

Master/Bachelor Thesis “Energy communities: Literature Review”

Background

The evolution of renewable energies has opened the way for new organizational models, such as energy communities, to collaborate in energy development (Dreyfus, 2021). Energy communities see citizens actively engaged in the energy transition (Bauwens, 2019). Besides fostering renewable energy development, they boost energy citizenship and energy democracy (Dadka et al., 2023). The literature on energy citizenship and energy democracy (Wahlund and Palm, 2022) emphasizes the central role that citizens play beyond their roles as users or consumers, and their control of energy production and distribution (Szulecki and Overland, 2020). However, recent research shows the involvement of several actors in such projects, such as local authorities, commercial enterprises, or corporations (Dadka et al., 2023). Therefore, this thesis aims to conduct an analysis of the literature to understand the configurations of stakeholders involved in energy communities. Furthermore, a systematic analysis of this body of research could be beneficial in identifying further promising areas of research.

Introductory Readings

Bauwens, T., Gotchev, B., & Holstenkamp, L. (2016). What drives the development of community energy in Europe? The case of wind power cooperatives. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 13, 136-147.

Dudka, A., Moratal, N., & Bauwens, T. (2023). A typology of community-based energy citizenship: An analysis of the ownership structure and institutional logics of 164 energy communities in France. *Energy Policy*, 178, 113588.

Wahlund, M., & Palm, J. (2022). The role of energy democracy and energy citizenship for participatory energy transitions: A comprehensive review. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 87, 102482.

Tasks and Goals

This thesis is closely related to the current research of the chair and includes a systematic literature review analyzing the development and current state of research on energy communities. The main tasks are 1) identifying and collecting articles in influential peer-reviewed journals; 2) systematically reviewing and categorizing research and developing a coherent literature structure; 3) Expanding existing/developing a new framework to classify and synthesize literature and its concepts; 4) Assessment of the research’s impact and evaluation of future research potentials.

Requirements

- Excellent English skills and interest in entrepreneurship, community engagement, and renewable energies.
- Independent, reliable, and diligent working style.
- Advanced Seminar *Sustainable Entrepreneurship* with a minimum grade of 2.0 (for Master Thesis)
- Course *Corporate Sustainability* with a minimum grade of 2.0 (for Bachelor Thesis)

Details

- Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Frank-Martin Belz and Rossella Rocchino, M.Sc.
- Start: Flexible / As of now.
- Working time: 6 months

Contact

If you are interested in writing your thesis at our chair or have questions about this topic, please contact Rossella Rocchino (rossella.rocchino@tum.de). To apply, send an email including your CV, and the current transcript of records (as one PDF file). We are looking forward to working together with you!