



EREF

EUROPEAN RENEWABLE ENERGIES FEDERATION

**GREENPEACE**

EMBARGOED until 00:01 Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> - REMINDER: Breakfast briefing, **08:30, Monday 26th September** at EREF headquarters: **Avenue Marnix, 28, 1000 Brussels**. Breakfast will be provided; spokespeople will be available for interview.

## PEOPLE CAN POWER THE ENERGY REVOLUTION

Brussels, 26th September 2016 – Over half of citizens in the European Union could be generating their own renewable electricity by 2050, according to new research released today [1].

The research outlines the potential for citizen-owned renewable energy projects in Europe, where 264 million “energy citizens” could generate 45% of the European Union’s electricity needs by 2050 – as part of a democratised energy system [2].

**Molly Walsh, community power campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe**, said: *“This shows that people have the power to revolutionise Europe’s energy system, reclaiming power from big energy companies, and putting the planet first. We need to enshrine the right for people to produce their own renewable energy in European and national legislation.”*

**Tara Connolly, energy policy adviser for Greenpeace EU**, said: *“The EU should be clearing a path for forward-thinking, nimble energy citizens, not supporting big, polluting utilities. The age of energy dinosaurs is over.”*

**Dirk Vansintjan, president of REScoop.eu**, said: *“Citizens are already playing a role in renewable energy projects across Europe – benefiting the local economy, as well as creating public support for the energy transition. Their potential is huge, and this research shows these projects could, and should, be the norm.”*

The organisations are calling for a framework to protect, support and promote energy citizens at the core of the European Commission’s Energy Union package – specifically as part of the revised Renewable Energy Directive and the Market Design Initiative. This call is in line with President Juncker’s wish for “the EU to become the world number one in renewable energies” [3] and with the European Commission’s vision of “an Energy Union with citizens at its core”. [4]

For more information, please contact:

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#### NOTES:

[1] The report, *The Potential for Energy Citizens in the European Union*, was carried out by CE Delft and commissioned by European Renewable Energies Federation, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, and European Federation of Renewable Energy Cooperatives. The study will be publicly available at [bit.ly/energycitizenstudy](http://bit.ly/energycitizenstudy) from Monday 26 September. The study and a media briefing with more information is already available at: [bit.ly/energycitizensbrief](http://bit.ly/energycitizensbrief)

[2] For the purposes of the report, energy citizens are defined as individuals or households producing renewable energy or managing their electricity demand flexibly either individually or collectively. The definition also includes public entities such as cities and municipal buildings, schools, hospitals or government buildings, as well as small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Examples include solar panels on the roof of a home or small business, or participation in a collective wind or solar farm project.

[3] Mission letter to Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/commissioner\\_mission\\_letters/arias-canete-mission\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/commissioner_mission_letters/arias-canete-mission_en.pdf)

[4] Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy:  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2015%3A80%3AFIN>