

Enabling policy contexts for local and community energy

Evidence from an international comparative review

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Enabling policies

7) Building a positive narrative

6) Local capacity & resources

5) Access to finance

4) Regional resource planning & facilitation

3) Securing financial viability of DE

2) Market access for DE

1) Legal frameworks for mutual ownership

Enabling policies

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1)

- Clear legal definition for LCE
- Legal rights for LCE
- Suitable tradeable entities
- Non-profit regulation for monopoly services

Example: EU 2019 CEP states consumers have equal rights to participation in energy markets as traditional market players



Enabling policies

2)

- Regulated buy-back above wholesale prices
- Grid connection / power purchase guarantees
- Supplier obligations



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Enabling policies

3)

- Capacity / export tariffs
- Reduced local network transport tariffs
- R&D grants
- Capital grants /loans

Example: German residential battery subsidies

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- Rapid planning procedures
- Regional energy demand and supply mapping and planning
- Direct investment by local authorities
- Access to public or private land

Example: Danish Heat Supply Law, Municipal Wind Planning

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- Public loan schemes (seed/ capital)
- Community energy tariffs/ premiums
- Special provisions for LCE in renewable energy tenders
- Tax privileges

Example:

Nova Scotia Community Feed-in-Tariff
Denmark's maximum tax free income for residential and community RE

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- Handholding
- Viability appraisal
- How to guidance
- Matchmaking with technical / legal / financial services
- Networking & knowledge sharing

Example:

Local Energy Scotland

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7)

- National Civic/ Distributed Energy Strategy
- National targets
- Impact evaluation
- Trailblazer promotion

Example:

Australia's National Community Energy Strategy

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Enabling policies

Leverages advantages /
alleviates constraints
unique to community RE
projects

Ensures the viability of
independent energy
projects providing power,
heat or ancillary services