

ICLEI Energy Exchange #1

Topic: Community energy

Date and location: Virtually on Zoom, 11 July 2023 at 12:00 CEST

Featured speaker(s): Iván Aranda, Head of Energy Area, R2M Solutions

Moderator: Rohit Sen, Head, Sustainable Energy, ICLEI World Secretariat

Session description

Community energy is defined as the economic and operational participation or ownership by citizens or members of a defined community in an energy project¹. Different approaches to community energy development are being implemented globally, such as renewable energy production to stimulate local economic growth, community-led initiatives that supply renewable energy to the grid and provide energy services, and partnerships between communities and traditional energy actors like local authorities, utilities, and private sector developers.

Community energy can play a crucial role in the sustainable energy transition by actively involving citizens in energy production and consumption, resulting in more inclusive and sustainable solutions and improving community resilience. The webinar delves into the following topics, aiming to explore the advantages and barriers surrounding community energy project implementations:

- General Introduction to Energy Communities: This session offers a comprehensive overview of energy communities, including their benefits, participants, barriers, regulations, and typologies. It provides participants with a solid understanding of the concept and its implications.
- In-depth Use Case - ManzaEnergía: Through an in-depth analysis, we will examine the implementation, challenges, and successes of ManzaEnergía. This specific use case serves as a tangible example, showcasing an energy community in action. Participants will gain valuable insights from this real-world case study.

For an overview of Energy Exchanges, [see here](#).

¹ IRENA Coalition for Action (2021), Community Energy Toolkit: Best practices for broadening the ownership of renewables, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi.

Guiding questions

Participants can expect to gain insight on the following questions:

- What kinds of community energy projects are appropriate for our region, and how can we encourage citizens to participate in them?
- How can we financially support community energy initiatives and/or through policy interventions? What legal and regulatory frameworks should be considered when implementing community energy projects?
- How can community energy projects be integrated with existing energy infrastructure and supply systems in our region?
- How can we ensure that community energy initiatives are inclusive and benefit all members, especially marginalized or disadvantaged members of the community?
- What are the potential risks associated with community energy projects, and how can they be effectively managed?
- What skills are needed to effectively implement and manage community energy projects?
- What are the different approaches to community energy projects in the Global North and the Global South?

Indicative agenda

Time	Description
5 minutes	Introduction by ICLEI WS
40 minutes	In-depth dive into the chosen theme
15 minutes	Audience interactive discussion (Q&A) and closing remarks

Contact information

In case of questions or concerns, or interest in partnering or participating, please contact the Sustainable Energy team at the ICLEI World Secretariat at sustainable.energy@iclei.org.

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