



*Advocating for supports and removal of barriers to community energy in Ireland*

[www.cefoi.ie](http://www.cefoi.ie)

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Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Helen McEntee TD  
Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne TD  
Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy and  
Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien TD  
Minister for Finance, Simon Harris TD  
Minister for Justice, Jim O Callaghan

### **Support energy communities for affordability, resilience and a just transition**

Dear Ministers McEntee, Byrne, O'Brien, Harris and O'Callaghan,

We are writing to you following the Energy Council on 16/3 and the European Council on 19/3 in Brussels, where the spike in energy prices was hotly debated. We know that the problem is particularly acute in Ireland where there are already [high levels of energy poverty](#) and recognise the [Government's efforts](#) to alleviate the impact of rising energy prices through temporary and targeted measures for households and small businesses. However, faced with another war and yet another fossil energy crisis, millions of EU households and small businesses are now looking for structural solutions to tackle the cost-of-living crisis in a more sustainable way.

On the 10th of March, the Commission published the Citizens Energy Package, which proposes to **rapidly increase the capacity of community owned projects to 90 GW by 2030 - a tenfold increase**. This means that **over 16 million households, 630,000 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and 300,000 public entities could be producing their own energy in just 4 years**. **Participation in an energy community can lead to significant reductions in energy bills<sup>1</sup> for households and businesses**, social acceptance of renewables and democratic processes, and **increased energy security and resilience**. Energy communities also enable their members to consume energy flexibly, thus reducing pressure on the grid.

Energy communities shield citizens and SMEs from market volatilities due to their stable renewable energy supply, and lower investment barriers through joint investments and purchases, thus creating x2 to x8 times higher local revenue than projects by external actors. Decentralised energy is Europe's best shield against external energy threats.

The Community Energy Federation of Ireland (CEFOI), Community Power Ireland, Templederry Wind Farm, REScoop.eu and Environmental Justice Network Ireland **call for Ireland to take bold and decisive action to**

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<sup>1</sup> Up to 930 euros per household per year.

**support the implementation of energy communities objectives, as set out in the Citizen Energy Package.** At a time of geopolitical uncertainty, the participation and collective ownership of citizens in the energy system can reinvigorate a sense of community, pride, and trust in the political system.

We call on Ireland to:

1. **Support energy communities and their various activities in the next EU Budget (2028-2034).** This will ensure stable growth, and crowd in billions of euros in citizen capital to the energy transition.<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Include supportive reforms and investments for energy communities in the National and Regional Partnership Plan ([see this link](#)).
  - b. Support a dedicated budget for the LIFE program,<sup>3</sup> including the LIFE ENERCOM program that specifically supports energy communities.
2. **Use the Citizens Energy Package to create an ambitious national strategy and target for energy communities** in line with the Commission's proposal.
  - a. Supporting energy communities is already reflected in most Semester Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendations [over the years 2023-2025](#). We highly encourage the government to translate that political direction into concrete action, by addressing the national barriers and potential for energy communities and putting in place strong enabling frameworks. This should include de-freezing the SEAI community energy enabling grant, and maintaining the SRESS tariff (not reducing it).
  - b. Leverage the Grids Package to support and prioritise community energy projects, with added social value, in their applications for grid connection.<sup>4</sup> .

Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like any further detail, you can contact us at [CommunityEnergyFederationOfIreland@protonmail.com](mailto:CommunityEnergyFederationOfIreland@protonmail.com).

Best wishes,

Elaine Baker  
Chair  
Community Energy Federation of Ireland (CEFOI)



<sup>2</sup> [Research shows](#) that for every one public euro invested in a community energy project, 40-60 euros of citizen capital are triggered.

<sup>3</sup> In October 2025 the Liguria Region (Italy) initiated a letter to protect the LIFE programme in the next EU budget, with support from over 800 entities. [Commissione europea, la Liguria guida la mobilitazione per salvare il programma "Life"](#)

<sup>4</sup> In line with (C/2025/8473) whereby the Commission is guiding Member States to abandon the first-come-first-served model and introduce a prioritisation framework that can be based on criteria such as grid friendly uses, climate friendly uses, or social value.