

Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (amended Renewable Energy Directive)

Introduction

In the Context of the European Green Deal, the Commission proposed amendments to Directive (EU) 2018/1999 (Recast Renewable Energy Directive, or RED II) in its Fit for 55 legislative package.¹ The aim was to integrate the EU's higher 2030 ambition for renewable energy (at least 42.5% share of gross final consumption of energy from renewable sources across the EU by 2030). Under the REPowerEU Package,² the EU's main response to the war between Ukraine and Russia, further amendments were agreed.

Member States have an obligation to transpose laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive 2023/2413³ (revised RED) by 21 May 2025. For this purpose, the Commission is also developing guidance on how Member States can implement different provisions.

The amendments do not address any of the core provisions of the RED II on Renewable Energy Communities (RECs),⁴ which were adopted under the Clean Energy Package (CEP). However, they build upon existing references to RECs, providing additional acknowledgment in areas such as offshore wind development, renewables acceleration areas, as well as further clarifying the role of energy communities in district heating.

¹ More information on the Fit for 55 Package can be found on the official website of the Commission: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal/fit-55-delivering-proposals_en

² More information on the REPowerEU Package can be found on the official website of the Commission: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en

³ Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2413/oj>

⁴ Therefore, article 2(16) and article 22 of the RED II are not changed.

Summary of REScoop.eu Recommendations

- 1) Member States should integrate **RECs** into their policy frameworks for developing **offshore wind**, including through creating a bike lane for RECs to be included in offshore tenders; the EU Commission should support Member States in this endeavour by including recommendations on RECs within its guidance document focusing on the design of renewable energy auctions.
- 2) Member States should use public procurement to promote cooperation between local authorities and RECs as a way to increase **renewables production on buildings**; the Commission should support these efforts by developing Green Public Procurement criteria for energy communities, as well as clarifying EU public procurement rules so that they more clearly support local authority efforts to provide space to energy communities in their public procurement processes.
- 3) Local, regional and national decision makers should adopt framework policies to ensure that local communities have the **right to participate in renewable production projects**, in order for citizens, SMEs and local authorities to be able to benefit from the development of local production of renewables. More specifically, **in renewables acceleration areas, priority can be given to projects owned by the community**, or a mandate of a certain percentage of community ownership could be implemented through legislative measures in national and regional spatial planning regulations, or through renewable energy targets specifically set for community projects; in its guidance document, the Commission should clarify how Member States can ensure direct and indirect participation of local communities in renewables production projects both inside and outside of renewables acceleration areas.
- 4) Member States should provide sufficient financial and human resources to local authorities, so that they are able to provide RECs and citizens with sufficiently clear information on **permitting procedures** for realising their projects. They should also put in place regulatory incentives, as well as rules, to ensure that distribution system operators (DSOs) do not hold up the process of connecting REC projects, particularly those that are used for self-consumption and energy sharing of on-site or local renewables production; the Commission should issue guidance on simplifying permitting procedures for REC projects and highlight the need for proper information sharing by Member States to citizens and energy communities on this regard.
- 5) On the issuance of **Guarantees of Origin**, Member States need to introduce simplified registration processes and reduced registration fees for small installations of less than 50 kW and specifically for RECs; the Commission should introduce a Union-wide green label for renewable energy from new installations within the GO scheme.
- 6) Member States should make sure that DSOs make anonymized and aggregated data on demand response potential and renewable electricity production by RECs available in a digital manner. The procedures for end users and third parties to access data and in particular 'near real-time' data should be accelerated.

Consumption and pricing data is essential for managing **flexibility services**. This also requires pursuing the installation of digital meter rollout in countries which are currently lagging behind.

- 7) Member States should pay special attention to unlock private investment in energy efficiency measures, and **Community-owned Heating and Cooling** through green mortgages and green loans, which must be offered in a non-discriminatory manner; the Commission should further develop the enabling framework for Community Heating and Cooling projects through the creation of Guidelines for Member States.

Analysis of relevant provisions for energy communities

1. Offshore renewable energy

Under recital 14 to the revised RED, *"Enabling the participation of IRECs in joint projects on offshore renewable energy provides a further means by which to enhance public acceptance"*. Correspondingly, a new paragraph (7a) to Article 9 states that **"to enhance public acceptance, Member States may include renewable energy communities in joint offshore renewable energy projects"**.

Analysis

Under the revised RED, Member States are encouraged by EU legislation to include local participation through direct ownership into their tenders for development of offshore renewable energy production. Ownership can give citizens, local authorities, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) a stronger say in the project. It will also guarantee that local actors can benefit from the direct supply of offshore production.

In Belgium, the Federal Ministry recently drafted legislation incorporating RECs into bidding procedures for granting concessions to build wind projects within Belgium's territorial sea and exclusive economic area.⁵

In joint offshore projects between Member States, allowing the participation of citizens from all participating countries would allow for common local ownership, provide additional finance, ensure a more just distribution of benefits, and strengthen public support for such projects.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- Member States should include support for community ownership in the design of their legal frameworks for developing national offshore renewables production, as well as in cooperation with other Member States, particularly when designing concessions and tender schemes. They should consider installing points on

⁵ The relevant legislation can be found in [this link](#).

citizen participation that compensate the burden for consortia to include citizens as shareholders. These points should make a difference versus the points on pricing. With regard to the intensity of such ownership, auctions should include community participation and ownership as key criteria for entering the auction. Auctioneers should reward both participation criteria and intensity of the participation. Moreover, auctions should include a component of community ownership in the exclusion criteria.

- Communication and stakeholder engagement is crucial in the allocation to and participation of energy communities. The process of engagement should involve network stakeholders and targeted communication to energy communities. The focus on clear and simple rules, as well as the deployment of a unique contact point is crucial to ensure the success of the allocation.
- Emphasis should be given on social criteria in auctions, including democratic participation, inclusion of energy poor households, and other individuals facing structural disadvantages.
- Member States should carve out possibilities for long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for citizen initiatives, in line with the requirements of the Electricity Market Design revision, which includes provisions on facilitating access to PPAs for smaller actors. The participation of community actors could be de-risked through price capping mechanisms, such as two-way contracts for difference (CfDs).
- Member States should ensure the proper splits of the economic value of the project. For auctions with community components, we recommend ensuring that the value of the project is correctly spread between and with community partners. This can be done by requiring the valuation of community investment at a premium. This can be also done through reserved board seats in the SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) or the allocation of veto rights to community actors. The contracting authority should be encouraged to perform contract management beyond the auction and carry out an ex post evaluation of the results of the auction on energy communities. The life cycle costing approach in the evaluation should also be added in the process of awarding the auction, in line with sustainable public procurement considerations.
- On the financing side, some of the measures should include financial bankability of long term offtake contracts with smart structuration of guarantees and termination options. Guarantees for energy community project financing will also support securing external finance from banks.
- In its guidance document on auction design, the Commission should urge Member States to take into account the specificities of energy communities in the design process of renewables auctions, including offshore wind auctions, aligning with the requirements of the Green Deal and the state aid regulations. This could be achieved for instance by providing reserved capacities (as is the case in Germany) or by carrying out closed auctions for energy communities. The auctions can also include a premium for community energy projects (see the bonus system of France). We also recommend simplified administrative procedures and application support for the reserved capacities.

2. Solar on buildings and small installations

The revised RED creates a new indicative target of at least 49% share of renewables consumption in the building sector by 2030. To meet this target, under a new Article 15a on mainstreaming renewable energy in buildings, Member States need to establish '*indicative national shares for the share of on-site or nearby renewable energy production*'. To support delivery of their indicative national share, Member States must introduce appropriate measures into their national regulations, building codes and, where necessary, renewables support schemes. **Among measures to support delivery of their indicative national share, Member States may include national measures relating to substantial increases in renewables self-consumption and renewable energy communities.**⁶

Public buildings must also fulfill an exemplary role in meeting this indicative target. In particular, Member States can meet this obligation by providing third parties access to public or mixed private-public buildings to install production. In this regard, **Member States may promote cooperation between local authorities and renewable energy communities in the building sector, particularly through the use of public procurement.**⁷

Analysis

To help Member States deliver their indicative share of increasing renewables consumption in buildings under the revised RED, they can introduce supportive measures for renewables self-consumption by RECs - namely through energy sharing⁸ - in their national regulations, building codes, and support schemes. This provides a basis for setting policy objectives for the growth of RECs by local municipal governments, as well as the provision of financial, informational and technical support, and special tariffs to encourage the matching of production close to consumption. Furthermore, the new Article 15a explicitly encourages local authorities to use public procurement and concessions processes as a way to support local citizens in developing energy communities that can deliver local sustainability and social objectives.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- Member States should link community-owned solar energy on buildings from the revised RED with the requirements of the European Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), and particularly its article 9a relating to solar energy in buildings in order to accelerate deployment. To this end, Member States must include policies and measures in their National Building Renovation Plans (NBRPs) on deployment of solar energy installations in **all buildings**. Linking the NBRPs with the development of energy communities would help achieve the solar rooftop targets set out in the EPBD's article 9a.

⁶ Article 15a paragraph 3 of the revised RED.

⁷ Article 15a paragraph 5 of the revised RED.

⁸ The activity of energy sharing was recently clarified in the Electricity Market Design legislative revision, which is still being finalised in the Council and the Parliament. This legislation should be officially published by the summer of 2024.

- The Commission should develop Green Public Procurement Criteria on integrating RECs into public procurement and concessions criteria so they can make use of public spaces to develop renewables production and provide local services to citizens. The Commission should, therefore, clarify EU legislation that allows public authorities to use social and environmental criteria into tendering and concession procedures. At the moment, while many local authorities want to support energy communities using public procurement, the lack of legal clarity discourages many local authorities from doing so.

3. Mapping renewables production potential, identification of acceleration areas, overriding public interest, and ensuring public acceptance in permitting new projects

Under a new Article 15b of the revised RED, by 21 May 2025, Member States must carry out coordinated mapping of potential to deploy renewable energy production between national, regional and local authorities, and network operators.⁹ As an output of this mapping process, under Article 15b, by 21 February 2026, Member States must adopt "*plans designating [...] renewables acceleration areas for one or more types of renewable energy sources.*"¹⁰

Under Recital 30, the revised RED acknowledges the need "*to increase public acceptance of renewable energy projects*", encouraging Member States to "*take appropriate measures to promote the participation of local communities in renewable energy projects.*" To meet this objective, there are provisions relating to public participation and decision making. The plans designating renewables acceleration areas are subject to rules under the Directive 2001/42/EC (The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, or SEA).¹¹

Member States must ensure public participation regarding these plans in accordance with Article 6 of the SEA. The provisions of the Aarhus Convention,¹² in particular the provisions relating to public participation and access to justice, also remain applicable. As a trade-off, once a SEA has been conducted, individual projects will not be subject to a dedicated environmental impact assessment (EIA), instead being subject to a screening process.¹³

Outside of renewables acceleration areas, under a new Article 16f, from 21 February 2024 "*until climate neutrality is achieved*", Member States must treat planning, construction and

⁹ Article 15b paragraph 1.

¹⁰ Hydropower and biomass combustion may be excluded at the discretion of the Member State. Under Article 15e, Member States may also adopt such plans for grid and storage infrastructure, although they are not required to do so.

¹¹ Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment. OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p 30-37 (SEA Directive).

¹² United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, signed in Aarhus on 25 June 1998 (Aarhus Convention).

¹³ Article 15b paragraphs 3-6.

operation of renewable energy production, and relevant grid and storage infrastructure, with a presumption of overriding other public interests, such as:

- legal interests of members of the public affected or having significant interest in the projects;
- implementation of protections and monitoring under the Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive);
- compliance with Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive); and
- certain protective measures under Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive).

Under a new Article 15d, Member States are required to “*promote public acceptance of renewable energy projects by means of direct and indirect participation of local communities in those projects.*”.

Analysis

The revised RED aims to shorten and simplify the permitting process for developers of new renewables production projects. EIAs for individual projects are to be replaced by a single SEA conducted as a basis for developing renewables acceleration plans. Afterwards, projects only need to navigate a simplified screening process. Outside acceleration areas, individual projects benefit from an overriding public interest when balancing against other impacts. While this may simplify the permitting process from a procedural perspective, the revised RED also acknowledges that this is likely to trigger social acceptance issues. As such, Member States are required to promote public acceptance of such projects through means of directive participation (i.e. ownership of the local community through a REC) or indirect participation through other means.

There are already a number of national examples of policy measures aimed to ensure that local communities can directly participate in professional developer-led projects.

The Netherlands' National Climate Pact (Klimaatakkoord) contains a non-binding policy objective of including 50% ownership in all new onshore wind and PV projects. The objective has been given to the municipalities to interpret and implement, providing them with the basis for integrating criteria in planning permitting to include citizen participation in the process with project developers that want to build a project in the municipality.

In the Belgian Region of Wallonia, the Regional Government recently adopted a Wind Agreement that will require new wind projects to be open for at least 24.999%, respectively, to citizens and to municipalities.

These policies are intended to ensure that local citizens enjoy the benefits of local production potential, helping to ensure public acceptance and speed up the energy transition. Local authorities have also integrated such requirements in public tenders for siting projects on public land.

In the Belgian Region of Flanders, 10 municipal councils agreed together to require all renewable production installations on municipal land to offer 50 percent of its capital to investment by citizens.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- Local, regional and national decision makers should adopt framework policies to ensure that local communities have the right to participate economically, ideally through ownership, in order for citizens, SMEs and local authorities to be able to benefit from the development of local production of renewables. More specifically, in renewables acceleration areas, priority can be given to projects owned by the community, or a mandate of a certain percentage of community ownership could be implemented through legislative measures in national and regional spatial planning regulations, or through renewable energy targets specifically set for community projects. A concrete proposal on this regard is that every renewables acceleration area should earmark at least 10% of the total capacity of projects to citizens, municipalities, and energy communities.
- Effective public participation and community engagement in planning and mapping must be central. Stakeholder involvement in acceleration areas designation needs to go beyond the designation process and should be continuous, as part of the wider multi-level stakeholder dialogues required by the Governance Regulation. Citizens, civil society, and energy communities should be provided with opportunities to share feedback and help co-design the selection of the renewables acceleration areas, while clear grievance mechanisms should be foreseen in case conflicts arise, in line with the Aarhus Convention. "Gray" sites, such as (peri)urban areas, highways, landfills, etc. should be prioritized over natural areas to reduce impacts on biodiversity and protected landscapes, while also the potential of multi-use spaces should be leveraged.
- Local governments should be involved in a meaningful way in the identification of such areas and collaborate with the local communities. Member States must allow sufficient time for them to do so, but municipalities should also be provided with the necessary tools and resources to carry out this exercise. Capacity should be ensured at local level also to enable permitting processes in those areas to run smoothly.
- Member States should ensure that practical information on the renewables acceleration areas and the related processes are publicly available and accessible to enhance transparency. For instance, they should conduct awareness raising campaigns to provide adequate and timely information on renewables acceleration areas and opportunities for membership in relevant projects. National and Regional One Stop Shops, in line with the Renewable Energy Directive, can be utilized to offer such information.
- Member States should guarantee the availability of energy infrastructure including grids, storage and other flexibility tools and demand response, to support and maximize the integration of growing renewable energy, while determining the need for modernisation or infrastructure expansion in cooperation with distribution system operators (DSOs) and transmission system operators (TSOs).
- The design of renewables acceleration areas should be part of the overall coordinated planning and mapping exercise for renewable energy. This would

ensure a holistic approach to renewable energy development, where acceleration areas can complement the larger strategic framework.

- Member States should periodically review and update their spatial planning and mapping. This ongoing process can ensure the effective identification and implementation of areas suitable for renewable energy development, aligning with evolving scientific knowledge, technological advancements, environmental considerations, and local community needs.
- The role of heat networks should not be overlooked in this process. The decarbonisation of heat is one of the biggest challenges to face in reaching Net Zero. Heat networks play a crucial role in the success of the energy transition in the heating sector. The use of renewable heat sources on site and the local distribution of renewable generated heat through local heat networks are particularly climate-friendly, make entire communities fit for the future and create regional value. Therefore, European law should further support the ramp-up of citizen-owned heat networks, while areas with accelerated permitting procedures should also be applied to heat networks. This includes the entire network – from the heating system over the distribution network up to the transfer stations delivering the heat into the connected buildings. We urge the Commission to take further steps into this direction.
- In its guidance document, the Commission should clarify how Member States can ensure direct and indirect participation of local communities in renewables production projects both inside and outside of renewables acceleration areas.

4. Permitting

The revised RED strengthens rules on the permitting procedures to provide clarity and simplify the process. Under amendments to Article 16 paragraph 4, RECs are now distinctly addressed by the manual of procedures that must be developed to clarify procedures permitting the construction of renewable energy production installations. There is also a strong correlation between simplified permitting and the integration of solar in buildings.¹⁴

Under a new Article 16d, paragraph 1, permitting for solar production in existing or future artificial structures (excluding artificial water surfaces), must not exceed three months. Such projects are exempt from EIAs. Paragraph 2 of the same article highlights that *"Member States shall ensure that the permit-granting procedure for the installation of solar energy equipment with a capacity of 100 kW or less, including for renewables self-consumers and RECs, shall not exceed one month."* Where the application of such thresholds lead to significant administrative burden or grid constraints, Member States may lower the capacity threshold.

¹⁴ This applies both in and outside renewables acceleration areas.

Analysis

The revised RED contains provisions that significantly reduce the amount of time and effort (e.g. exemption from an EIA) it takes to permit smaller solar PV projects on buildings, as well as installations under 100 kW. Furthermore, requirements for manuals of procedures dedicated to RECs will help provide clarity for initiatives trying to navigate the process. Nevertheless, DSOs that do not want to comply, may still be able to limit new grid connections under the new provisions, which is already the case in several Member States. Furthermore, local authorities that must set up single administrative contact points for dealing with permitting requests still need the financial and human resources to be able to make these provisions work in practice.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- Member States should provide sufficient financial and human resources to local authorities, so that they are able to provide RECs and citizens with sufficiently clear information on realising their projects. Furthermore, they should link single administrative contact points with information support and access to expertise under enabling frameworks for RECs, covered in Article 22 of the RED.
- Member States should put in place regulatory incentives, as well as rules, to ensure that DSOs do not hold up the process of connecting REC projects, particularly those that are used for self-consumption and energy sharing of on-site or local renewables production.
- In its revised recommendation on speeding up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects and its guidance document on good practices to speed up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects, the Commission should include guidance on simplifying permitting procedures for REC projects and highlight the need for proper information sharing by Member States to citizens and energy communities.

5. Issuance of Guarantees of Origin

The RED revisions include changes to Article 19 on Guarantees of Origin (GOs). In particular, while GOs are issued based on the size of 1 MWh, they may be divided into fractions, provided that the fraction is a multiple of 1 Wh. Paragraph 2 of the same article highlights that "*Simplified registration processes and reduced registration fees shall be introduced for small installations of less than 50 kW and for renewable energy communities.*". Finally, the revised paragraph 13 introduces a requirement for the Commission to adopt a report, by 31 December 2025, assessing options to establish a Union-wide green label with a view to promoting the use of renewable energy generated by new installations. Suppliers shall use the information contained in guarantees of origin to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of such a label.

Analysis

It is positively evaluated that there is a possibility to issue GOs smaller than 1 MWh, as by issuing fragments of 1 MWh GOs, small renewable actors are integrated in the GO scheme. Also, the simplified registration processes and reduced registration fees for RECs and small installations (smaller than 50kW) are of tremendous importance in order to raise the potential of small installations and citizen-driven renewable energies expansion. Moreover, an introduction of a green label within the GO scheme provides a clear marker that the power plant was recently installed and has, thus, contributed to the build-up of renewable energy capacity.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- Member States need to introduce simplified registration processes and reduced registration fees for small installations of less than 50 kW and specifically for RECs.
- We urge the Commission to introduce a Union-wide green label for renewable energy from new installations within the GO scheme. More than just an indication of renewable energy production, the GO green label information renders visible the additional installations of renewable power plants – essential to reach climate targets.

6. Facilitation of system integration and flexibility services

Under Recital 58 of the revised RED, "*Member States should encourage self-consumers and IRECs] to actively participate in electricity markets by providing flexibility services through demand response and storage including through batteries and electric vehicles.*". Under a new Article 20a, DSOs are required, to the extent they are technically capable, to make anonymized and aggregated data on demand response potential and renewable electricity production by RECs available in a digital manner. Furthermore, there are new requirements in paragraph 5 to ensure that national regulatory frameworks provide a level playing field and non-discriminatory participation of small, decentralised energy assets to participate in electricity markets.

Analysis

There are still a number of practical and regulatory barriers that prevent RECs, as well as smaller consumers generally, from participating in providing flexibility. Under the new provisions, DSOs should begin to publish information on potential for local flexibility provision for the public. Furthermore, regulatory frameworks are required to be modified so that smaller, decentralised energy resources are able to participate in relevant flexibility markets. With the emergence of energy sharing, which allows RECs and other collective initiatives to optimise self-consumption during peak periods, these provisions are a step forward in pushing regulations to allow a level playing field for the participation of smaller consumers in providing flexibility, especially at the local level.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- Member States should make sure that DSOs make anonymized and aggregated data on demand response potential and renewable electricity production by

RECs available in a digital manner. According to the findings of the REScoopVPP project, energy communities may play an important role in engaging end-users in explicit demand response services due to their trusted position. However, this is a new and complex area for energy communities and regulation should be tailored to ensure it doesn't disadvantage or exclude smaller actors. The procedures for end users and third parties to access data and in particular 'near real-time' data should be accelerated. Consumption and pricing data is essential for managing flexibility services. Currently end users and their services provider don't always have timely access to data for flexibility services yet. This also requires pursuing the installation of digital meter rollout in countries which are currently lagging behind.¹⁵

- The absence of standardisation for monitoring and control of home devices is a key obstacle. Action should be taken by Member States to issue cross-device and cross-brand protocols enabling the set-up of initiatives at community level.¹⁶
- Markets for flexibility are still in early stages of development, resulting in several barriers also for community initiatives. While energy sharing can be a good basis for providing flexibility services when exposed to implicit or explicit incentives, the rules are slowly being put in place and require efforts from all stakeholders (communities, DSOs and technology service providers) to be successful.¹⁷
- Member States can make use of regulatory sandboxes on this topic. Such procedures allow innovators to test new technologies and business models that are only partially compatible with the existing legal and regulatory framework, while also enable regulators to learn more about particular innovations. As such, regulators can develop the right regulatory environment to accommodate them.¹⁸

7. RECs in the heating and cooling sector

Revisions to the RED also include provisions intended to increase the share of renewable energy sources in the heating and cooling sector. Amendments to Article 23 require Member States to "*endeavour to implement at least two*" of a list of 12 different measures presented in paragraph 4. Item (k) in this list is "*the promotion of renewables based district heating and cooling networks, in particular by RECs, including through regulatory measures, financing arrangements and support*". Furthermore, in amendments to paragraph 6,

¹⁵ REScoopVPP Deliverable D7.9 'Final Policy and Market Recommendations', available at: <https://uploads.strikinglycdn.com/files/aeg38e44-1247-4457-9781-fb24413c76f5/D7.9%20Final%20Policy%20&%20Market%20Recommendations.pdf?t=1702041591&id=4080772>

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Energy Communities Repository, Barriers and drivers report, available at: https://energy-communities-repository.ec.europa.eu/report-barriers-and-action-drivers-development-energy-communities-their-activities_en

¹⁸ Ibid. Within the FLEXCoop project, the citizen cooperative, Endona, benefited from being able to perform several experiments within a regulatory sandbox around the area of Heeten, Netherlands. Through their participation in the regulatory sandbox, Endona was enabled to provide local supply services and to experiment flexibility services in direct contact with system operators (DSO and TSO).

coordination between system operators of heating and cooling must ensure dialogue regarding the use of waste heat and cold that can be produced or used by RECs involved in heating and cooling.

Analysis

Amendments to Article 23 provide a legal basis for providing favourable financing, regulatory and other support for the development of community-owned heating and cooling initiatives (CH&C). Furthermore, it provides support for RECs to use waste heat and cold for their networks.

Recommendations for national and EU action

- To achieve the objectives set out in article 23 of the revised RED, Member States should link such provision with the article 30 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) on financing and technical support, as renewable H&C projects contribute to achieving the EU's energy efficiency targets. Special attention should be given to unlock private investment in energy efficiency measures, and Community-owned Heating and Cooling through green mortgages and green loans, which must be offered in a non-discriminatory manner.
- The Commission should further develop the enabling framework for Community Heating and Cooling projects through the creation of Guidelines for Member States. In order to avoid unfair market advantages and corporate capture, these guidelines should remind Member States of the citizen-led, bottom-up nature of energy communities and their H&C projects.