# Data Collection: exploring energy communities as catalysts for alleviating energy poverty

## Background

With the European institutions currently developing future strategies on energy poverty and the clean energy transition, there is a growing interest in real-life examples of energy communities and collective, citizen-led approaches leading the way towards a just and democratic energy system. However, detailed knowledge about these initiatives, their social impact and inclusivity towards vulnerable households remains scarce. This questionnaire, conducted as part of the LIFE SOCIALNRG project, will provide actionable data on community-led energy poverty alleviation and social justice projects. Your input will contribute to creating blueprints for impactful collaborative approaches that can be replicated across Europe.

In addition, your participation in this survey will provide a basis for advocacy efforts demonstrating the impact and potential of energy communities in addressing energy poverty and supporting an inclusive energy transition. Data collected will help policymakers, stakeholders, and community energy organisations better understand the sector, drive investment, and advocate for supportive policies. In the past, such data has allowed us to successfully advocate for concrete recognition of energy communities’ role in energy poverty alleviation in the revised European energy and climate policies. The time is now to ensure such policies remain in place and are further elaborated for the EU to achieve a timely AND just energy transition.

We appreciate your time and ask for as much detail as possible to ensure energy communities and their partners receive the support they need. Thank you for contributing to this important initiative.

Once completed, kindly send it to heleen.schockaert@rescoop.eu **before 7 February 2025** – THANK YOU!

## GDPR

By submitting the completed questionnaire, you agree to provide information that will be used for research purposes in the SOCIALNRG project.  Participation in this survey is voluntary, your responses will remain confidential, and any results will be presented in a way that does not reveal the identity of individual respondents. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer, and you can withdraw from the survey at any time.

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| **QUESTION** | **ANSWER** |
| Contacts details  |   |
| *Information on your energy community/cooperative* |
| **Where** is your energy community based (city, country)?  |   |
| What is the **legal form** of your energy community?  |   |
| How many **members** does your energy community have?  |   |
| How many people does your energy community **employ**?   |   |
| What are the **main objectives and activities** of your energy community *(ex. Renewable energy generation, reducing energy costs, social impact, etc.)*?  |   |
| *Energy poverty and social justice initiatives* |
| In what **stage** of development is/are your project *(e.g. initial planning, development, implementation, operation)*?  |   |
| What specific **actions** are part of your energy poverty initiatives *(e.g., subsidized energy rates, energy efficiency improvements, educational campaigns, renewable energy installations, renovations etc.)*?  |   |
| Who are the **primary beneficiaries** of these initiatives *(e.g., low-income households, elderly, rural communities, etc.)*? Are those beneficiaries members of your energy community?  |   |
| How did you **engage** your main beneficiaries?   |   |
| What **barriers** have you encountered in developing and implementing your energy poverty alleviation projects *(ex. Accessibility of services for target audiences, language barriers, health issues among beneficiaries, lack of trust, digital exclusion, lack of awareness)*?  |   |
| What do you believe is needed to overcome these barriers? *(e.g., additional funding, training programs, stronger partnerships, improved policies, better community outreach strategies, etc.)*  |   |

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| *Information on legal and regulatory frameworks* |
| Does the national legislation on energy communities **recognise** energy poverty alleviation as one of the activities that energy communities can perform/contribute to? Or as one of their main aims/objectives? If yes, please specify how this is enabled. If not, do you think it should be, and why?  |   |
| Does the existing legislative framework pose **barriers** to your energy poverty activities? If yes, what specific legislative or regulatory barriers have you encountered *(e.g. licensing requirements, grid access, restrictions on energy sharing, tax policies)*.   |   |
| *Governance of your project* |
| Who are the **key stakeholders or partners** involved in the governance of your project, and what roles do they play (*e.g., coordination, technical support, funding*)?  |   |
| Are **vulnerable or energy poor households** included as members, decision-makers, or participants in planning and governance within your energy community? If so, how do you ensure their voices are heard? If not, do you plan to involve them more actively?  |   |
| *Information on partnerships* |
| What types of **partnerships** have been instrumental for your initiatives (e.g., NGOs, local governments, housing associations, private sector)?  |   |
| Can you name any specific **partners**?  |   |
| What kind of **support** do your partners provide (e.g., funding, technical expertise, access to target groups, advocacy)?  |   |
| *Information on financing (confidential)* |
| How do you **finance** your energy poverty initiatives? (*ex. Revenues from operating energy services, donations, grants, membership fees, other*)?  |   |
| Have you faced **challenges or gaps** in financing your energy poverty initiatives?  |   |

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| *Information on impacts* |
| How do you **measure** the success of your energy poverty initiatives? (*e.g., number of households supported, reduction in energy bills, energy saved, etc*.)  |   |
| *Future plans* |
| Do you plan to **expand** your energy poverty initiatives in the future? (Yes/No)  |   |
| What additional support would help you **enhance** your energy poverty efforts *(e.g., funding, partnerships, tools for impact measurement)*?  |   |

* Is there anything else you would like to share about your energy poverty initiatives or your energy community’s work? Kindly attach any further documents (reports, presentations...) of your project(s) focused on social justice or energy poverty alleviation that you think might be relevant.

* May SOCIALNRG contact you if we have any further questions? (YES/NO)





The SOCIALNRG project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE programme under grant agreement

No 101167579.



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor **the granting authority can be held responsible for them**