

# The process of creating an energy cooperative in Germany and presenting some good practices

The Power of Community Energy  
Erasmus+  
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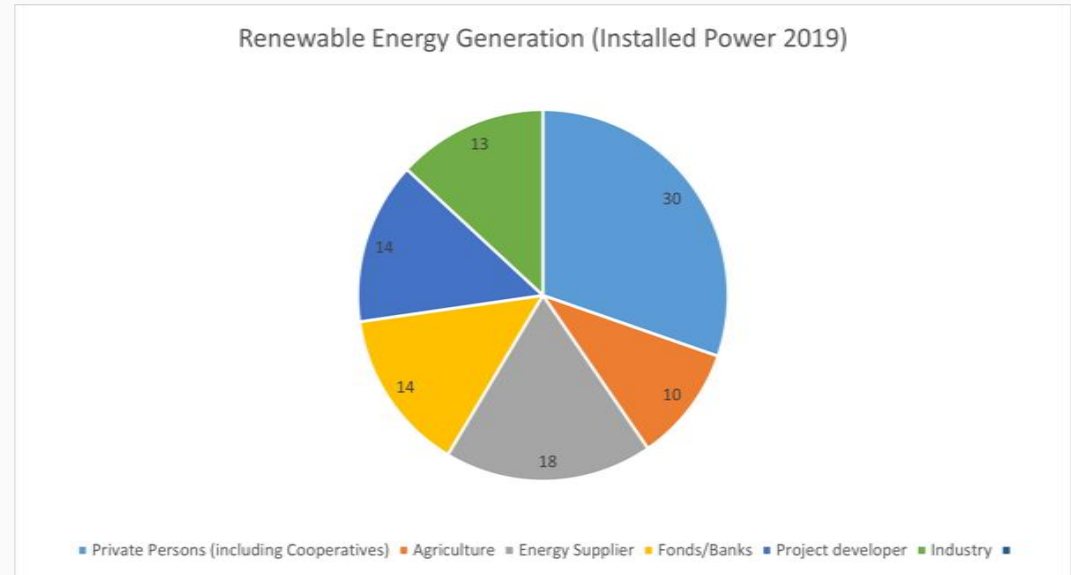
# Outline

- Introduction
- Creation Process – 7 Steps
- Best Practices
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# Introduction

Currently, there are 835 cooperatives with:

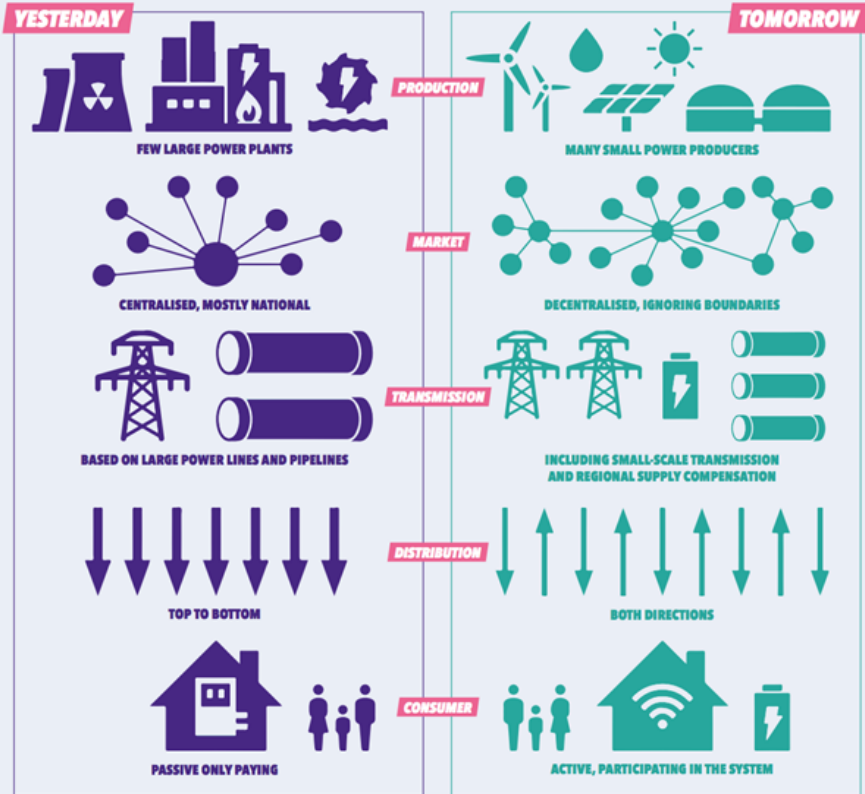
- 200.000 members
- 3.2 billion euros investments in renewable energies (total)
- 3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions prevented in 2020
- 8.8 TWh community-owned electricity generation in 2020



# Introduction – Yesterday and Tomorrow

## STAYING BIG OR GETTING SMALLER?

Expected structural changes in the energy system made possible by the increased use of digital tools



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# Creating an Energy Cooperative in Germany – 7 Steps

# 1 Step – Starting point

**Chances?**

**Idea**

**Partners?**

**Benefits?**

## 2 Step – Business Idea

- Development of an economic stable business idea
- The business idea needs to generate surplus income for long-term growth of the cooperative
- Which projects should be set up? (PV, Heat, E-Mobility,...)



## 3 Step – First contact with auditing association

- Citizens' energy cooperative in Germany must be member of an auditing association (federation of cooperatives)
- The federation of cooperatives conducts the formation audit and accompanies/support during the formation process

## 4 Step – Constitution

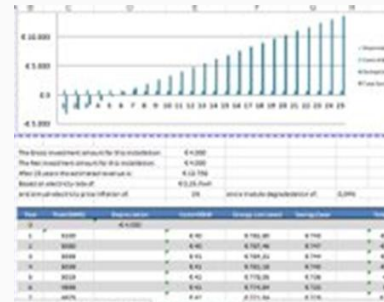
Draw up of the constitution:

- Name of Cooperative
- Purpose
- Amount of cooperative shares (e.g. 100 € per share)
- Advisory board / Management board

-> **should be short but must fulfill the requirements of the cooperative law**

# 5 Step – Business plan

- Central Part of foundation (also basis for formation audit)
  
- Specification of the business Idea:
  - Investment plan
  - Calculation of expenses and income
  - Planning of first concrete projects



## 6 and 7 Step – Foundation + Start of Business Operation

- Announcing Board Members (Experience in renewable energies, management competencies, communication, gender experience)
- Founding Assembly
- Commissioning of formation audit and entry into the cooperative register

-> **The Founding Assembly should be made public (invite press and media), to be recognized by potential members**

- Development of projects
- Recruitment of members
- Allocation of tasks and responsibilities (e.g. finance, marketing, public relations, gender...)

# Best Practices

# Inspire people to get involved

## Successful Campaigning of Energy Cooperative Heidelberg

-> 35% increasement of members in one year

- Key Message: “As member you can supply yourself with local, renewable energy and therefore you provide money (which even generates interests for you)”
- Flyer for households
- Booth at events (especially with high congruence of target groups, e.g. Sustainability-Events)
- Ambassadors for the cooperative



Source: Energy Cooperative Heidelberg

# Gender equality in energy cooperatives

(BENG eG Munich)

- Energy sector is mainly male dominated (incl. decision making)
- but women acting generally more sustainable and are more sensitive to ecological issues

**= Women as key actors need more power to push the energy transition!**

## Gender expertise

- Gender equality as objective
- Training in gender equality for members

## Representation

- Share of women in decision-making positions
- Share of women in assemblies, trainings etc.
- Gender sensitive communication

## Including in activities

- Aims and indicators
- Gender tools (e.g. organize events for women)

# Cooperation with a municipality

**Municipal windpark was established with participation opportunities for local energy cooperatives (Kassel und Söhre eG)**

- 7 Windmills a 3 MW
- Operation of windpark through municipal utility with captial share of 25%
- Participation with 25% capital share through Kassel und Söhre eG

Source: Kassel und Söhre eG





# Cooperation with a municipality

## **Advantages to cooperate with municipalities:**

- Extended financial opportunities for municipalities through energy cooperatives
- Higher acceptance of energy transition and regional added value (for companies)
- Use of synergies (e.g. administrative expertise of municipalities, access to funding programmes)
- Use of rooftops and areas of the municipality for the implementation of projects

# Current political development

# Easter Package of German Government

**Aim for Germany: In 2030 80% of electricity will be generated by renewable energies**

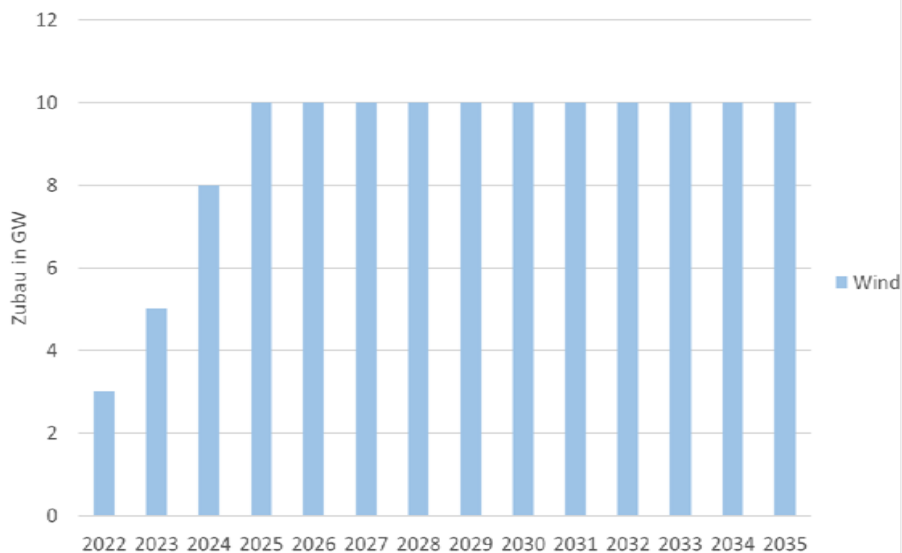
**“Easter Package” 04/2022 affects several laws (e.g. Renewable Energy Law) -> Big Push**

- Renewable energy expansion through higher tenders (22 GW photovoltaic and 10 GW onshore Wind per year)
- Exemption from tender procedures for citizens energy cooperatives (Windfarms until 18 MW and solarfarms until 6 MW)
- Full feed-in of PV on rooftops will receive a higher tariff
- Energy Sharing still not transposed in national law (RED II §21 and 22)  
-> but will be in the summer package

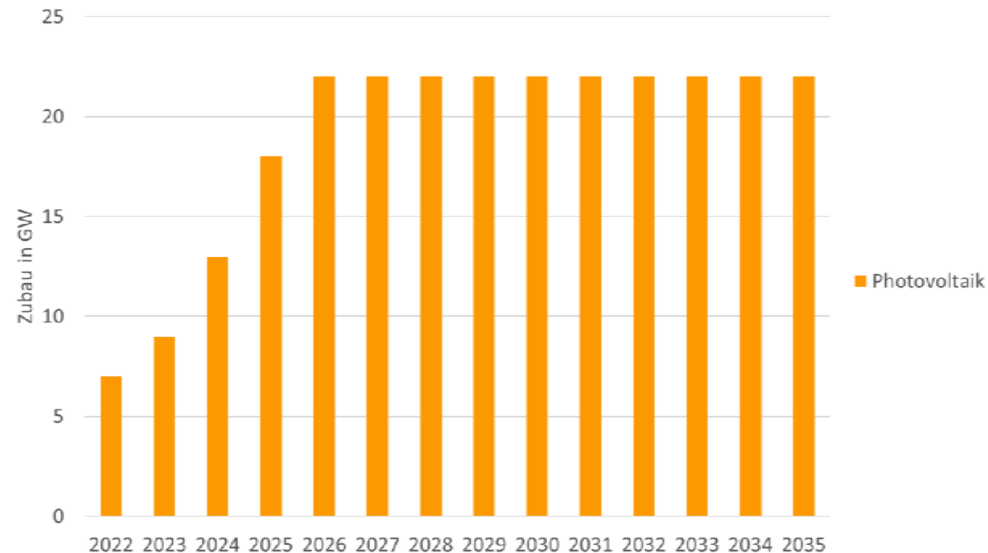
# Easter Package of German Government

Source: BMWK

**Ausbaupfad Windenergie bis 2035**  
Szenario für 600 TWh EE-Strom in 2030



**Ausbaupfad Photovoltaik bis 2035**  
Szenario für 600 TWh EE-Strom in 2030



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# Thank you!



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