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The Role of Community Power in Germany’s Energy Transition

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German Renewable Energy Federation
The German Renewable Energy Federation (BEE) is the umbrella organization for German renewable energy associations. The federation was founded in 1991 and represents the overall interests of the renewable energy industry in the political and public sphere. We stand for 340,000 jobs. Our objective: 100 percent renewable energy.
The transition to Renewables started with the electricity market opening and the German Renewable Energy Act.

In the past, the "big four" dominated the energy market in Germany.
The transition to Renewables reduced the market share of the big four...
...and democratized the energy sector.

The German energy transition was largely shaped by community and citizen power.
The number of community energy companies and energy cooperatives increased.
The transition to Renewables in Germany benefits from the early electricity market opening.
Community and citizen-owned Renewable Energy is the key for the energy transition in Germany.
Community and citizen-owned Renewable Energy significantly increases the acceptance: 95% of the German population support further expanding.

Increased use and expansion of renewable energy is...

- Very or extremely important: 65%
- Important: 30%
- Not very or barely important: 4%
- I don't know, no answer: 1%

Source: Poll from Kantar Emnid commissioned by the Renewable Energies Agency, 1,015 polled
As of: 7/2017
Share of Renewable Energy in Germany’s final consumption 2017 – driven by communities and citizens.

Source: BMWi / AGEE-Stat
as of: 3/2018

Infographic made by:
Avoided greenhouse gas emissions through the use of Renewable Energy in Germany
(2017: 180 mio tonnes)

Bundesverband Erneuerbare Energie e.V.

BMWi based on Working Group on Renewable Energy-Statistics (AGEE-Stat) using data of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA); as at December 2017; all figures provisional
338.600 jobs were created in the RE industry in 2016 – Employment by technology

- Wind energy 160.200 (47%)
- Bioenergy 105.600 (31%)
- Solar energy 45.200 (13%)
- Geothermal energy 20.300 (6%)
- Hydropower 7.300 (2%)

Total: 338.600 jobs

Source: GWS/DLR/DIW February 2018
The added value of Renewable Energy was 16.2 billion euros in 2017. But it could be more...
Decreasing costs: Solar power is getting cheaper and cheaper.

New PV-installations have minimal effect on EEG-surcharge


www.solarwirtschaft.de

Quelle: Prognos AG, BSW-Solar, Stand 3/2017
Community power and tenders work against each other

In Germany, tenders were introduced by the EEG 2017, which contained exemptions for community power - but the system failed and promoted big players:

On-shore:
Share of private individuals -9%; Energy utilities +11%

Even if these mistakes are now resolved, there are currently no fair rules for community power. In addition, green electricity production is still capped.
Energy transition accelerated. Germany is failing its 2020 binding Renewables’ goal.

Germany’s commitment to the EU for 2020

BEE Forecast 2020

18% to 16,2% to 16,4%
Outlook: The prosumer society is the future.
What is needed now in Germany:
Faster Renewable Energy expansion in all sectors and strengthening community power

- **Special volumes** for wind and solar tenders for 2019 and 2020.
- Time and quantity framework to reach a share of **65% Renewable Energy** in the power sector until 2030 (as per Coalition Agreement) and a complete decarbonization before 2050 (as per Paris Agreement).
- Effective impulses for the **heating and transport sector**, for decentralized energy storage and sector coupling.
- **A coal and a fossil fuel phase-out** (Germany's „Coal Commission“ and „Mobility Commission“).
- **Fair market access** for community power:
  - Germany: self-consumption of Renewables free from charges, making better use of the potential of tenant electricity (Mieterstrom), de minimis rule for community power
  - EU: The Clean Energy Package takes a good approach, and must be implemented by the nation governments.
Thank you for your attention!

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