

## SUCCESS STORY: THE TOWN OF **EKLO**

Eeklo is dubbed the Flemish capital of wind energy. The town has the highest windturbine density of Flanders, 1 turbine for every 800 citizens. This makes the town completely self-reliant in terms of energy, while greatly reducing its carbon footprint.

The recipe for success is their participative approach. Local citizens were involved from the start. By buying a piece of the turbine, inhabitants established a relationship with the installation. It is *their* wind turbine they see from the kitchen window. As a result the impressive endeavour has been realised without any legal complaints.



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR

## ENERGY DEMOCRACY



## POWER TO THE **PEOPLE**

## THE CLIMATE WANTS

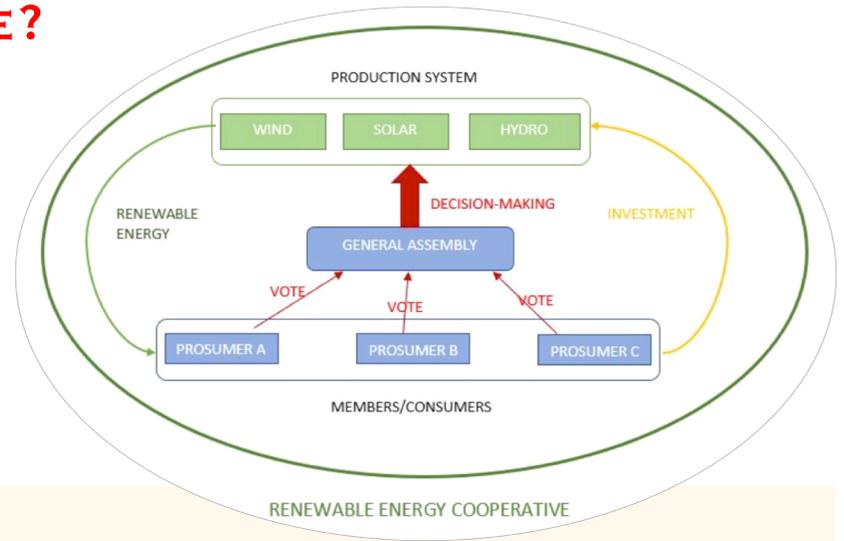
# **YOU**



TO JOIN  
**RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
COOPERATIVES**

# A RENEWABLE ENERGY COOPERATIVE?

In a Renewable Energy Cooperative citizens jointly own the renewable energy installations that generate their electricity. By sharing the investment, the cost for the individual remains affordable. Members buy at least one share and actively participate in the strategic decision-making process of the enterprise, including about price setting and investments in renewable energy projects. The dual role of the members as both producers and consumers, contracted to *prosumers*, results in the pursuit of long-term societal benefits rather than short-term financial gain.



## Financial Return

Investing in cooperative shares gives a steady return on investment between 2 and 4 % a year, better rates than a bank savings account. As co-owner you are involved in the price setting as well. A fair price without excessive profits keeps your energy bill under control

## You help to accelerate the Renewable Energy Transition

Becoming a member of a cooperative contributes to increased investment in renewable energy investments. The surrounding co-owning citizens benefit under the form of green electricity and dividends, so public support for the installation is high. This decreases legal opposition.

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

### Democratic Control of Key infrastructure

The Energy Transition is not only a technological transition from fossil fuels and nuclear fission to renewable energy sources. The renewable technologies also enable an organisational shift from large-scale centralised utilities to a decentralised network of small-scale installations. This opens up opportunities to transform the current energy system controlled by big private companies to a more democratic one, where the supply of energy is controlled by *prosuming* citizens and serves the public rather than corporate interests.