Can Greek citizens seize the opportunities of the energy transition through energy cooperatives?

Dirk Vansintjan
04/ 07/ 2020

Introduction

- Dirk Vansintjan
- President of REScoop.eu
- Board member of Ecopower cv (BE)
- Don’t mind getting in touch afterwards
- Presentation (too long) will be made available

What is a cooperative?

- Cooperatives are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled and run by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations.

- Cooperatives bring people together in a democratic and equal way. Whether the members are the customers, employees, users or residents, cooperatives are democratically managed by the 'one member, one vote' rule. Members share equal voting rights regardless of the amount of capital they put into the enterprise.

Historic perspective

Cooperatives today

- 3 million coops worldwide
- 12% of population is member of a cooperative
- Cooperatives account for 10% of jobs
- Turnover of 300 largest coops is 2,000 billion euro

What is an energy cooperative?

- Not a technical concept (not just microgrids or energy islands)
- Not restricted to a specific legal form
- Not just a way of financing energy transition projects

- It’s about democratising our energy system
- It’s about taking owernship of the energy transition
- It’s about inclusiveness
- It’s about making sure that people can share in the profits

What is an energy cooperative?

- Groups of citizens who cooperate on energy transition projects
- Projects cover both electricity, heating and cooling, or transportation
  - Production
  - Supply
  - Distribution
  - Flexibility including storage and demand response
  - Savings
  - District heating
  - Electric car sharing
  - ...

Historic perspective

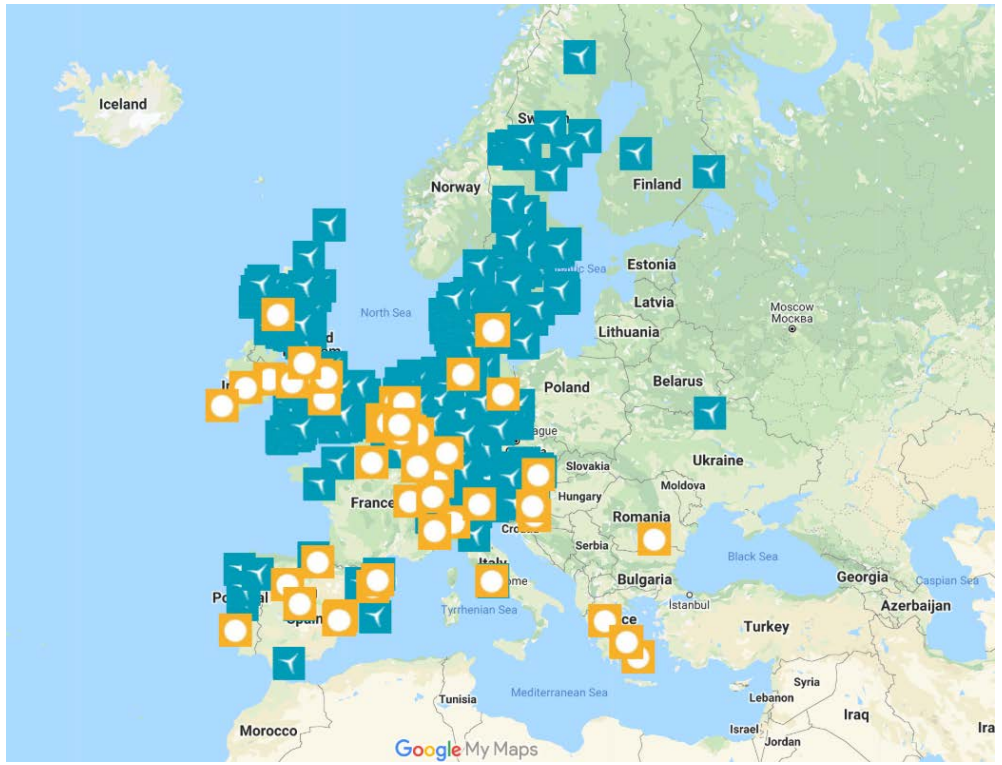
- From decentralised production
- over centralised production
- to decentralised production

Historic perspective

1900 1973 1986 2020

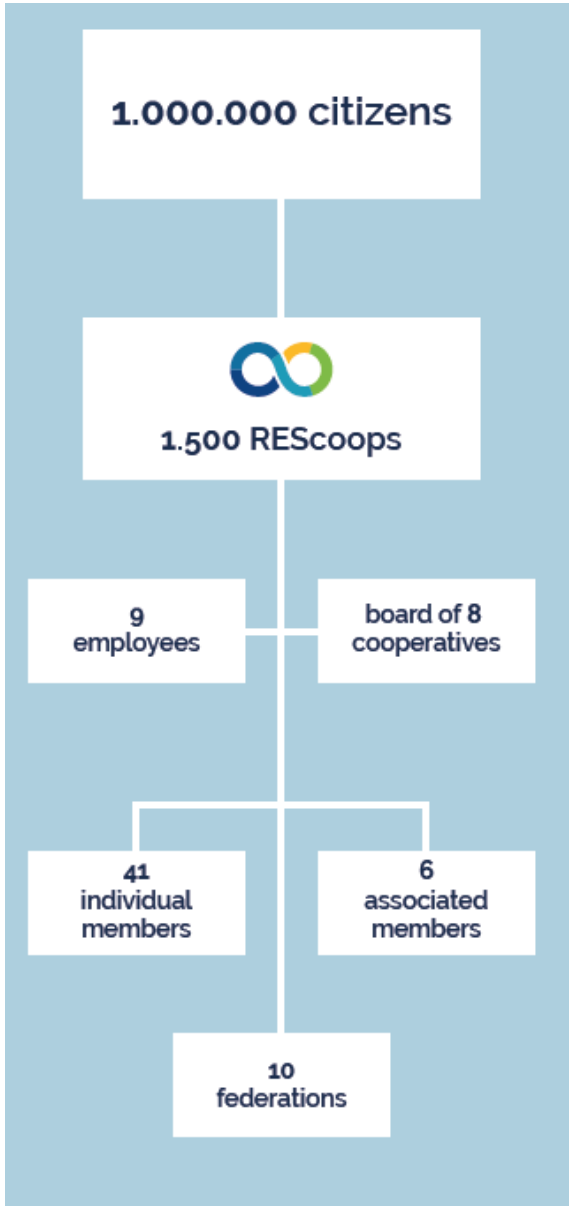
Energy cooperatives today in Europe

- 3.500 energy cooperatives accross Europe
- Mainly North West Europe
- Central Eastern Europe remains challenging
- Accurate data missing (national reports)

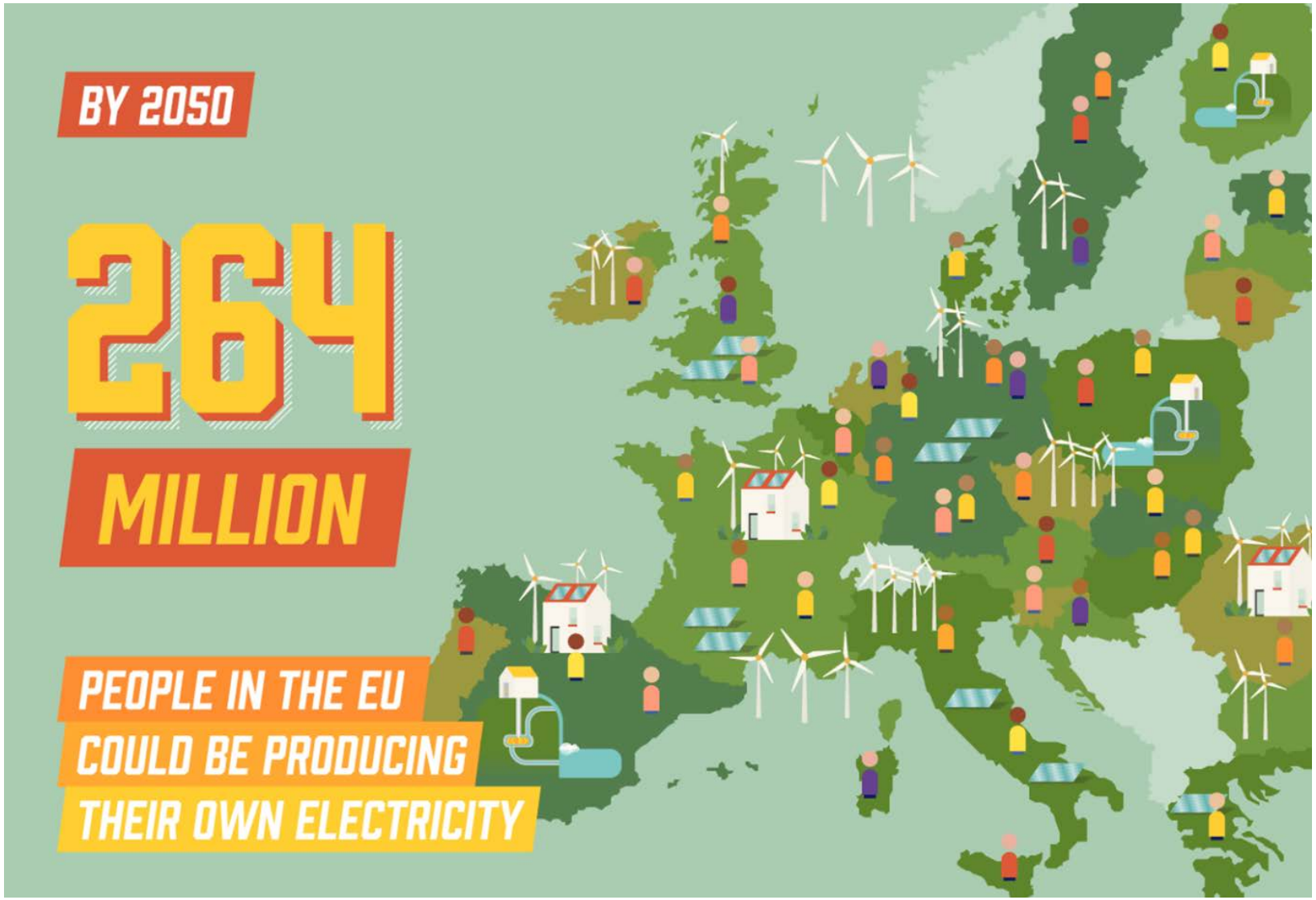


Energy cooperatives today

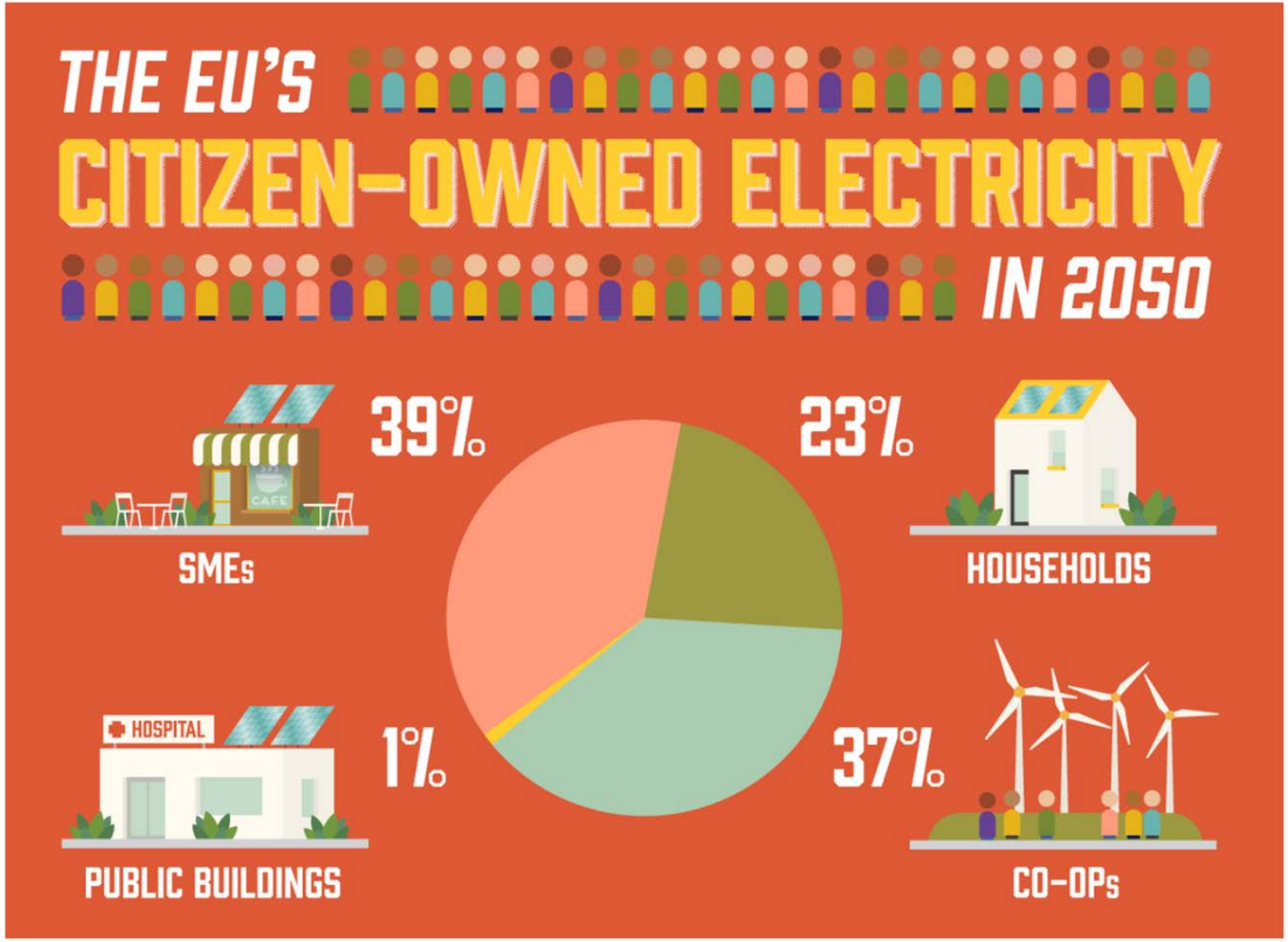
- Young federation
- 1 million citizens
- 1500 energy cooperatives
- Direct or indirect representation
- Main objectives
  - Ensuring citizens' and coops voices are heard in the energy policy debates
  - Fostering international collaboration between citizen energy cooperatives
  - Helping cooperatives to grow and prosper
  - Promoting the cooperative model



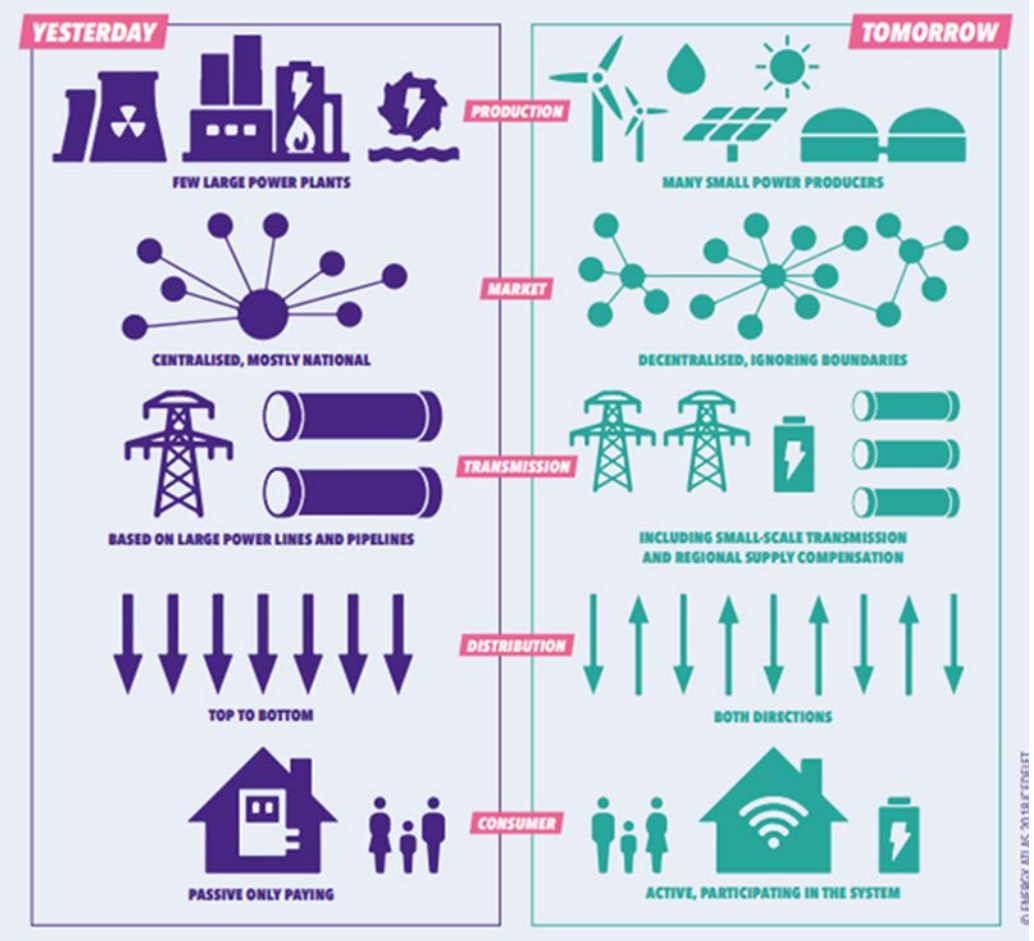
Energy cooperatives in the future

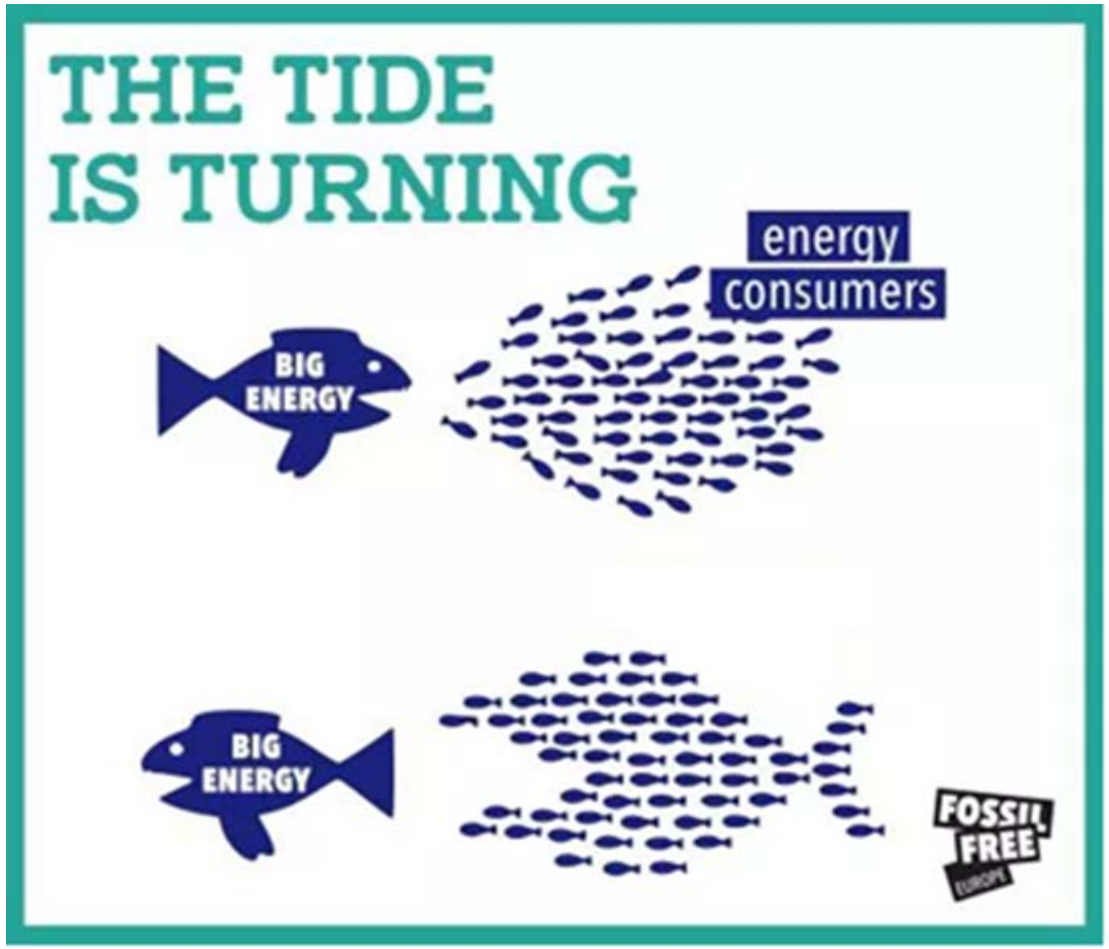


Energy cooperatives in the future



Energy cooperatives in the future





Energy cooperatives in the future

Benefits of energy cooperatives

- Fostering social acceptance for the energy transition
- Keeping individual investment and energy bills affordable
- Sharing profits with members and larger community
- Building a sense of community
- Retaining money within the local community, now leaving local economy

Activities and business models

Producers of renewable energy

WESTMILL WIND FARM CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

BAYWIND ENERGY Co-operative Limited

De Windvogel

courant d'air

COOP STROOM CVBA SO

COÖPERATIE DELTAWIND DAAR KRIJG JE ENERGIE VAN

zeeuwind

SIFNOS

WESTMILL SOLAR CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Suppliers of renewable energy

CUCITER
Comptoir Citoyen des Energies

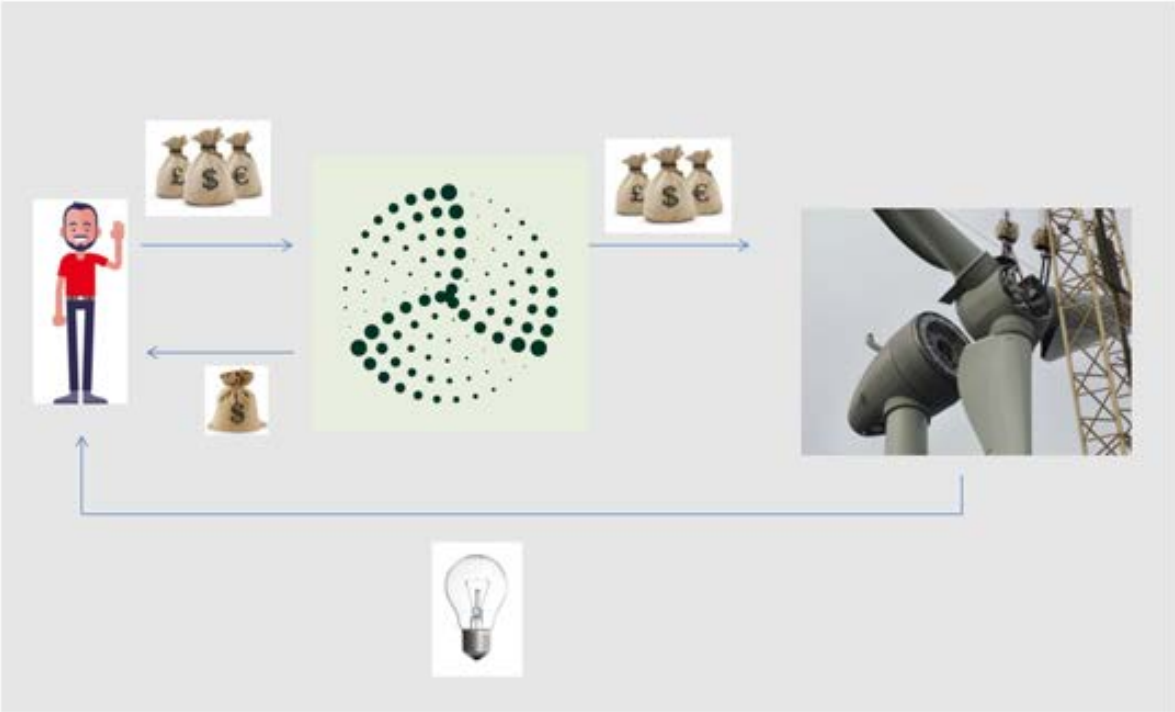
è nostra

GREENPEACE ENERGY

enercoop
L'énergie militante

Coopérnico
Energia verde, sustentabilidade e cidadania

Producers & suppliers of RE



Distribution system operators (DSO)

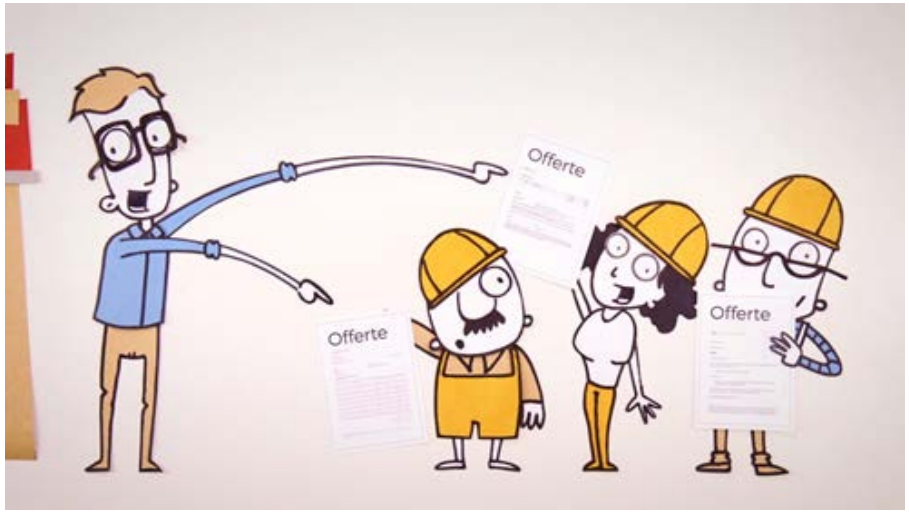
Energy monitoring

One person can make a difference and everyone should try.

– John F. Kennedy

Interactive invoicing

Collective home retrofits



Training programmes

GENERATION WATT

GENERATION ZERO WATT

Accueil | Déroulement | Boîte à outils | Pré-inscription | Contact

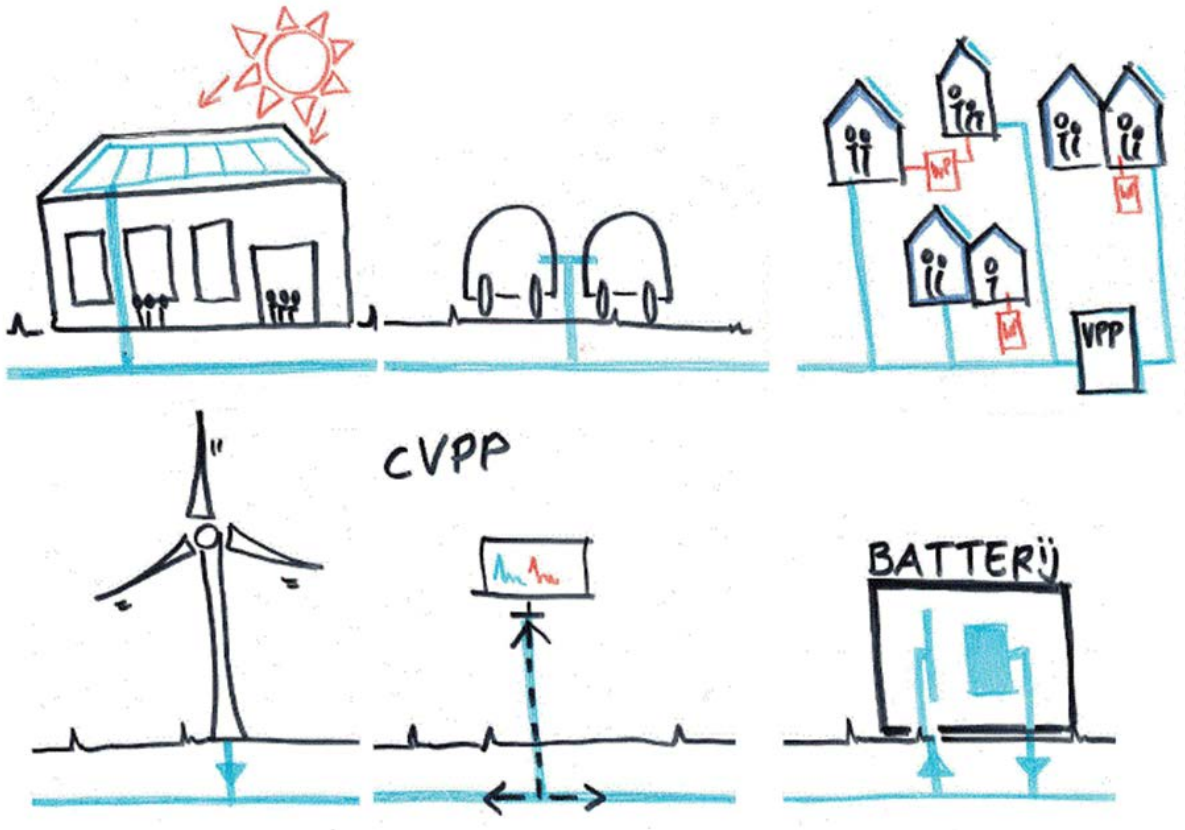
good energy

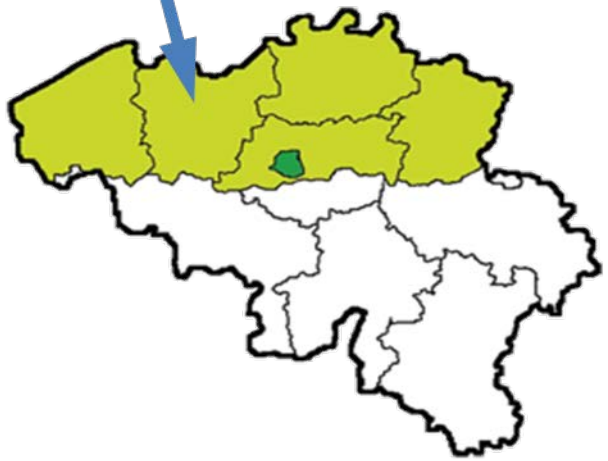
BRIXTON ENERGY

COMMUNITY OWNED
RENEWABLE POWER

Public street lighting

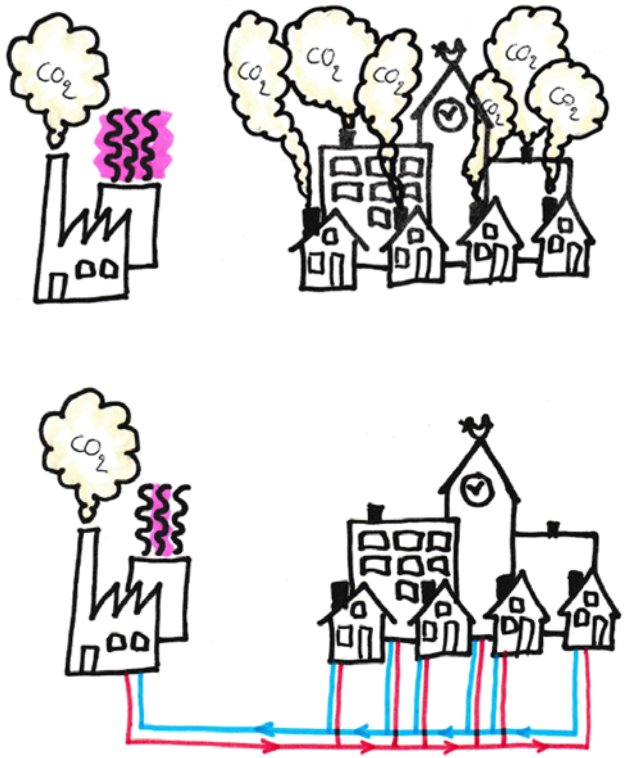
Flexibility, demand response and VPP





BUURZAME STROOM

Heating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WARMTENET
OOSTENDE
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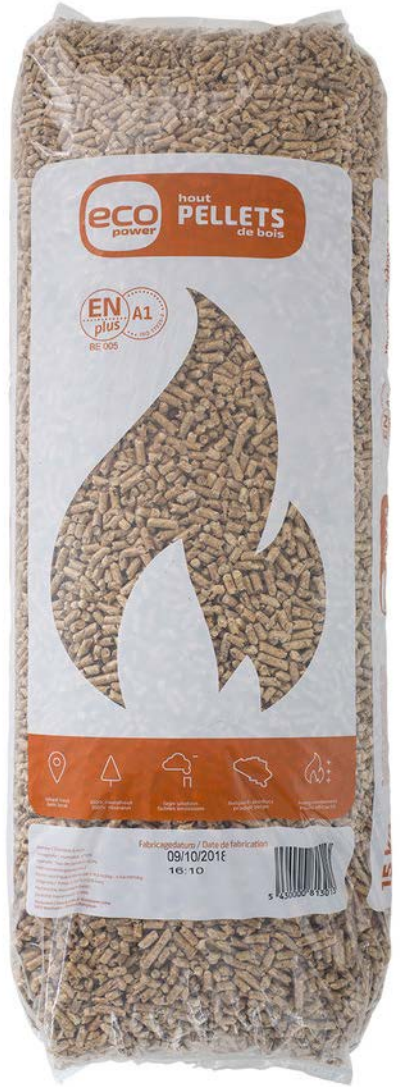
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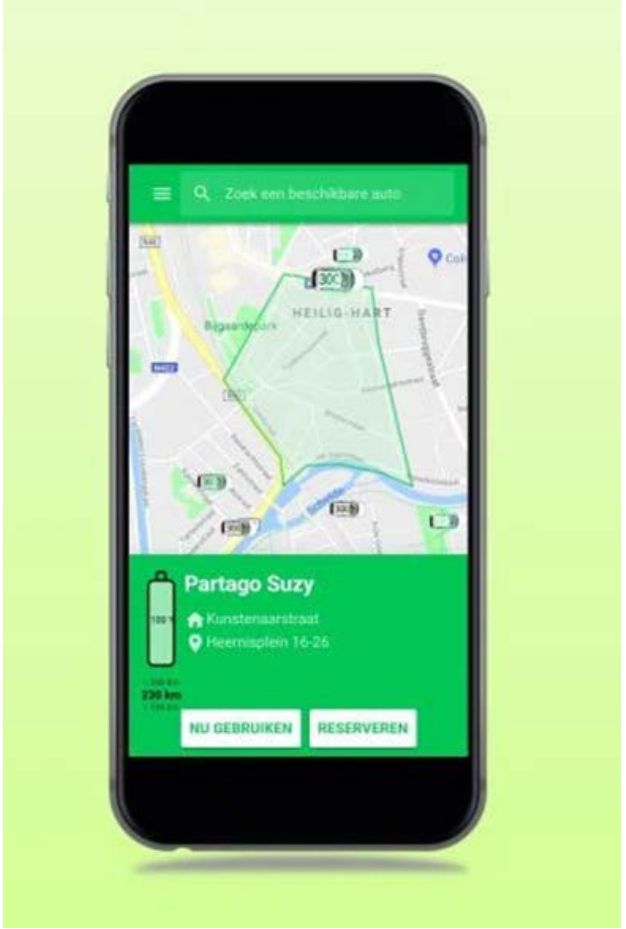
Transportation



Financing and ownership models

Crowdfunding categories

Donation

No ownership

No payback

Loans

No ownership

Payback

Low risk

Low return

Green bonds

Equity

Ownership

No payback

High risk

High return

Balance sheets

Assets

Equity & liabilities

- Equity Capital
- Mezzanine
- Subordinated loans
- Loans

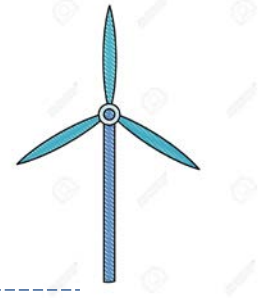
Picking order

Citizens own the installations

Citizens energy cooperative

share

dividend



Citizens own a subordinated loan

Financial cooperative

Private company

share

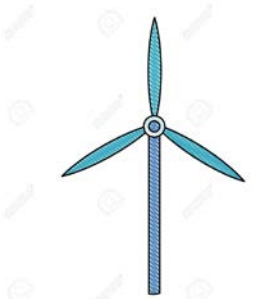
dividend

Groenkracht

Subordinated loan

Interest

electrawinds
POWERED BY NATURE



Not always easy to distinguish

share

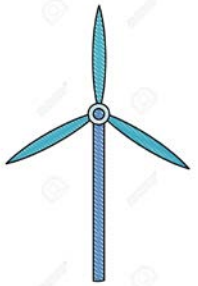
dividend

loan

interest

Citizens energy cooperative

COÖPERATIE DELTAWIND



Not always easy to distinguish

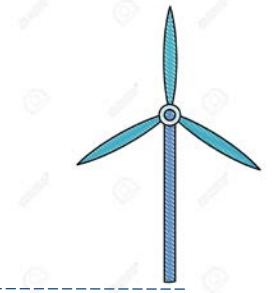
share

dividend

Citizens energy cooperative

loan

interest



Share offers

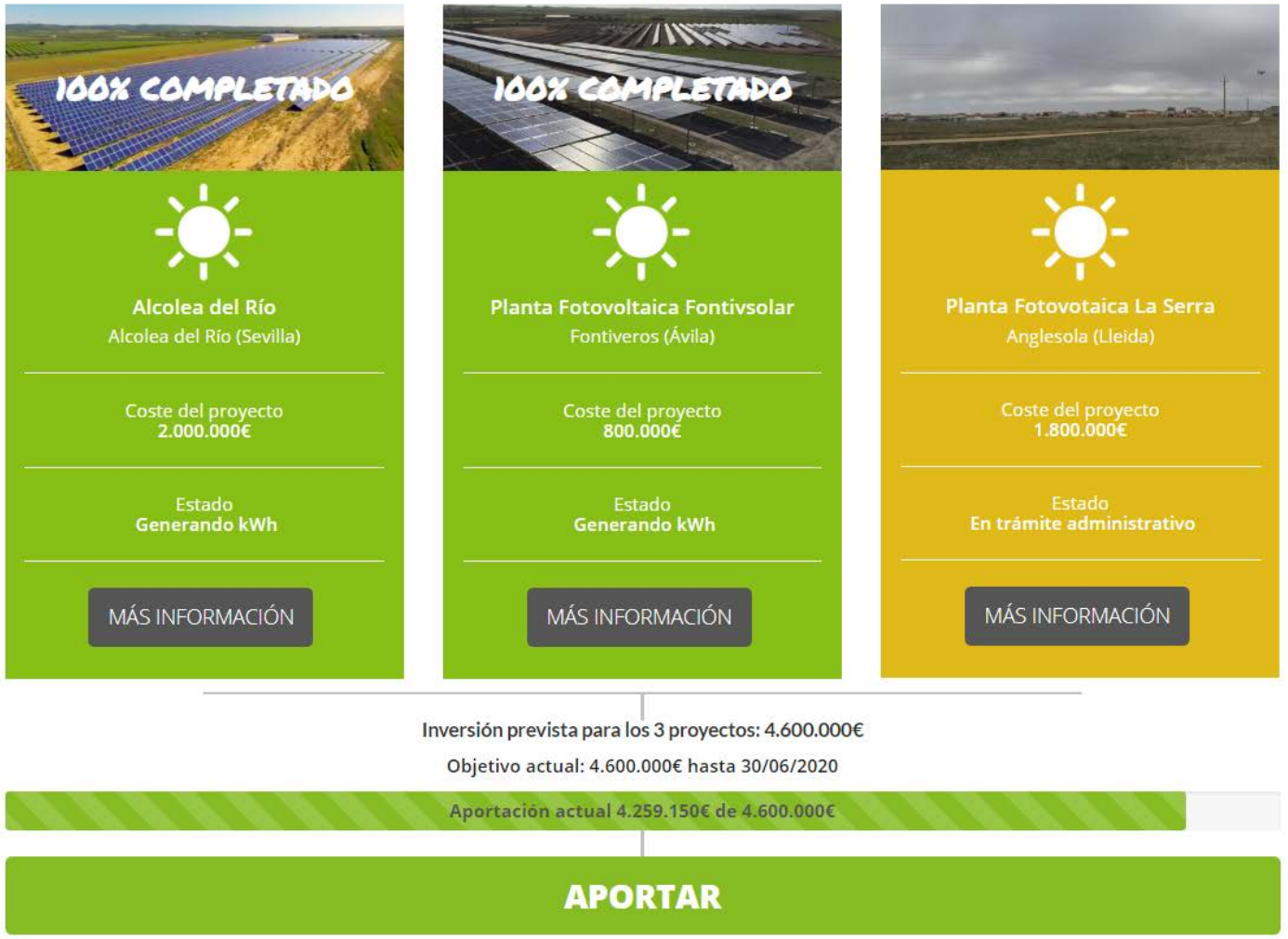
Project specific

Beauvent CV

Not project specific

Ecopower CV

Share offers



Legal entities operating several projects

One legal entity

Ecopower cv

Several legal entities

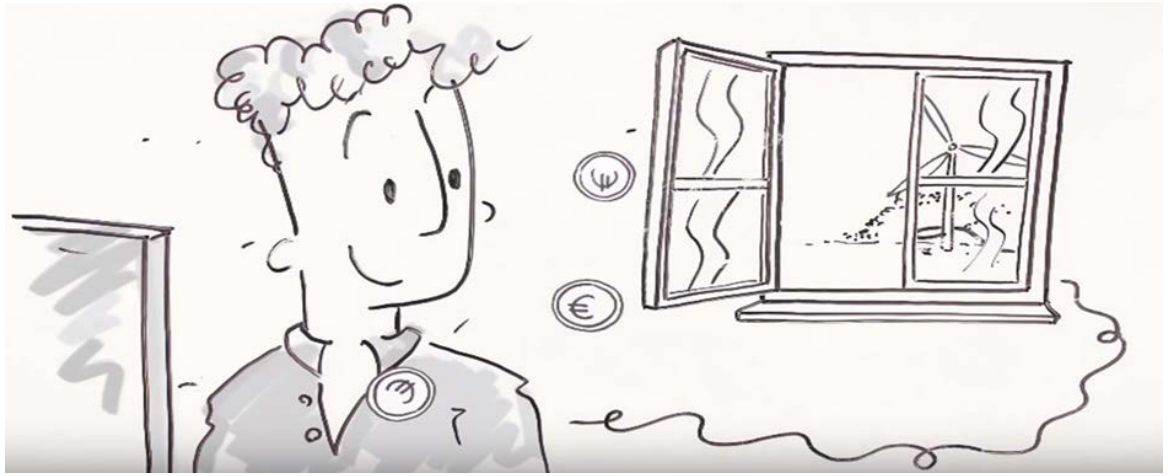
ENERGY4ALL
GREEN CO-OPERATIVE ENERGY

Return on investment

A variety of possibilities

- Regular dividend
- Season ticket or …
- Lower energy price
- Charity
- Public buildings
- Fighting energy poverty
- …

énergie solidaire



RESCOOP.EU

Financing needs of energy cooperatives

Doing big projects

LID WORDEN VAN

COÖPERATIE DELTAWIND

Lees verder

LID WORDEN VAN

zeeuwind

Lees verder

PARTNER

ENERCON
ENERGY FOR THE WORLD

Giving commercial projects back to citizens

Providing seed capital

loan

loan

guarantee

REScoop MECISE sce

REScoop.eu (Europe)
www.rescoop.eu

Ecopower (Belgium)
www.ecopower.be

Courant d'Air (Belgium)
www.courantdair.be

Enercoop (France)
www.enercoop.fr

Som Energia (Spain)
www.somenergia.coop

Energy4All (United Kingdom)
www.energy4all.co.uk

REScoop
MECISE

RESCOOP.EU

Collaborations with local authorities

Sustainable Development Goals

Covenant of Mayors

- Lack of expertise
- Lack of funds to accelerate the energy transition
- Capacity constraints
- Insufficient support for RES projects

Natural allies

- **European**
  - Scotland: 1GW by 2020 – 2GW by 2030
  - Netherlands: wind and solar 50% owned by citizens
- **Regional Belgium**
  - Wallonie: 24,99% citizens, 24,99% councils
  - Flanders
- **Provincial Belgium**
  - East Flanders: 20% citizens + councils
  - Limburg: 20% citizens + councils
- **Local Belgium**
  - Laarne
  - Kuurne
  - Eeklo

Collaborations

- Public ownership
- Private ownership
- Public-private ownership
- Public-community ownership

Public-community ownership models

Ecopower
cvba

eeklo
eigenzinnig
energiek
echt

volterra
DUURZAME ENERGIE
VOOR HET MEETJESLAND

Public-community ownership models

courant d'air

Ecopower cvba

Büllingen

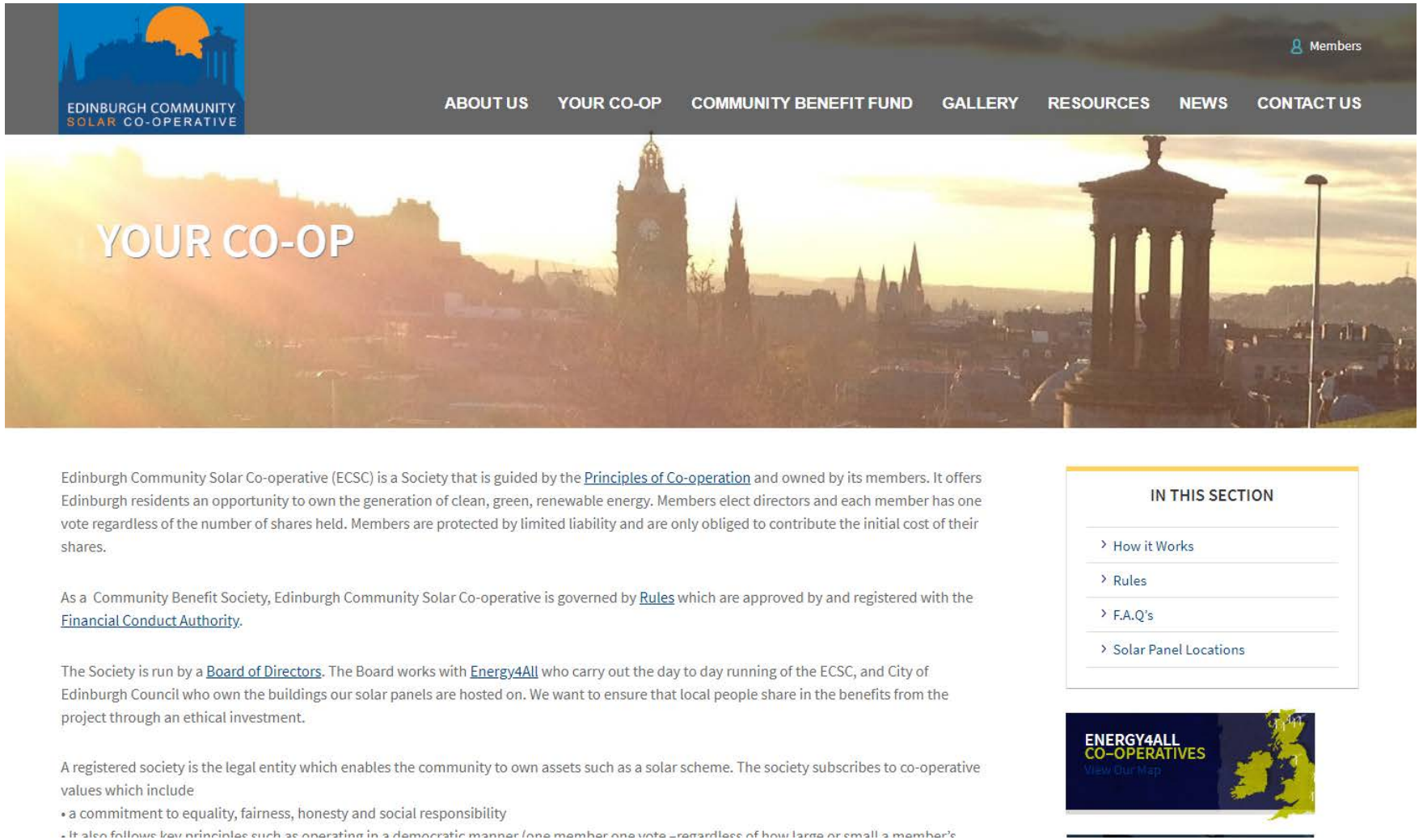
Collaborations with local authorities

LICHT LEUVEN

Ecopower cv

Collaborations with local authorities

Collaborations with local authorities



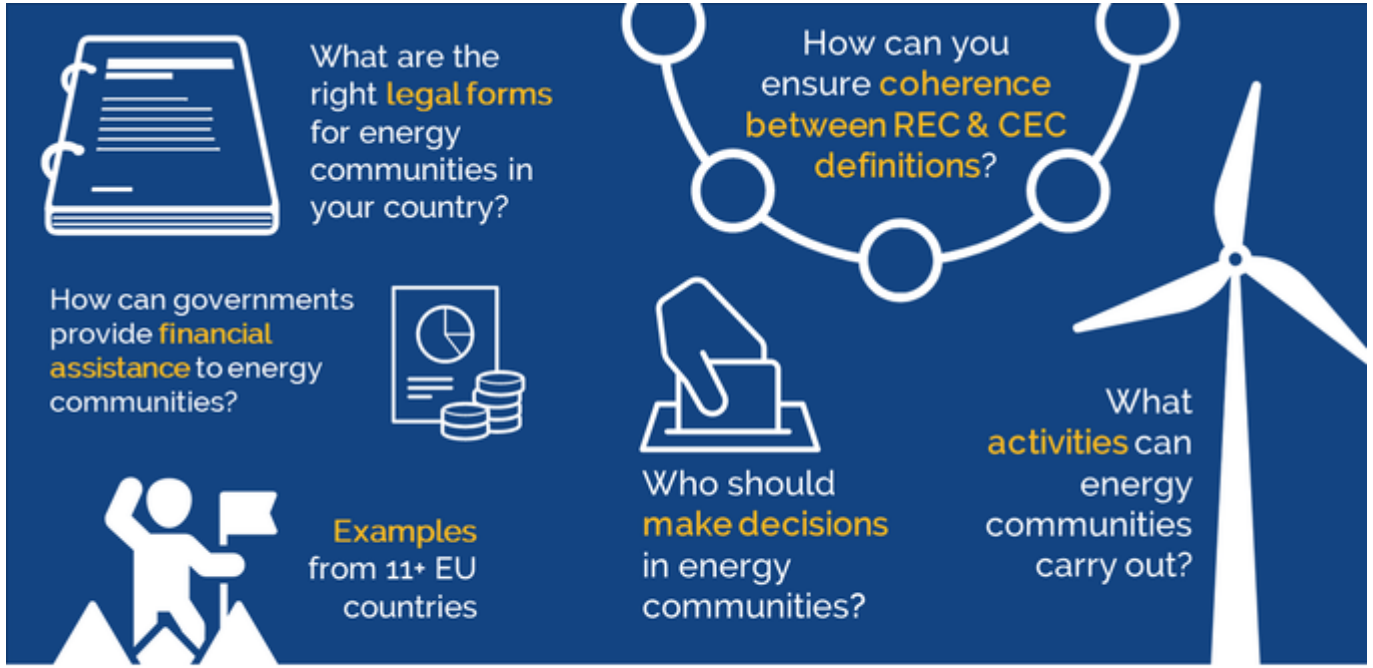
What can local authorities do?

- Join REScoop.eu and become part of a movement
- Recognize role of energy cooperatives in tomorrow's energy system
- Give visibility to energy cooperatives and emphasize benefits
- Consider citizen participation in public tenders

What can the Greek government do?

continue support of energy communities

- design and adopt specific measures (enabling framework REDII)
- transposition guidance document



What can the Greek government do?

don’t overwhelm and overrule the local people and local authorities

=

recipe for failure of energy transition

What can the Greek government do?

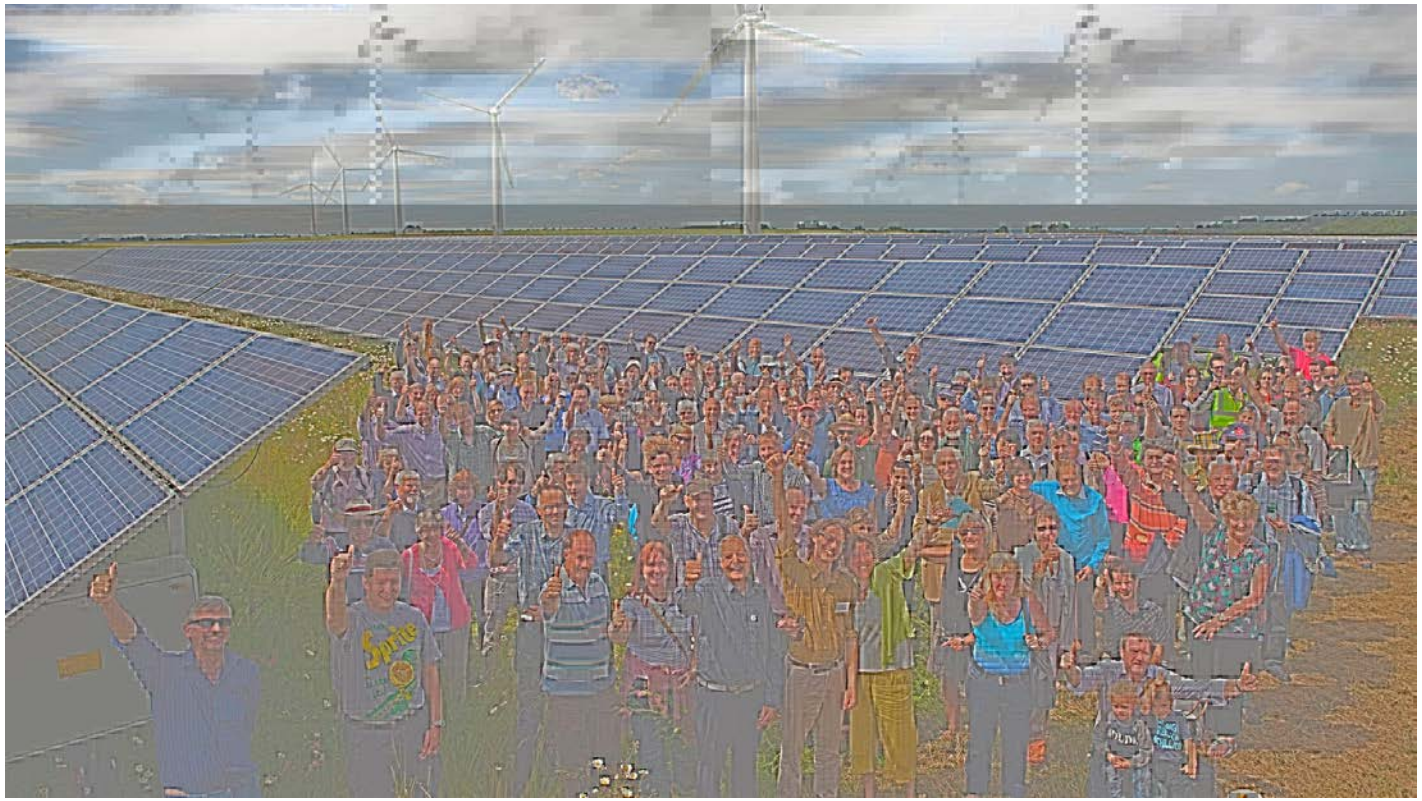
let them design their own transition plan

leave profits locally

=

guarantee of successful energy transition

- 50% offered to local stakeholders (NL)



What can Greek local authorities do?

- Adopt energy communities in their local strategies
- Get in touch with your citizens
- Facilitate set-up of “energy community”
  - Facilitate a secretariat for the volunteers
  - Provide subsidies (‘citizen budget’)

What can the Greek citizens/ communities do?

embrace the model

energy transition

=

a unique chance

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