

Benefits of energy communities

"What makes Energy Communities the future of the energy system?"

CommUnity by EIT InnoEnergy

28 January 2021

Introduction

- Roland Tual
- Project manager @ REScoop.eu
- Topics: demand-side flexibility, EU regulation, ...



FLEXCoop and REScoopVPP have received funding from the European Union's **Horizon 2020** research and innovation programme under the grant agreements No 773909 and No 893240.

Content

The EU legislation on communities

How cooperatives fit in this context

Benefits of such entities in the energy transition.

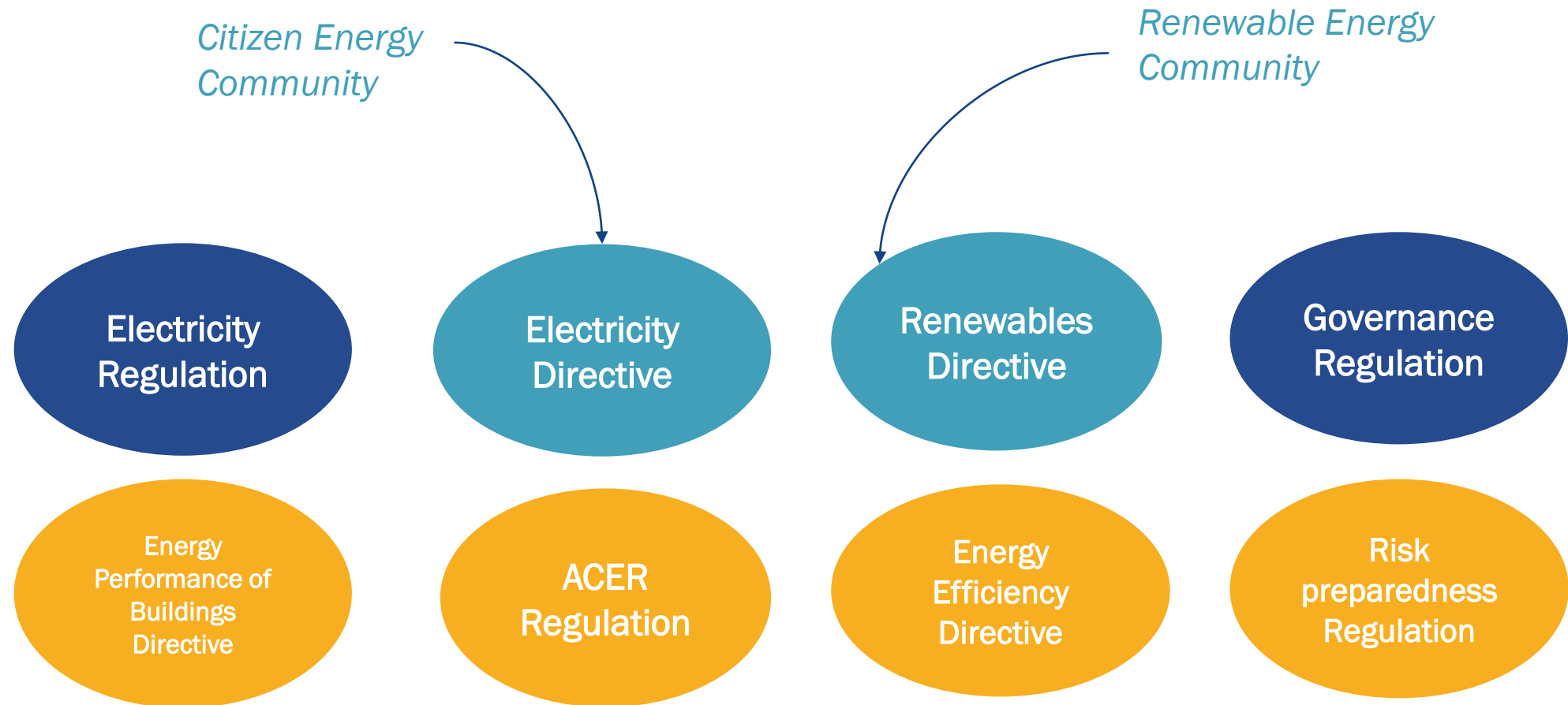
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The Clean Energy Package



REC and CEC, why 2 definitions?

Context: the legal perimeter

CEC → Electricity Directive

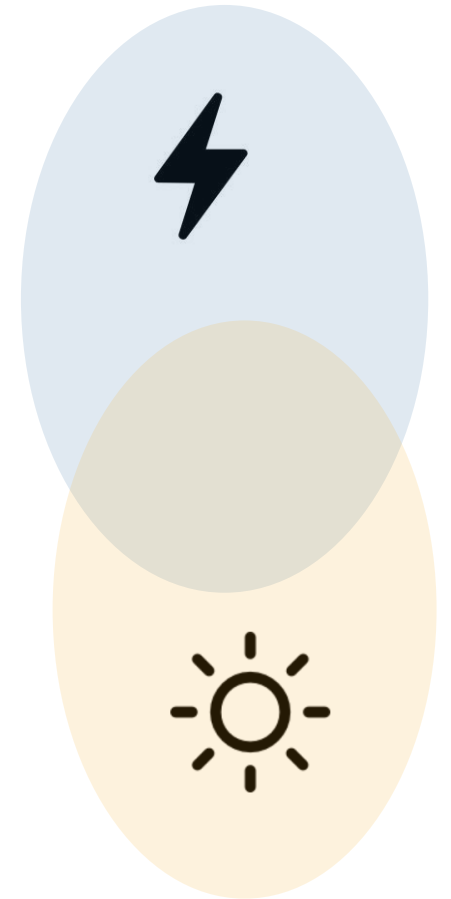
👍 **Includes** all activities related to **electricity**

👎 **Excludes** gas, biomass and other sources of heat

REC → RED II

👍 **Includes** all activities related to **RES** (incl. biomass, biogas, etc)

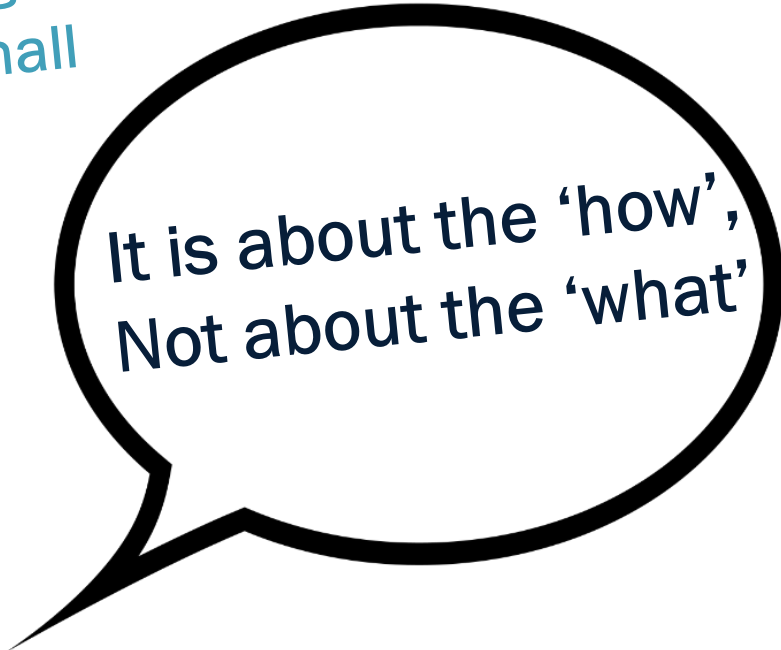
👎 **Excludes** non-renewable energies (natural gas e all fossil fuels)



voluntary and open
participation

effectively control by
members

members are natural
persons, local
authorities, including
municipalities, or small
enterprises;



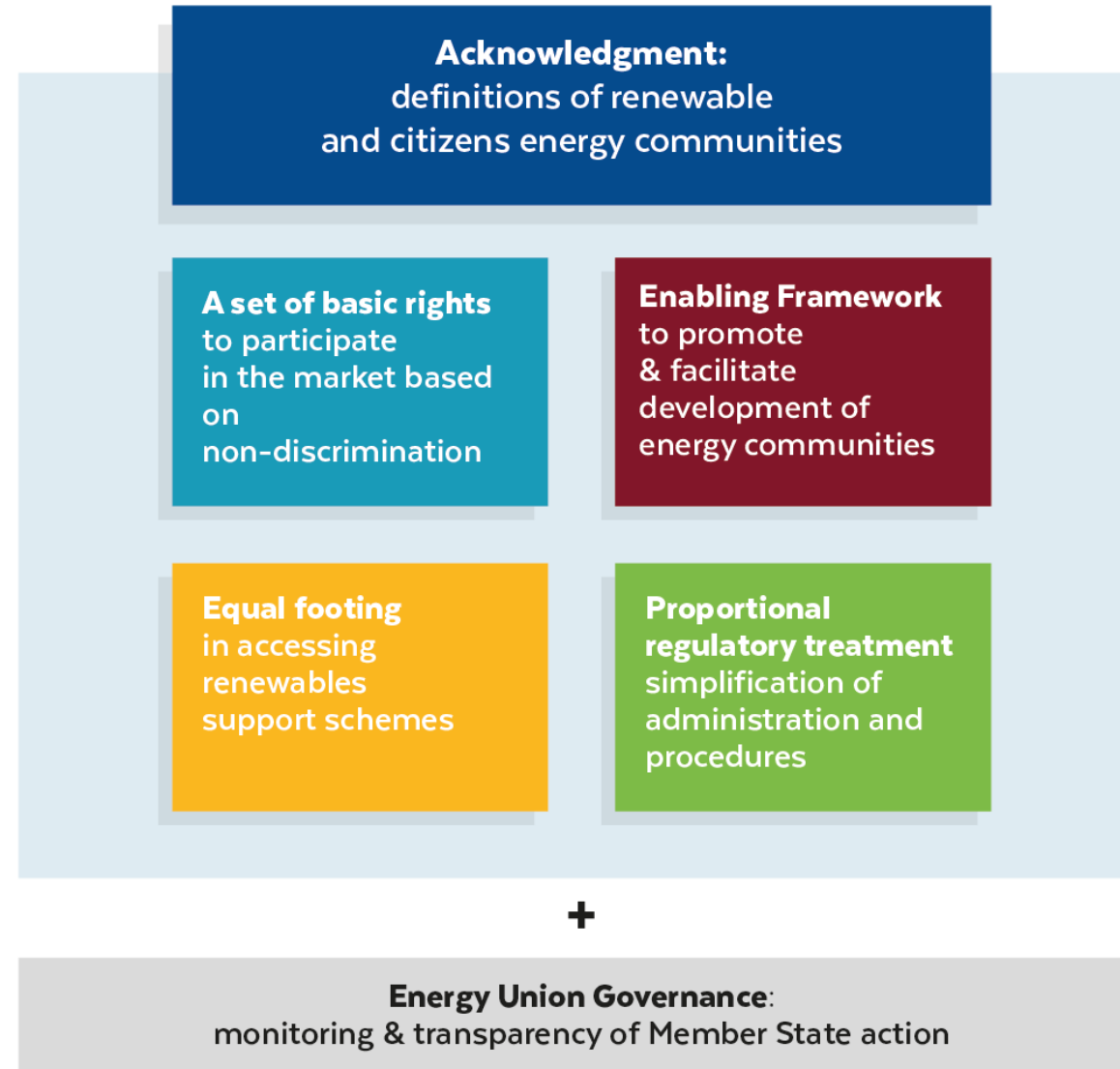
It is about the 'how',
Not about the 'what'

environmental,
economic or social
community
benefits to its
members as
primary purpose

Organisational concepts

CEC (Electricity Dir.)	REC (REDII)
legal entity	a legal entity
voluntary and open participation	open and voluntary participation
-	autonomous
effectively controlled by members or shareholders	effectively controlled by shareholders or members
-	located in the proximity of the renewable energy projects that are owned and developed by that legal entity
members or shareholders that are natural persons, local authorities, including municipalities, or small enterprises	shareholders or members of which are natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities;
primary purpose to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits	primary purpose of which is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits

A policy foundation



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What is an energy cooperative?

- Groups of citizens who cooperate on energy transition projects
- Projects cover both electricity, heating and, or transportation
 - Production
 - Supply
 - Distribution
 - Flexibility including storage and demand response
 - Savings
 - District heating
 - Electric car sharing
 - ...



Cooperatives are energy communities

Citizen initiatives respecting the following principles:

Open and Voluntary Membership

Democratic Member Control

Members' Economic Participation

Autonomy and Independence

Education, Training, and Information

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Concern for Community

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Producers










Suppliers












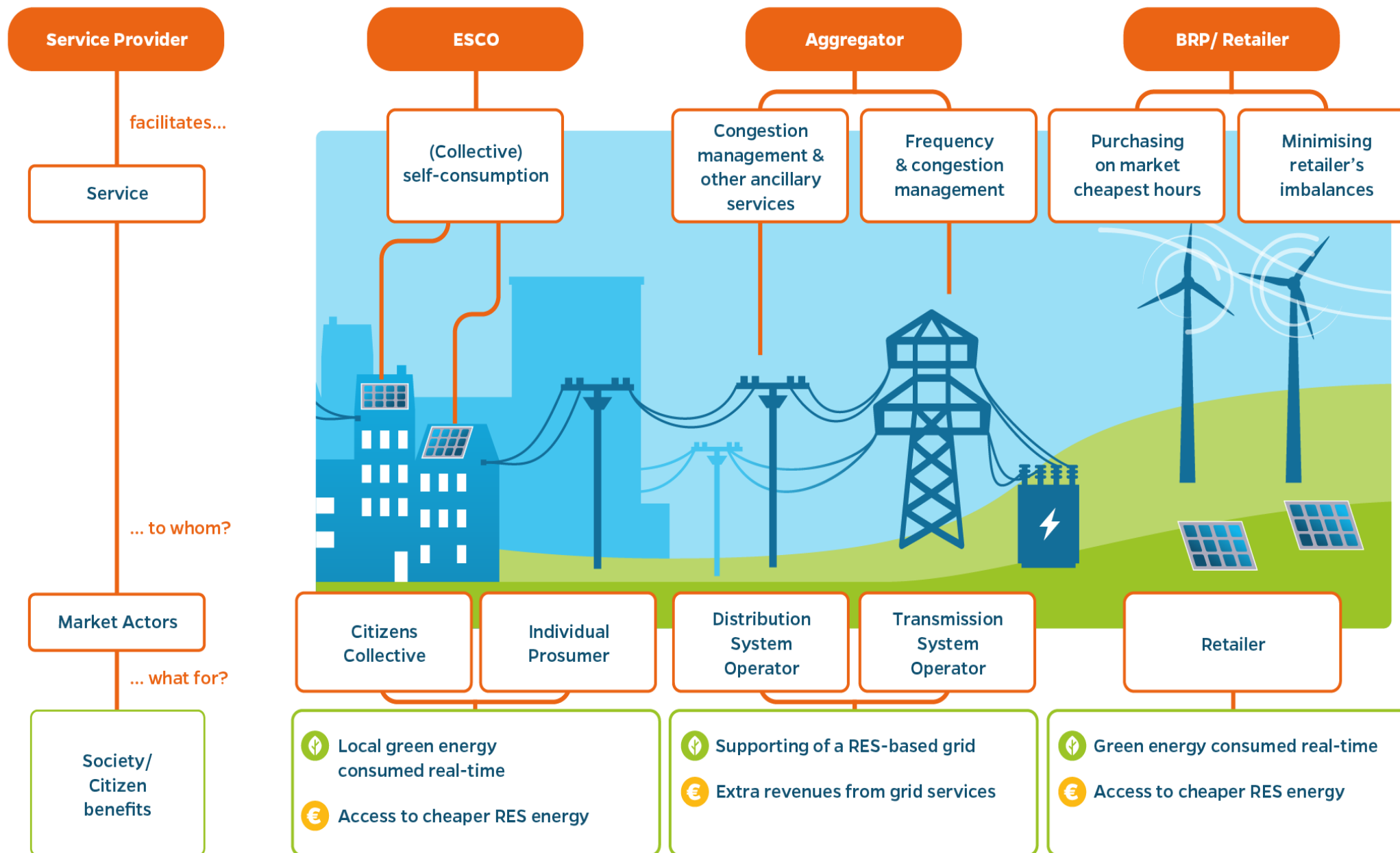
Distribution system operators



And a lot of other services

Building renovation	 
Shared e-mobility	
Energy monitoring	 
Collective PV installation	 

Heating network	 
Citizen financing	 
Education and training	 
Demand-side flexibility	  



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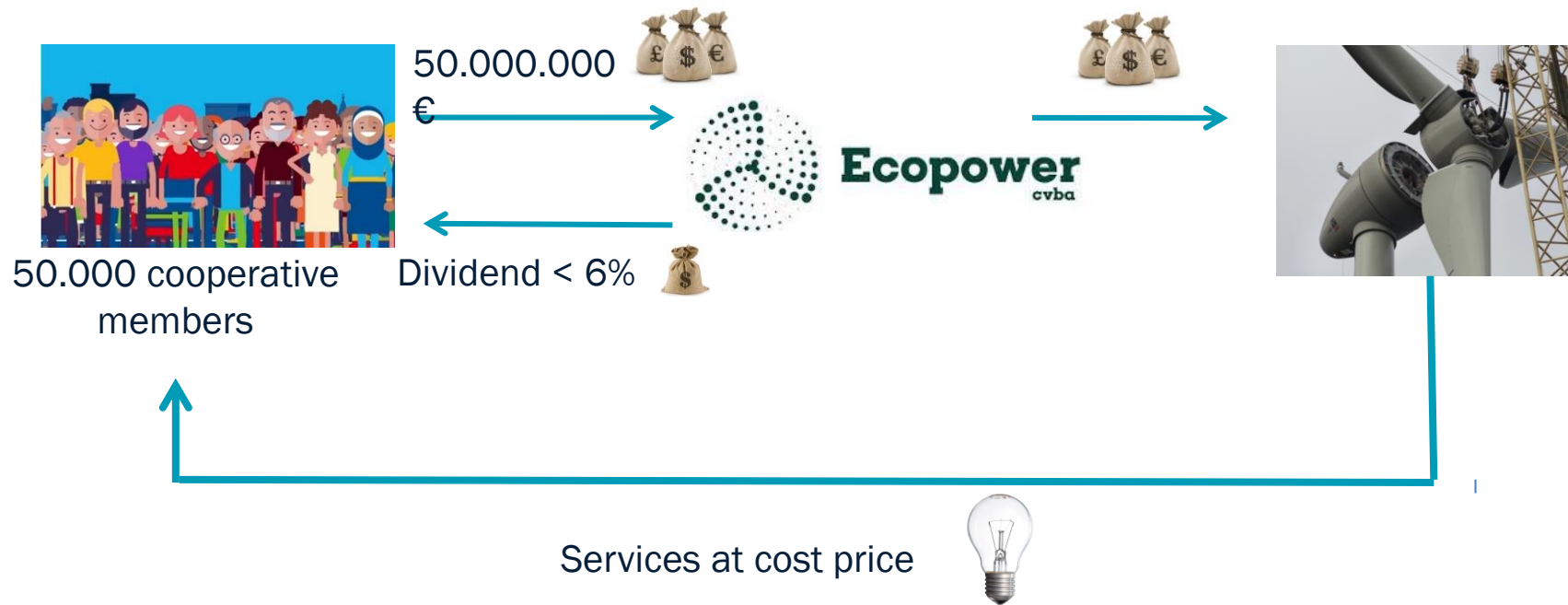
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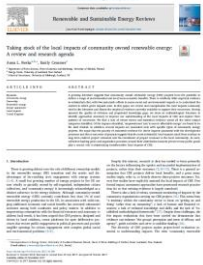
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The cooperative model



Benefits of energy communities



Anna L. Berka, Emily Creamer, *Taking stock of the local impacts of community owned renewable energy: A review and research agenda, 2018*

1. Socio-economic regeneration

Labor and equipment procured locally, reinvestment of benefits

2. Knowledge and skills development Codecision, local hiring, marketing, project financing, ...

3. Capital social “giving individuals the “confidence to invest in collective activities, knowing that others will also do so”” Information sharing, trust, action capability ...

4. Increased local support for renewable energy Fair allocation of costs & benefits

5. Making energy issues tangible

Behavior change, interest in more complex projects, acceptance of energy sufficiency

6. Access to energy

Guarantee of cost transparency in a context of increasing complexity

7. “Empowerment”

- being listened to
- Being involved in the processes that affect them,
- being able to initiate change



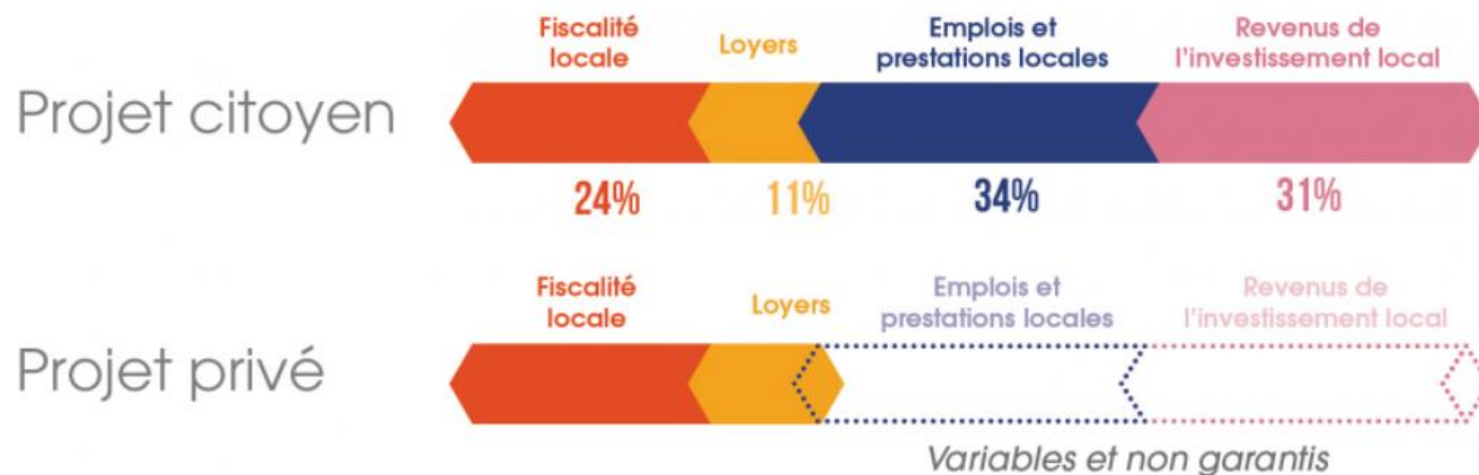
Credit: Enercoop

Economic benefits

Communiqués

10 décembre 2019

Les retombées économiques locales des projets citoyens d'énergie renouvelable





... being able to initiate *change*



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