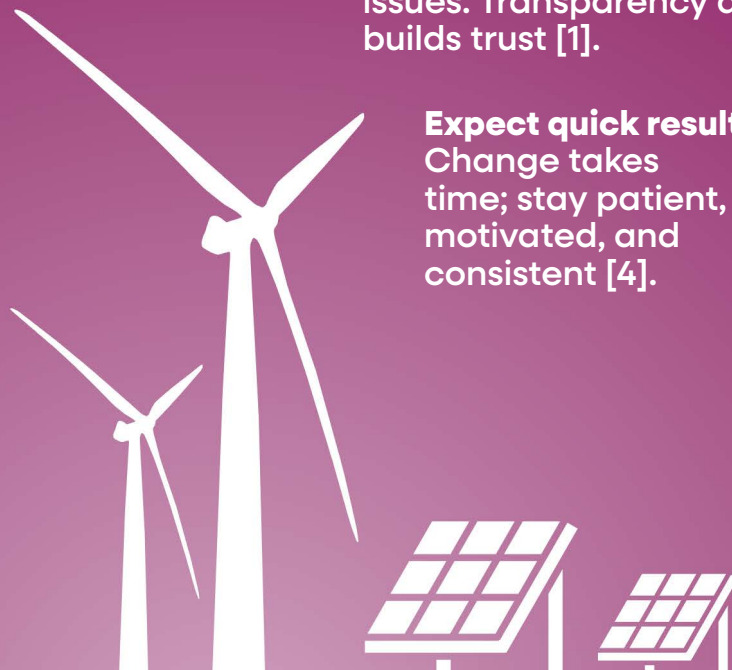
Ignore inclusion. Don't set high entry costs or barriers that exclude young people or low-income households. Keep it open and fair [4].

Assume everyone understands. Don't expect people to "get it." Explain what you're doing with simple examples and visuals [4].

Let meetings drag or conflict grow. Keep meetings short, focused, and respectful; use agreed rules to solve disputes early [4].

Skip risk planning. Always have a Plan B for funding or technical issues. Transparency about risks builds trust [1].

Expect quick results. Change takes time; stay patient, motivated, and consistent [4].

2.3 Resources to create your own energy community

Interested in learning more? Below you can find a thematically organised selection of EU-wide resources to help you start and grow your own energy community. All of these tools were shaped by the real experiences of communities that tried, learned, and succeeded before you.

Tip: Always check for national-language versions and country-specific guidance.

Step-by-step guides

- [Community Energy: A Practical Guide to Reclaiming Power](#) — A foundational handbook for setting up and running community energy projects.
- [Joining or Setting Up a Rural Energy Community](#) — A short guide focusing on rural contexts and small-scale initiatives.
- [Methodology Guide](#) — A guide to support starting energy communities and help them get through the first stages of development

Financing

Overview

- [Financing Guide for Energy Communities](#)
- [Energy Communities in the EU: Opportunities and Barriers to Financing](#)
- [Obtaining and Managing Finances for a Rural Energy Community](#)

Rescoop.eu toolbox

- [Innovative Financing Models for Energy Efficiency: Ecopower, Pajopower and Brixton](#)
- [Report on Financial Barriers and Existing Solutions](#)

- [Financial Handbook for REScoops](#)
- [Mobilising European Citizens to Invest in Sustainable Energy](#)

Alternative and Ethical Banking

- [European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB)](#)
- [European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA)](#)

Crowdfunding

- [Crowdfunding Renewable Energy](#)
- [Learning Handbook: Citizen Financing Module](#)

EU Energy and Environment funding

- [EU Calls for Proposals Portal](#)
- [European Commission Publication on Funding for the Environment (2022)](#)

EU Agricultural Funding

- [Seven EU Programmes Funding the Energy Transition](#)
- [European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)](#)
- [European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)](#)
- [European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)](#)

Activities

- [Guidelines on Community Heating and Cooling](#)
- [Community Heating and Cooling: The Road to Energy Democracy](#)
- [Business Models for Citizen-led Renovation](#)
- [Blockchain and the Energy Transition](#)
- [Smart Energy for End-Users - Samsø Feasibility Study](#)
- [REScoop Plus Energy Efficiency Toolkit](#)
- [Behavioural Drivers for Energy Efficiency in REScoops](#)
- [Flexibility Services for Energy Cooperatives](#)

Technology

- Navigating Technology Types for Rural Energy Communities
- Technical and Technological Considerations for Energy Communities
- European Wind Atlas
- WinWind Project: Best Practice Cases
- WISE Power Project: Fostering Social Acceptance for Wind Power
- Financing Models for Solar PV Projects
- Solar Panels 101: A Guide to Solar Energy and Systems
- Setting up a Small Hydropower Plant
- A Community Guide to Small Waterpower Development
- Developing Biomass Projects: Step-by-Step Guide

Operation

Overview

- National Legal and Policy Frameworks for Rural Energy Communities
- Operation of Energy Communities
- Guide to Community Energy Strategic Planning
- Report on Existing Business Models
- Exploring the Involvement of Supporting Actors within Rural Energy Communities
- Good Governance and Social Acceptance in Rural Energy Communities
- Community Energy Communication Guide
- Emerging Business Models and Demand-Response Strategies
- Renewable Energy Buyers Toolkit

Engagement

- Integral Role of Farmers in Rural Energy Communities
- Creating Value and Engaging Citizens in the Energy Transition - Rural Energy Communities
- Stakeholder Engagement in Energy Communities
- Guide for Stakeholder Management
- Workshop Facilitation Guide for Energy Communities
- Public Participation in Renewable Energy Projects and Community Benefits

Approaching Local Authorities

- Empowering Municipalities to Develop and Support Rural Energy Communities
- Community Energy Municipal Guide
- The REScoop Municipality Approach
- How Local Authorities Can Encourage Citizen Participation in Energy Transitions

Inclusivity

- Inclusivity Guide for Energy Communities
- Best Practices for Broadening the Ownership of Energy Communities
- Energy Cooperatives Focusing on Solidarity in Europe - Toolkit
- Ambition Statement of REScoop's Gender Power Working Group

3. Wrapping up

This guide set out to help you move from ideas to action — to show, step by step, how rural youth can turn the vision of clean, local, community-powered energy into reality. Throughout these pages, you've learned how to organize a team, shape a shared vision, and map local energy opportunities. You explored how to choose the right legal form, raise funding, and plan and deliver your first project. You also discovered how to keep your community energy initiative running, build trust, and grow it over time — from operating energy installations and engaging members to reinvesting profits and bringing change in your community. Now that you have the knowledge, tools, and inspiration, what's next?

Here are a few simple but powerful steps you can take today to power change:

1. Power Up Coffee Chat (or Pizza Night):

Gather 5-10 friends or neighbours for a relaxed chat over coffee, tea, or pizza. Share what you learned from the energy guide — maybe a fun fact that surprised you ("Did you know we could own our own wind turbine?") or an idea that sparked your imagination ("What if our school roof had solar panels?"). The goal is just to talk, connect, and see who's interested. It's social, low-pressure, and turns the reading of the guide into real conversations.
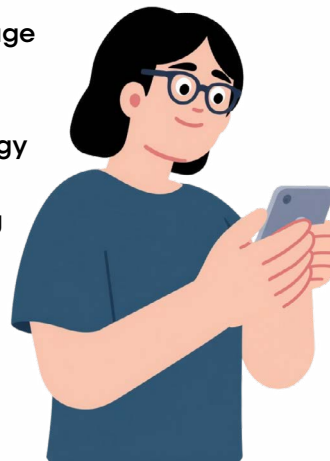
2. Community Energy Social Media Page:

Start a simple page on social media for your area's community energy opportunities. Consider posting one small thing each week — for example, photos of sunshine on rooftops, energy fun facts, or posts of people sharing why they care about clean energy. Even a poll for people to unofficially vote between solar panels or wind turbines can make people interested. It's fun and helps keep the topic alive online without needing much time or commitment.

3. Host Knowledge-Sharing Sessions:

Host mini events where local people — for example, a retired electrician, a tech-savvy teen, or a curious farmer — share a 30-minute skill, like reading a smart meter or building a DIY solar panel. It's all about learning something useful together. No projects or pressure, just community learning and a reminder that everyone has knowledge worth sharing.

4. Ask One Question at a Town Meeting:

Show up at your next local council meeting and ask one simple question, like, "Has the council considered helping our community go solar?" This way you are showing leaders that young people care. Plus, someone who wants to join your efforts might be listening!

5. Make a Future Vision Board:

Meet with people that care and make a visual board - on a wall, notebook, or shared doc — showing your dream for your community's energy future. Add images, quotes, and ideas: solar panels, wind farms, or gardens powered by renewables. This is creative, inspiring, and it helps turn abstract hopes into something you can see.

Remember: you don't have to start big to make a difference. Every community's path is unique, but they all start with one thing in common — a group of people who care about their community and decide to take the first step.

Extras Resources for Rural Energy Communities

Organisations, Networks and Platforms

REScoop.eu: The European federation of energy communities.
Highlights: toolbox of resources for guidance and success stories for inspiration.

Energy Community Platform: a portal gathering tools, network contacts, maps and resources for energy communities.
Highlights: interactive map of energy communities across Europe and a collection of more than 100 resources for inspiration, preparation, implementation and operation of energy communities.

Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH): a European Commission-backed hub offering guidance, best practices, and technical assistance to rural energy communities.
Highlights: a series of guidance documents and best practices of rural energy communities.

Interreg Europe - Energy Communities: a platform collecting regional case studies and lessons learned from energy communities.

LIGE BECK-ON: a one-stop-shop for Europe's local energy communities, offering guidance, training, and opportunity hubs.

FEDARENE: a European network of regional and local agencies working on energy, environment and sustainable development (often collaborating with energy communities).

Opportunities

European Commission - Energy Communities Topic Page - calls for EU-level energy communities programmes are updated here.

REScoop.eu's Financing Tracker — use it to learn how your country is channelling EU funds towards energy communities!

Funding opportunities for energy communities: a news article by REScoop.eu from September 2025 — keep checking their news updates for new funding opportunities!

Smart Villages and Renewable Energy Communities: a guide on how to use rural development policy to support rural energy communities.

Ongoing EU-level Opportunities:

- European Energy Communities Facility — offers to support and fund energy communities to develop business plans.
- Citizen Energy Advisory Hub — offers energy communities opportunities for support, including direct technical assistance, capacity building, and networking.
- Support service for Citizen-led renovation — aims to empower existing and prospective energy communities as key players in citizen renovation projects.

Youth-oriented programmes and organisations

POWERYOUTH: Empowering youth for energy community actions: a 2024-26 project funded under the EU's LIFE programme that is providing useful tools about the engagement of youth in energy communities.

Young Energy Ambassadors of the European Commission: young people from across Europe, selected for a one-year mandate, who are passionate about advocating for and contributing to the clean energy transition, that have been vocal about young people and energy communities (see their Recommendations)

Sustainable Energy Youth Network (SEYN): a network aiming to empower young people in the energy transition movement with hands-on activities that provides useful tools.

European Youth Energy Network (EYEN): a Europe-wide youth network of organisations focused on energy and the energy transition, providing peer networks and collaborative opportunities

Video Resources

European Network of Living Labs: Capacity Building Video Series for Energy Communities: short videos covering various topics about energy communities.

EU Energy Week Videos on Energy Communities:

- Unlocking the potential of energy communities to empower citizens for an inclusive transition.
- Local power, global impact: innovative financing for energy communities
- Not (just) for hippies: Energy communities can be the drivers of the EU's re-industrialisation.

Energy Literacy Resources

International Energy Agency — interactive publications:

- Renewables series: Solar, Wind, Hydroelectricity, Bioenergy.
- Focus on Biomethane and Biogas
- Grid-Scale Storage
- Heat Pumps and their Future

Bibliography

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