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Green
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Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN ENERGY TRANSITION: AN MEP ROUNDTABLE

Hosted by MEP Bruno Tobbac (S&D)

European Parliament, Brussels
Wednesday 24th June 2026
12:00 – 13:30



*Social sciences and Humanities for **Achieving**
a Responsible, **Equitable** and **Desirable Green Deal***



Funded by
the European Union

ENHANCING LOCAL PARTICIPATION TO DRIVE THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Policy brief presentation

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CONTEXT

- **Currently**, implementation of climate and energy targets, and Green Deal initiatives
- **But** feelings of insufficient support across Europe, reflecting inequalities in the distributional impacts of the energy transition
- **Also**, tensions between inclusive participatory models and top-down approaches in energy governance

Participation:
Involvement of societal actors in transition activities or decision-making processes through dialogue and the two-way flow of information

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POLICY CHALLENGES

- A one-size-fits-all approach fails to capture the complexity of implementing energy transitions.
- Insufficient support for local efforts in the governance of the energy policies.
- Lack of trust and the perception of an unjust transition.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recognise the range of actors and initiatives that support sustainable societal change, and broaden the concept of governance beyond top-down policymaking.
2. Embed flexibility within policy approaches to enable informed, adaptable and contextualised implementation.
3. Ensure strong, continuous and structured support for local initiatives that foster opportunities for direct interaction with sustainable interventions.
4. Support policy initiatives that fund long-lasting local participatory processes.

Evidence from the Clean Energy Experiment in Jaywick Sands (UK):

In 2024, the community established a new **one-stop-shop energy info hub**.



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GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What strategies can best enhance the participation of local stakeholders, in delivering the objectives of European energy policies and, importantly, in ensuring a just transition for all?
2. How can EU legislation better reflect the diverse local realities that shape energy use (e.g. residential heating), instead of adopting the one-size-fits-all technology-focused solutions?
3. How can MEPs enable participation of local communities in energy transition policies and initiatives?
4. What specifically should be remembered for the recently published Citizen Energy Package, related recommendations, and the Electrification Action Plan?



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