



GoiEner Taldea



Summary

GoiEner Taleda is a cooperative project that promotes the generation and consumption of renewable energy. It was created in 2012 because of "dissatisfaction with the functioning of the national energy system." GoiEner believes that electricity is now a need that is as basic as that of food and wants consumers to reclaim their energy sovereignty and make them aware of its importance. Its main purpose is to make energy something that belongs to everyone and for everyone – far from big projects, models that perpetuate the use of fossil fuels, and practices that do not empower people. This will be achieved by protecting, informing, and promoting consumer rights and reclaiming energy sovereignty from the oligopoly of large distribution companies.

Why is it a case of energy citizenship?

It is a clear example of a citizen initiative for energy sustainability and democracy. GoiEner's long-term goal is for citizens to regain control and become aware of the importance of energy, promoting responsible and sustainable energy consumption and carrying out important awareness-raising work.



DIRECT ENERGY
PRODUCTION /
CONSUMPTION



COLLECTIVE



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

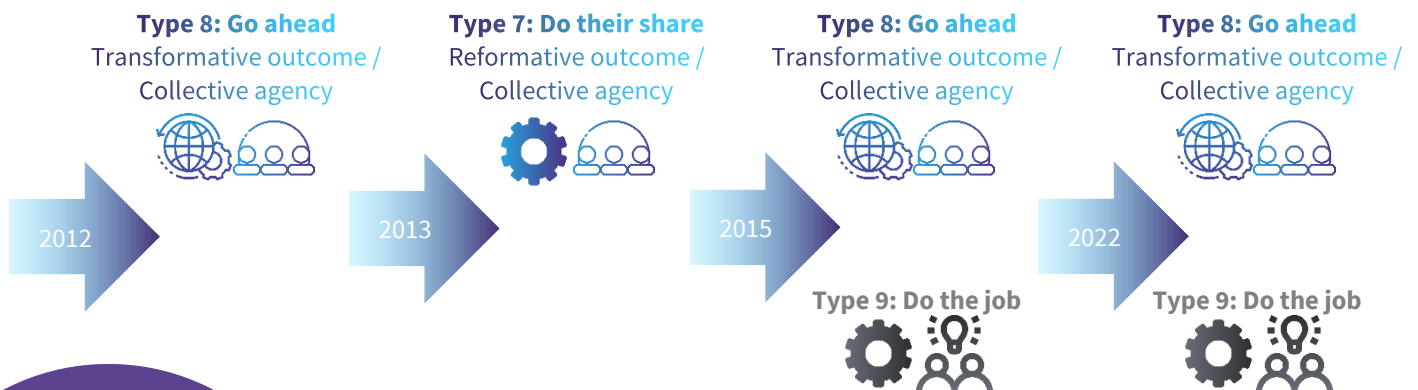
Goals



1. Providing services and distributing products related to the commercialisation of renewable energy;
2. Promoting more democratic energy decision-making: defending and improving consumer rights by raising awareness of the cooperative model;
3. Facilitating greater community ownership of a decentralised energy system (supporting the community to regain energy sovereignty).

The story and the typology

GoiEner was born at the end of 2012 as a collective, citizen-based initiative due to social discontent with the national energy system. The organisation, which started out with transformative goals, for a short period shifted from its primary goal (restoring energy sovereignty) to a more reformatory type of citizenship due to external circumstances: a new policy that resulted in an exponential growth in membership. In later phases, the cooperative found its purpose again in a transformative direction by returning to the work of achieving energy sovereignty, with a strongly renewed emphasis on volunteering and local development.



Case history summary

For the summary
methodology,
click [HERE!](#)



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Phase 1: From the initiation of the case in 2012 to the new solar law in 2013

The case was initiated due to the dissatisfaction of several people with experience and knowledge of the energy system.

The starting point was a discussion that began between September and October 2012 with a group of people who were "fed up with the fact that they [were] just customers with no other rights than to pay the bills". This led to the decision in December of the same year to create a non-profit cooperative.

Beyond cooperation regarding renewable energy production and consumption, there was also a desire to regain energy sovereignty.

This was a grassroots initiative that attempted to make radical changes to the national energy system. Thus, a collective, citizen-based project was started with a transformative goal orientation, classified as the "Go ahead" ideal type.

	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

Phase 2: Marketing and growth of membership, 2013-2015

In this phase, the cooperative experienced difficulties due to the undesired growth in membership.

At the beginning of 2013, Spain introduced a solar tax, which resulted in significant changes and made many energy production projects unprofitable. It involved a tax on all electricity bills for those who switched to self-consumption. It was a very controversial law due to its negative consequences for developing and using renewable energies, such as photovoltaic solar energy.

The cooperative had no choice but to increase its commercialisation. Members wanted to act locally but needed money to maintain the organisation. While they were busy with the process of commercialisation, the social aspect of the

cooperative was sidelined, and the original mission (restoring energy sovereignty) was marginalised.

As GoiEner adapted to the market, it began to grow exponentially, which for a time hindered the realisation of its core vision and mission, so the case became more reformative than transformative. Thus, the main energy citizenship type became "Do their share".

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Main type: Do their share

Reformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Phase 3: After the creation of Elkarteia in 2015 until the current phase (since 2021)

In 2015, GoiEner Elkarteia (a pillar of the cooperative movement) was born, which helped the cooperative return to its original goals. Elkarteia has become one of the pillars of the organisation. It is designed to help organise volunteer work and make it more dynamic, giving the project a more substantial social dimension.

With the creation of Elkarteia, the social vision of the initiative strengthened. The activities of sensitisation, training, dissemination and awareness-raising aimed at citizens, educational, economic and social agents, and public administrations were introduced.

With this, the organisation began to return to its original purpose, again with the transformative

goals of achieving sovereignty, so the main type can again be classified as the “Go ahead” ideal type. Also, a secondary energy citizenship type emerged as the organisation began to mobilise others and acquired a growing volunteer base.

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Main type: Go ahead

Transformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

Secondary type: Do the job

Reformative outcome / Social movements agency

Phase 4: Current state, 2021-

After these difficulties, the cooperative has now been able to return to its starting point and again identifies a more democratic energy future as its main goal.

Today, GoiEner is an initiative with little influence in Spain, mainly because power is concentrated in the hands of large corporations. Despite this, it maintains its motivation and interest in strengthening and inspiring all those who are currently part of the initiative (volunteers and members) and anyone who may be interested in becoming a part of it.

The ENCI ideal types have not changed in the most recent phase.

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Secondary type: Do the job

Reformative outcome / Social movements agency



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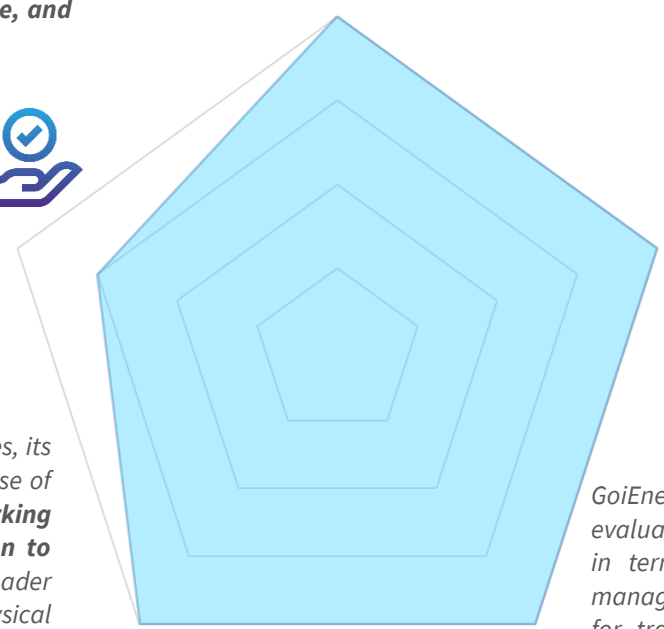
The aspects of energy citizenship

The purpose of the case is to restore energy sovereignty for citizens because “energy should belong to citizens and for citizens”. **A central thread has been guaranteeing the rights of customers to be part of and make decisions about the energy system.** GoiEner fights against large trading companies that limit the capacity for citizen control. GoiEner believes that the most democratic energy future lies with “collective self-consumption and especially energy communities”.

At the organisational level: at general assemblies, resolutions are deliberated and taken that are binding for all members, which result from prior discussions among members and are based on annual reports. At the technical or practical level: people's participation usually involves being part of working teams led by a manager, which is a rotating position. **Although theoretically all citizens can participate and their voices are always taken into account, too often people do not participate, and decisions are ultimately taken at the assembly.**



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



The case operates at the highest level of “equity and justice” due to the idea that a fair energy system should not leave anyone without the basic resources to live a dignified life. **Its social focus is on training and providing instruments to different people and groups for tackling energy poverty.** Although there is a membership fee, there is an alternative way to participate through volunteering. There are also limits on capital contributions. In addition, GoiEner supports other local co-operatives throughout Spain.



Equity and justice
Involvement is fully open

GoiEner publishes a social balance report, which includes indicators that evaluate the degree of compliance with the commitment to the environment in terms of the provision of a policy, action plan or environmental management system; internal control of CO₂ emissions; alternatives to or aid for transport; **energy saving and efficiency and water consumption practices and procedures; electricity services with 100% renewable suppliers;** use of recycled paper or paper with a sustainable forestry certificate; and the incorporation of responsible consumption criteria. These indicators have been improving over time.



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

Citizen control



Citizens can express their views, but their views are not necessarily taken into account

Although GoiEner promotes consumption from renewable sources, its internal activity is not free of emissions (e.g., travel, the purchase of materials, etc.). For this reason, **GoiEner Taldea is currently working together with the Carbon Footprint Foundation Commission to offset the footprint generated by the cooperative.** Broader objectives of the initiative are linked to the recognition of “biophysical limits and energy savings”.

Carbon limits



Explicit recognition with mention/objective of reaching the max. carbon footprint



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Further information



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youtube.com/user/Goiener



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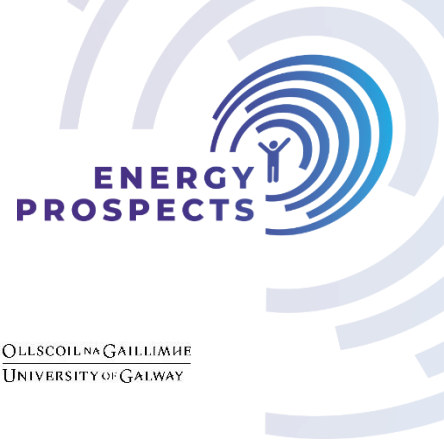
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