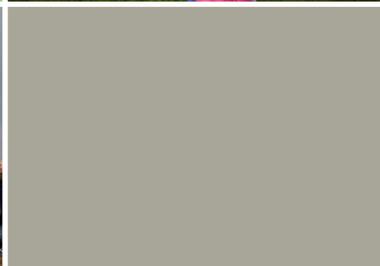


# A REScoop manifesto



REScoop policy priorities for the European Parliament elections 2014

# Renewable Energy: citizens take the initiative at grassroots level

REScoop.eu is the federation of groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy in Europe. It supports emerging groups of citizens that want to invest together directly – i.e. through ownership – in renewable energy and rational energy use.

REScoop.eu is a member of Cooperatives Europe, the organisation representing cooperatives at European level.

REScoops are organisations (often cooperatives) investing in/ producing/ distributing/ supplying renewable energy.

REScoops are active players in the development of a less dependent European energy market, often in close cooperation with local authorities.

REScoops help to create a stronger, healthier and less energy dependent, resilient community.





# Empowering citizens in the energy market: Why? and how?

Citizens create, own and control REScoops. With their projects REScoop members secure economic benefits in their local community. The notion of ownership strengthens the ties and the responsibility of the local community towards the project's success as well as the issues at stake for the energy transition.

REScoops allow citizens and communities to be involved and make decisions about their energy future. This entails strong acceptance and public support for renewable energy. They work to diversify the energy supply by using indigenous renewable energy sources, creating green sustainable jobs, boosting local growth and helping long-term energy savings.

REScoops and their decentralized production schemes not only tackle energy poverty, transmission losses and energy efficiency, but also help in generating a more independent production system and more balanced energy market by organising the energy demand.

# Building a bridge between Citizens and Institutions

Europeans face several environmental, economic and socio-political challenges. We need a global shift from fossil and nuclear energy sources to renewable energy sources: a transition to a sustainable, carbon free future.

Access to energy is a basic right, people depend on energy for heating, light and transport. We consider the production, distribution and supply of energy to be civic responsibilities and as citizens and communities we choose to take part in it.

Due to their democratic and participatory base, REScoops give local citizens the option to take part in the decision making process and to benefit directly from the success of the project, therefore increasing engagement in and general acceptance of RES development.





# Priorities of REScoop.eu

REScoop.eu asks the candidates and their political parties to agree with us that Europe needs to:

- Reduce the overall level of energy consumption through a more rational use of energy;
- Reduce its dependency on gas, oil, coal and uranium to stop the constant drain of money out of the European economy;
- Take steps to ensure the transition from fossil and nuclear energy to renewable energy and put an end to subsidies for fossil fuel and nuclear industry;
- Extend and protect stable support schemes for renewable energy including small and medium sized projects and encourage fair trade in renewable energy projects;

- Put its citizens at the heart of the energy transition and support the active involvement of prosumers (producers/consumers) as a priority;
- Allow citizens to produce, supply and consume renewable energy themselves or together in cooperative or community power projects;
- Remove obstacles for energy cooperative and community-power projects;
- Restrict the exclusive pursuit of financial profits, ensure financial transparency and work on a fair banking-loan system with special guarantees for citizen-owned renewable energy projects;

- Support the local economy by stimulating sustainable growth and employment; Optimize the energy supply costs and management through local energy autonomy and short distribution loops;
- Ensure that a significant part of every energy project is reserved for the local community and that there is a minimum quota of citizen participation in all new RES projects;
- Ensure the fair access to renewable energy sources (wind, sun, water, ...) as they are 'common goods';
- Set binding targets for renewable energy, energy efficiency and CO2 emissions.



# We want to help Europe overcome its needs

We promote a cooperative and decentralised approach to the energy transition, one that gives the means to citizens to produce, distribute and consume their own sustainable energy and to invest together in renewable sources.

We are ready and looking forward to cooperate on the design and implementation of measures for a more sustainable and less dependent energy market.

REScoop.eu openly asks all candidates to approach us to discuss and engage in working together towards a cleaner, less dependent and more efficient EU energy market.

Candidates and Parties can contact and talk to REScoop.eu President Dirk Vansintjan.

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