

Promoting an energy efficiency 1st approach by local energy communities: The Energy Efficiency Directive & the Governance Regulation

While the recitals to the Electricity Directive state that community energy can advance energy efficiency in households and help fight energy poverty through reduced consumption and lower supply tariffs, no provisions on energy efficiency in the Commission's legislative proposals address local energy communities. This is a large gap and a missed opportunity.

Many REScoops encourage their members/customers to undertake energy savings measures without any regulatory support. However, higher level visibility for the role REScoops play in driving implementation of energy savings with final customers, particularly through energy savings obligations schemes, would benefit consumers across the EU, particularly those that face energy poverty.

In amended Article 7a, existing language should be clarified and supplemented with a reference to the need to encourage and promote local energy communities as a way to implement energy efficiency obligation schemes with social aims.

Correspondingly, references in the Governance Regulation on the role that local energy communities play in implementing certain policies and measures on energy efficiency should be added to information that Member States must plan and report in their NECPs. In particular, through their activities local energy communities:

- Promote energy efficiency in electricity infrastructure;
- Drive implementation of energy efficiency obligation schemes, particularly with households experiencing energy poverty;
- Provide energy services to the public sector; and
- Promote other policies and measures such as consumer information and training.

Suggested amendments

Proposed amendments to the Energy Efficiency Directive	Justification
<p style="text-align: center;">Article 7a(5)(a)</p> <p>5. Within the energy efficiency obligation scheme, Member States:</p> <p>(a) shall include requirements with a social aim in the saving obligations they impose, including by requiring a share of energy efficiency measures to</p>	<p><i>Referencing the valuable role that local energy communities play in encouraging their members/customers to engage in energy efficiency, particularly with households experiencing energy poverty, will help make it easier for Member States to achieve their</i></p>

<p>be implemented as a priority in households affected by energy poverty and in social housing. To this effect, specific measures should be put in place to promote and encourage participation of local energy communities, in particular those that are driven by social aims connected to the savings obligations imposed;</p>	<p><i>obligations under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive.</i></p>
<p>Proposed amendment to the Governance Regulation</p>	<p>Justification</p>
<p>Article 19 paragraph (b)</p> <p>New subpoint (8) policies and measures to promote the role of local energy communities in contributing to the implementation of policies and measures in points (1), (3) and (5) above.</p>	<p><i>Requiring Member States to report on how they encourage local energy communities to help implement energy efficiency policies and measures will help provide more high level visibility for the role they play in driving energy savings with final consumers.</i></p>
<p>Annex I, Part 1, Section A, 3.2</p> <p>New point viii. Description of policies and measures to promote the role of local energy communities in contributing to the implementation of policies and measures in points i, iii and iv above.</p>	<p><i>Requiring Member States to report on how they encourage local energy communities to help implement energy efficiency policies and measures will help provide more high level visibility for the role they play in driving energy savings with final consumers.</i></p>