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ANNEX

ANNEX
to the
COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
on supporting the development of energy communities and maximising the potential of
self-consumption

{SWD(2026) 126 final}

ANNEX: Energy Communities Action Plan

With its Citizens' Energy Package Communication COM(2026)115, the Commission sets an objective of increasing the renewable energy capacity installed by energy communities to up to 90 GW. To remove technical and financial barriers for energy communities and to support Member States in the implementation of this Recommendation, this action plan addresses five areas:

1. Effective enabling frameworks
2. Access to financing
3. Awareness-raising and capacity building
4. Social inclusion and public participation
5. Digital innovation and system integration

To track progress under this action plan, exchange best practices, and strengthen partnerships between public authorities, communities, and industry, the Commission intends to:

- develop a set of **EU-wide indicators** to track the evolution and impact of energy communities as part of the **Citizen Energy Advisory Hub (CEAH)**, and
- organise a **dialogue on citizen energy** together with Member States, the European Parliament, and stakeholder networks in 2028.

1. Effective enabling frameworks

To tackle regulatory uncertainty due to incomplete or delayed transposition of EU Directives defining renewable and citizen energy communities, the Commission plans to:

- Assess the need for further simplification and alignment of the **EU definitions**.
- Continue to engage with EU Member States, national energy regulators, distribution system operators, and representative organisation(s) of energy communities on the implementation of EU legislation and Recommendation on energy communities and self-consumption within the context of the annual Citizens' Energy Forum and Regulatory Roundtable on Energy Policy for Consumers.
- **Monitor national barriers**, good practices, and enabling frameworks under the CEAH and other initiatives.
- Investigate claims of **unfair marketing practices** regarding energy communities or energy sharing.

2. Access to financing

To improve access to affordable and reliable finance for energy communities, raise awareness among financial intermediaries and managing authorities about available EU guarantees and funds to support energy communities, and to continue providing early-stage grant support through the Energy Communities Facility, the Commission intends to:

- Raise awareness among financial intermediaries and energy communities on the use of **InvestEU guarantees to unlock affordable loans**, in cooperation with the

European Investment Fund, through the Green Gateway Platform (helpdesk tool, e-communication, webinar) to maximise its uptake (2026).

- Publish a **financing toolbox on community energy**, through the CEAH, to guide the public and communities through possible financing models and options and to unlock community-driven, market-integrated flexibility and energy sharing services (2026).
- Set up a working group on energy communities under the **Energy and Managing Authorities Network**, following an initial assessment of members' needs and consensus on its establishment, to strengthen the uptake of Cohesion Funds (2026).
- Refinance the **Energy Communities Facility beyond 2027 to provide seed funding** to over 140 energy communities to develop business plans at the pre-development phase (2027).

3. Awareness-raising and capacity-building

Access to energy knowledge, economic and entrepreneurial skills, technical and legal expertise and capacity building is essential for energy communities to grow, scale and professionalise. Therefore, the Commission plans to:

- **inform citizens, local authorities and other persons such as farmers and small-business owners** of their rights and opportunities to establish or support energy communities, through the Covenant of Mayors and a dedicated communication campaign on consumer rights (2026).
- **provide technical assistance** through the CEAH to energy communities to develop storage, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects (2026).
- Mobilise LIFE CET funding to help energy communities to grow, professionalise and scale renewable energy projects and services, particularly through peer-to-peer learning activities and secondary structures (2026).

4. Social inclusion and public participation

Energy communities can contribute to mobilising the public including and protecting vulnerable households and lowering the number of households affected by energy poverty, which also disproportionately affects women and other groups at risk of discrimination. To unlock this potential, the Commission intends to:

- Provide technical assistance to local authorities to help **engage vulnerable households and households affected by energy poverty** in energy communities through the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) (2026).
- Set up a 'community of practice' as part of the **Public Buyers' Platform** to promote social inclusion criteria in public procurement and concessions (2026).
- Publish an **implementation guide on citizen participation**, through CEAH and EPAH, to support policy makers in identifying and supporting socially inclusive and citizen-led energy communities (2026).
- Support peer-to-peer learning opportunities through on-site training between coal, peat and oil shale regions on **energy communities** through the Coal Regions in Transition initiative and other relevant platforms (2027).

- Publish a **standardised model contract for cooperation** between renewable energy project developers and energy communities (2027).

5. Digital innovation and system integration

By harnessing the potential of digital technologies, data spaces, storage, system integration, and smart grid solutions, energy communities can become an integral component of the modern energy system and lower energy bills. Therefore, the Commission plans to:

- Mobilise LIFE CET funding to support cities and local partners such as energy communities to **roll out smart solutions** (such as neighbourhood batteries, EV charging infrastructure, energy management systems etc.) that help to optimise local energy sharing and unlock flexibility (2026).
- Promote the integration of energy communities in **local energy planning** among signatories of the Covenant of Mayors and through local citizen energy dialogues organised under CEAH (2026).
- Provide Horizon Europe funding to support community-led **microgrids and local renewable heating networks** as part of the Cities Mission (2026-2027). Provide 12 million in Horizon Europe funding to support the development of **AI-based forecasting algorithms** to optimise the value of energy sharing for the system and communities (2026).
- Explore how **local energy markets at distribution grid scale** could be integrated with the wholesale market in a standardised manner to ensure small, distributed energy systems can operate efficiently and enable scalable flexibility (2027).