

NEW EU LAWS AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR PEOPLE

The new Clean Energy Package, agreed by the EU in 2018, starting with the revised Renewable Energy Directive (REDII), is a game changer for citizens.

Citizens and energy communities across the EU now have a number of guarantees that ensure they are able to invest in renewables and benefit from the energy transition. Acknowledgement of their role, support, and new citizens the right to produce, consume, sell and store renewable energy are all now enshrined in EU law.

This is a new and important opportunity to promote people-powered renewables to help achieve a 100% renewables future. But what does this mean in practice?

A) IT ACKNOWLEDGES CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES ARE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ENERGY SYSTEM

- By **acting jointly** in a building: the directive recognises that for the over 40% of Europeans living in apartment blocks, acting together to install renewable technology may be the best way to benefit from renewable energy.
- Through a **renewable energy community**: People, local authorities and SMEs can set up a legal entity in order to collaborate in the production of renewable energy. Through an energy community, citizens can now generate financial resources in order to provide services or to meet local needs. The directive also gives the option for companies to install renewable energy technologies on private houses.
- **Aggregators**, a market participant that can pool smaller independent producers together, can help to optimise the use of their installations, and advise them on when it is best to consume, sell or store the generated electricity.
- **Peer-to-peer trading**: This system allows consumers to trade renewable energy among themselves without a middleman, resulting in higher payments and quicker payback periods.

B) IT PROVIDES RIGHTS FOR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES THAT WANT TO INVEST IN RENEWABLES

The REDII contains a core set of enforceable rights to ensure that citizens are protected in investing in renewables. Even governments or private market participants must guarantee these rights:

- **The right to produce, store, consume and sell renewable energy;**
- The right not to be unfairly charged for energy they produce themselves;
- The right to access all appropriate energy markets directly or through a third party;
- Protection against discriminatory procedures and certain charges that could dissuade or penalise involvement in renewables;
- Protection of consumer rights;
- The right to access appropriate remuneration or support for engaging in renewables production;

