

TANDEMS QUARTELY

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THE BOOM OF ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE.

Zuzanna Zajac

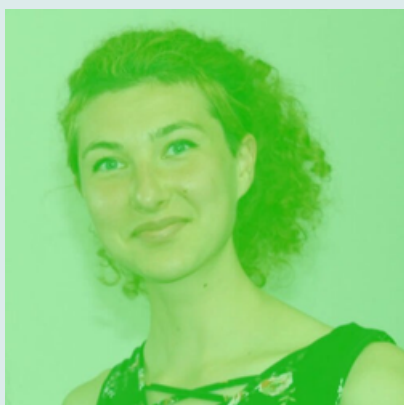
We live in times where the need for sustainable energy solutions has never been more pressing. Energy communities do contribute to a citizen-led pathway to energy transition in times of energy uncertainty, which is why they are on the rise all over Europe. These grassroots initiatives are not merely a trend but a vital response to the challenges of our time, heralding a transformative shift in how we produce, distribute, and consume energy.

One of the most compelling aspects of energy communities is their emphasis on renewable energy sources. Solar, wind, hydro, and other clean energy technologies are harnessed to generate electricity locally, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. By tapping into the abundant resources available in their surroundings.

Moreover, energy communities are characterized by their decentralized nature, which enhances resilience and reliability in the face of disruptions. By diversifying energy sources and incorporating energy storage technologies, such as batteries and smart grids, these communities can better withstand power outages, natural disasters, and other unforeseen events. This localized approach to energy management fosters greater autonomy and adaptability, safeguarding communities against external shocks and ensuring a more stable energy supply for all.

Beyond their environmental and practical benefits, energy communities foster social cohesion and empowerment at the grassroots level. By encouraging participation and decision-making from all members, regardless of age, income, or background, these initiatives promote inclusivity and democratic governance. Residents become active stakeholders in shaping the energy future of their communities, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in collective achievements.

In conclusion, the boom of energy communities represents a pivotal moment in our collective journey toward a more sustainable future. These local initiatives embody the principles of innovation, collaboration, and resilience, offering a blueprint for a decentralized, renewable energy economy. As we confront the challenges of climate change and energy transition, let us embrace the potential of energy communities to drive positive change at the local level and beyond. Together, we can build a brighter, greener future for generations to come.



Zuzanna Zajac
Project Manager
Oikoplus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zuzanna Zajac'.



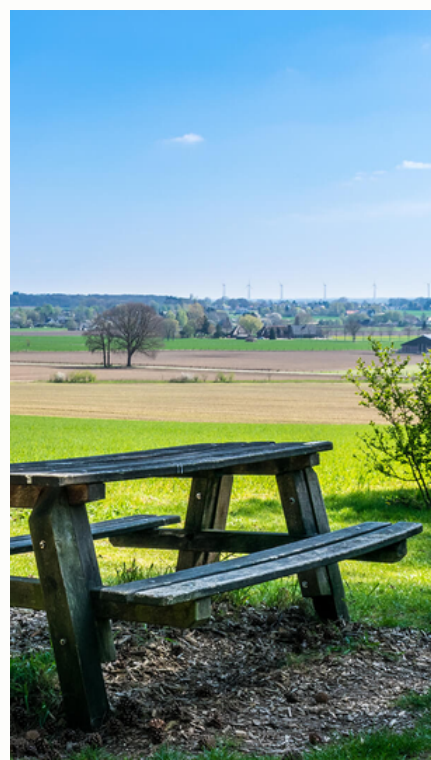
Cultivating Resilience: Exploring the Synergy of De-growth and Energy Communities

It has been a hot minute since experts began to question the sustainability of our current energy system. It became increasingly obvious that continuing business as usual in the energy sector leads to environmental and social exploitation as well as inequality. In short- it still opposes the basic principles of de-growth. Energy communities (EC) and renewable energy initiatives have the power to combat that through more sustainable and localised efforts. In this article we focus on how this is possible. We also ask what the exact relationship between de-growth and energy communities is. [Continue reading by clicking here...](#)

Capacity building: How to make citizens feel empowered?

In February, TANDEMS joined other LIFE Programme projects in a meeting, which aimed to strengthen inter-project collaboration and give space to knowledge exchange opportunities. One of the most prominent topics was the issue of capacity building. All LIFE Programme projects put their heads together to debate over their strategies on how to ensure that individuals or communities take charge of their needs and identify their priorities. In this article we dive deep into the challenges, opportunities and best practices in capacity building for communal energy projects.

[Click here to find out more...](#)





Energy Communities and Cyber Security

Energy communities are based on local networks, connected by smart technology. This raises questions about potential security risks. What do we need to consider?

[To find out more click here...](#)



The future of Energy Communities.

In Karen Trant's vision of the future, energy communities (EC) are like huddles of Penguins, which come together in harsh winters in order to share heat and ensure the survival of many. Through this metaphor, the director of Customer Policy and Protection at Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), envisions an energy transition, which is just, fair, collaborative and offers a supportive and safe energy environment. However for this hopeful vision to come to fruition, a lot of political, economic and social changes must take place. In this article we dig deeply into the vision for the future of energy communities and what still needs to be done to achieve it.

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News / Events / Highlights

29th January 2024

REScoop.Vlaanderen organises a webinar on energy communities. Two of TANDEM partners ZuidtrAnt and Klimaan presented their pilot projects in Schoten and Otterbeek.

RESCOOP
VLAANDEREN



REScoop Vlaanderen, de federatie van Vlaamse burgercoöperaties, organiseert op maandag 29 januari van 14:00 tot 16:00 in het kader van onze opdracht voor het VEKA een webinar waarin een brede waaier aan energiegemeenschappen aan bod komt.

30th January 2024

EnEffect organises a conference the cornerstone of the sustainable energy transition with over 160 guests attending to discuss the future of Bulgaria.



1st February 2024

ZuidtrAnt opens their new office in Oud-Berchem and organises an open door for interested citizens to get informed about their work.



1st February 2024

TANDEM teams up with other LIFE Programme projects in order to collaborate on capacity building, share knowledge and advice, and discuss best practices as well as lessons learned with COMANAGE Project, BECKON Life, Energy Cities and ConnectHeat!



1st February 2024

City exchange between Mechelen and s'Hertogenbosch, elders and city administration. The topic of discussion focused on: energy communities (Otterbeek) and heatnets (s'Hertogenbosch).

News / Events / Highlights

20th February 2024

ZuidtrAnt offers a **tour of the recycling centre Opnieuw&Co** in Mortsel. Over the past years ZuidtrAnt worked with the centre to test and create a blueprint for a 'circular hub of the future'.



13/14th March 2024

Three representatives of our partner organizations: Justin Pagden (Agem Energie Experts), Maro Saridaki (Kamp C), and Steven Laurijssen (Klimaan) participated in an **energy communities contractors' meeting organized by CINEA** - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency.

The meeting allowed various LIFE Programme and Horizon Europe projects to meet and identify cooperation opportunities. Additionally, participants discussed policy-relevant outcomes and presented noteworthy initiatives in the area of community energy.

March 2024

Gabrovo organises the **first meeting for the Gabrovo Energy Community**, where they catch up on progress on the PV installation and have a chance to meet all participating actors.



12th March 2024

Oikoplus pays a **visit to St. Pölten in Lower Austria to talk with its newly created climate coordination office**, which the TANDEM consortium will be visiting during the Vienna Consortium Meeting in April. The office takes care of the city's climate agenda, focusing mainly on creating a 'large urban energy community'.



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Co-Funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE Programme under grant agreement No 101077514