

**GTL Project**



**GreenTecLab**

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# The Renewable Energy Community (REC)





Renewable energy communities involve groups of citizens, social entrepreneurs, public authorities and community organisations participating directly in the energy transition by jointly investing in, producing, selling and distributing renewable energy.

Renewable energy communities can involve a large number of people who would otherwise not play a leading role in the energy transition. It should be as open as possible, allowing as many people to invest as wish to, and enabling those who may otherwise be economically marginalised to benefit through cheaper energy, even if not an investor in the scheme.



# Challenges



As a first step to building a community energy system, those who are interested need to be gathered together and coordinated to build a legal, administrative and management structure. This task requires clear leadership and financial and legal knowledge.



# Challenges



Renewable energy projects typically require significant up-front investment, whilst operation and maintenance costs are low in the long run. If it is not possible to raise these investments from those interested in building the community, then external financing is required.



# Benefits

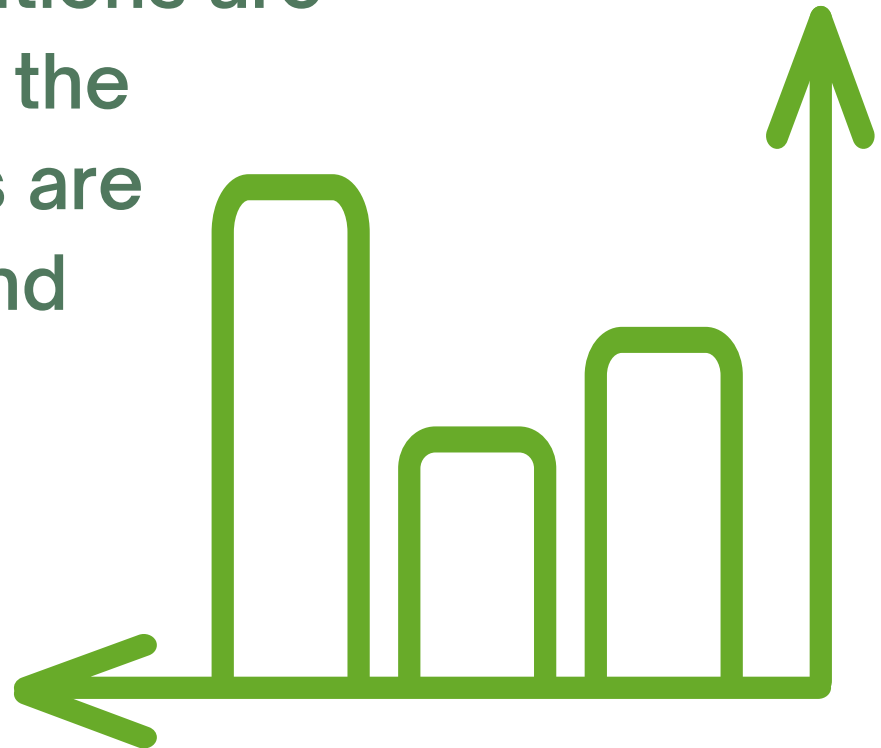
One of the main benefits of energy communities is that they can help to increase acceptance of renewable energies, and citizen involvement can overcome resistance to infrastructure development.



# Benefits



Generating energy locally means that profits and energy costs do not flow out of the region, and can help to bring down the cost of energy in the long run, whilst also inducing the emergence of local value chains. As installations are owned and operated at the regional level, new jobs are created both directly and indirectly.



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