

Enabling energy communities: A summary fiche

Aim and scope

This toolkit helps local and regional policymakers and practitioners understand how energy communities can generate value and amplify social cohesion. It includes examples of replicable energy community models.

What are energy communities?

Energy communities are typically a local, collective initiative. They can reduce energy costs, create job opportunities, help alleviate energy poverty and benefit society as a whole. Energy communities involve stakeholders – such as citizens, local authorities and businesses – who jointly finance, own, govern, and conduct energy-related activities such as production, consumption, storage, energy sharing and aggregation. Authorities can encourage energy communities, as part of their just transition plans.

Promoting energy communities

The [toolkit](#) covers key aspects authorities should consider in supporting energy communities. These include

- working with energy communities to promote the narrative that energy production provides concrete social and economic value to citizens
- promoting energy communities that focus on generating benefit for society or local communities, i.e. all citizens living in municipality

- identifying companies which can act as service providers for energy communities and take care of the technical installation and management. Energy communities can be set up in a way that governance and ownership are in the hands of local stakeholders, while the day-to-day work is outsourced which avoids the pitfalls that relying on volunteers can cause
- promoting a framework which mandates, for example, that a certain share of the project is given to the local municipality. The municipality can use financial revenues for the benefit of citizens
- creating dedicated seed-funds to encourage energy community schemes.



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