

Community energy: lessons for adaptive water governance

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25/05/2015



What is community energy?

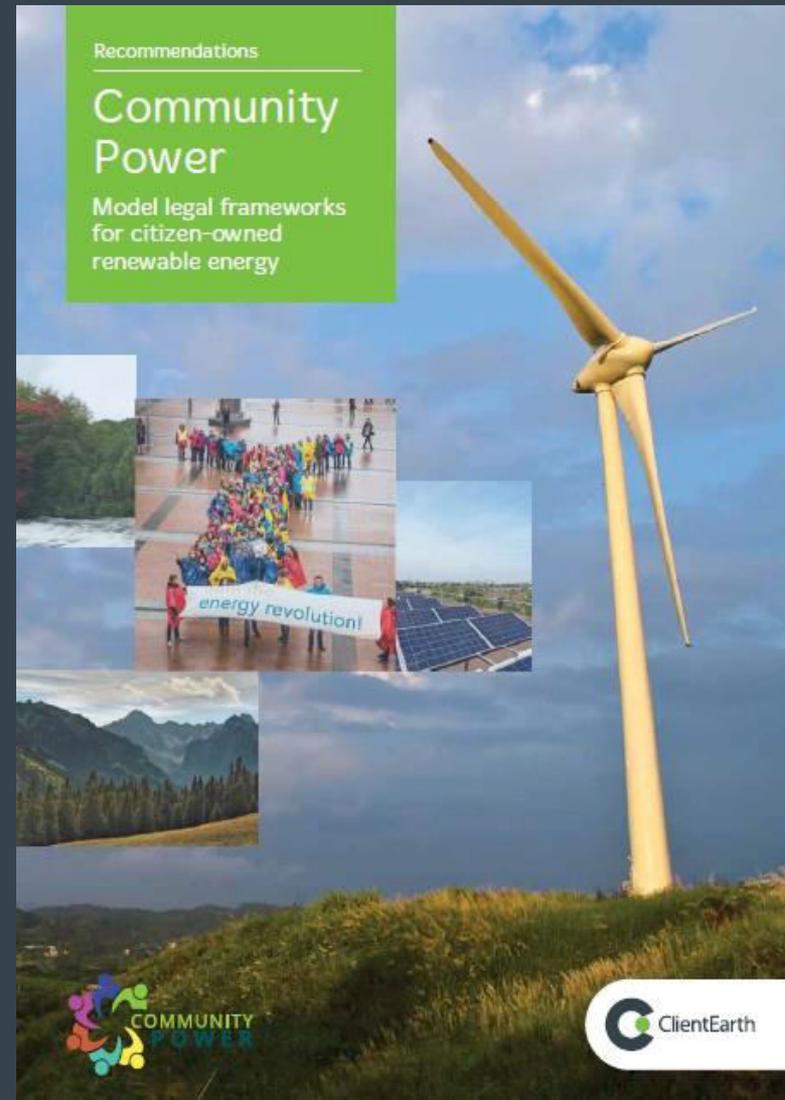


“Projects where citizens own or participate in the production and/or use of sustainable energy”



Community energy around Europe

- Energy becoming democratised
- Community initiatives becoming market actors
- Strong correlation between enabling frameworks for citizen/community participation/ownership and high uptake of low carbon technologies/ climate target performance
- Seeing ‘remunicipalisation’ movement of public goods and services (e.g. energy and water)
- Recognition of decentralised solutions amidst Europeanisation of energy policy and the need to rethink the energy system



What are 'enabling' legal framework for community energy?

- Consist of laws and policies at local, national and supranational (e.g. EU) level that generally favour community renewable energy projects
- Scope:
 - available legal ownership models (company law);
 - targets/strategies (policy/legal frameworks);
 - financial support schemes (operational and investment);
 - land use planning and other local and administrative, regulatory frameworks;
 - Licencing and competition arrangements for grid ownership/management, and energy market/supply

Community energy contributes to adaptation

California/US

- Distributed solar slowly replacing lost capacity from hydropower
- Large-scale and small-scale solar as a response to a shrinking agricultural sector in the central valley

Morocco

- Replacement of energy needs through firewood with solar PV

European Union (e.g. Denmark, Germany)

- Waste-to-energy, combined heat and power through municipal utilities

What lessons for adaptive water governance?

Stakeholder dialogue and decision-making

- Need high level support (e.g. political, financial, and policy/legal) and coordination
- ‘good governance’ in decision-making (and implementation)
- Process just as – if not more – important as substance
- Need enhanced planning and integrated/circular economic perspectives
- Balancing flexibility and certainty is key

Implementation

- More than consultation – incentives/ownership is important for generating local acceptance and uptake/implementation of solutions
- Markets matter – who participates & what roles? Need level competitive playing field
- Support for new stakeholders – a level field for engagement

Thank you

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Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union

