

## **Citizen power plants in sustainable energy transitions**

### **Experiences from Austria and Germany**

With rising concerns over ecological sustainability as well as security of supply, the energy system has come under increasing pressure over the last years and various efforts have been made aiming at a transition towards more sustainable systems of energy provision. At the grassroots level this has included the establishment of energy cooperatives and other forms of collective citizen ownership of renewable energy technologies. Indeed, a variety of different models of collective citizen ownership can be found in different countries across Europe.

This presentation seeks to explore processes of diffusion of citizen power plants and some of the ambiguities and tensions relating to these diffusion processes. For this purpose it will present results from country case studies concerning the emergence and development of collective citizen ownership of green electricity plants in Austria and Germany. The case studies, based on semi-structured interviews with actors from the field, look at the different interests and rationales attached to collective citizen ownership, examine institutional barriers and incentives that have promoted or impeded its development and explore the roles of different actors in the development of such ownership models.

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