



Renewable Energy Regions

2nd Newsletter



3rd RegEnergy Project Meeting

Facing the Barriers of Renewable Energy Partnerships

On 29 and 30 November the Dutch partner Waterstromen invited the RegEnergy project team to Arnhem and Doetinchen, where the partnership worked on potential solutions for the many barriers renewable energy (RE) partnerships have to face.

In focus groups the project partners discussed the possibility to develop a brand value for RE gas and thus attract environmentally conscious customers.

The French legislation which prohibits the use of the same energy supplier for more than 4 years was analyzed and ways to build up long-term partnerships were found. Last but not least issues related to peer to peer trading (P2P) were examined, especially the economic barriers of the P2P-tarification.



The highlight of the biogas investment session was Mijnke Van Kleef's (Province of Gelderland) intriguing presentation on the province's regional energy strategy. Barriers for biogas projects such as the negative impact of energy tariff structures were discussed and formed an optimal preparation for the visit of the Waterstromen and Waterschap Rijn IJssel wastewater treatment plant and the paper mill situated in the center of Doetinchem. On site, Martine Klaver explained Waterstromen's plan to establish a highly efficient wastewater-biogas cycle: The wastewater from the paper mill is to be used in the wastewater treatment plant to generate biogas, which in turn can be reused for the paper production. The two 5 km long pipelines required for this will be built as part of the RegEnergy project. A third biogas pipeline will be built to allow feed-in into the national grid.

Would you like to learn more about wastewater and biogas?

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Web meeting

Funding | Models for E-Communities

On 5 September 2019 Paddy Phelan of 3cea hosted a web meeting about the support schemes for renewable energy (RE) in Ireland and beyond. Due to a policy change in 2018, the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) has been introduced. RESS will be the main source of support for RE roll-out in Ireland. Although the terms and conditions of the RESS are not published yet, it has been communicated that community involvement is a compulsory part of all projects wishing to participate in RESS. Unfortunately, schemes to support micro-generation are not foreseen and large scale renewable energy projects are expected to achieve the most support from RESS. In preparation to RESS, 3cea has analysed different funding models for community energy:

REScoops

REScoops (Renewable Energy Sources Cooperatives), also called “Energy cooperatives”, are based on a business model where citizens jointly own and participate in renewable energy or renewable energy projects. Citizens are involved in both the decision making and financial & economical participation. The main focus of REScoops is societal gain.

The main guidelines for a REScoop are the following:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Economic Participation through Direct Ownership
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

The REScoop model has many advantages. It keeps the individual investment affordable and fosters social acceptance for renewable

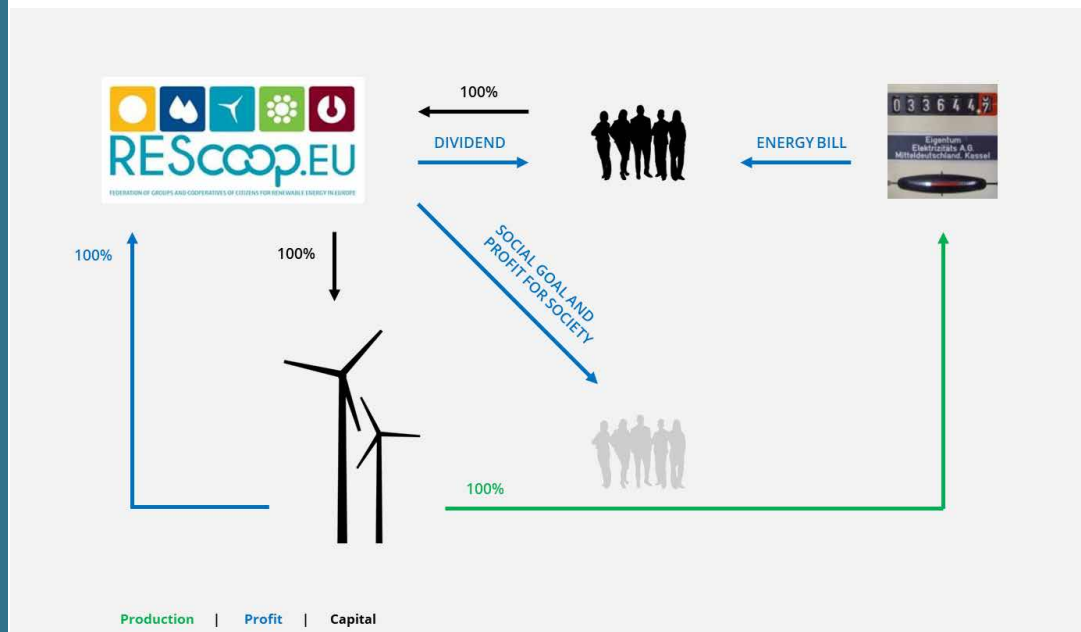
Would you like to learn more about funding models in Ireland?

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energy. In addition it provides benefits to the local community, takes action on energy efficiency and keeps the money in the local economy.



Learn more about REScoops on www.rescoop.eu



Example of Ecopower

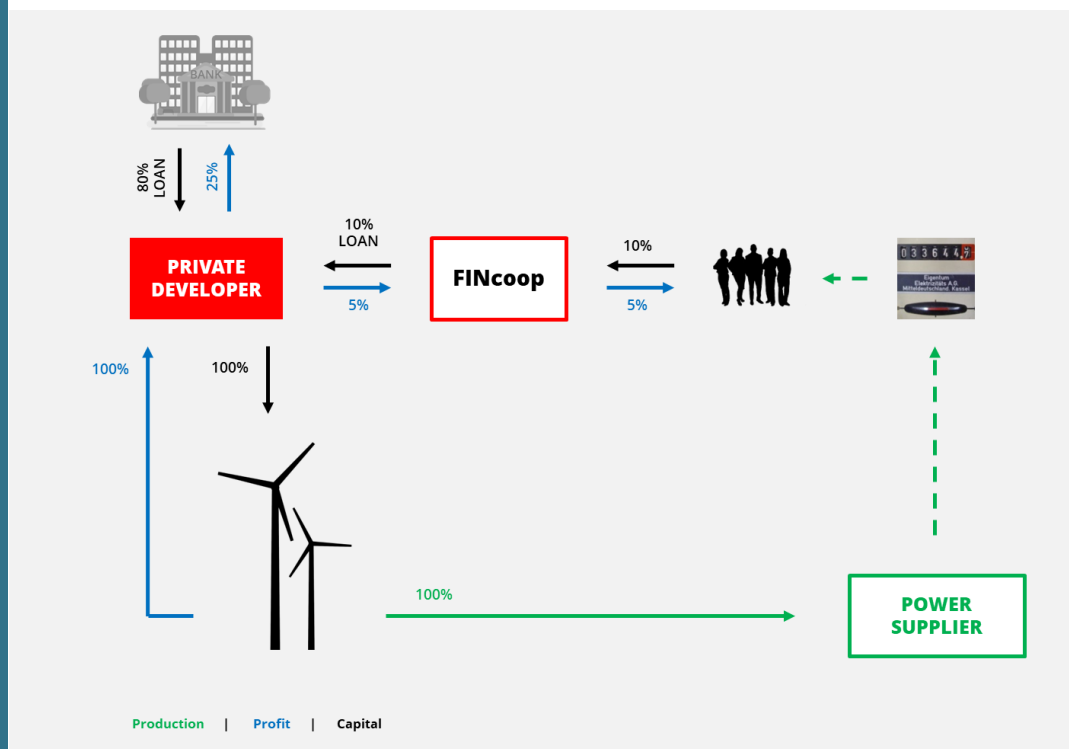
Since the liberalization of the energy market in Flanders (July 2003) Ecopower became a green electricity producer in Belgium. The cooperative buys and builds renewable electricity units such as wind turbines in Belgium. As of 2017, the cooperative has over 50.000 members. As of 2014, the Ecopower portfolio included 16 wind turbines, 3 hydro power stations and over 322 decentralized PV installations on houses and schools. To participate in Ecopower, citizens can purchase a maximum of 20 shares per person, on share costing 250 EUR.



FINcoops

FINcoops (Financial Cooperatives) are located between REScoops and commercial project developers. Citizens can buy shares to finance renewable energy projects, but they do not own the projects themselves. Private developers own the project and receive a loan from a bank and the FINcoop.

All profits made from the sale of renewable energy benefits the private developer; which turns over the respective percentages (according to the loan) to the banks and to the FINcoop. In contrast to REScoops, there is no reinvestment in the local community.



Plymouth Energy Community (PEC) Model

In 2013 the Plymouth Energy Community (PEC), a community benefit society, was founded to counter the high level of fuel poverty in Plymouth. The Plymouth City Council (PCC) provided a grant, a 5-year loan and HR support. In 2014 PEC set up PEC Renewables to

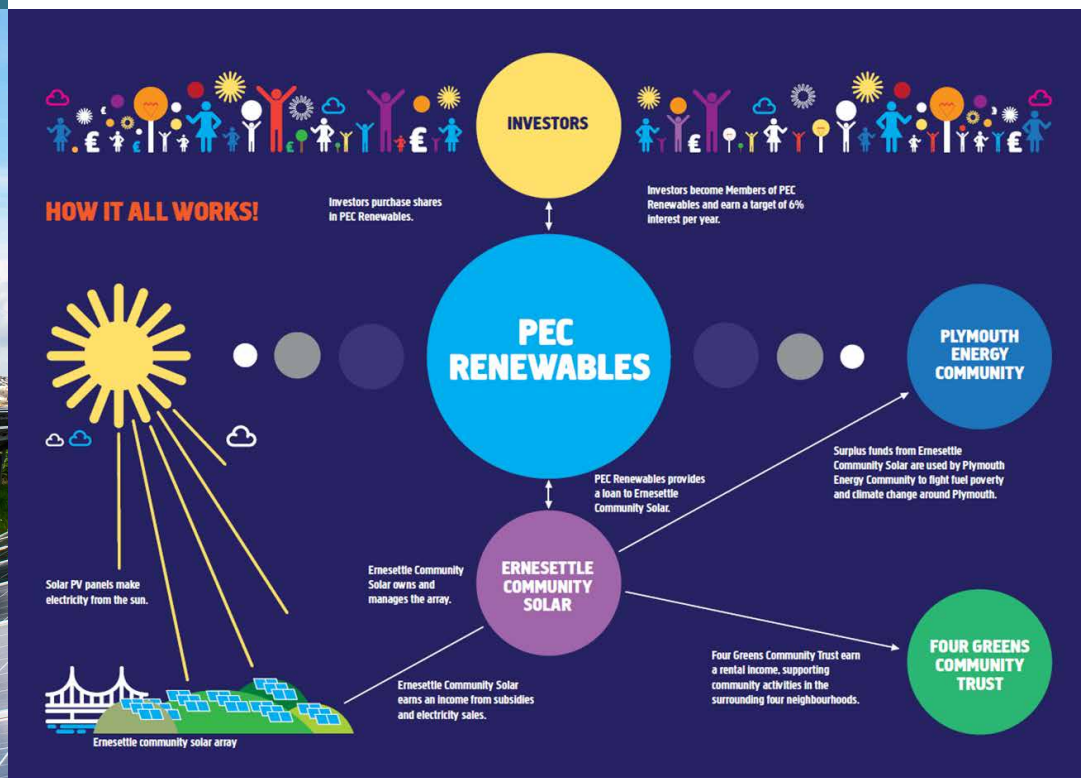


fund and build community-owned renewable energy installations in the city.

PECs core energy goals are:

- Reducing energy bills
- Improving energy efficiency
- Generating a green energy supply in the city

Over the years PEC established a series of innovative energy projects, amongst others a large solar array which was built in Ernesettle. The 4.1MW ground-mounted array was completed in 2016 and generating enough renewable energy to meet the annual needs of 1000 homes. Nearly £1m was raised in community shares, which were available at £50 per share.



INVEST IN PLYMOUTH'S ENERGY FUTURE, PEC Renewables Limited, Ernesettle Solar Share Offer Document, 5 May 2016, p.11, www.plymouthenergycommunity.com/file_download/86/

Learn more about PEC and PEC Renewable on www.plymouthenergycommunity.com



Events

Tourcoing, France | 4 - 5 December 2019

NWE making an impact!

The first Interreg North-West Europe (NWE) impact event focused on the results achieved by the NWE projects funded so far, and how to further support their uptake and impact. The RegEnergy team used the opportunities offered by the variety of events and formats to network, exchange ideas and explore new cooperation opportunities. They further informed about RegEnergy and the project partners at a booth. Contacts were established, among many others, with the Interreg projects ECCO and cVPP, both of which are active in the field of community-based renewable energies.



Kassel, Germany | 21 - 22 November 2019

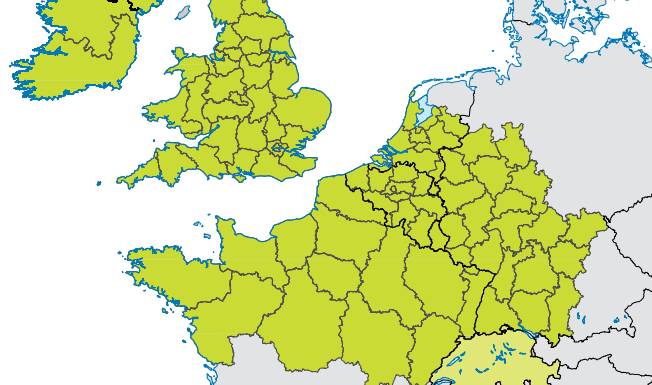
Zukunftsforum Energiewende Den Wandel aktiv gestalten

The "Zukunftsforum Energiewende" is Germany's largest congress for decentralised energy system transformation players. Representatives from local and state politics, administration, business and science meet here to jointly set fresh impulses for energy system transformation and climate protection.

In the RegEnergy forum "Urban-rural relations for the organisation of a full regional supply with renewable energies" a creative and goal-oriented exchange between participants, speakers and moderators took place after a technical input by Carsten Kuhn (Climate Alliance). The following questions

were intensively discussed: "How can the regional supply of renewable energies be shaped?", "Which technical, legal, administrative and organisational structures are required for this?" and "How do different regions address these challenges?"





Facts & Figures

The Partnership

Climate Alliance (Lead Partner, DE)
Brest metropole (FR)
Flux 50 (BE)
Plymouth City Council (UK)
Waterstromen (NL)
3 Counties Energy Agency (IE)
Planair (CH)
Waterford Institute of Technology (IE)
Ormonde Upgrading Limited (IE)

Upcoming Events

4TH WORKING GROUP MEETING

29 – 30 April 2020

Planair

Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland

5TH WORKING GROUP MEETING

15 – 17 September 2020

Brest métropole

Brest, France

Project Facts

Duration:

October 2018 – September 2022

Funding:

€11.08 million total project funding

€6.1 million funded via ERDF

Contact

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