



Energía Bonita: Energy transformation on a Spanish island

In a nutshell

La Palma is seeking to achieve significant energy savings by educating the local community about energy consumption and providing training to help members reduce their own usage. *Energía Bonita* also expected to foster dialogue on socioeconomic changes, needed to achieve 100% renewable energy, and address complex issues like energy poverty and resource distribution in a tourism and agriculture-based economy.

OBJECTIVES

- Educate and train community members.
- Initiate discussions on socioeconomic changes needed for 100% renewable energy.

ACTIONS

- Pilot training materials and workshops on energy consumption and practical energy savings.
- Organise debates to strategise island-wide socioeconomic transformations.



CONTACT

Nuria Albet Torres
info@energiabonita.coop
Energía Bonita S. Coop.



RESULTS (IMPACT)

Energía Bonita has laid strong foundations for community-driven energy transformation on La Palma. What began as a small pilot group evolved into a permanent energy savings working group, meanwhile embedded within the local energy community of 250 individuals and organisations. This group was actively exploring creative, hands-on approaches to reduce energy use, with plans underway to translate shared learning into real, measurable savings. The project's training sessions, particularly those on building renovation for energy efficiency, were a valuable introduction to previously unfamiliar but highly relevant topics, broadening both the skills and networks of the community.

While the initial focus leaned towards replicating external technical solutions, the initiative shifted to tap into the creativity and motivation of the local community itself. This community-first approach proved effective, fostering strong engagement among participants. Activities like a two-day retreat, with communal meals and overnight stays, deepened relationships and a shared sense of purpose. A challenge was ensuring meaningful participation, but rather than prioritising rapid growth, the team learned the value of nurturing existing engagement.

Looking ahead, the project is poised to spark a longer-term impact by empowering residents to become both learners and educators in sustainable energy use. *Energía Bonita* showed that grassroots energy action can begin with a few committed individuals and grow into a broader cultural shift.



GOOD PRACTICES | POLICY LESSONS

Energía Bonita demonstrated how local energy transitions can be grounded in education, participation, and the social fabric of the community. A key practice built on the existing knowledge and motivation of participants in co-designing a path toward energy self-sufficiency. Step by step, through workshops and debates, the project team cultivated a shared understanding of energy use and its socioeconomic implications, especially in a tourism and agriculture-dependent context. The support from C4C and the exchanges with groups like Carbon Co-op provided fresh insights, opening new directions for community action.

Importantly, *Energía Bonita* fostered stronger connections across cooperatives and the social economy, showing that change accelerates when citizens are connected to a broader movement. This network-building not only encouraged new initiatives but also gave the project visibility and legitimacy, helping to mobilise both members and policymakers.

Among the most transferable lessons are that regular, in-person gatherings are essential to sustain citizen energy movements, and dialogue roundtables (spaces where all actors can co-develop solutions) and can and should be replicated widely.

Policy recommendations include simplifying access to funding for small local organisations and investing in local human resources during the early stages of new initiatives. With such support, small-scale energy projects can evolve into lasting engines of transformation.

