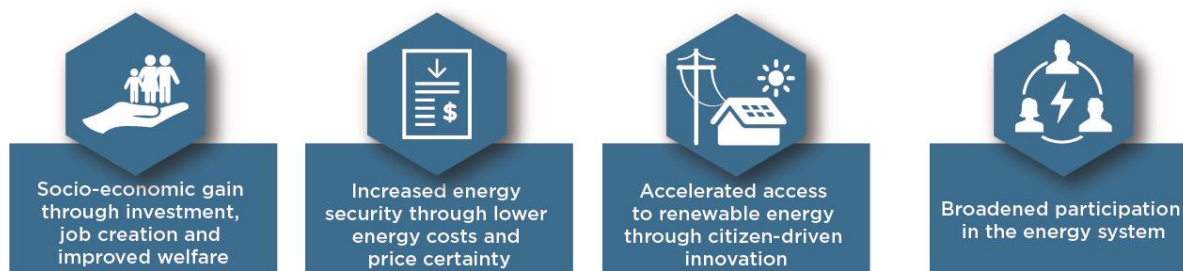


IRENA Policy Talks 2020 Stimulating Investment in Community Energy

Citizen-led renewable energy projects – commonly referred to as “community energy” – can play an important role in the post-COVID recovery by maximising the local socio-economic benefits of renewables and increasing public support for the energy transition. The IRENA Coalition for Action defines community energy as the “economic and operational participation and ownership by citizens or members of a defined community in a renewable energy project”. Today, a range of community energy projects are being implemented around the world, including: co-operatives established to provide energy services to communities; community trusts focused on investing project returns into local development; and partnerships with organisations such as local governments, utilities and the private sector.

Benefits of Community Energy



To put the world on a path towards a climate-safe future, IRENA’s latest findings show that annual investments in renewables will need to triple from today’s levels. Next to public and private financing, citizen participation in renewable energy through collective investment and shared ownership can also help bridge the investment gap.

The newly-launched IRENA Coalition for Action white paper on *Stimulating Investment in Community Energy* showcases how policies can be designed to foster community energy investment and how community energy projects are presently financed. Findings show that renewable energy investments by citizens have gained traction in a number of countries and that stable and non-discriminatory policy environments continue to be key to unlocking further community energy investments. In addition to establishing a legislative and regulatory environment conducive to community energy, governments and financial institutions can further facilitate access to additional debt and equity financing for communities by strategically deploying public finance, supporting innovative business models and financing mechanisms, and helping to create partnerships between community energy investors.

This session will gather public, private and community stakeholders to discuss key opportunities and challenges in stimulating investment in community energy. The discussion will focus on how policies can be designed to value citizen participation, current experiences in the implementation of financing instruments to support community energy, and examples of community energy initiatives that have successfully mobilised financing to deploy renewable energy projects benefitting citizens and communities.

AGENDA:

17:30 – 17:35 (GST)	Welcome remarks Gauri Singh, Deputy Director-General, IRENA
17:35 – 17:50 (GST)	Scene-setting presentations – Stimulating Investment in Community Energy Rabia Ferroukhi, Director, KPFC, IRENA Anna Skowron, Programme Manager 100% Renewable Energy, WFC
17:50 – 18:30 (GST)	Panel discussion Moderator: Stefan Gsänger, Secretary General, WWEA (Chair of Coalition for Action Working Group on Community Energy) Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Atiur Rahman, Bangabandhu Chair Professor at the University of Dhaka and former Governor of the Central Bank of Bangladesh • Habiba Ali, Managing Director and CEO of Sosai Renewable Energies • Dirk Vansintjan, President, REScoop.eu
18:30 – 18:50 (GST)	Country interventions
18:50 – 19:00 (GST)	Q&A from the audience