

Energy Communities: Addressing energy poverty together.



What is energy poverty, and why does it matter?

Energy poverty is the lack of access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. We need energy to have sufficient levels of heating, cooling and lighting in our homes to ensure a decent standard of living and help guarantee our health.

Energy poverty occurs when a household must reduce its energy consumption to a degree that negatively impacts the inhabitants' health and wellbeing.

It is mainly driven by 3 underlying root causes: a high proportion of household expenditure spent on energy, low income, and low energy performance of buildings and appliances.

Energy communities have an important role to play in addressing energy poverty in their city, town, municipality or region.

Did you know?



8%–16% of the EU population (35–72 million people) are affected by energy poverty. [[Source](#)]



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How can energy communities support those experiencing energy poverty?

Cooperative Solar Farms: Communities collectively own and operate solar farms, providing low-cost electricity to members.

Rural Electrification Projects: Local wind or micro-hydro plants power remote villages.

Urban Energy Sharing: Neighborhoods in cities set up shared battery storage and solar panel systems, lowering costs for low-income households.



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Addressing energy poverty together.



Energy communities work together to alleviate energy poverty in different ways. Here are some reasons as to why it is important for your energy community to address energy poverty.



Reduce Energy Costs

By producing energy locally, communities cut costs associated with energy transmission and distribution.

Community-based ownership eliminates profit-driven intermediaries, making energy more affordable for members.



Empower Vulnerable Groups

Members have a say in energy management, ensuring that the needs of marginalised groups are addressed.

Subsidised or free access to energy can be provided for those in dire need.



Create Jobs and Local Economic Development

Building and maintaining renewable energy infrastructure creates local jobs.

Revenue generated from surplus energy can be reinvested into the community to fund social initiatives or improve infrastructure.

Unlock Access to Energy



Energy communities in remote or underserved areas can provide energy infrastructure where national grids may be absent or unreliable.

Promote Renewable Energy



By harnessing local renewable resources, communities reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which are often more expensive and environmentally harmful.

Renewable energy systems like solar panels or wind turbines have low operational costs after installation, leading to long-term affordability.

Raise Awareness



Participation in energy communities fosters awareness about energy efficiency and sustainability, reducing wasteful energy practices and promoting conservation.

Mitigate Energy Security



Locally controlled energy systems are less vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions or price volatility, ensuring more stable access to energy.