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**TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF DECENTRALISED  
ENERGY MARKETS //**

**EcoVision**

Co. Tipperary, Clare & Limerick (IE)

Case Study // December 2024



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## EcoVision, Co. Tipperary, Clare & Limerick (IE)

### Relevant Local Practice: Organising community discussion groups and extensive coordination

Organising community discussion groups is a local practice in which the community as a whole is actively engaged in regular discussion and decision-making on the energy community's activities and future development. This practice facilitates communication and transparency within the community and strongly implicates citizens while generating social and cultural benefits. The organisation of community discussion groups can take different formats, either online or face-to-face or in a hybrid way. In addition, there may be formal and structured mechanisms within the energy community that allow its members to express their ideas and/or concerns, or there may be an informal approach where the energy community allows its members to participate in all the activities it organises and influence the decision-making process.

### Executive Summary

EcoVision (formerly Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative) is a non-profit organisation based in the Counties Tipperary, Clare, and Limerick (Ireland) that emerged as a local economic development initiative and that has been providing energy efficiency services to its members for over 10 years. Over time, it has expanded its portfolio and now operates a citizen-led renovation one-stop-shop for the whole renovation process, assisting its members with all the necessary steps throughout the process. The community is now made up of 15 local energy communities and its activities have been consistently supported by national grants such as those from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).



Figure 1: New (above) and old (below) name and logo

EcoVision is characterised by its openness, democratic participation and inclusiveness. Since its inception, the community has placed a significant emphasis on engaging with its members, with numerous communication and dissemination activities having been conducted. Key players include the SEAI, local development companies, the local authorities, and financial partners such as Clann Credo, who provide vital bridging finance. Funding remains a critical enabler, with €18 million invested since inception, primarily through SEAI grants. EcoVision's business model includes income from carbon credits and a community fund for energy-related projects. Social benefits include job creation, community empowerment and reduction of energy poverty, while environmental impacts include significant energy savings and carbon reduction. EcoVision exemplifies replicable and innovative practices in citizen-led regeneration, collaborative governance and strategic stakeholder engagement, providing a scalable blueprint for energy communities in Ireland and beyond.

## 1. Key characteristics and context

The EcoVision energy community (formerly known as the Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative) was established as a joint initiative by four Irish energy communities with the objective of obtaining support to develop their activities. This section will provide further details on the contextual elements that characterise the community, the activities and technology deployed, and an analysis of the national framework and policies that apply to the community.

### 1.1. Location and geographical scope

EcoVision is an organisation comprised of rural energy communities that operate throughout County Tipperary, County Clare, and County Limerick, within the province of Munster. Tipperary, where the energy community started, is Ireland's largest landlocked county, with a population of approximately 160,000 people. The region is distinguished by a diverse topography, including mountains and two major rivers, the River Shannon, and the River Suir, which are both surrounded by fertile farmland. While the majority of activities of EcoVision are still concentrated in County Tipperary, its membership also extends to communities in the neighbouring counties Limerick and Clare.

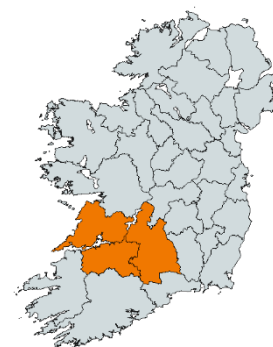


Figure 2: Map of EcoVision's area of operation

## 1.2. Foundation & history

The EcoVision initiative was initially launched in 2010/2011 as a local economic development initiative with the aim of employing energy transition as a means for facilitating local development. In 2011, a local energy survey was conducted with the objective of identifying potential activities and determining the feasibility of implementing an energy-saving project. The survey was successfully conducted by more than 400 householders, who were collectively spending in excess of one million euros on energy. As a consequence of the survey, which also served as an animation tool, a pilot scheme was initiated in the Drumbane/Upperchurch community in rural Tipperary in 2012. This was a citizen-led renovation scheme. The primary objective was to enhance energy efficiency upgrades for local citizens and local community facilities, thereby addressing the economic and social decline that the community was experiencing<sup>1</sup>. The project was subsequently replicated in three other communities, all of which benefited from the support of the national energy authority, which provided capital funding for group schemes.

In the period between 2014 and 2015, following a series of applications for grant funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), which distributed grants to the community for the implementation of these upgrades, it seemed logical that local communities collaborate in joint efforts instead of following a competitive process. In order for this to occur, it was necessary to establish a corporate identity, which led to the decision to create a non-profit company. The energy communities proceeded to form the organisation that is now known as EcoVision. The entity was constituted as a company limited by guarantee, and its operations were conducted in accordance with the principles of a cooperative. The number of participating communities has now reached 15.

At its inception, the main objective of the community was to implement energy efficiency measures in older residential and community buildings. This resulted in having a common objective of investing in the community, thereby providing residents with more comfortable and warmer homes and other amenities. Around 2023, the community has undergone a significant transformation, professionalising their operation with a general manager and a new operations team, evolving into a comprehensive one-stop shop offering a range of services to energy community members. The services provided encompass the entire renovation process, including assistance with grant applications, contractor selection, and project supervision for homeowners. Furthermore, the organisation carries out education and outreach programmes. Furthermore, the community has established collaborative relationships with credit unions, offering their members the opportunity to enhance their residential properties at reduced costs while integrating this activity with their other pursuits.

## 1.3. Energy technologies applied

The primary services provided by the energy community emerged as an identification of the most pressing needs in the local survey that was conducted in the initial stages of the community development. **Energy efficiency improvements and upgrades** are the main services carried out by the community itself. The community's primary focus is on building upgrades rather than the development of renewable energy systems. This is with the objective of fostering the necessary expertise among citizens to undertake these activities.

In terms of the activities that the community engages in, retrofitting installations stands out as the most prominent. In particular, with regard to retrofitting, the services provided encompass both a shallow retrofit and a deep retrofit. Further details on the specific retrofitting activities and the process followed to conduct them can be found in RECAH report<sup>2</sup>. Between 2012 and 2019, the community undertook the renovation of 827 residential properties and 25 communal or commercial buildings<sup>3</sup>.

From 2021 onwards, the community expanded its activities and incorporated a **'one-stop shop'** service into its portfolio by conducting new activities. The community offers comprehensive assistance to members throughout the entire renovation process, from the initial stages of obtaining grants and identifying contractors to the supervision of projects for homeowners and the establishment of partnerships with credit unions to facilitate home improvement or project management and coordination services.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/Energy-Communities-Tipperary-Cooperative-Business-model-overview\\_citizen-led\\_renovation.pdf](https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/Energy-Communities-Tipperary-Cooperative-Business-model-overview_citizen-led_renovation.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20240323040225/https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e4eb3c0e-7894-4658-ad4d-1a3f03c61367\\_en?filename=RECAH%20BP%20-%20Energy%20Communities%20Tipperary%20Cooperative%20final.pdf](https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20240323040225/https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e4eb3c0e-7894-4658-ad4d-1a3f03c61367_en?filename=RECAH%20BP%20-%20Energy%20Communities%20Tipperary%20Cooperative%20final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid footnote 1

Additionally, a solar initiative has been implemented, whereby solar panels are installed on the roofs of community buildings. Four pilot projects are currently being launched, with energy use being monitored as part of the process. The community is responsible for all financial contributions, while members benefit from slightly reduced energy costs. The financial outlay will be recouped over time, with ownership reverting to the aforementioned building and facility.

#### 1.4. Other activities by the energy community

The community is also engaged in a number of projects. These include the OSR COOP project<sup>4</sup>, which is financed by the EU Life Programme. The objective is to develop models of integrated citizen-led renovation and one-stop shops for renovation services, with a view to replicating these across Europe. As part of it, the energy community launched the OSR-Coop E-learning Course<sup>5</sup>, designed by and for energy communities, supporting the development of cooperative One Stop Shops for renovation

The RENPOWER project<sup>6</sup>, financed under the EU LIFE programme, is concerned with behavioural change and home renovation in accordance with energy poverty policies. This encompasses home visits, the provision of energy-saving tools, assistance to homeowners in accessing grants and financing, the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of behavioural change. It benefits the activities of the community by extending the geographical scope of the services provided and by combating energy poverty by engaging social services.

Since 2020, EcoVision has also been implementing the 'Community Led Just Transition North Tipperary'. The project is funded through the EU Just Transition Fund and is a cooperation of EcoVision with Littleton Development Association CLG. and Ballingarry (Thurles) Community Development CLG. The project is aimed at mobilising community-led energy efficiency in communities affected by Peat Plant Closures, where the project has been retrofitting houses, running an energy saving behaviour change programme and installing community owned solar PV on community owned buildings.

Additionally, the Engage in Energy project<sup>7</sup> has been initiated with the objective of reducing child poverty and enhancing living conditions in disadvantaged areas of Tipperary. This will be achieved through the provision of energy efficiency support and the integration of essential services. Socio-economic indicators and local needs assessments were employed to identify regions where child poverty could be addressed by enhancing household energy security and supporting access to integrated services.

#### 1.5. National/regional enabling frameworks and policies

The business model of EcoVision, particularly during its first activities, is closely adapted to the public support schemes present in the country. Notably, the Irish government has instituted a Community Enabling Framework, wherein the responsibility for the provision of grants is entrusted to the SEAI. This framework constitutes a pivotal component of the Irish ecosystem, laying the foundation for the energy community's activities and facilitating the swift advancement and growth of the community for early, mid and late-stage development of energy communities' projects<sup>8</sup>.

Moreover, the current lack of Private Wire legislation severely limits the ability of Irish energy communities to focus on energy generation with collective-self-consumption or act as an energy provider. As such, the current legislative framework is more favourable to energy communities active in energy efficiency and renovation activities.

## 2. Governance and internal organisation

EcoVision engages with several actors and stakeholders in the course of carrying out its activities. This chapter examines the governance of the energy community, including an analysis of its owners and members, the decision-making processes, and the key stakeholders involved in the energy community. Furthermore, an explanation of the business model and sources of funding for the energy community will be provided.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecovision.ie/energy-upgrade-retrofit-projects-ireland/osr-coop/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://elearning.energycommunityplatform.eu/course/one-stop-shops-for-citizen-led-renovation/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ecovision.ie/energy-upgrade-retrofit-projects-ireland/renpower/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ecovision.ie/energy-upgrade-retrofit-projects-ireland/engage-in-energy/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/8f5f9424-a7ef-4dbf-b914-1af1d12ff5d2/library/ef0f6a35-7bf8-4189-8383-bc27dd0c7eb3/details?download=true>

## 2.1. Governance model

### Ownership and legal model

EcoVision is a community comprising 15 energy communities<sup>9</sup>, structured as a 'Company Limited by Guarantee' (CLG) under Irish law. The community ensures that participation is open and voluntary. In that regard, citizens are members of the local energy communities. The local energy communities are in turn members of EcoVision. The company is managed by a team of volunteers in a board of directors that is elected by the Annual General Meeting. In the inaugural phase of the project, each community member was required to elect a representative to the community's board of directors. However, in order to guarantee administrative efficacy, the number of elected directors has been reduced since.

### Decision-making

The community adheres to the principle of one member, one vote, with major strategic decisions and objectives being taken in the Annual General Meeting. In that, the members also elect the board of directors, which is responsible for formulating strategic and policy decisions and for providing guidance to the operational team. In order to facilitate the undertaking of specific activities, a number of sub-committees – each lead by a director – are established. These sub-committee undertake the task in question (e.g. Finance, Human Resources, Risk Assessments) and present their findings to the full board. The board will then either accept the recommendation or return it to the sub-committee for further deliberation. Moreover, the directors will furnish updates to the local community energy teams, who will then disseminate any pertinent observations or suggestions from the local energy communities to the Board. The directors are elected EcoVision at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). EcoVision's constitution ensures that the Board will comprise at least 51% members from the local community. The remaining seats may be filled by local agencies and other relevant entities.

A fundamental aspect of EcoVision is the active participation of citizens in the decision-making process. In particular, a board meeting is held on the second Wednesday of each month, and the policy of holding at least three online open nights per year has been introduced. These activities facilitate communication between the board and the community, allowing for all members to stay informed about the board's activities and the operational activities of the community. They also provide a platform for community members to express their concerns and make their voices heard.

## 2.2. Key actors and stakeholders

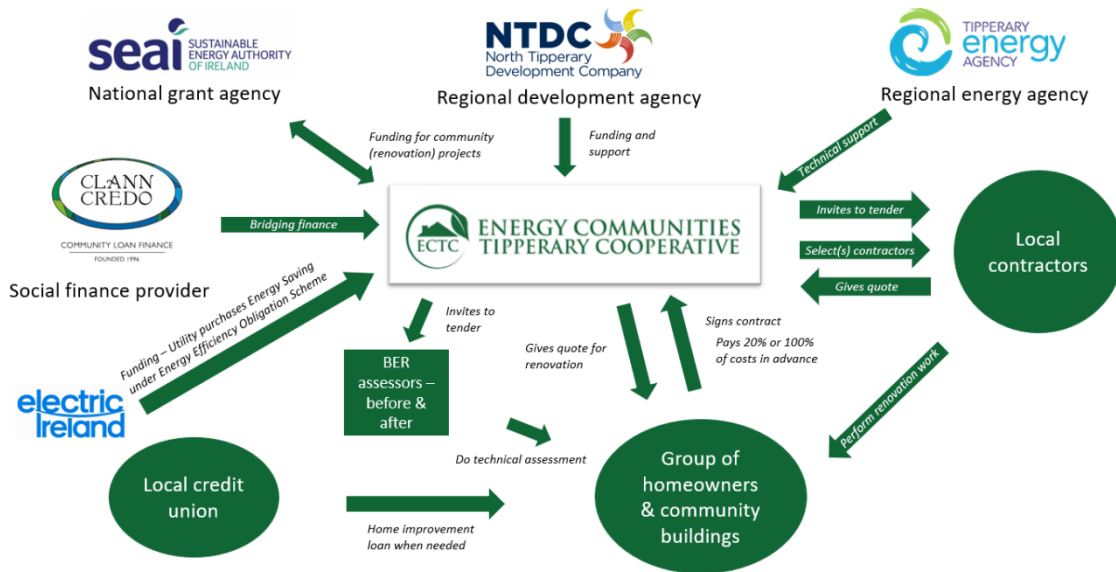
In addition to the energy communities that are part of EcoVision, a number of other actors and stakeholders have been engaged in collaborative activities with the community<sup>10</sup>. In particular, a local development company, North Tipperary Development Company has assumed the role of a facilitator within the community, thereby fostering the relationships with civil society. It provides a professional service to assist communities in developing citizen-led projects, particularly in their early stages and holds a seat on the community board. Other significant contributors are the SEAI, which has provided core funding, as well as the directors from the local community groups that are part of the board of directors, whose role has already been explained. The Tipperary Energy Agency has also been instrumental, offering initial guidance and technical assistance to the community, in addition to previously holding one seat on the board of directors. Additionally, Clann Credo, a social finance organisation, is involved in the project, providing bridging loans between contractor payments and grant funding from the energy authority. This enables the community to access initial loans that were previously unavailable from conventional banking institutions. In addition, other partners, including companies that provide utilities, local contractors, and credit unions or Community Power, played a pivotal role in the community's development.

Nevertheless, to join the energy community it is imperative that the organisation adheres to democratic principles and facilitates the implementation of energy-saving or energy-generation projects. Furthermore, a community group seeking to become a partner of EcoVision shall be composed of volunteer members and have some form of constitution. It may also be a CLG or a cooperative, as far as its governance is democratic. The figure below summarises the main actors involved in the community's development as well as the tasks they carry out.

<sup>9</sup> Drombane Upperchurch Energy Team; Kilcommon Rearcross Hollyford Energy Team; Birdhill Energy Team; Cappamore Energy Team; Lorrha/Rathcabbin Energy Team; Terryglass Improvements Group; Burgess Energy Team; Killeedy Energy Team; Littleton Development Association; Ballingarry; Clonoulty; Rossmore; Knockavilla; Cratloe; CloughJordan; & Loughmore Castleiney.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid footnote 1

**Figure 3: Overview of the actors engaged in the community activities as well as the activities they carry out**



Source: Oxenaar (2021)

The most salient feature of the energy community's administration structure is the presence of a board of directors, comprising unpaid members who are responsible for addressing the most urgent issues facing the community and guiding its strategic direction. Moreover, the community necessitated the recruitment of personnel at its inception and throughout its development, given the lack of available human resources to undertake the requisite retrofitting activities. In this regard, an operational group of employees has been constituted with the objective of providing all the services required by the community and professionalise its activities.

### 2.3. Business model and access to finance

EcoVision is a company limited by guarantee, whose primary objective the provision of services to the community, rather than the generation of profit. In this regard, the community has primarily secured financial resources from the SEAI grants, as previously outlined. Nevertheless, the availability of funding has consistently represented a significant challenge for EcoVision, necessitating the development of strategies to navigate this obstacle. In addition to the SEAI grants, the community has been able to secure funding from a range of other sources over time. Additional sources of funding include local investment from households and businesses, as well as energy credits generated through energy-saving activities and sold under the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS). Furthermore, EU funding from the LIFE and Just Transition Fund programmes has been pivotal in supporting the community's projects and development, which have been funded under these EU programmes.

Investments amounting to 10.2 million euros were made between 2012 and 2019. The most recent data available on the energy community website indicates that over 18 million euros have been invested in the community. Of the total investment of 18 million euros, 12 million euros were provided by SEAI grants, with the remainder derived from other financial sources within the community. The community generates revenue through the sale of carbon credits generated in energy efficiency projects, which are then reinvested into the community in the form of upgrades to existing infrastructure. Moreover, the community has established a Community Fund, which allocates a portion of its surplus revenue to member communities for the implementation of energy-related projects.

The community has experienced a period of considerable growth, as evidenced by an exponential increase in two key areas: firstly, in terms of its membership, and secondly, in terms of the geographical scope of the community. It is important to note that the community continues to experience difficulties in accessing core finance to fund the organisation. In light of the fact that the SEAI grants do not provide 100% of the funding required to undertake the activities of the community, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) frequently encounter constraints imposed by the limitations of existing funding schemes. These constraints often

prevent them from fully aligning their actions with their stated mission and objectives. This also presents a challenge for individuals with limited financial resources, making it difficult for them to become part of the community.

### 3. Impact and Analysis

The development of EcoVision has resulted in a variety of social, environmental and economic impacts on the local community. This chapter identifies those impacts and is followed by an analysis of the energy community's inclusiveness as well as the key drivers for its successful operation. An identification of the necessary and supporting conditions and actions, their transferability and replicability, and the key takeaways from them are also presented. The analysis also pays particular attention to the local practice on organizing community discussions.

#### 3.1. Social, environmental, and economic impacts

##### Social impacts

From a purely social perspective, the analysis of the energy community highlights the social benefit of citizens enjoying warmer homes in the winter without additional heating costs. As EcoVision represents energy communities, the promotion of citizen participation and empowerment is a key objective, as is the assurance that decisions are made in the best interest of citizens and the community. The analysis carried out by REScoop<sup>11</sup> also indicates that the community contributes to the creation of job opportunities at the local level, both directly through the renovation projects and indirectly through improved spending power through savings on imported fuel. This element has also been confirmed in our analysis.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that the activities undertaken by the community will have a significant impact on social outcomes. To elaborate, the aforementioned projects (see section 1.4 above) are designed to achieve the following objectives: the alleviation of poverty and an enhancement of energy efficiency; a reduction in energy poverty; an improvement in living conditions and an increase in the well-being of children. Furthermore, the projects will contribute to the creation of localised service guides and the provision of training for stakeholders. This will serve to enhance awareness and accessibility to energy community services, thereby improving support for families in need. It is also important to note that the Irish social support system is relying on means-based measures, with a relatively low threshold to receive support, which may result in individuals who do not receive social support and have limited disposable income being left behind. These social groups are important within the community and usually targeted by the energy community activities.

Despite these advantages, several challenges persist. Funders often have objectives that differ from those of the community, typically prioritising measurable outcomes such as kilowatt-hours saved over broader social impacts. As a result, the meaningful inclusion of vulnerable groups remains difficult. This is due not only to potential conflicts with other performance metrics but also to the inherent complexity of engaging these groups effectively and responding to their specific needs.

##### Environmental impacts

The community's energy efficiency improvements and upgrades have resulted in remarkable household energy savings. The aggregate savings achieved through the implementation of all programmes was calculated to be 8,597,129 kWh by the end of 2019. The utilisation of renewable energy sources and solutions also results in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the website of the energy community indicates that over 950 buildings have undergone retrofitting, with a total of 12.8 GWh saved, and 5,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions mitigated.

##### Economic impacts

In terms of economic impacts for the community, households that receive funding for energy efficiency upgrades are able to benefit from reduced energy consumption, which in turn leads to lower energy bills. It has been posited by the energy community itself that the activities of the energy community will also result in an increase in employment opportunities, as has been previously outlined, which can be considered to increase the economic capacities of the citizens occupying those newly created jobs.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid footnote 2

### 3.2. Innovativeness

The key innovative element of EcoVision has been the **establishment of an organisational structure comprising a network of energy communities**, with the objective of promoting collective interests on behalf of each community. Furthermore, the **openness of the community towards potential new members** is another noteworthy aspect. The community provides information-sharing activities and services for non-members, offering free access to its website and paid activities such as meetings and events (e.g., seminars, site visits, and consultations for communities). Furthermore, the **utilisation of a comprehensive survey** involving as many people as possible at the nascent stages of the community represents another innovative aspect, as it guarantees an optimal alignment between local requirements and the operational activities of the energy community.

### 3.3. Inclusiveness

In the initial phases of energy community development, a door-to-door survey was conducted to engage all segments of society. Following this, meetings were held at local community centres. The community's website and its presence at events have also proved effective in facilitating engagement with all members of society and the application of an inclusive approach. Moreover, in 2022 and 2023, EcoVision collaborated with the Sláintecare team in Tipperary County Council on a pilot project to provide consultations on domestic energy consumption. One-to-one meetings were conducted by EcoVision with the objective of assisting householders in identifying potential energy-saving measures that could be implemented in their daily lives, with the aim of reducing their energy bills. Furthermore, the availability of supplementary support and grants was emphasised. In 2024, EcoVision once again collaborated with the Sláintecare team to facilitate workshops on energy-saving practices for larger audiences and to develop the Engage in Energy project.

Moreover, as previously stated, EcoVision has been engaged in numerous initiatives with the objective of including individuals from vulnerable social groups and addressing the challenges they encounter. These endeavours aim to extend outreach to those who have been overlooked. In this context, it is evident that, in the mainstream, certain measures have been designed in accordance with middle-class standards, such as carbon taxes, deep renovation, and access to grid measures. Nevertheless, the fundamental objective of EcoVision's activities remains the provision of services that contribute to the creation of warmer, healthier homes, the implementation of climate action that creates employment opportunities and that these EcoVision activities include a strong focus on the most vulnerable groups and the development of the community.

### 3.4. Key drivers for success

The study of EcoVision identifies two principal factors that were pivotal to the successful formation and evolution of the energy community.

Firstly, the **joint efforts of the various energy communities**, where their objectives were aligned, enabled them to identify potential synergies and benefit from common activities, rather than engaging in competitive behaviour. This was an important element that allowed the expansion of the community both in terms of number as well as the services they offer.

Secondly, the **various projects and activities in which they have engaged** have proved beneficial in terms of enhanced visibility and the delivery of premium services, facilitating an expansion in their membership base. This, coupled with the community's **receptivity to non-members** through diverse communication and dissemination channels, has enabled the energy community to be apprised of the urgent needs of the local community and to incorporate these perspectives into decision-making processes.

### 3.5. Replicability and transferability

The activities carried out by EcoVision have a high degree of replicability and transferability to other contexts. The **aggregation of several energy communities** as part of the community structure serves to circumvent competitive dynamics between them while facilitating the organised distribution of available funds, thereby fostering collaboration amongst community members. This is a practice that can particularly be replicated in the Irish context.

Moreover, the **dissemination of information to non-members** of the community serves to enhance both the visibility of the community's activities and the potential for new members to gain insight into the community's operations. This can be replicated in other national and European contexts relatively simply.

From the outset, **members of the energy community have been engaged** through a variety of techniques, including door-to-door activities and surveys, as well as through the organisation of open night events and other community-oriented activities. It is encouraged to replicate this practice in other national and European contexts.

Finally, in the context of the EU LIFE RENPOWER project, EcoVision and its associated partners will employ an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process with the objective of developing **a replicable model that can be extended to other communities in Ireland to address energy poverty through renovation.**

### 3.6. Main takeaways and recommendations

#### Takeaways and recommendations on the local practice of organising community discussions groups and extensive coordination

The analysis carried out for this case study serves to highlight a number of important lessons about the impact **of organising community discussion groups** on the success of the energy community. In particular, EcoVision can serve as a primary example of how to conduct stakeholder engagement activities to increase the membership and spread the word about the community, including reaching out to all types of social groups. In this respect, the increase of membership and the incorporation of individuals from diverse social strata have the potential to exert a substantial positive influence on the outcomes of community discussion groups and the generation of novel concepts. This has resulted in an exponential growth of the community, both in terms of the energy community that has been a member since its inception, and in terms of the number of people reached, including those more in need of support, as highlighted in the previous section. It is therefore recommended that efforts be increased to adopt a similar approach to that employed by EcoVision, with the aim of including as many members as possible in the decision-making processes.

The various meetings and events that have been organised by the energy community have enabled its members to exercise influence over the establishment of its priorities, thereby delineating the objectives that the energy community is pursuing. Furthermore, these events have served to attract interests from both members and non-members of the energy community. It is strongly encouraged that a similar approach be adopted in terms of the reception of potential new members, as this has been shown to have a very positive effect on the community.

Moreover, the involvement of the community in various projects, including activities to facilitate communication between the board and the community, facilitates the involvement of community members and increases their importance in the decision-making process, and its adoption by other energy communities is therefore recommended.

#### Other takeaways and recommendations

The study of EcoVision's activities offers valuable insights and conclusions. Firstly, it is important to highlight the potential for **creating efficiencies and synergies** through the integration of different energy communities with analogous objectives. These efficiencies and synergies have resulted in an increase in the level of community activity, as well as an increase in the perceived importance of those activities. It is strongly recommended that energy communities with similar approaches consider joining forces to benefit from their joint action. EcoVision was a pioneer at the European level in terms of **citizen-led renovation**, which has the potential for replication in similar contexts. With regard to the utilisation of the SEAI grant system, it has been demonstrated to be highly effective. Nevertheless, it is contingent upon the **Irish government to maintain a high level of involvement and to ascertain the necessities of the communities**, in order to recognise the necessity for additional resources to be able to offer high quality services. It is therefore recommended that Irish policymakers advocate for the continuation of support in order to ensure the ongoing implementation of EcoVision's activities.

This case study was developed as part of the project Territorial Analysis of Decentralised Energy Markets conducted for ESPON EGTC. It is based on information that is publicly available online, on the energy community's own webpage, as well as on information collected through a semi-structured interview with representatives of the energy community. The reviewed documents include:

- <https://EcoVision.ie/>
- <https://energycommunitiestipp.ie/>
- Oxenaar (2021). Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative. Country study: analysis of context for citizen-led renovation in Ireland-Accompanying document. Available at: [https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/Energy-Communities-Tipperary-Cooperative-Business-model-overview\\_citizen-led\\_renovation.pdf](https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/Energy-Communities-Tipperary-Cooperative-Business-model-overview_citizen-led_renovation.pdf)
- RECAH (2022). Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (EcoVision). Available at: [https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20240323040225/https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e4eb3c0e-7894-4658-ad4d-1a3f03c61367\\_en?filename=RECAH%20BP%20-%20Energy%20Communities%20Tipperary%20Cooperative%20final.pdf](https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20240323040225/https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e4eb3c0e-7894-4658-ad4d-1a3f03c61367_en?filename=RECAH%20BP%20-%20Energy%20Communities%20Tipperary%20Cooperative%20final.pdf)



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