



Shared Energy



Summary

Energie Partagée (Shared Energy) is an organisation that unites the citizen energy movement in France. The case unites and advocates; provides project assistance; and finances citizen-led 100% renewable energy projects. To carry out these activities, Energie Partagée consists of three different legal structures: a cooperative, an investment tool, and an association. The three parts of the organisation are linked through the core values defined in their founding charter. These core values are additionally multiplied by the local cases that benefit from their citizen-energy label.

Why is it a case of energy citizenship?

The case is a good example of an organisation that enacts and enables collective energy citizenship by supporting the development of local citizen renewable energy projects by different means and pursuing advocacy activities at different levels of government.



COLLECTIVE



DIRECT ENERGY
PRODUCTION /
CONSUMPTION



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101022492.



Goals

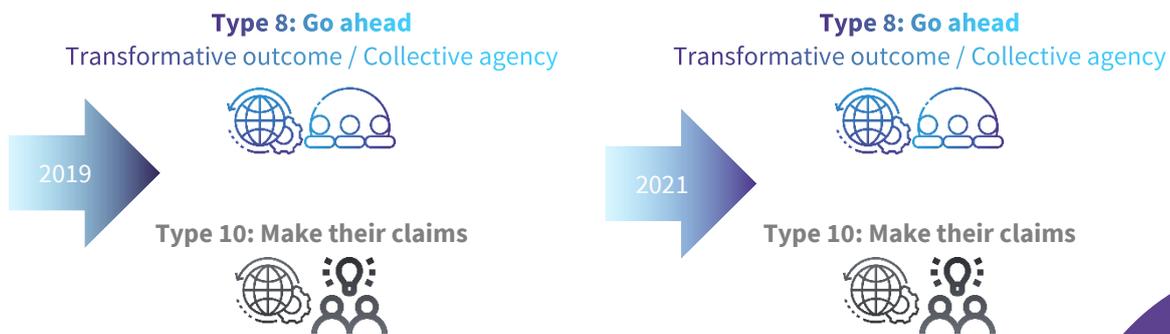
1. Reducing energy consumption through sufficiency and efficiency and covering the remaining energy consumption entirely from renewable energy;
2. Enabling the active participation of each citizen and each community in the decisions and/or activities necessary to achieve objective 1;
3. Spatial and temporal sharing of burdens and benefits, integrating principles of international energy solidarity into energy consumption and use.

The story and the typology

Energie Partagée was created by the pioneers of the French citizen energy movement to support early adopters (and beyond) in the energy transition. Hespul, one of Energie Partagée’s founders, inaugurated their photovoltaic centre in 1992 and actively lobbied for regulatory changes to enable citizen renewable energy production in France. Energie Partagée Investment tool was created in 2008, the association in 2010 following the elaboration of the founding charter and with the financial and administrative support of the French Environment Agency ADEME.

In addition to Hespul, the other founding members were the electricity supplier Enercoop, the financial cooperative La Nef, the consultancy Inddigo, Crédit coopératif, Christel Sauvage, director of Enercoop Ardennes-Champagne, Stéphane Chatelin, director of the Négawatt association, Michel Leclercq, chairman of Éoliennes en Pays de Vilaine, and Raphaël Claustre, director of the Comité de Liaison Énergies Renouvelables.

Over the years, the organisation has undeniably changed a lot, for example, regarding the number of partnerships, the number of citizen renewable energy projects supported, the money invested, and the coverage of the regional support networks. However, the transformative vision of the future energy system described in the charter has remained intact. Thus, the primary ideal energy citizenship type supported by the case has stayed the same.



Case history summary



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Phase 1: Beginnings and set-up

As mentioned, frontrunners in the French citizen energy movement came together to create Energie Partagée. Energie Partagée (the movement for citizens' energy) consists of three different legal structures: the cooperative (simplified joint-stock cooperative company, created in 2010); the investment tool (partnership limited by shares, created in 2008); and the association (association law, created in 2010). The three parts all share the values defined in their founding charter. The three parts work together to enable financing, support and advocacy for citizen renewable energy projects. The three most important goals mentioned in the

Phase 2: Becoming a key actor in the French context and future objectives

While the vision has been the same since the Energie Partagée Charter was adopted in 2010, the case's objectives are currently undergoing change. The Energie Partagée movement has gained ground in France over the past decade and become a central actor in the citizen energy movement. The entirety of metropolitan France is now covered with regional support networks that could potentially take on the task of supporting new initiatives. Furthermore, a citizen energy label was introduced in 2021, through which Energie Partagée shares its vision through the projects it supports, ensuring local ownership and mobilisation, ethical and citizen-based financing, democratic governance, and added ecological value. Now, the case is looking into restructuring its activities, focusing more on developing large-scale renewable energy projects and building

partnerships with private developers who can engage in more significant projects.

	Individual			Collective	
					
 Reformative	1. Do their bit (in the household)	3. Do their bit (within organizations)	5. Make their voice heard	7. Do their share	9. Do the job
 Transformative	2. Do their own (in the household)	4. Do it their way (within organizations)	6. Make their vote count	8. Go ahead	10. Make their claims

Main type: Go ahead

Transformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Secondary type: Make their claims

Transformative outcome / Social movements agency

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Transformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Secondary type: Make their claims

Transformative outcome / Social movements agency

No big changes have occurred in the case's type since it was founded in 2010. However, the case could be seen as supporting all other kinds of ENCI through its range of activities, such as mobilising citizens for renewable citizen energy projects and financing them, awareness-raising, support structures, partnerships, lobbying, etc.



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The aspects of energy citizenship

Democratic governance is a core value of the case regarding both the internal functioning of the organization and as a value supported through the activities of the case (through labelling and financing). The governance of the case is set up to ensure transparency and democratic decision-making. The governance mode chosen for the supported projects must allow for community control of production prices and total transparency about operational and financial issues.

Citizen control

Citizens exert effective control, and their votes have to be taken into account



*Climate change is mentioned in the Energie Partagée founding charter which corresponds to an implicit recognition of the ecological limit of atmospheric carbon emissions. Furthermore, on the case's website they have published resources for their members that pertain to carbon neutrality. Several of their members furthermore undertake activities that **seek to limit carbon emissions/carbon footprints**, and Energie Partagée has shared these on their webpage.*

Carbon limit

Explicit recognition of the carbon limit

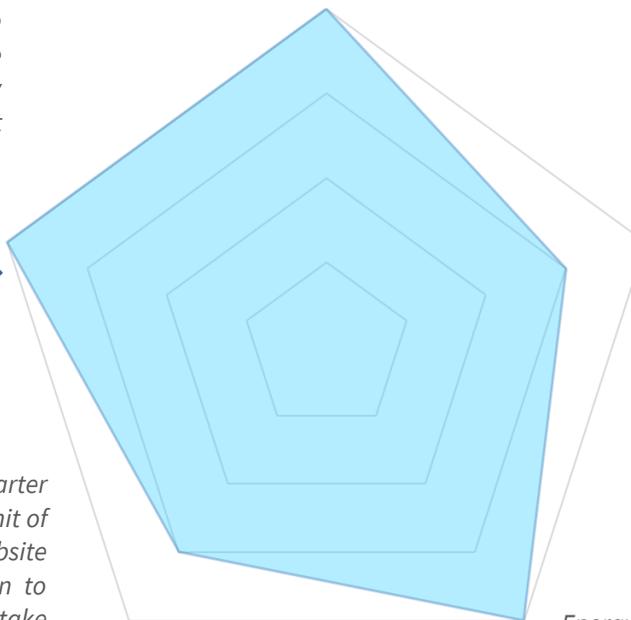


*The movement empowers citizens by supporting the democratic governance of renewable energy citizen projects with a quality check during an assessment to decide whether they can receive the Energie Partagée label. **Through its label, the case supports strong democratic governance of projects, local ownership and limits financial profits to ensure that investments are used for clean citizen energy production, not for speculation.***



Democratic energy future

A more democratic energy future is a core concern of the case, and is part of the vision



FOCUS ON DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Energy Partagée is open to everyone and reducing energy poverty is mentioned as an objective of renewable energy citizen projects in its founding charter. While it is likely that there is a socioeconomic bias in the citizen shareholding and which citizens take part in citizen projects, the Energie Partagée investment tool offers shares for 10€ for marginalised communities to make shareholding more accessible.



Equity and justice

Equal access is granted, but limited by various criteria

Energy Partagée clearly supports sufficiency and efficiency first and commits to fostering a reduction in energy needs. Ideally, the long-term objective is that remaining energy needs should be covered by renewable energy citizen projects.



Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a core issue, and is considered in goal setting



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Further information



facebook.com/EnergiePartagee.org

twitter.com/EnergiePartagee



energie-partagee.org



energie-partagee.org/contact



References

- Information available on various aspects of the case on the case website (Accessed 30.09.2023):
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- Interview with a case participant
- Vadovics, E., Szóllóssy A., and Vadovics K. (2023). Introduction and Methodology for the EnergyPROSPECTS Detailed Case Summary Reports. EnergyPROSPECTS (PROactive Strategies and Policies for Energy Citizenship Transformation). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10075408>



Source of images

<https://energie-partagee.org>



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