



# “Unlocking energy communities: New models for community solar in a post-subsidy world”

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# What do we mean by “Community Solar”?

*“Whatever happened to the heroes?”*



Source: Repowering

# What do we mean by “Community Solar”?

## Key characteristics of renewable energy communities:

### Community ownership

- Owned collectively
- Local decision-making

### Community benefit

- Economic benefit shared and/or localised
- Profit returned for social benefit
- Growing in scale and professionalism



# EU HEROES project

## Aims

- Enable increased deployment of community PV through new models enabling grid-integration

## Activities

- Understand needs of communities and network operators
- Develop new business models
- Pilot those business models
- EU H2020 funding



# EU HEROES: Partners

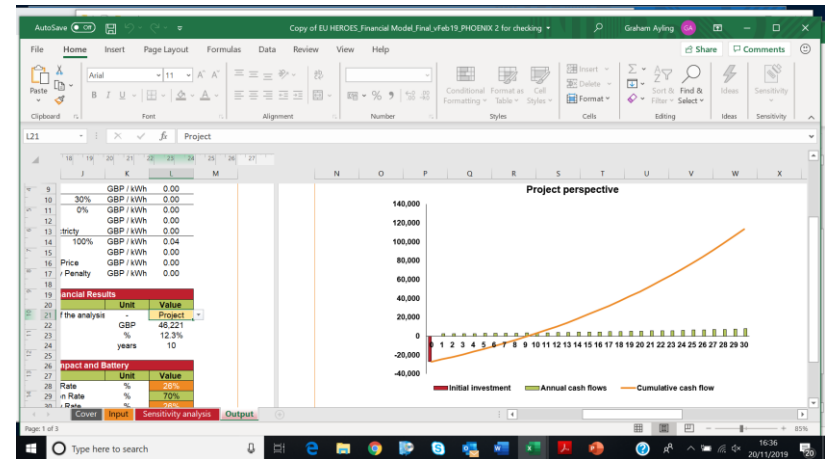
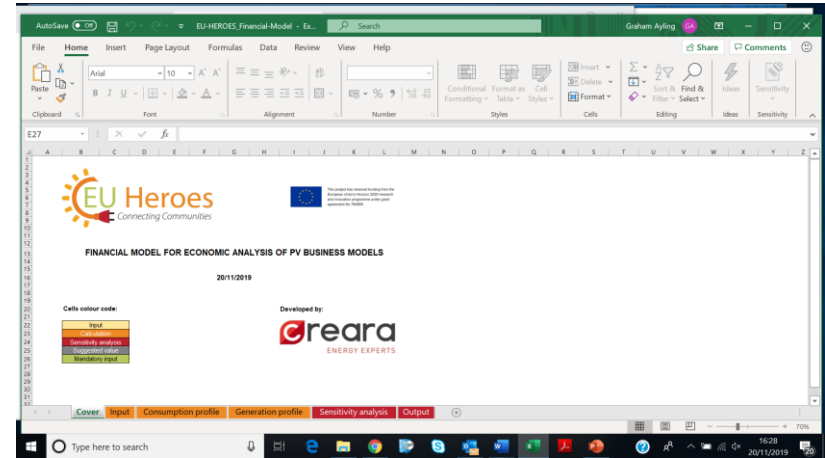
## Partners

- Partnership formed through Renewable Energy Working Group of the European Energy Network (EnR)
- RVO – Netherlands
- CRES – Greece
- CREAMA – Spain
- DENA – Germany
- PROTECH – Lithuania
- KAPE – Poland
- EST - UK

# EU HEROES: Community solar tool

## Tool features

- Aimed at energy communities
- Business modelling
- Can cover community scale
- And include battery storage
- Sensitivity analysis
- Excel-based with user guide
- [www.euheroes.com/tool](http://www.euheroes.com/tool)



# EU HEROES: Results

## Learning

- Monitored data available
- Improved understanding of business models across MS
- Comparison of policy/regulation regimes
- Testing business-models tailored to each MS
- Case study of multi-family properties
- Policy recommendations
- [www.euheroes.eu](http://www.euheroes.eu)





# Policy for energy communities

## Energy Communities in the RED: “My Hero”

- Article 22 – protects the rights of energy communities

Protects communities:

- Right to produce, consume, store and sell own renewable energy, without being subject to punitive taxes or excessive bureaucracy,
- Definition of RE communities

# Policy for energy communities

## Protect and promote

- Rights to operate and trade
  - Implement A22
  - Enable key models
- Simplicity and empathy
  - DSO Community officer
  - Community guides
- Capacity building support
  - Consistent expert support
  - Grants/low cost loans address lack of access to capital



# Policy for energy communities

## Recognise benefits not just status: *“We don’t need another hero”*

- Energy communities COULD:
  - Engage citizens with net zero
  - Share the economic benefits of net zero
  - Create a “multiplier” for carbon and economic benefit
- With the right incentives
- How to target:
- By legal structure?
- Incentivise the outcomes we want to see?



\*Source: The Low Carbon Hub

# Case Study: Multi-family domestic PV

## Multi-family domestic PV – “*Holding out for a hero*”

- Doesn't require a mature community energy sector
- Accessible and scalable
- Near market model
- Legal structures in place – residents/tenants organisations
- Engages citizens
- Replicable across EU

# Case Study: Multi-family domestic PV

## Collegepark Zwijsen, Veghel, Netherlands

- Refurb into 115 apartments
- 200kW PV array and private wire – shared ownership
- Heat pumps and solar thermal
- Exemption from regulation
- Net metering
- Demand side management
- Surplus exported



# Case Study: Multi-family domestic PV

## Policy needs

- Implement A21 & A22!
  - Extend self-consumption rights to collective self-consumption
- Understand the different solutions
- Enable the best model for each MS
- Ensure clarity for the target audience
- Market support



# Conclusions

## Policy for energy communities

- Engage citizens in climate action
- A22 recognises energy communities
- Level the playing field
- Better communication – clear models
- Can we value carbon and social benefits in this new market?
- Energy communities empower everyone to play a meaningful role in net zero

*“We could be heroes...”*





# Thank you

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