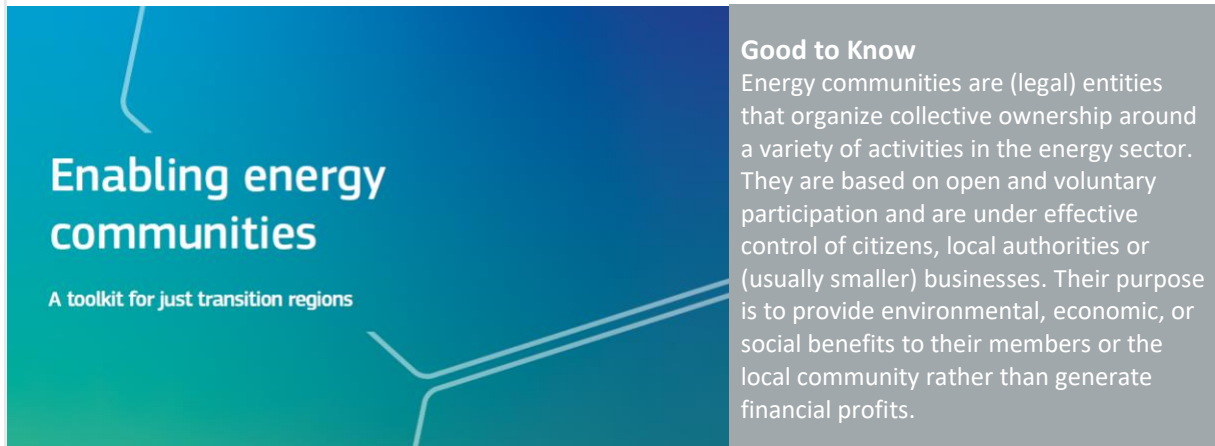


BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

ICLEI: Enabling Energy Communities – A Toolkit for Just Transition Regions



Toolbox Categories

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

Country: Europe
Category: Market and capacity building
Media: Guide
Language: English
Source: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/funding/just-transition-fund/toolkit-enabling-energy-communities.pdf

Summary:

The ICLEI toolkit, offers valuable guidance for local and regional governments, energy industry stakeholders, private investors, and citizens in just transition regions across Europe. By understanding energy communities and their potential to enhance social cohesion and local value generation through renewable energy initiatives, users can leverage collective efforts to amplify the benefits of energy projects. This toolkit not only supports the financial aspects by promoting locally oriented renewable energy deployment but also aligns with the goals of the heating transition by fostering community driven renewable energy solutions. With a focus on social and energy justice, the toolkit highlights replicable energy community models and provides insights into when and how to promote such initiatives within the context of just transitions. Overall, the ICLEI toolkit empowers stakeholders to actively participate in shaping sustainable energy futures while maximizing the benefits for local communities.

PUBLICATION OVERVIEW

Title: Enabling energy communities - A toolkit for just transition regions

Objective: To provide guidance for relevant stakeholders to understand how and if energy communities can amplify local social cohesion and potential value generation through establishing local renewable energy supply especially (but not only) in just transition territories.

Date of publication: 2023

Author: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (European Commission)

Approach: This publication, prepared by researchers at ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Europe, aims to guide local and regional policy makers and other relevant practitioners, to understand how and if energy communities can amplify local social cohesion and potential value generation through establishing local renewable energy supply in Just Transition Fund (JTF) territories. It is meant to place the opportunities offered by energy communities within larger considerations around social/energy justice and aims to convey an understanding of when it makes sense to promote certain kinds of energy communities, and ideas about when it makes less sense to do so. The EU legal framework for energy communities and guides and good practices of energy community models in Europe are highlighted and referenced for further analysis. Although focused in JTF territories, this guide is also suitable to introduce, frame and enable energy communities as promoters of local renewable energy initiatives all around Europe.

TOOL EVALUATION

How to Use

1. Read and review the toolkit:
Read and examine the toolkit, including its scope, the information on renewable energy communities, the legal framework, funding information and the specific information on establishing energy communities in JTF regions. It is suggested that one consults the links suggested for further reading presented in the guide.
2. Prepare a group activity to explore the creation of an energy community:
Develop a group activity with maximum 5 people per group. Each group should have representatives from the different stakeholders' groups present (for example, one representative from a local authority, one from a community organisation, one from the local energy agency, etc). Each group will have the task to develop an idea of a renewable energy community in a specific regional context/country, with pre-defined instructions, and afterwards present the conclusions to the larger group. It is suggested a one-hour duration activity that encompasses a brief presentation of the activity, the discussion in the smaller groups and the presentation of the results to the larger group.

Key Benefits

- The toolkit gives an overview of how energy communities work and how they can amplify local social cohesion and generate value by establishing local renewable energy supply, including links for further reading. It also presents several case studies and lessons learned of already existent energy communities that may serve as an inspiration.
- It provides the EU legal framework for energy communities.
- It provides tips for the funding of energy communities, including a link for further reading.
- Energy communities as promoters of local social cohesion and community identity.
- Although focused on JTF territories, the guide is applicable to the implementation of energy communities as promoters of local renewable energy initiatives all around Europe.

Cost Aspects

- The guide is freely available to the public.
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- Reduced reliance on centralized and fossil fuel-energy sources.

Evaluation

- **Challenges:** As the guide focuses specifically on the implementation of renewable energy communities in JTF territories, some mentioned specificities may not apply regarding the implementation of these communities on non-JTF EU territories. Variability in regulations and legal framework in the different EU countries may occur and affect the implementation of these communities.
 - **Success Factors:** Alignment with EU framework. Potential economic savings and increased social cohesion of the communities that become energy communities. Reduced reliance on centralized and fossil fuel-energy sources.
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MORE INFORMATION FOR WORKSHOP PREPARATION

Contact: arthur.hinsch@iclei.org, Arthur Hinsch - ICLEI Europe (author)

Willingness to engage in dialogue or workshop participation: not contacted yet.

Possible support within REDI4heat: -

Similar Approaches in the Toolbox: **PAW Guide** and **mPower**, Instructions for use are similar to the Game Approaches (see REWARD Serious Game)

Further information on topic (with focus on target countries): -
