

What is an energy community?

Energy communities, as defined by the European Union, are legal entities enabling citizens, small businesses, and local authorities to produce, manage, and consume their own energy. They grant ownership of energy-producing assets to community members, including energy producers, consumers, and distributors. This structure allows for access to low-cost renewable energy, provides energy efficiency information for buildings, and helps members manage energy costs while keeping investments affordable.

How does an energy community work?

An energy community is a non-profit legal entity that collaborates at a local level in the production, distribution, and usage of renewable energy. Members can reduce energy costs through subsidies, helping fund the community's energy infrastructure. The infrastructure, like solar panels, must be near its users and can be owned by any member or an external party. Any surplus energy produced is either sold back to the grid or stored, with profits shared among members.

What are the benefits of an energy community?

Environmental: They promote local renewable energy production, reducing CO₂ emissions.

Economic: Members can receive financial incentives, and energy sold to Italy's grid yields returns based on production and usage.

Grid Efficiency: Local production minimizes energy loss over long distances.

Social: Inclusive to all, they educate on sustainability and promote efficient energy use, benefiting every community member.

What are the regulations related to an energy community?

Several key EU legislations have fostered the growth of renewable energy communities. The "Clean energy for all Europeans package" of 2019 introduced the concept, establishing citizen and renewable energy communities. The "Renewable Energy Directive" (2009, revised in 2018) set renewable energy targets and supported member states in developing renewable resources, culminating in a target of 32% renewable energy by 2030. Additionally, the Directive on the internal market for electricity (2019) ensures these communities receive fair market treatment and establishes rules for their operation.

How to join an energy community?

Contact us :)