



REScoop paves the way for Europe's largest community energy wind farm

The European and the Dutch federations of renewable energy cooperatives (REScoop.eu and REScoopNL) joined forces with Som Energia (Spain) and paved the way for local citizens to participate in a 350 MW wind farm in the Netherlands.

In the Netherlands 200 local farmers and wind turbine owners are working on a big wind project of 93 large onshore wind turbines with a total production capacity of 350 MW. New turbines will replace the ones installed 20 years ago. The project is unique in the Netherlands because of its innovative participation approach. Rather than having the land owners and owners of the old turbines compete with one another, the Municipal and Provincial government made them collaborate. Land owners and those who own the old wind turbines are both eligible to join the new legal entity that will replace the old installations by new, modern ones. As a result, less turbines will produce much more energy from renewable sources. Until recently citizens living close to the project in Zeewolde and Almere were not able to join. But not anymore! With support from both REScoop federations, five Dutch energy cooperatives and Som Energia from Spain, joined forces to include local citizens too. Together they set up a new cooperative called "[De Nieuwe Molenaars](http://www.denieuwemolenaars.nl)" that will buy one of the old wind turbines in the area. By doing so, the cooperative and the local citizens will be eligible to participate in the new wind farm. On February 21st, 2017 the cooperative was founded officially; 50 local citizens joined straight away. The cooperative aims to get at least another 1,000 subscriptions to co-own Europe's largest wind farm.

Contact: Siward Zomer, Board member of REScoop.eu and REScoopNL +31 637350569

www.rescoop.nl

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www.denieuwemolenaars.nl