

Energy Communities in Austria

Energy communities in the Austrian
Renewable Energy Expansion Act –
First experiences

Coordinating Office for Energy Communities in Austria: Background

- Founded by Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment and Energy,
- Embedded in Climate and Energy Fund,
- Preparatory works to make an implementation as easy as possible,
- Working closely with regional public advisory organisations ...

FORSCHUNG 
Burgenland
RESEARCH & INNOVATION

LAND  KÄRNTEN



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
KOORDINATIONSSTELLE FÜR
ENERGIEGEMEINSCHAFTEN



SALZBURGER INSTITUT FÜR
RAUMORDNUNG & WOHNEN



ENERGIE AGENTUR
Steiermark



ÖÖENERGIESPARVERBAND



ENERGIE TIROL



urban
innovation
vienna
an initiative of 



Energieinstitut Vorarlberg

Coordinating Office for Energy Communities in Austria: Main Tasks

-Provision of Quality- assured Information

- Webpage
- Infographics
- Explanatory videos
- Factsheets / guidelines
- FAQs
- Sample contracts
- Best practice examples

- Further information:
- www.energiegemeinschaften.gv.at
- info@energiegemeinschaften.gv.at
- Phone 0043 1 532 39 99

-Support for Projects

- Financial support through funding programme (Climate and Energy Fund)
- Pilot projects in all 9 provinces
- Identification of challenges (regulatory, operative) and solution-focused support
- Monitoring/communication of findings

Stakeholder Communication

- Cooperation programme and information exchange with regional public advisory organisations
- Link to national stakeholders such as:
 - - ministries
 - - regulator
 - - associations
 - - interest groups
- Information campaigns

Energy Communities in Austria: First experiences

- Schnifis
- Hartberg
- Lilienfeld
- Neulengbach
- Thalgau
- ...





Energy Communities are an instrument for decentralisation, decarbonisation, democratisation and digitalisation of the energy supply system.

Energy Communities in Austria: Types and Characteristics

-Renewable Energy Community

- Can be established in electricity as well as in other and across sectors (electricity, heat, renewable gas).
- Within the concession area of one DSO.
- Local or regional (depends on grid level and section).
- Financial benefits (reduced grid tariffs and levies).



Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)

Citizen Energy Community

- Electricity only.
- No regional restrictions (members in areas of all DSOs possible ~ 120).
- No financial incentives.



Directive on common rules for the internal market for electricity

Energy Communities in Austria: Legal Framework

- Regulatory framework for Energy communities passed in July 2021 (Energy communities in the Austrian Renewable Energy Expansion Act),
- Directive defining reduced grid tariffs in force since November 2021,
- Further tax reductions,
- Collective self-consumption since 2017 (within plot boundary, about 300 – 400 projects),
- Specifics of Austrian implementation: grid operator's role.

