



Unie
komunitní
energetiky

Building a clean and **safe future** for the Czech energy sector

The Community Energy Union, March 2022

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We want legislation to kick-start the development of **local** clean energy sources

The Czech Republic should already have completed the transposition of two European directives regulating the **rights and obligations of energy communities** by 2021.

This represents a major challenge for the **new Energy Act (NEZ)**. Pushing through the definition of energy communities is not enough. We need to enable them to operate effectively for various types of projects.

We need the NEZ and related legal regulations to equalize decentralized community energy with the traditional

centralized model. We need **a stable environment** for its development, and energy communities must be accepted by other stakeholders in the energy market.

We must also ensure that energy communities can **share energy through existing electricity grids** at fair prices, without unnecessary complications.



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We will promote a stable and comprehensible **subsidy environment**

By 2030, no less than **CZK 60 billion** will be available from European funds for the development of renewable and community energy. These resources are an opportunity to significantly push forward the modernization of the domestic energy sector. It is therefore vital that we invest this money wisely and effectively. Any subsidy should trigger further private investments of at least the same amount. This is why we need **stable and comprehensible** subsidy rules.

Completely new energy communities will develop in our country. We need to support them in their **development and projects**. Members of the Union have long focused on **community energy** and renewables and they represent a diverse group - **cities and municipalities,**

businesses, households, investors and developers. This allows us to mediate relevant proposals for subsidy programs that will lead to the development of community energy and satisfaction of all entities involved.

We will focus on **the entire process of creating energy communities**, from building a community of stakeholders and investors, to project preparation, to investing in power generation plants, connecting consumers and running the communities.



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We create and share **know-how** for project implementation

Energy communities are not yet common in the Czech Republic. If we really want to kick-start energy communities, **we need to show them how.**

For this reason, we need to raise awareness of the current opportunities for implementing community energy projects and build capacity for their development. We are focusing on **transferring know-how from foreign countries**, sharing **examples of good practice** and translating them into practical guides on how to successfully set up and further develop community energy.

Community energy is not just about building and connecting a solar or wind power plant. We must take on the major challenge of involving and engaging the public in specific projects. That is why we have representatives of municipalities and municipal associations among our ranks with **many years of experience involving residents in various local projects.** Many of them have direct know-how from their own **community energy projects.** Thus, they are able to pass on their authentic experience of communicating the benefits of community energy to citizens.



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We will incorporate **community energy** into **strategic documents**

The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and **State Energy Strategy (SEK)** are strategic documents for the development and transformation of the Czech energy sector.

Unfortunately, given the rapid development, both documents are now outdated. From our point of view, they have one other major flaw – **they fail to account for the massive development of community energy.**

The NECP was created in 2020, but since then the EU has adopted new climate targets (e.g. a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels). The 2015 **SEK** is now truly outdated.

Now, more than ever, we need to approach energy strategically and plan

for maximum self-sufficiency among the population, **and the independence of the Czech Republic from fossil resources in the long term.**

We want to actively cooperate in updating both documents. We offer our many years of experience in decentralization and renewables. **We have been involved in community energy in the Czech Republic for a very long time.**



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We want to be a strategic partner

The Community Energy Union was built around the demand for the introduction of the energy community concept and decentralization in the Czech Republic.

We have been focusing on this area for a long time. As individual organizations we have **achieved many tangible results, pushed for many laws to be passed, prepared a large number of analyses and organized many events.**

We consider community energy and the decentralization and democratization of

energy production in general to be such an important topic that we have established **close cooperation with partners that understand all aspects of energy transformation.** We combine know-how from the fields of law, environmental protection, technology and economics. Meeting our objectives is critical for us, and we are **ready to establish constructive cooperation** and to pursue our demands with the utmost effort.



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"At Frank Bold, we benefit from many years of experience in promoting systemic changes in Czech anti-corruption legislation (Reconstruction of the State) and European regulation of non-financial reporting (Alliance for Corporate Transparency)."

– **Laura Otýpková**, Head of Responsible Energy, Frank Bold



"Hnutí DUHA advocates for change and mobilizes the public to push for the development of renewable energy sources, from New Green Savings to reasonable support for photovoltaics, wind energy and municipal projects."

– **Jiří Koželouh**, Head of Energy, Climate and Waste Program, Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic

Community energy

Our goal is to transform the Czech energy sector. We believe that **local clean energy sources** are an effective tool to address the energy, climate and social crisis.

We promote **decentralized energy**, which generates **hundreds of self-sufficient locations** – from small energy communities to entire smart neighborhoods.

The **so-called 4Ds** are frequently mentioned in the context of the Europe-wide energy transformation. They are relevant for us too, which is why we defined them specifically to match our strategic direction.

Decarbonization

We want to cut our energy sector off from its dangerous dependence on fossil fuels. Protecting the climate and the landscape is our priority.

Decentralization

Small-scale renewables spread across the territory reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Residents are independent of centralized supplies and resilient to energy price fluctuations.

Democratization

Energy communities enable citizens to join together in the production and consumption of energy and to strengthen their position in the energy market. We want increased care for vulnerable customers.

Digitalization

New technologies facilitate the transformation of the energy sector. Two-way communication between producer and consumer via the smart grid allows optimized consumption.

What can an **energy community** look like?



Community energy is diverse and flexible.

It encompasses **a wide range of projects of different scales**, types of participants (municipalities, businesses, citizens), and a diverse range of **services provided to the energy market**.

Self-sufficient apartment buildings

This is the simplest energy community model. Photovoltaic panels on the roof, combined with batteries and optimized consumption, can normally cover more than 50 % of the consumption of an entire apartment building per year.

Residents **save on electricity prices** and can decide to **invest in other equipment** that is easy on their wallets and the environment in the long term. For example, they can replace their heat source with a heat pump, optimize their consumption with smart metering, or buy charging stations for cars and bikes.

Public buildings as the cornerstone of the energy community

As the initiator of the energy community, the municipality agrees with residents to make joint investments **in photovoltaic power plants on public buildings**, such as schools, hospitals or cultural centers.

They then **save on electricity prices or use surplus funds to invest in the plant itself** or other municipal projects (eg. playgrounds, repairs of public spaces).

Some Czech municipalities already have experience with community energy, e.g. Kněžice or Budišov nad Budišovkou.

Smart sustainable neighborhoods and housing projects

The developer decides to build a sustainable neighborhood with the infrastructure needed for an energy community already in place. This includes **generating electricity from photovoltaic panels** and battery storage, fitting all consumption points with smart meters, and installing heat pumps and charging stations for cars and bikes.

Other renewable sources can also be situated nearby – a smaller wind turbine, a biogas plant or a large heat pump for central heating.

This system is **interconnected through the local distribution system** (LDS) or is part of the regional distribution system, which is leased from its operator. Existing housing projects or municipal districts can also be adapted to the smart neighborhood concept.

This is by no means an exhaustive description of potential community projects.

Community energy actually offers many opportunities for **different models of energy communities**.

At the Community Energy Union, we are ready to help develop such projects and demonstrate their benefits.

About us

The Community Energy Union is an interest group that brings together professionals with a wide range of knowledge and experience.

The Union was initiated by the **Frank Bold and Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic**.

Our membership consists of representatives of **local governments and local action groups, companies and professional societies, and associations** in the field of energy, environment or construction.



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The legislative task group

focuses on amending laws and implementing regulations. It also monitors developments at European level and provides information on threats and opportunities.

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The subsidy task group gathers the needs and experiences of members, and advocates for appropriate conditions and sufficient funding for community energy via subsidy programs.

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The implementation task group, or “know-how” group, focuses on exchanging the experience of our members and on sharing good practice. The members of the group share experience, establish cooperation, research and analyze different approaches to community energy in other countries, and inform the membership.

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We are in this together





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