

Energy poverty as a social priority in the context of a just energy transition

Marta García París Ecoserveis 29th April 2020

Ecoserveis

INTRODUCTION: WHO WE ARE

Ecoserveis is:

- A Spanish non-profit organisation.
- A strategic and innovation consultant specialised in energy.
- Promoter of sustainable energy.

Our courses of action

Renewable energy	Energy efficiency
Energy poverty	Sustainable mobility
Self-supply	ITC
Financing strategies	Energy culture
Climate change	
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Ecoserveis

INTRODUCTION: WHAT WE DO

Our services



Research and innovation

Specialised publications Viability and performance studies Experimental projects



Technical and social consulting

Reports, analysis and energy diagnosis Strategic plans and funding models for companies, social organisations and public administration



Specialized training

Seminars and courses for professionals Master and postgraduate tutoring



Dissemination

Workshops and conferences for citizens, companies and public administration Communication campaigns Educational resources Awareness-raisign events



Community enhancement

Promotion of collaborative work and networks of volunteers Community support initiatives



Energy guidance

Contractual assistance

Installation of low cost material to improve energy efficience and comfort Service-learning



ENERGY POVERTY TODAY





Energy poverty can be understood as the lack of access to energy, leading to an inability to heat, cool or light one's home. Energy poverty is an issue of comfort, but also of health, social inclusion and human dignity.

causes:

decreasing

household

income

homes

Since the 2008 financial crisis, energy poverty has been increasing in many European countries. Despite this, most governments still do not officially recognise or measure the problem.



energy poverty feeds into a cycle of social isolation and poverty

Source

Energy poverty affects disproportionately the most vulnerable parts of the population, including single-parent households, older people, children...



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And now COVID19 remember us that...

The right to have all basic needs covered (shelter, electricity, water, health,...)

The importance of the basic services such as electricity or water

The essential of care related jobs

The power of community networks

The demand of access to information



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Consumers at heart of Energy Union. Yes, but how?







- Lack of access to information (complex procedures, language, asimetric info,...)
- Financial barrier (can't access to credit, don't have cash,...)
- Limit to access grants for RES (tax penalty if 2 incomepayers)
- Ownership patterns
- Housing conditions (limitations for RES installation)



Some initiatives in Ecoserveis to overcome these barriers

- Self funded communities
- Energy communities in social housing
- Tax bonus for vulnerable consumers-RES
- Participation of VC in community RES installations



Self-funded communities





Imagine a small box and a group of people who meet regularly to place their savings in it. This box will serve as a common fund for those who need to access to small loans.

These loans could be used to pay a domestic breakdown repair, unexpected bills or a RES installation.

This simple methodology has shown that communities of low-income people can fund themselves and have access to credit, without any external help.

It already exists in 45 countries and so far more than 30.000.000 people are members of this kind of communities, especially in the African, American and Asian continents. Some organizations as Plan, Care, Oxfam and CRS use similar methodologies and promote its expansion.

Funded by:



Generalitat de Catalunya



Energy communities in social housing





Funded by:

Germinadorsocial

With the entry of the new law and regulation to facilitate collective self-consumption (RD 244/2019), we must be aware of the importance of not leaving behind families with fewer resources in the change of the energy model, which will fight against climate emergency and can help us move towards a fairer society.

The municipality of Sabadell has been selected for the project to actively participate from the Housing, Environment and Social Services departments, in addition to proposing a community of neighbors to carry out participation activities, committing to follow up on it.

Tax bonus for vulnerable consumers-RES





Municipalities regulate through ordinances, self consumption complentary regulations and housing general taxes.

In Ecoserveis we are working with regional supra municipal authority giving advice to municipalities in order to implement tax bonus if RES are installed.

For vulnerable consumers, higher reductions, exemptions and procedures are being considered too.



Participation of VC in community RES installations



Municipalities own RES installations that can be assigned to VC in specific conditions in order to ensure all citizens can participate in the energy transition





Thank you! Marta Garcia marta@ecoserveis.net



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