

Co2mmunity

Co-producing and co-financing renewable community energy projects

What is community energy?

Community energy (CE) projects offer enhanced production of renewable energies (RE) from local sources (wind, solar, biomass, hydro power, geothermal) through active participation of local communities. Together, citizens co-produce and co-finance RE plants, thereby fostering sustainable energy distribution, like local heating networks or bio gas filling stations. Through active communication, transparent decision-making, and local benefit sharing CE projects have high social acceptance. Consequently, spreading the CE approach is highly promising for increasing the share of RE in the BSR.

What will we do?

RENCOPs are Co2mmunity's core. In each partner region we will initiate and manage such Renewable ENergy COoperative Partnerships to initiate and support CE projects. The transnational exchange of RENCOPs will result in a RENCOP roadmap that will enhance the capacity of local, regional and BSR-wide actors to foster CE across the region. We will also develop a synthesis report on the current CE situation in the BSR, including a best practice compilation and an overview of transferable CE success factors. Another main output are locally specific CE handbooks and white papers for public stakeholders.



Project partnership

The project consortium comprises 15 active project partners from all 8 EU Baltic Sea Region countries. Some are local authorities responsible for regional programmes and strategies which can allocate funds for activities on RE production. Some are responsible for the implementation of energy strategies and projects at the regional scale. Some are experienced in facilitating the implementation of CE projects. And some are experts for transnational comparative research and learning experiences.

Who benefits from our project?

Municipalities, institutions responsible for regional energy planning, political decision-makers, and energy and citizen's associations will benefit from Co2mmunity. Up to now, no comprehensive documents about CE exist in the BSR, neither on pure information nor on implementation guidelines. Our objectives are to create this CE knowledge base and to enhance the institutional capacities of these actors through the RENCOP model (see "What will we do?") for facilitating CE projects.