CER SINERGIE
COMUNITÀ ENERGETICA RINNOVABILE

Case Study: Role of Energy communities in renovation, citizen engagement and cooperation with OSS

- How does an energy community support building renovation?
- How does it work? What services are provided to the citizens?

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www.cersinergie.it

Who we are

We are a **Renewable Energy Community (REC)**, established on **15 November 2024** as a **non-profit association by five non-profit organisations** operating in the Turin area and across the Piedmont region.

These organisations inspired the core values enshrined in our statutes: **climate and social justice, pluralism, active participation, inclusion**, and a firm commitment to operating without any profit-making or speculative interests.

Pro Natura Torino

Legambiente Metropolitano

Giustizia Climatica Ora!

ACMOS

Benvenuti in Italia

We are more than 200 members, including individual citizens and associations

The model of CER SINERGIE

Multi-level governance

Regional Level

CER SINERGIE

The legal entity

A **single legal entity responsible** for administrative and accounting management, technical support, and the provision of collective services (such as collective purchasing groups and solidarity initiatives).

Local Level

LOCAL OPERATIONAL GROUPS

The energy entity

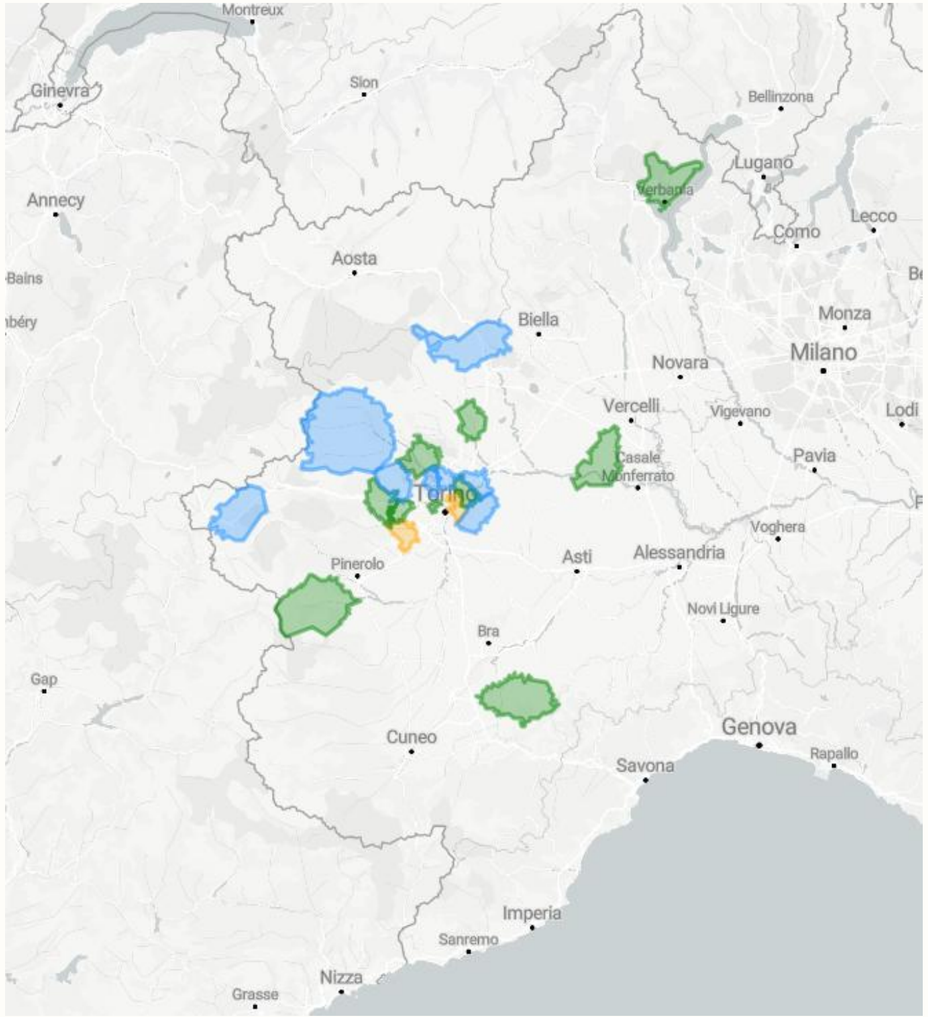
Each local community appoints a Representative and organize local activities and initiatives, define the strategies to involve other members and the rules for the annual allocation of the economic benefits generated locally through energy sharing.

A bottom-up initiative that empowers local communities, keeping the economic and social benefits they generate within their territories, while ensuring management autonomy and cost efficiency.

Territory and number of CER SINERGIE

Regional Level – PIEDMONT (NW Italy)





Local Level – LOCAL GROUPS

- 400 kW
- 40 PV plant
- 100 consumers
- 13 local communities

How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	GOAL
COMMUNITY HELP DESK	Provide practical support to members on energy efficiency, PV installation, energy billing and energy sharing	• Reduce technical and administrative barriers that often prevent people from taking action • Building trust in energy transition process
PARTNERSHIPS	Collaboration with trusted partners in technical and financial sectors	• Secure favourable, tailor-made conditions negotiated by the association, giving all members access to advantageous services, technical expertise and financial solutions
COLLECTIVE PURCHASING	Joint purchasing initiatives, bringing members together to aggregate demand and negotiate dedicated offers with selected suppliers	• Make energy-related products and services more affordable by securing lower prices and favourable conditions through collective negotiation
BUILDING DECARBONISATION	Technical assistance and partnerships with specialised operators to supporting non-profit organisations in improving the energy performance of their buildings through renewable energy installations, energy-efficiency measures and renovation interventions	• Help non-profit organisations reduce energy costs and environmental impact, while making their buildings more sustainable, efficient and suitable for their social activities

CER Sinergie aims to be more than a tool for sharing renewable energy: it is an ecosystem supporting its members throughout their energy transition.

How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?

COMMUNITY HELP DESK

A free community service providing information, guidance and practical support to members and citizens interested in the energy transition.

The Help Desk is run by volunteers and University students involved through work-grant programmes.

SERVICES:

- understanding energy bills and consumption
- preliminary feasibility assessments of PV installation
- information on incentives and energy sharing
- identification of suitable installers and professionals and offers comparison



How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?



PARTNERSHIPS

CER Sinergie builds a **network of partnerships** with organisations operating across the **technical and financial sectors** to secure favourable, tailor-made conditions negotiated by the association for energy-related services:

- **ènostra** – energy cooperative and technical partner, providing dedicated energy tariffs, access to affiliated installers and energy-efficiency services.
- **Banca Etica** – ethical banking partner, offering members access to preferential banking conditions and supporting financing solutions for renewable energy projects.
- **Spazio A Vista** – bio-building studio, providing expertise on building energy efficiency, natural materials and indoor environmental quality.
- **Technical companies and installers** – specialised operators supporting the supply and installation of renewable energy systems and related technical services.

How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?

COLLECTIVE PURCHASING - Balcony PV collective purchasing initiative

In 2026, CER Sinergie launched its first collective purchasing initiative for balcony photovoltaic (PV) systems, together with other two Renewable Energy Communities of City of Turin.

The initiative was designed particularly for members living in apartments who do not have access to a rooftop for installing a conventional photovoltaic system. It aimed to make small-scale solar self-production more accessible by bringing together individual demand and negotiating a dedicated offer.



CER SINERGIE

cers mirafiori

EQUA Energie di quartiere

How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?

COLLECTIVE PURCHASING - Balcony PV collective purchasing initiative

HOW THE INITIATIVE WORKED

- **Demand aggregation**: the three Energy Communities promoted the initiative through their communication channels, local networks, public meetings and online events, collecting non-binding expressions of interest (>100 expressions of interest).

- **Technical and commercial assessment**: participants received information about the available solution, its technical specifications and installation requirements. The communities gathered and assessed supplier proposals.

- **Negotiated offer**: price of **€230 per kit**, compared with the initial offer of **€340** (reduction of approximately **30%**). The Plug&Play kit included a 370Wp PV module, a micro-inverter, mounting structure and connection cable.

- **Individual purchase**: members could decide whether to proceed. Each purchase contract was signed individually with the supplier, with optional installation and grid-connection services available (20 signed offers).

How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?

COLLECTIVE PURCHASING - Balcony PV collective purchasing initiative

MAIN BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

- **Timing and decision-making:** the campaign deadline, set close to the summer holiday period, left limited time for participants to assess technical requirements and make a decision

- **Installation requirements:** around 50% of respondents reported not having an external electrical socket near the intended panel location, potentially requiring additional electrical work or technical checks

- **Safety and mounting concerns:** participants raised questions about the safety of panels projecting from balconies, their fixing systems and possible interference with shared or public spaces

- **Site-specific constraints:** the feasibility of installation depended on balcony orientation and solar exposure, the characteristics of railings and walls, the available space and possible local restrictions

How does Energy Community support energy transition of its members?



THE NEXT STEP: COLLECTIVE ENERGY RENOVATION

1. **Aggregating demand**

- Bringing together non-profit organisations with similar and high energy needs
- Building a portfolio of buildings to achieve economies of scale and attract ESCOs and ethical finance

2. Assessing energy needs

- Technical site visits by volunteer experts on 14 associations involved in the initial assessment
- Identifying energy efficiency and renovation opportunities

3. Developing a common model

- Developing a standardised Energy Performance Contract (EPC) with an ESCo
- Combining public incentives, ethical finance and guarantees offerred by Bank Foundation

4. Scaling up and replicating

- Extending it to other non-profit organisations and energy communities

OUR GOAL: scalable model enabling non-profit organisations to renovate their buildings without upfront investment

Thank you

for your attention

CER SINERGIE
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Social media

Facebook: CER Sinergie - Instagram: @cer_sinergie