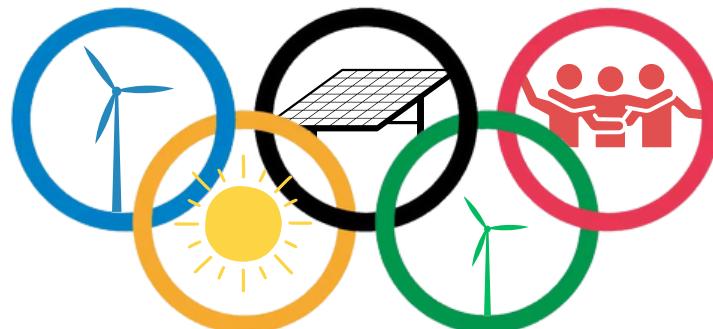


COMMUNITY ENERGY OLYMPICS 2024

MEET OUR CHAMPIONS!





GAROVO COMMUNITY ENERGY



POWERLIFTING

The Energy Community RDNO - Gabrovo (EC RDNO - Gabrovo) is an innovative initiative by Gabrovo Municipality aimed at addressing challenges in the energy market.

Gabrovo Municipality and the participants in the community pooled their resources, finances, land, knowledge, and energy to jointly create a source of their own energy.

The pilot project built a renewable energy installation on rooftop of the Regional Non-Hazardous Waste Landfill of Gabrovo Municipality with a plan to produce **100 kWh of electric power**, with an investment value of just under 160,000 BGN.

The chosen site for the investment is selected due to its exceptionally sunny location, lack of shading, presence of a relatively consistent energy consumer, and other factors critical to the initiative's success.



MORE INFO

<https://gabrovo.bg/bg/page/1625>



ZUIDTRANT



HIGH JUMP

ZuidtrAnt cvba-so is an energy cooperative located in Belgium (Antwerp), an initiative by citizens who pool resources for renewable energy projects.

These include energy-saving projects, community heating projects, sustainable mobility projects and renewable energy production projects.

Zuidtrant plays an active role in the transition from a fossil fuel-based society to a low-carbon society. They focus on local projects, strive for energy independence, and ensure that everyone can benefit from renewable energy, even those who cannot afford the transition.

They have **832 members**, **28 solar projects**, good for an **annual production of 1656 MWh**, 9 e-cars for sharing, 9 charging points, supporting 4600 households with renovations per year.



Zuidtrant's commitment to sustainability, innovation, & community engagement makes them a standout organisation in the renewable energy sector.

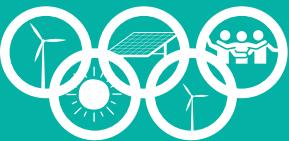
Their achievements not only contribute to a greener future but also inspire the community to adopt sustainable practices.

MORE INFO

<https://www.zuidtrant.be/>



ECOPOWER



MARATHON

Ecopower is a Belgian energy community founded in 1991, producing and supplying green electricity and heat to its **70.000 cooperative members**.

The energy supply is done at cost, so Ecopower successfully supplies almost 2% of the households in the Region of Flanders with green energy produced by their own coop at a fair price.

During the 2022 energy price crisis, the average Ecopower household **saved over 500 euros** compared to commercial suppliers.

Ecopower employs about 60 people and is governed by a board of employees and volunteer-members.

A big challenge for Ecopower is to get new permits for wind turbines. So, they teamed up the energy communities in Seacoop, a secondary cooperative that wants to participate in new offshore concessions.



During the energy price crisis in 2022, Ecopower was able to shield their members from high prices - this meant a difference of 500 euros in costs of energy compared with commercial suppliers.

Ecopower has been the president of REScoop;eu since its foundation & essential in uniting the movement.

MORE INFO

<https://www.ecopower.be>



WENCOOP



LEAD CLIMBING

WECoop, initiated by the Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs (SEGE), is the first all-women energy cooperative in Greece and Europe.

It empowers women entrepreneurs in the renewable energy sector, primarily through developing & operating solar energy projects.

The cooperative's efforts led to the creation of multiple photovoltaic parks, with the **first 1MW park already producing energy**, and two more nearing completion.

WECoop promotes green energy consumption, provides economic incentives, and supports vulnerable social groups by reinvesting part of the profits into community projects.

The initiative successfully engages **73 women entrepreneurs from various regions and business sectors** across Greece, fostering teamwork through comprehensive training, mentoring sessions, and collaborative planning meetings.



Despite challenges, including Greek bureaucracy and funding, the cooperative established its first solar park within 12 months.

WECoop now aims to replicate its model across Europe, support women's energy cooperatives, boost local electric mobility, and offer free energy to vulnerable groups, especially single-parent families.

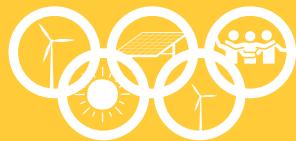




WINNER



FLYA ENERGY



FREESTYLE BMX

This newfound community in Athens is preparing a **150kwp solar project** for collective self consumption.

The project was kickstarted by a local University, Electra, and the local Municipality of Chalandri, and will provide energy to **40 participating households, and 20 vulnerable households** identified through the social registries of the Municipality.

The solar installation will be placed on top of a parking lot, using a heightened foundation as a basis, which will also provide shading to the cars underneath.

The location was chosen

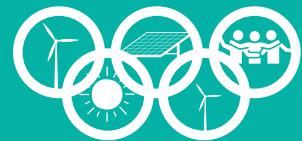
1. for visibility and pedagogical purposes
2. to avoid taking up land elsewhere (eg from agri / forest lands)
3. to localise production and reduce grid losses.



The community plans to expand to additional activities, including demand response, awareness raising campaigns for energy sobriety in the local Municipality, housing renovations, and electric car charging.



COMUNIDADE DE ENERGIA RENOVÁVEL TELHEIRAS



TRIATHLON

This energy community is located in the neighbourhood of Telheiras, in the outskirts of Lisbon.

The renewable energy community (REC) jointly invested in a photovoltaic system to share energy across 17 buildings, including the local parish and 16 families.

Three of these families will be social consumers within the REC. Their inclusion will be funded by the parish and other participants, with equal voting rights granted to all. The REC aims to reduce electricity bills through shared energy and mitigate energy poverty in the Telheiras neighborhood.

The project, initiated by the local association Viver Telheiras, now involves the parish (which owns the installation site), the national renewable energy cooperative Coopérnico, and a university.



The REC successfully implemented its business model and completed the installation of its first solar system.

They are finalizing the energy-sharing licensing process and securing investment for a second installation. They also plan to launch a One-Stop-Shop (OSS) to promote energy literacy.

MORE INFO

<https://vivertelheiras.pt/certelheiras/>



WINNER

SOM COMUNITATS



HURDLE RACE

Som Comunitats is a digital platform and network of energy communities across Spain.

As a second-tier cooperative, it unites various cooperatives to advance energy communities and the energy transition.

The platform offers **energy community management solutions** for citizens, public administrations, and companies, including tools for administrative, economic, fiscal, and corporate management, as well as internal communication, contract management, and social capital contributions.

Som Comunitats provides access to a **wide range of services** from a single platform, including collective photovoltaic self-consumption, shared electric mobility, heat and cold networks, energy efficiency, and citizen training.



The network is expanding rapidly in Spain, with plans to eventually expand into Europe.

MORE INFO

<https://somcomunitats.coop/>



SUN4ALL



DECATHLON

The Horizon 2020 project Sun4All spearheaded a groundbreaking initiative to create energy communities across Europe, focused on **facilitating an equitable energy transition for vulnerable households**.

This initiative targeted energy poverty by enabling access to renewable energy generation, significantly reducing energy bills for **546 low-income households in four European pilot cities**: Almada, Barcelona, Coeur de Savoie and Rome.

The project installed **361 kWp of solar power, secured over 360,000 in sustainable energy investments**, and held 92 workshops on energy rights and home energy efficiency. 14 visits to pilot sites were organised to foster community engagement and education.

The project's success was driven by collaborative efforts among local governments, energy experts, and community organisations.



The initiative faced challenges, such as lengthy administrative procedures and technical hurdles during the construction of photovoltaic installations.

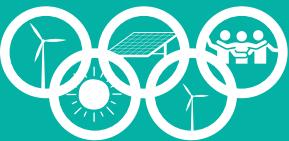
Despite these obstacles, the consortium's dedication and innovation set a precedent for future energy community projects across Europe.

MORE INFO

<https://sunforall.eu/>



ENERGIE SOLIDAIRE DU BALAI



RELAY RACE

Energie Solidaire du Balai, an energy community in Brussels, serves **800 homes and 2,000 residents** near the Sonian Forest.

Established under the OESO European directive, the community collects and redistributes solar energy from prosumer members through Brussels' Sibelga. After over a year of preparation—including permits, legal setup, and community engagement—the project began on March 1, 2024.

By July, **membership had grown from 38 to over 70**, with electricity covering between a quarter and a third of consumer needs.

Benefits include lower electricity prices, increased local energy production, and improved environmental practices.

The project thrives on community involvement and teamwork, with a dedicated pilot group of volunteers managing various tasks, such as accounting, IT, communication or legal matters



Despite time-consuming challenges like setting up a legal organisation, and finding capacity to educate residents, the community is making great inroads!

Future plans include increasing membership to 100 by year-end and 200 by 2025, and exploring storage solutions for nighttime and low-light use.

MORE INFO

<https://www.coindubalai.be/energiesolidairedubalai>



WINNER

SWITCH ON COMMUNITY ENERGY



SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING

The Energy Community Coalition in Spain launched a cyber action on May 2024, collecting 3,500 signatures to support the coalition's demands towards the national government.

The Community Energy Coalition is a citizens' movement, consisting mainly of groups and organisations promoting energy communities and advocating for a more just, sustainable and participatory energy model.

The communication campaign included collective videos, participation in a national radio program dedicated to the campaign, a photo-action and a twitter storm with widespread involvement from members to raise awareness on social media.

The campaign helped increased visibility for community energy and citizens' rights, raised the public profile of the Community Energy Coalition, and resulted in dozens of new requests for participation in the coalition.



These collective efforts strengthened community energy as a citizen's movement.

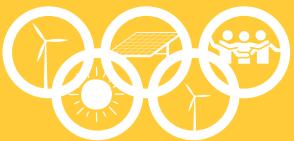
Future plans include continuing the campaign on social media, as well as producing and sharing a video with Hope (<https://hoperevolution.earth/>).

MORE INFO

<https://coalicionenergiacomunitaria.org/enciende-la-energia-comunitaria-firma/>



STOCKEL SUN



ROOKIE

Stockelsun is a new Belgian energy community created in early 2024 by local citizens as part of the 'Stockel durable' (sustainable neighbourhood) initiative.

Supported by the local authority (Woluwe Saint Pierre commune), the community aims to share energy among neighbours and promote sustainable energy use.

The local authority installed solar panels on school and nursery roofs, to ensure that citizens benefit from the excess electricity produced by these installations, especially during weekends and holidays when usage is lower.

Though the community is run by just 2-3 citizens, they have a strong partnership with WeSmart, an intermediary coordinating with Belgium's main energy company, Sibelga. Members benefit from reduced electricity prices, and producers receive fair compensation for surplus energy.



The community helps manage electricity trading, raises awareness about green energy, and supports local consumption.

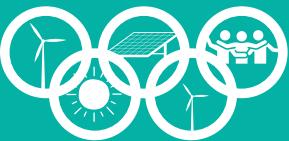
With 52 members, they are eager to share their experience with others interested in starting similar initiatives in their neighborhoods.

MORE INFO

<https://www.stockeldurable.be/stockelsun/>



GREEK ENERGY COMMUNITIES COALITION



GYMNASICS

The Greek Energy Communities' Coalition is a national representative body for participatory citizen energy schemes, founded on values of democracy, inclusion, sustainability, and justice.

Established in 2021, the coalition includes **28 members**, among 20 of which are energy communities from across the country. Since December 2023, it has formalised its role as a platform for cooperation, education, and the exchange of good practices, in line with the 7 international cooperative principles.

Its main activities include advocacy actions, outreach and awareness-raising, knowledge exchange, synergy development, promoting equal access and social justice in the energy sector, and connecting with institutions for research purposes.

The coalition quickly secured a place in public forums and discussions on the energy transition, alongside government bodies



Recently, they successfully implemented a virtual net metering scheme in Greece. Despite delays in metering processes caused by energy providers, the Coalition's public intervention led to a breakthrough with the Ministry, facilitating progress.

Members' projects are estimated to save at least 4,560 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

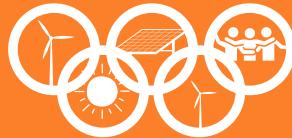
MORE INFO

<https://desmi.info/>

WINNER



GROEPSAANBOD RENOVATIE BY ENERGENT



ROWING

Groepsaanbod Renovatie is a Belgian initiative developed by the energy cooperative Energent to assist homeowners in undertaking sustainable renovations, such as insulation, window replacement, or solar panel installation.

Renovating a home can be a daunting task, and many homeowners may feel overwhelmed by the process. Through Groepsaanbod Renovatie, homeowners receive comprehensive support and expert advice, ensuring they do not have to navigate their renovation journey alone.

Groepsaanbod Renovatie organises group offers for renovation services, enabling participants to benefit from discounted rates thanks to strong partnerships with local contractors.

The project provides homeowners with guidance to help reduce costs and streamline the renovation process, all facilitated through a single point of contact- their personal renovation coach.



Within 2 years, the project got almost 3.000 registration and 1.000 executed renovations.

Kevin, a participant, said: "Our renovation coach gave us the top tip to replace our glazing. Thanks to them, we found an excellent contractor. Everything went smoothly, and the work was completed as if nothing had ever happened."

MORE INFO

<http://www.groepsaanbodrenovatie.be>

COMMUNITY ENERGY OLYMPICS 2024

Our champions
across Europe

