

# MUNICIPAL ACTIONS FOR BUILDING ENERGY DEMOCRACY AND ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY

MUNICIPALIST  
MANIFESTO FROM  
2020 ONWARDS

**Executive summary****Proposal A.1**

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**Provide advisory services on energy rights at the municipal and county levels**

Set up advisory services relating to energy rights and energy supply issues at the municipal level (or county level in the case of small municipalities). Deal urgently with cases where people have been cut off due to non-payment; provide general advice on tariffs, discounts, contracted power and ways to save energy and optimise its use; arrange for contract changes and discounts from energy companies; and organise trainings and workshops about energy rights and how people can make their homes more energy efficient.

Energy poverty

**Proposal A.2**

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**Enforce and defend law(s) that address energy poverty**

To address threats to cut off power supply, the precautionary principle should be applied in terms of determining capacity to pay, together with energy poverty protection measures that are triggered on the basis of people's income levels. These should be established by law.

With regard to discounts, citizens will be provided with and advised to take advantage of a discounted social tariff designed to prevent increases in the tariff debt owed by families in vulnerable situations.

It is essential for municipal and regional governments to present a united front to obtain signed agreements with energy suppliers to ensure that the latter absorb all the costs of measures to combat energy poverty.

Energy poverty

**Proposal A.3**

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**Guarantee the right to electricity in precarious housing**

Enable provisional contracting of electricity supply for individuals or families living in unoccupied buildings who are at risk of being made homeless.

Energy poverty

**Energy training, culture and empowerment plan**

We propose that municipalities develop energy training, culture and empowerment plans. These should contain training resources designed for different audiences and social groups, and municipalities should make a particular effort to reach out to those groups who tend to be the worst affected by the current energy (and socio-economic) model but the least likely to participate in oversight of or discussions about it.

Participation

**Social and environmental criteria for public procurement in the energy sector**

Include social and environmental clauses in public procurement contracts, at the selection, assessment and implementation stages, with the ultimate aim being to include social and environmental considerations throughout the energy procurement cycle. Launch processes to switch municipal electricity contracts to social, democratic and renewable energy enterprises that are publicly or cooperatively owned.

Participation

**Public-community governance of public enterprises (energy retailers, energy services companies and energy demand aggregators)**

Set up a space for public-community governance of public energy enterprises (retailers, energy services companies, potential municipal aggregators, etc.) to turn them into spaces in which energy governance is genuinely democratised. This public-community governance space should be obligatory and inclusive, enduring beyond electoral cycles so that it is possible to develop and implement long-term energy policies. It should also improve the overall quality of participatory processes so that municipalities and communities become increasingly empowered to strengthen the decision-making powers of all the community members and especially those more vulnerable residents.

Participation

**Proposal C.7**

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**Ensure an ecosocial and ecofeminist assessment of energy uses and sources to promote a new social metabolism in municipalities**

Carry out or further develop a municipal-level energy assessment, so that these assessments are participatory. These assessments should include information about the sources of the energy used across the municipality and what it is used for, paying particular attention to reproductive and community uses. The assessment should lead to an ecosocial and ecofeminist energy covenant that includes a proposal on municipal energy planning focusing on the promotion of a new social metabolism, meaning that the flows of materials and energy that take place in the municipality are life-sustaining.

Ecofeminism

**Proposal C.8**

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**Organise public events using ecofeminist criteria**

Make public events related to energy accessible to everyone, including those who need care and those who care for others (children, people dependent on carers, etc.) by, for example, making spaces suitable for children or dependent adults, providing interpreters and carers, etc.

Ecofeminism

**Proposal C.9**

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**Ensure data analysis includes disaggregation by gender and other intersecting inequalities**

Develop tools for intersectional analyses that enable gender to be combined with other dimensions of inequality. Mainstream these analyses across energy-related data analysis processes. It is important for a common system of mainstreaming to be used across different municipal councils so that data can be easily compared.

Ecofeminism

**Facilitate medium-scale energy generation projects**

Analyse available local government sites, such as municipal buildings and municipal land, where local renewable energy generation projects could be undertaken, and consider offering these sites to citizens' groups who wish to take forward local renewable energy generation projects, under conditions to be agreed by both parties.

Seek advice to explore the potential for reaching a Public Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with citizen funding and fair conditions that minimise future risks and benefit the public interest.

Energy generation

**Municipal bylaw on renewable energy installations**

Ensure that urban planning regulations are accessible, understandable and provide clear information (in one place), about how to complete the required paperwork. Local level renewable energy installations often require complex paperwork or costly technical studies, which discourages their spread. A technical report and simple plans should be sufficient to issue a 'statement of responsibility' in order to encourage, instead of impede, small renewable energy installations.

Energy generation

**Citizen audits of electricity distribution**

Auditing of the electricity distribution grid and business is understood as the work required to obtain information about what electricity distribution was like in the past, how it is in the present and what actions should be undertaken in the future to ensure that it starts to prioritise the needs of residents.

Energy distribution

**Set up public electricity retailers**

Promote the setting up of a publicly owned electricity retailer guaranteed to use renewable energy sources, with public-community participation in its governance process.

Energy retailing

**Taking steps towards energy data control: energy resource audits**

Undertake full energy resource audits to quantify the multiple energy resources available to municipalities (for example, charging stations for electric vehicles, battery hubs, energy use in buildings or street lighting, self-generation, energy demand aggregation and renewable power plants). Proposals for improvement need to be developed in parallel in order to begin an energy transition focused on reducing energy use and, consequently, costs, as soon as possible.

Energy data ownership

**Recovering data for digital democracy**

Launch a local campaign and advocate for the ownership of data from energy meters, which is currently solely and poorly controlled by private distribution companies. Energy meters can provide instantaneous and hourly data, enabling the municipality to provide a demand aggregation service grid stability and balancing renewable energy production and demand. This would also reduce the unnecessary cost of having additional monitoring systems at public supply points.

Energy data ownership

**Sustainable electric transport**

Draw up plans for shared electric vehicle use to enable municipal electric vehicles to be used not only by local government employees during working hours, but by residents during evenings and weekends, paying particular attention to low-income groups.

Transport

## Executive summary

This is the Municipalist Manifesto for building energy democracy and energy sovereignty locally, presented to you by the Catalan Network for Energy Sovereignty (Xse) and the Transnational Institute.

For Xse, energy sovereignty - which is based on the highest level of democracy - means to listen to, give voice to, empower, meaningfully engage with, and encourage voting by the largest number of people possible. They must have the democratic power to decide what kind of energy model they want. In other words, how people want to source, own, organise and supply energy. For example, what kind of energy-related policies should be implemented by their public administration, energy enterprises and energy communities and how these entities can be fundamentally democratised. The aim is to maximise long-term social, environmental, economic, political and cultural benefits for all inhabitants of a territory, whilst also respecting the sovereignty and rights of people and nature elsewhere, including all human and non-human life.

This Municipalist Manifesto aims to be a tool that can be used as a guide by (municipalist) citizens platform, municipal councils and opposition parties, organisations and collectives, and any person who wishes to take action.

This manifesto comprises a total of 16 proposals. The original version has 19 proposals but because 3 were too context specific, they have not been included in the English publication. The description of each proposal includes the issue to be addressed, the actions to be carried out, the actors involved and examples we believe will be inspiring. To draw up this document we compiled proposals and experiences of our own and from the following social movements and organisations:

- **Alliance against Energy Poverty (Aliança contra la Pobresa Energètica (APE)).** A collective created to put pressure on and denounce public administrations for failing to take action to stop excessive private profiteering by energy and water supply companies.<sup>1</sup>
- **Catalan Association of Engineering Without Borders (Associació Catalana d'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres (ESF)).** An entity whose mission is to cooperate in the achievement of a fair international society that does not exclude anyone. This society aims to develop, build and put fundamental human rights into practice - economic, social and cultural, individual and collective practice - throughout the world.<sup>2</sup>
- **Debt Observatory in Globalisation (Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG)).** A research observatory that develops critical analyses of complex and/or structural processes, to show the visible (and invisible) impacts and risks of our current economic and political system, producing tools that facilitate the interpretation of the current context.<sup>3</sup>

1 For more information visit the collective's website in Spanish: <https://pobresaenergetica.es/>

2 For more information visit the collective's website in English: <https://esf-cat.org/en/>

3 For more information visit the collective's website in English: <https://odg.cat/en/>



- **Som Mobilitat.** A non-profit cooperative that works for more sustainable mobility. It offers services to share electric vehicles between neighbours, entities, companies and administrations throughout Catalonia.<sup>4</sup>
- **Som Energia.** A non-profit green energy consumption cooperative, whose main activities are the commercialisation and production of renewable energy. It is committed to promoting a change in the current energy model to achieve a 100% renewable model.<sup>5</sup>

However, these proposals do not focus solely on energy and where it comes from - they are also connected to many other issues such as ownership, governance, participation, democracy and feminism.

### What has Xse done in recent years?

Over the last few years, Xse has tabled many issues at public events, assemblies, dialogue forums, etc. For example, Xse has organised workshops and international events on distribution grids with the aim of increasing citizen supervision and control, with the aim of reclaiming ownership and management. It has also published a study 'Taking back control of energy: Actions to (re)municipalise electricity distribution',<sup>6</sup> put together a programme to think about financing the energy transition<sup>7</sup> and organised an assembly to talk about self-consumption (the production and consumption of one's own energy at the household level).<sup>8</sup>

Energy governance has also been discussed. This was the starting point for reflecting on the governance of Barcelona's new municipal electricity company.<sup>9</sup>

Xse has also promoted the creation of a mutual support network to stop energy megaprojects that pay no attention to local realities, and built relationships with other local groups who are defending their communities.

Critically, in 2017, the organisation of an ecofeminist energy debate<sup>10</sup> gave Xse the impetus it needed to reflect internally on feminism and energy. This led to Xse becoming actively involved in organising a national conference on Women and Energy, in Bilbao in 2018. Ecofeminism is a more radical branch of feminism that takes global

4 For more information visit the collective's website in English: <https://www.somTransport.coop/en/>

5 For more information visit the collective's website in Spanish: <https://www.somenergia.coop/es/>

6 Pérez, Alfons. (2017) 'Recovering energy control. Actions to (re)municipalize the electrical distribution. Barcelona: Catalan Association of Engineering Without Borders (ESF). Spanish version available at: <https://esf-cat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ESFeres19-RecuperandoControlEnergia-CAST-web-1.pdf>

7 Advertising of the event in Catalan: <https://xse.cat/inscripcions-obertes-per-la-conferencia-internacional-impulsem-la-transicio-energetica>

8 Advertising of the event in Catalan: <https://www.facebook.com/xsecat/photos/gm.192005271450795/807159442813182/?type=3&theater>

9 Advertising of the event in Catalan: <https://www.facebook.com/xsecat/photos/a.206410082888124/857010051161454/?type=3&theater>

10 MacGregor, Sherilyn (2006). Beyond mothering earth: ecological citizenship and the politics of care. Vancouver: UBC Press. p. 286. ISBN 978-0-7748-1201-6.

environmental and economic justice into account. It fights for dismantling capitalist patriarchy by acknowledging on the one hand the equality of and interdependence among human beings, and on the other, how humans are part and parcel of the ecosystems they live in. These relationships are undoubtedly the framework and the compass that guides the Xse vision, analysis and practice.<sup>11</sup>

Then in 2018, Xse published its first book: **We have energy! Proposals for the transition to energy sovereignty**.<sup>12</sup> This brought together Xse's different areas of work in an accessible format, while still reflecting our political depth and commitment.

Apart from developments within the network, the overall context has also changed since the last election. Self-declared 'councils for change' and other municipalist candidates have also taken forward actions aimed at achieving the energy transition that are very much in line with Xse's proposals. This growing transition needs to be mainstreamed. We need more people to join the push for just actions by campaigning and cooperating with other local government candidates who want to work on the right to energy, facilitating real and effective participation.

Energy transition also requires the promotion of those cities, towns and villages whose policies care about present and future generations. One clear example of this mainstreaming is the unanimous approval of Catalan Law 24/2015, which contains urgent measures to address the housing and energy poverty emergency. This law is an extremely valuable means of protecting vulnerable people from the energy oligopoly. It established a protocol preventing the cutting off of people's electricity, by forcing companies to notify the municipal council's social services department instead, so that staff from these departments can visit the homes in question and look into their payment problems.

The political situation in Catalonia and the conflict with the Spanish government has monopolised political debate at the highest level. However, at the regional level, public debate about energy transition has advanced thanks to the existence of the National Agreement for Energy Transition in Catalonia, coordinated by the Catalan Energy Institute (l'ICAEN),<sup>13</sup> and the approval of the Catalan Law on Climate Change,<sup>14</sup> which Xse was actively involved in promoting. On the other hand, progress on the implementation and translation of these measures into concrete actions needs to improve.

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11 MacGregor, Sherilyn (2006). *Beyond mothering earth: ecological citizenship and the politics of care*. Vancouver: UBC Press. p. 286. ISBN 978-0-7748-1201-6.

12 Ávila, S., Berdié, L., Botella, J., Camarasa, I., Campuzano, M., Coll, C., Del Bene, D., D'Elia, G., Guiteras, M., Nualart, J., Pérez, A., Piqué, A., Presas, O. and Vives, M. (2018) *We've got energy! Challenges of the transition towards energy sovereignty*. Barcelona: Energy Sovereignty Network (Xse). Icaria Ed. English version available at: <https://xse.cat/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/we-got-energydef.pdf>

13 National Agreement for Energy Transition in Catalonia. Energy Catalan Institute (ICAEN). ICAEN webpage in Spanish: [http://icaen.gencat.cat/es/plans\\_programes/transicio\\_energetica/index.html](http://icaen.gencat.cat/es/plans_programes/transicio_energetica/index.html)

14 Catalan Parliament (2017). *Law on climate change*. English version available at: [https://canviclimatic.gencat.cat/en/ambits/Llei\\_canvi\\_climatic/index.html](https://canviclimatic.gencat.cat/en/ambits/Llei_canvi_climatic/index.html)

It should be remembered that Catalonia has hardly any energy resources of its own and its electricity mix is based on imports of fossil fuels and nuclear fuel. In 2018, for example, these sources accounted for 79.5% of the Catalan electricity mix, dominated by nuclear energy, which accounted for 49.1% of the total generated. This import dependency leads to other forms of dependence in the exporting countries and ultimately undermines the human rights and sovereignty of people and communities in Algeria, Angola, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Namibia, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia and South Africa. They suffer the most from the social, economic and environmental destruction of nuclear and fossil fuel extractivism. Although Catalonia has excellent renewable energy potential, like other Mediterranean territories, the penetration of renewables, especially solar power, is still very low (0.9% of electricity generation in 2018).<sup>15</sup>

Part of the reason for this is that ongoing political and legal insecurity and the so-called 'Sun Tax' (Royal Decree 900/2015, which created a per kWh fee to be paid by people who produce their own solar power) led to a setback, putting the brakes on the spread of renewable energy generation.<sup>16</sup> These brakes are now off. Despite ongoing uncertainty, the Sun Tax has been abolished, and new rules enabling energy 'self-consumption' mean that policies are now more favourable with respect to the introduction of renewables.

The European Union, despite its alleged determination to promote competition and other free market mechanisms, also promotes self-consumption. Furthermore, all the political parties in Catalonia are in favour of renewable energy generation, although their approaches are qualitatively different. Civil society groups have also learned from the successes and failures of the campaigns against the Sun Tax and have increased their advocacy and networking capacity accordingly.

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15 Esteve, Joan; Villar, David (2019). Balanç energètic de Catalunya 2017 i balanç elèctric 2018. Institut Català d'Energia. Conference organized by Industrial Engineers of Catalonia on June 17, 2019.

16 Holtrop, P. (2015). Official Gazette: Royal Decree 900/2015 on self-consumption. English version available at: <http://holtropblog.com/en/index.php/renewables-and-efficiency/renewables/339-official-gazette-royal-decree-900-2015-on-self-consumption>

## A manifesto for change

This manifesto should serve as a basis for starting to develop municipalist proposals in towns, cities and regions across Europe. Political elections, moments of change in local government and public debates are all opportunities to politicise society and place proposals for energy democracy and sovereignty on the political agenda.

Xse has leaned towards municipalism as a transformative element in itself. Firstly, it brings political decision-making closer to the people by giving citizens a greater ability to influence those decisions. Secondly, transforming the current energy model - which we could describe as centralised, fossil fuel-based, oligopolistic, patriarchal, and socially and environmentally unjust - towards a redistributive, renewable, democratic, just and ecofeminist model, demands radically new forms of ownership and governance.

Although technology can support this new energy model, we need to go much further than a simple technological shift. Moving to renewables gives us an opportunity to fundamentally change how we use and produce energy, building greater self-sufficiency and bringing energy generation closer to its place of use. In short, we can change our energy culture and reclaim, as a network, collective control over our energy system. This is why we need more people to join the push for a just and hopefully unstoppable energy transition by participating, not just as active consumers, but as political agents of change.

Municipalism, as the members of Xse understand it, is made up of all those groups that are pushing hard for progressive social change at the municipal level, wherever they are located. It is not solely about the way in which local governments and councils act; the key element is the interaction between two spheres - local government and social movements. Local government must facilitate and guarantee self-management and the independence of social movements and civil society organisations. Similarly, organised civil society must be willing and able to influence what local governments do, putting pressure on them to take the proposals of social movements and engaged residents into account. The collective purchase of photovoltaic panels and citizen audits are two good examples of this dynamic.

We need local governments to make it easier to install renewable energy systems by simplifying current overly bureaucratic procedures and by providing tax incentives so that groups and collectives can initiate solar power projects in their municipalities. Likewise, local governments need to require electricity companies to provide the information needed for citizen audits of the distribution networks. Actions of this type, which strengthen the power of citizens, have a very important political and symbolic value: municipalism is understood as a broad movement that frees decision-making and the implementation of policies from the pressures of election cycles, enshrining a grassroots culture of empowerment, politicisation and active participation in its place, creating and consolidating new political agents.

## What does the Municipalist Manifesto contain?

The Municipalist Manifesto proposes a profound change to the current energy model. In Xse we understand that there are limits to the powers local governments can exercise. But we are also aware of opportunities for progress towards this necessary future. By taking advantage of the cracks that exist in the current electricity system in particular, we can adopt measures, albeit partial in some cases, which enable us to still move towards full energy democracy and sovereignty.

The manifesto covers the following energy-related thematic areas: energy poverty, participation, transport, ecofeminism, generation, distribution, retailing and data ownership. Again, we are focusing on the electricity system in particular because we believe that, even in the desirable scenario of a decrease in energy use, electricity will have a higher relative weight in the energy mix of any region, due to actions on climate change, the exhaustion of fossil fuels, and the development of electric heating, cooling and public transportation.

The proposals on **energy poverty** are based on the right to energy, which is based on the broader principle of interdependent and indivisible socio-economic rights. In the framework of international law, the 'right to energy' has been defended in recent years with the argument that energy provision should go beyond (unequal) market relations - it cannot be reduced to a commodity since people's lives and livelihoods depend on it. Therefore, governments and all actors involved in the sector, including corporations and regulators, have a duty to ensure energy as a right, a public service that should be provided democratically.

With regard to the proposals on **participation**, Xse is aiming for a model of public-community governance that goes beyond the traditional spheres of elitist decision-making and representative democracy. These new spaces, based on a paradigm of radical democracy, can break with the old mechanisms that perpetuate unequal, opaque, non-transparent and profoundly technocratic relationships.

Implemented within the context of an appropriate legal framework, the measures presented can ensure that participation is both expanded and that this decision-making is binding on policy-makers, with the aim of bringing us closer to a model that extends beyond participation to incorporate the joint development of public policies and new forms of democratic ownership and governance.

In Xse's view, a good governance model should abide by the following criteria:

- Spaces for participation should be used for the joint development of public policies on energy.
- People engaged in these spaces should have the power to make decisions that are binding.
- External oversight by the general population is necessary, both on economic matters and on the agreements reached. Creating a citizen energy observatory could enable such oversight.

- Participation should always be accompanied by training, to facilitate a process in which fully informed citizens are enabled to make good decisions.
- The debate on energy needs to be less technical and more accessible to everyone, to make the overall task easier.

One of the thematic areas Xse considers key is **ecofeminism**. This perspective is mainstreamed throughout the municipalist manifesto and we have also included specific ecofeminist proposals that can be carried out by municipalities.

We believe that access to energy should be universal, based on the criteria of social and environmental justice, and should enable everyone to meet their basic needs. It is important for municipal energy initiatives to promote new ways of understanding how the flows of materials and energy that take place in the municipality can contribute to a more effective and life-sustaining 'social metabolism'. From an ecofeminist standpoint, we want to show the essential role played by energy and material resources in terms of enabling people to lead dignified lives, with a focus on eco-dependence - highlighting people's close interaction with and dependence on natural systems. We also value the daily work involved in caring for others, including all the emotional, domestic and reproductive labour necessary to reproduce and enhance our society and livelihoods. These kinds of labour have historically been seen as separate from the area of production, even though every family and all social relationships depend on them. This interdependence also tends to have a low environmental impact.

Some of the proposals on **generation** in this manifesto are aimed at encouraging citizens to contribute to renewable energy generation, and making it easier for them to do so. Reducing certain taxes, simplifying administrative procedures and searching for new sources of funding are the underpinnings and levers of our local renewable energy generation proposals.

With regard to electricity **distribution**, our aim is to (re)municipalise the grids. Distribution is absolutely key to issues such as resolving energy poverty, introducing energy control through smart meter data and connecting new installations to the grid. We also know how difficult it is to move forward in an area that surpasses local government powers, because of the power that the electricity oligopoly exercises. This is why we are proposing the tool of citizen audits, which is an important step towards reclaiming information and demanding transparency. The results of this can equip later actions with evidence.

Similarly, the proposal to set up public **electricity retailers** follows the same argument that is repeated throughout the municipalist manifesto: that there is both a need and an opportunity to take advantage of the cracks that are appearing in the system. As described in the proposal, the existence of public and cooperative retail companies in the social and solidarity economy already represents a significant victory, as they are snatching away a small but growing slice of the business that was formerly monopolised by the energy oligopoly. However, their existence should be seen as a step towards transforming the energy model as outlined in this manifesto, rather than representing a final stage.

We also include **data ownership** in the Municipalist Manifesto. This decision is related to the fact that in 2019 the European Union member states had to translate the European Directive on energy demand aggregation, a tool used to manage energy consumption and production in a distributed renewable energy landscape, into national laws. This arrangement will enable the management of information on energy consumption at the different points of use. This could imply a risk if it falls into the hands of the oligopoly corporations but it could be an important opportunity if it ends up in the hands of local governments - provided that they safeguard the principles of transparency and democracy.

Finally, we have included a proposal on **transport**, even though it is not an issue we have worked on in great depth. Nevertheless, the key action is clear to us: to move towards the goal of having shared public electric vehicles in the short run, rather than private and individual vehicles, with priority given to developing electrified public transport such as buses and trams in the long run. As many local governments are purchasing electric vehicles for the use of politicians and public workers, they should make these available for use out-of-hours by all residents and low-income families in particular.

### **The Municipalist Manifesto for building Energy Democracy-an advocacy tool**

We hope that the Municipalist Manifesto will be a useful advocacy tool that will encourage people to debate, share ideas, and promote and improve local energy systems. It does not pretend to be the be-all and end-all of anything. The Network for Energy Sovereignty's approach is precisely this: to open up discussions, politicise the energy discourse, engage citizens and entice municipalities into taking effective action.

More actions could be developed for each of the areas considered in this manifesto and for additional areas. For example, areas we have not yet addressed include building refurbishment measures aimed at dramatically reducing energy use, and renewable energy storage that is independent of traditional batteries (such as solar thermal energy storage). Other related areas that we have not addressed include the relationship between fossil fuel and industrial food systems, and the socio-environmental impacts of hydroelectric plants, large-scale biomass and nuclear energy.

It is not necessary to be a member of Xse to use this manifesto. We are an open network consisting of different groups across various territories. But if you would like to join Xse or to share your proposals or information about on-the-ground developments, please do not hesitate to email us at: [xse@xse.cat](mailto:xse@xse.cat).

You can also find dates of public debates and presentations on our website: [www.xse.cat](http://www.xse.cat)





## Proposal A.1

# Provide advisory services on energy rights at the municipal and county levels

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## ACTORS INVOLVED Local governments

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Every six months, the National Commission on Markets and Competition publishes data on the supply of electricity and gas. They also assess how much consumers in Spain know about the supply they have contracted to their homes. The latest survey published, with data from the second half of 2018, reveals some very worrying figures.

The survey found that 67% of households did not know whether their electricity supplier was in the regulated market (where prices are set by the government) or the free market (where prices are set by the retailers). In the case of natural gas the figures were even higher, at 72.8%. Also, 38.8% of families did not know what their contracted electricity tariff was. As many as 35.5% of families were unaware of the existence of a social electricity tariff which adjusts the energy bill according to the income of the household. Another 32% were aware of the social tariff but did not know what criteria would make them eligible to apply for it. 22.5% of households did not know the different contracting conditions available to them that would enable them to reduce their energy bill.

The survey also found that 78.6% of households did not know the difference between the free market and the regulated market. Energy corporations have taken advantage of citizens' clear lack of knowledge about their energy rights by lobbying for a shift away from the regulated market to the free market. Despite liberalisation, we still find the lowest energy prices in the medium- and long-term in the regulated market. In the free market, corporations can add unnecessary services that tend to simply add costs to the bill without offering any benefits. For instance, annual maintenance services that are never demanded by users and are not mandatory by law.

In short, citizens are a long way from being aware of what their energy rights are, an important precondition to exercising them fully. This is why, when faced with the profit-focused attitude of energy supply companies - who do nothing to make this task any easier for their clients - it is essential for municipal governments to provide the missing information. This will strengthen the position of residents.

We are therefore proposing three actions:

**Set up an advisory service on energy rights at the municipal and county levels**

The first step in achieving this objective is to **set up an advisory service on energy and supply issues at the municipal level (or county level in the case of small municipalities)**. Its main roles would include:





- Dealing urgently with cases where people have been cut off due to non-payment.
- Giving general advice on tariffs, discounts, contracted power and ways to save and use energy more effectively.
- Arranging contract changes and discounts with the corporations.
- Holding training events and workshops about energy rights and ways of making homes more energy efficient.

**Change agreements with installation organisations and trade associations to require them to provide energy certificates for families in need**

It is important for this mechanism to be accompanied by complementary measures that will make it easier to complete some of the necessary paperwork with the supply companies. For example, in order to make certain contractual changes, the energy corporations ask for both the Electricity Installation Certificate and the Habitation Certificate for the home. We have found that the cost of these certificates is sometimes unaffordable for families in a vulnerable situation. We therefore **recommend signing agreements with the relevant trade associations so that the local government can obtain the certificates** at a lower cost in order to simplify the process for families in a vulnerable situation. However, the main goal should be that companies offer this service free of charge to families in a vulnerable situation.

**Provide mobile energy advisory services at the county level**

Finally, these specialised energy rights services need to be widely publicised so that citizens know that they are there and can be used. One option that could be looked at is organising workshops and training activities in various local government facilities. When these services are being set up at the county level, we also recommend mobile advisory points that can travel around to all the municipalities in the territory.



## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- Barcelona City Council:  
Energy advisory points<sup>17</sup>
- Rubí Municipal Government:  
Rubí Brilla (Rubí Shines) project<sup>18</sup>
- Bages County Council:  
County office providing energy advice and dealing with energy poverty.<sup>19</sup>
- Sabadell Municipal Government:  
Agreement with the installers' trade association.<sup>20</sup>

In municipalities that have already introduced services of this type, the results are evident. In Barcelona, for example, where they have been working for just one year, the Energy Advice Points (PAE) had already provided energy advice services to over 23,000 households and carried out 5,000 home support interventions by 1 February 2018.<sup>21</sup> Such interventions focus on a first assessment of the energy supply contract and a subsequent home visit to determine the conditions of the household and to collect data about energy consumption (in total and per electrical device).

## SOURCES

Alliance against Energy Poverty (APE).

'The new social bond that enters into force will soon show its gaps'.<sup>22</sup>

Ecoserveis (Ecoservices).

'Know the Energy Advisory Points' (PAES).<sup>23</sup>

17 Energy rights. Barcelona City Council. English version available at: <https://habitatge.barcelona/ca/serveis-ajuts/drets-energetics>

18 Tienes derechos energéticos: no te quedas a oscuras. Rubí City Council. English version available at: <https://www.rubi.cat/ca/la-teva-ciutat/habitatge/tens-drets-energetics-no-et-quedis-a-les-fosques>

19 Regional office of energy advice and attention to energy poverty. Regional Council of Bages (CCB). CCB webpage in Catalan: <http://www.ccbages.cat/tag/oficina-comarcal-dassessorament-energetic-i-atencio-a-la-pobresa-energetica/>

20 Sabadell City Council (10 October 2018). The City Council and the Association of Plumbing and Electrical Installers together to support people affected by fuel poverty. English version available at: <http://web.sabadell.cat/actualitat/notis/item/l-ajuntament-i-el-gremi-d-instal-ladors-electricistes-i-fontaneria-col-laboren-per-donar-suport-a-les-persones-afectades-per-la-pobresa-energetica>

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22 Alliance against Energy Poverty (APE) (11 October 2017). [Statement] The new social bond that enters into force today will soon show its gaps. Spanish version available at: <https://www.pobresaenergetica.es/index.php/es/medios/comunicados/520-comunicado-el-nuevo-bono-social-que-hoy-entra-en-vigor-mostrara-pronto-sus-lagunas>

23 Ecoserveis (6 February 2017) Meet the Energy Advisory Points of Barcelona (PAE). Spanish version available at: <https://www.ecoserveis.net/es/coneix-els-punts-dassessorament-energetic/>



## Proposal A.2

# Enforce and defend law(s) that address energy poverty

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## ACTORS INVOLVED Local governments

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The Catalan Law 24/2015 introduced urgent measures to address the emergency in housing and energy poverty.<sup>24</sup> It represents a major achievement by citizens' organisations who campaigned for it through a People's Legislative Initiative (Iniciativa Legislativa Popular or ILP). It was approved unanimously by the Catalan Parliament in 2015 and has since made it possible to prevent more than 40,000 households in Catalonia having their electricity cut off.

However, various players tried to prevent the enforcement of this law right from the start. First, the Spanish government challenged some of its articles in the Constitutional Court and asked for them to be suspended until a ruling was issued. The suspension did not affect Article 6, which refers to the measures aimed at combatting energy poverty, but a series of statements and contradictory information still led the public to believe that 'the Catalan law on energy poverty' had been suspended in its entirety.

Furthermore, the big corporations challenged some aspects of the law in the courts with the aim of making it difficult to apply them. Nevertheless, the law has survived and today it is still the most effective tool for preventing people's electricity supply being cut off due to non-payment.

In addition, the Spanish government's recent approval of a new social tariff for electricity and subsequent reforms to this measure have led to some confusion among municipal governments, who are responsible for dealing with the problem through their social services departments, about how to proceed.

We know that the Catalan law offers greater protection to citizens than the Spanish government's legislation, and it is therefore the one that should be defended and applied at the municipal level. Catalan law protects more than Spanish law for two main reasons:

- 1. Income thresholds:** they are higher in Catalan law and therefore, more families with social and economic problems are protected.
- 2. Precautionary principle:** Spanish law presupposes that if you do not pay the bills it is up to residents to solve this problem, without considering the possibility that people might not be able to pay. In Catalan law, energy suppliers are required to notify the municipalities (social services) of those households with unpaid bills and ask if they are in a vulnerable situation or not.

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<sup>24</sup> Government of Catalonia (2015). Law 24/2015, of 29 July, on urgent measures to face the emergency in the field of housing and energy poverty. Spanish version available at: [https://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/pjur\\_ocults/pjur\\_resultats\\_proposal/?action=proposal&mode=single&documentId=700006&language=es\\_ES](https://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/pjur_ocults/pjur_resultats_proposal/?action=proposal&mode=single&documentId=700006&language=es_ES)



We therefore propose two actions:

- **Build a united front amongst municipalities and regional governments enabling them to demand the signing of agreements with the supply companies in order to prevent a rise in the debt owed by vulnerable families**

With regard to the problem of debt, we are aware that many governments have not been able to persuade the big energy suppliers to sign agreements that ensure that these companies absorb all the costs of the measures to combat energy poverty. This is the reason why it is essential that municipalities present a united front with regional governments to obtain these agreements.

- **Publicly denounce and sanction companies when the energy supply is disconnected illegally**

It is necessary to highlight the infringement of the precautionary principle every time a supplier illegally disconnects a household. Councils should use their power to impose sanctions or refer such cases to consumer protection agencies so that they can sanction these infringements. This should be accompanied by a communication campaign to denounce such cases and voice the fact that rights have been breached.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- Sabadell Municipal Government:  
Sanctions for infringing Law 24/2015.<sup>25</sup>
- Barcelona City Council:  
Agreement with AGBAR including regulations on debt forgiveness.<sup>26</sup>
- Conca de Barberà County Council:  
Service that refers infringements of Law 24/2015 to the Catalan Consumer Agency

<sup>25</sup> Sabadell City Council (6 June 2017). Extended to 14 penalties to suppliers for power outage or improper malpractice. English version of the article at: <http://web.sabadell.cat/actualitat/notis/item/s-amplien-a-14-les-sancions-a-empreses-subministradores-per-tall-de-llum-indegut-o-mala-praxi>

<sup>26</sup> For more information visit the Conca de Barberà County Council website in Catalan: <http://www.concadebarbera.cat/pobresa-i-exclusio-social/atencio-les-situacions-de-pobresa-energetica>



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Legal Portal of Catalonia. [Law 24/2015 on urgent measures to face the emergency in the field of housing and energy poverty.](#)<sup>24</sup>

Alliance against Energy Poverty (APE). [“We urge the Catalan government and administration to force supply companies to comply with Law 24/2015 and the central government to change the regulatory framework”.](#)<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Read the whole demand at the Energy Poverty Alliance webpage: <https://pobresaenergetica.es/index.php/ca/mitjans/comunicats/169-instem-la-generalitat-a-que-obligui-les-empreses-subministradores-a-complir-amb-la-llei-24-2015-i-al-govern-central-a-canviar-el-marc-normatiu>



### Proposal A.3

## Guarantee the right to electricity in temporarily occupied homes

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### ACTORS INVOLVED Local governments

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At the moment, the cost of either buying or renting a house is prohibitively high for large sections of the population. Many families have no option other than occupying vacant buildings. Contrary to the way it is often portrayed in the media, such temporary occupation is largely peaceful and unproblematic.

According to various figures, about 87,000 families in Spain are in this situation. Some reports indicate that the average profile of a person occupying a vacant house in Catalonia is not that of a young person without responsibilities. 87% of the people occupying vacant homes are over the age of 26 and more than half (56%) are over 36. Furthermore, 68% of the people occupying vacant properties live with their families, and there are children living in 55% of the occupied homes. As far as ownership is concerned, only 5% of occupied homes are the property of small homeowners, compared to the 70% that are owned by banks or other financial institutions.

In most cases the fundamental rights to basic services of the people forced to resort to this way of accessing housing are not being respected. These families often have only two options to meet their most elemental needs: to rig up an illegal power connection and, in the case of water, to carry containers and fill them from municipal taps. The people concerned always say they would like to get this situation sorted out, but without papers showing that they are legally entitled to occupy the home, companies refuse to reconnect the supply. This situation places these families at risk because the irregular power supply can cause fires, as happened in Badalona and Manresa at the start of 2019.

We are therefore proposing 2 actions:

**Sign agreements with the water companies to install provisional water meters in temporarily occupied homes**

As far as water is concerned, this problem has an easy solution, which is already being applied in many municipalities throughout Catalonia. Because this usually falls within municipal government powers, they need to sign agreements with the companies that manage the service (whether public or private) requiring them to install temporary meters in these homes until the families are able to sort out their housing situation. As an example, here is a specific clause from the agreement signed by the City of Barcelona:

- Provisional contracting of a water supply for individuals or families at risk of homelessness.
- [The company] shall guarantee the right to urgent access to a



basic supply of drinking water by installing a meter as part of the provisional contracting of the water service for individuals or households who are at risk of homelessness, and shall notify the City Council's social services. [...]

- The City Council shall analyse the economic situation of the affected resident(s) and, if relevant, shall proceed to issue a report on whether a situation of social urgency exists [...]. This report shall give users the power to ask the water supply company to provide the service to their home.
- The water service for domestic use shall be contracted for the person occupying the home on a provisional and exceptional basis, as the contract may be terminated at any time [...], following a claim by the legitimate owner regarding their right to use the home.

Until local governments are able to guarantee adequate access to housing, the signing of these agreements will at least allow many families to live without the fear that companies could cut off their water supply at any time or fine them for illegal connections.

**Build a united front amongst municipalities to reach agreements with the power supply companies to install provisional electricity meters in temporarily occupied homes**

Energy companies outright refuse to offer an effective solution to this problem, making it more difficult for local governments to respond.

However, bearing in mind the legislation related to the electricity sector, it should be possible to find a solution similar to the one offered in the case of the water service, by proposing that the energy companies install provisional electricity meters in temporarily occupied homes, backed by the following documents: a report from social services, the energy certificates required by law and municipal census, all of this through a provisional contract.

In the case of small distribution companies, we reaffirm the need to reach agreements similar to those for water supply, so that provisional electricity meters can be installed until the affected families have sorted out their situation. In the case of large distribution companies, it is important to build a united front to defend citizens' energy rights and exert pressure on these companies to sign agreements obliging them to install such meters.



## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- Barcelona City Council:  
Agreement with Agbar including regulations on the installation of provisional meters in temporarily occupied homes.<sup>23</sup>
- Sant Adrià del Besòs Municipal Government:  
Agreement with Agbar including regulations on the installation of provisional meters in temporarily occupied homes.<sup>28</sup>

## SOURCES

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Alliance against Energy Poverty (APE). Information about the fires in Badalona and Manresa. 'The fires of the last days hide the most invisible dimension of energy poverty.' January 2019.<sup>31</sup>

28 Sant Adrià de Besòs City Council (25 January 2017). Protocol between the municipality of Sant Adrià de Besòs and Aigües de Barcelona, metropolitan management company of the integral water cycle, S.A. to face the emergence in the field of energy poverty: <https://seu-e.cat/documents/28142/4491847/Protocol+AGBAR+pobresa+energ16.pdf/10002ed4-9ae5-4f15-a4eb-39bd501c333d>

29 Obra Social collective. (8 October 2018). 'The house for those who inhabit it!'. The Obra Social report can be downloaded in Spanish at the next webpage: <https://obrasocialbcn.net/la-vivienda-para-quien-la-habita/>

30 Read the whole demand in Spanish at the Energy Poverty Alliance article: <https://pobresaenergetica.es/index.php/es/medios/comunicados/503-presentacion-del-informe-radiografias-de-la-situacion-del-derecho-a-la-vivienda-la-pobreza-energetica-y-su-impacto-en-la-salud-en-barcelona>

31 Read the whole demand in Catalan at the Energy Poverty Alliance article: <https://pobresaenergetica.es/index.php/ca/mitjans/comunicats/434-els-incendis-dels-darrers-dies-amaguen-la-cara-mes-oculta-de-la-pobresa-energetica-2>





## Proposal B.4

# Energy training, culture and empowerment plan

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## ACTORS INVOLVED

Local governments - General public - Social movements - Training collective

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People often perceive the energy system as something too technical and complex, outside their control. Despite this, energy is a part of our everyday lives. It is a key sector that is currently going through major changes and at the centre of urgent public debates.

Energy sovereignty means that people need to be empowered and equipped with the means to decide on the energy matters that affect them. In other words, in order for everyone to be able to participate in (municipal) energy policy, we need to understand all its dimensions, not just the technical details.

- Municipalities should feed into this process, both by promoting training and hosting information-sharing activities. They also need to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences between organisations that have the same goal and the general public.
- To ensure that training initiatives are empowering, it is important to make an effort **to reach different audiences and social groups**, especially those groups who tend to be the worst affected by the energy (and wider socio-economic) model but the most excluded from the debate about it. For example: people affected by energy poverty or by energy infrastructure, those with the lowest incomes, women as compared to men, migrants, people with different abilities, etc. The proposed training should **take into account each group's specific situation and adapt to their reality, both in terms of content and format (see proposal C9)**. It is also vital to avoid reproducing and reinforcing precisely those roles and stigmas that need to be overcome.
- Finally, the training needs of the municipal government's technical staff and councillors should also be considered. There may be cases where lack of knowledge of the electricity sector, technological advances or alternative economic practices (such as the social and solidarity economy) make it difficult for local governments to take action to achieve energy democracy and sovereignty.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

The region has a lot of environmental education and information-sharing practices in the fields of energy, climate change and sustainability that municipalities can take forward (such as action plans, campaigns, workshops, visiting speakers,



trainings, marathons and others). Although these actions are varied and necessary, most focus on promoting energy saving and efficiency, especially in cases of energy poverty. However, they need to go beyond this – they should have energy rights and empowerment as their starting point (see **proposal A.1**). They should also address other issues that are essential for changing the energy model (including knowledge of the electricity sector, the climate and energy crisis, social metabolism and low-carbon activities, democratic ownership and governance of consumers' energy use data).

One example is the '**Rubí Brilla**' project by the Rubí Municipal Government. Through its energy teams, it seeks to change habits and achieve a considerable reduction in energy costs. The objective is to have the project become a benchmark of energy efficiency and renewable energy use in industrial, international commercial, town hall and domestic environments, improving both competitiveness and the territory's environment.

In order to develop training resources, local governments could consider working with not-for-profit organisations who offer training materials and proposals aimed at empowering people and transforming the energy and socio-economic model. For example:

- The FUHEM<sup>32</sup> foundation's resources promote enhanced democracy and social justice alongside environmental sustainability.
- The **Gendersec** training curriculum includes guidelines for developing training workshops from a feminist standpoint. They focus on data privacy and digital sovereignty, but they also offer an example of how to include a feminist and empowering approach in training proposals.<sup>33</sup>
- In rural settings, initiatives such as the one taken forward by the Association for Leader Program Management of the Ripollès Ges Bisaura as part of the ENFOCC project may also be of interest. These include courses on how to install biomass boilers, others for local government staff on energy management software, and open workshops on smart grids and many others energy-related topics.<sup>34</sup>

The local government can also support local meeting, learning and leisure spaces such as cooperative athenaeums, community centres and libraries, and municipal facilities devoted to environmental education, as well as encouraging activities in these spaces.

Finally, citizen participation - as part of preparing for municipal energy policies in partnership with civil society - is a perfect opportunity to build a new culture and develop trainings and other empowerment activities. Interesting initiatives here are the Terrassa Municipal Water Observatory<sup>35</sup> and the Cádiz Energy Transition

32 For more information visit the collective's website in Spanish: <https://www.fuhem.es/>

33 For more information visit the collective's website in English: [https://gendersec.tacticaltech.org/wiki/index.php/Gendersec\\_training\\_curricula](https://gendersec.tacticaltech.org/wiki/index.php/Gendersec_training_curricula)

34 For more information visit the collective's website in English: <http://www.ripollesgesbisaura.org/qui-gestiona/1910-2/energia-forest-i-canvi-climatic-enfocc/?lang=en>

35 For more information visit the collective's website in Spanish: <https://www.taigua.cat/es/observatorio-del-agua/>



Working Group (MTEC).<sup>36</sup>

**MTEC** was created as a permanent space for participation and collaboration and succeeded in converting the municipal supply company **Eléctrica de Cádiz to 100 per cent renewable energy sources**. The group meets every two weeks to develop actions and proposals to push for changes to the city's energy model. Municipal specialists, environmental organisations, individuals, employees of the University of Cádiz and Eléctrica de Cádiz, and members of the Som Energía cooperative participate on a regular basis.

The MTEC carries out various popular activities in the city to raise awareness. It organised an **Energy Culture Week** with workshops, conferences and a local fair, developed a Popular Energy Literacy campaign and is driving the debate on gender and energy democracy. In 2018, there was a summer school on the topic and in 2019, an Ecofeminist week was organised in collaboration with the youth group Fridays for Future Cádiz.<sup>37</sup>

## SOURCES

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**Recovering energy control: actions to (re)municipalize power distribution**.

Social and Solidarity Economy Fair. **Interview with Gaia D'Elia, member of Ecoserveis**. September 2018.<sup>38</sup>

Energy Week 2019 **'The energy empowerment. How can we encourage participation in energy?'**<sup>39</sup>

36 For more information visit the Cadiz City Council website in Spanish available at: <https://institucional.cadiz.es/area/Mesa%20de%20transici%C3%B3n%20energ%C3%A9tica/2430>

37 For more information visit the energy democracy case study about Cádiz by Alba del Campo. English version at: <https://www.energy-democracy.net/?p=1121>

38 D'Elia, Gaia (14 September 2018). With this energy system, 99% of people lose out economically, socially and environmentally. Fair of the solidarity economy of Catalonia's website in Catalan available at: <http://fesc.xes.cat/2018/09/14/amb-aquest-sistema-energetic-el-99-de-les-persones-sortim-perdent-economica-social-i-ambientalment/>

39 Presentation of the Energy Week 2019 (4 March, 2019) 'The energy empowerment. How can we encourage participation in energy?'. Barcelona Provincial Council's webpage in Catalan: <http://xarxaenxarxa.diba.cat/node/6639>



## ACTORS INVOLVED

Local governments - Local businesses - Social economy organisations

Public procurement is a legal tool that government authorities can use to achieve their fundamental objectives: the public interest, social cohesion, equality, equity and justice. The aim of this proposal is to widen the purpose of procurement processes so that the contract is awarded to the bid that is not just the most advantageous financially but also the one that will have the most impact on these objectives.

According to the European Commission, there are possibilities to include “social considerations” in public procurement contracts. This is explicitly defined as covering a very wide range of issues, from measures to ensure compliance with fundamental rights and with the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination, to national legislation on social affairs, the reintegration of disadvantaged persons or those excluded from the labour market, and positive actions to combat unemployment and social exclusion.<sup>40</sup>

Social consideration clauses can be included in the selection, assessment and implementation phases - the goal should be to include them throughout the procurement cycle.

- Some proposed social measures could be secured through:
- **Clauses in the selection phase:** include ‘inclusive social impact’ in the purpose of the contract, the maximum budget for the tender, and information on subcontracting.
  - **Social criteria in the assessment and award phase:** the price assessment process should detect and exclude abnormally low bids. When assessing the quality of working conditions proposed, it should also prioritise contracts with permanent staff contracts and salaries determined by collective bargaining, the existence of a Code of Ethics, good governance practices, the use of ethical banks, commitments to allocate a percentage of the award to social interest projects and training plan provisions.
  - **Contract implementation conditions:** These should include subcontracting to social and solidarity economy businesses, paying subcontracted enterprises the full price, hiring people at risk of exclusion or in situations of greater social vulnerability, and measures

<sup>40</sup> European Commission (15 October 2001) Interpretative communication of the Commission on the Community law applicable to public procurement and the possibilities for integrating social considerations into public procurement. English version available at: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/690fe581-1ac7-479f-a8b6-dc70c98803cb/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>



to ensure gender equality, equal opportunities, non-discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people, universal accessibility, responsible working conditions, and compliance with social and labour standards in the production and commercial distribution processes.

- **Procurement that favours public electricity supply companies and non-profit energy cooperatives:** As well as including social and environmental criteria in public procurement processes, Xse supports the creation of local public operators to enable public-community governance structures to be developed. As we are aware of the difficulties involved in doing this, one relevant step that municipal governments can take is to facilitate and launch procurement processes which have social, solidarity, green and democratic criteria in order to foster contracts with democratic public supply companies and non-profit cooperatives.

This procurement could be done in two ways:

- **Contracting individual supply points from cooperatives.** In this model, the local government can become a partner of the cooperative and form part of the project.
- **Procurement through public tenders:** when social and environmental criteria are included in tender processes, the price will no longer be the sole criterion. Although the price is a relevant consideration, especially for small municipalities, it is important not to forget the fundamental long-term criteria that can be included in these processes:
  - The energy tendered must be from renewable sources that have minimal impact on the environment:
    - i. Instead of using market-based renewable energy certificates, municipalities can limit public procurement to generation projects close to the municipality or territory, in order to promote local generation and increase the percentage of renewable energy that enters the electric grid.
    - ii. 100% of the energy supplied by the retailer must be green.
    - iii. Measures to promote and spread the renewable energy model should also be taken.

By including criteria other than strictly financial considerations, it will be possible to take into account other relevant dimensions of the energy sector, such as environmental and social aspects, and to promote the social and solidarity economy as an alternative paradigm of reference in the economic arena.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND



- The energy cooperative Som Energia collaborates with over 300 municipalities. 160 of them have contracted Som Energia directly as their electricity supplier and others used calls for tender to contract Som Energia.  
For example, Som Energia won a tender put out by Valladolid's public water company Aguas de Valladolid EPEL. The call for tender had a value of €6 million per year. But because Som Energia's internal limit of tenders is €2 million, it applied for a partial tender and won. The tender will last for 18 months and it can be extended for one more year. Unfortunately, these tenders only consider the monetary value and not the social aspects.  
Som Energia also collaborates with micro villages. Villages with less than 500 inhabitants can contract Som Energia without paying the €100 membership fee. For Som Energia, low income is not a reason to exclude a potential member.  
Together with some municipalities they take a stand against energy poverty. Members of Som Energia who are in precarious situations will not get charged for their electricity consumption for one year. By 2017, four municipalities had signalled that they wanted to become members of Som Energia and pay the electricity bill for vulnerable households in their area.<sup>41</sup>
- The Network of Municipalities for the Social and Solidarity Economy is a Catalan network promoting resources and good practices relating to responsible public purchasing. These municipalities are committed to contributing to the growth of the social and solidarity economy and do so through a permanent dialogue with those local actors that are practising the social and solidarity economy. They also create common spaces that allow the sharing of resources, work streams, good practices and reflection.<sup>42</sup>

41 For more information visit the energy democracy case study by and about Som Energia. English version at: <https://www.energy-democracy.net/?p=1050>

42 Network of Municipalities for the Social and Solidarity Economy. Bank of resources and good practices in responsible public purchase. Network website in Catalan available at: <https://xmess.cat/bones-practiques-compra-publica-responsable/>



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50 Quality and Excellence Criteria for the provision of the service, enabling value creation through public procurement. CEG - Excelencia en Gestión Club. November 2018.<sup>43</sup>

Opcions's cooperative's report about Responsible Public Procurement case studies, 'Including environmental, social and good governance considerations in public procurement: analysis of case studies.' This is an in-depth analysis of five contracts (covering energy, textiles, food, security and financial services). For each, it looks at the procurement procedure, evaluates the materiality of the clauses included, summarises strong points and aspects that could be improved, and compiles experiences relating to the main contract.<sup>44</sup>

Interpretative Communication of the European Commission on the Community law applicable to public procurement and the possibilities for integrating social clauses into public procurement. 28 November 2001.<sup>32</sup>

Law 9/2017, 8 November, on Public Sector Contracts, which translates Directives 2014/23/EU and 2014/24/EU (26 February 2014) from the European Parliament and the Council into the Spanish legal system. Articles 1, 28 and 35.<sup>45</sup>

*El Salto* newspaper. 'Public procurement as a policy to promote the Social Economy'. February 2019.<sup>46</sup>

Alternativas económicas. 'Specific Conditions in public procurement allowed to change the business'. October 2017.<sup>47</sup>

43 Club excellence in management (CEG) (November, 2018). '50 Quality and Excellence Criteria for the provision of the service, which provide value in Public Procurement'. CEG website in Spanish: <http://www.agoraceg.org/banco-conocimiento/50-criterios-de-calidad-y-excelencia-para-la-prestacion-del-servicio-que-aportan>

44 Opcions magazine and Setem collective. 'The inclusion of environmental, social and good governance aspects in public procurement'. Case analysis. Catalan version available at: <https://opcions.coop/projectes/estudi-de-casos-de-cpr/>

45 Government of Spain (8 November 2017) Law 9/2017, of 8 November, on Public Sector Contracts, which transposes the Directives of the European Parliament and of the Council 2014/23/EU and 2014/24/EU, of 26 February, to the Spanish legal system 2014. Spanish version available at: [https://www.boe.es/diario\\_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2017-12902](https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2017-12902)

46 *El Salto* newspaper (February 2019). 'Public procurement as a policy to promote the Social Economy'. Spanish version available at: [https://www.elsaltdiario.com/mecambio/-la-contratacion-publica-como-politica-de-fomento-de-la-economia-social?fbclid=IwAR0N54QYnT25upuwG3e6Hlanfj9wpDzn4GFd8SD4204tCXnpVrc58W5AY\\_o](https://www.elsaltdiario.com/mecambio/-la-contratacion-publica-como-politica-de-fomento-de-la-economia-social?fbclid=IwAR0N54QYnT25upuwG3e6Hlanfj9wpDzn4GFd8SD4204tCXnpVrc58W5AY_o)

47 Vilnityz, M. (October 2017). 'Specific conditions in public procurement allow the business culture to change'. Economic Alternatives magazine (Alternativas Económicas). Spanish version available at: <https://alternativaseconomicas.coop/articulo/economia-feminista/clausulas-para-la-igualdad>





## Proposal B.6

# Public-community governance of public enterprises (energy retailers, energy services companies and energy demand aggregators)

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## ACTORS INVOLVED

Local governments - General public - Social organisations and movements - Academia

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The aim is to turn the public energy retailer, energy services companies, and municipal aggregators that balance renewable energy production and demand (and any other energy-related public enterprise) into a genuine space for change. Xse and many other collectives understand that public services will only be transformative if the public is in control of them. Therefore, their strategic management should be decoupled from the constraints and disruptions promoted by the electoral cycle. This is why we want to create a space as part of the ownership model that ensures that the public service is governed by both the public authority and community representatives.

### Roles of this governance space:

We understand public-community governance of a municipal public service as a space in which representatives of a citizens' collective partner with the public authority, jointly carrying out assessments and research, developing solutions and stronger accountability mechanisms, and following up on government action, economic inspections and audits.

### Characteristics we want it to have:

We want these to be spaces of **shared responsibility**, where the local government and the public interact on an **equal** footing, both in terms of taking initiatives and making proposals, and when necessary **enforcing** their decisions.

Establishing such a space should involve the community participants **right from the start**. We need to set up spaces for participation that are **inclusive**, where everyone has the means and the opportunity to participate on an equal basis. They should facilitate the emergence, selection, planning and evaluation of ideas that are agreed upon by consensus.

Every town or city should engage in a process of reflection about how to set up this space and **adapt it to their own social and local circumstances**. For example, in the city of Barcelona, Xse has worked together with other groups and individuals to decide what we would like the public-community governance of Barcelona Energía, the new municipal retail company, to look like.

It is also important to consider setting up an external oversight body in which specialists and civil society representatives participate to monitor the public enterprise.





## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

### Barcelona Energia

Barcelona's city council proposed the creation of a citizens' participation roundtable involving different collectives. Xse undertook a collective exercise to propose essential desirable characteristics in order to turn this into a meaningful space for participation. Some proposals were accepted by the city council, while others were not. The following lists the most important issues discussed:

Proposals accepted:

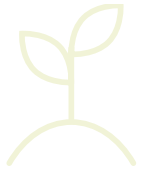
- Representation of people affected by energy poverty, citizens' collectives and consumers.
- Consideration, promotion and conditionality of gender equality.

Proposals not accepted:

- Representation of workers in Barcelona Energía.
- External advisory roundtable when specialist supervision is required.
- User assemblies with binding decision-making powers (e.g. in relation to which generation projects to support, whether the company is allowed to buy energy certificates and at what price, ways of addressing energy poverty and what to do with the distribution network, and with respect to assessing all the energy flows in order to ensure people's basic energy needs are met).

## SOURCES

[We've got energy! Challenges of the transition towards energy sovereignty. Chapter 1: From grassroots democracy to energy sovereignty \(pp19-43\). Icaria editorial, 12.](#)



### Proposal C.7

## Ensure an ecosocial and ecofeminist assessment of energy uses and sources to promote a new social metabolism in municipalities

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**ACTORS INVOLVED** Local governments - Neighbourhood organisations and social movements - General public - Public energy companies

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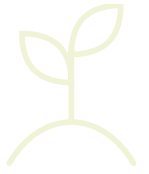
It is important for energy initiatives at the municipal level to include the promotion of new ways of understanding energy and the resulting social metabolism. If we think of the whole **municipal territory as an ecosystem** where energy and materials flow back and forth, the role of the local government should be to ensure that these exchanges take place consciously and sustainably and, at the same time, meet the population's energy needs in a way that is socially just and healthy.

This implies guaranteeing those uses of materials and energy related to the reproduction of life, as well as those associated with decent housing and the provision of basic services. With this aim in mind, it is also necessary to acknowledge and promote those activities with low greenhouse gas emissions, which usually concern care work and the reproduction of life, with the emphasis on meeting society's needs rather than the desire for material possessions.

The ultimate objective is formulating a public declaration: an **ecosocial and ecofeminist energy covenant**. The covenant should contain a proposal for municipal energy planning that promotes a new social metabolism based on the above principles. However, to achieve this it is necessary to find out how energy and materials are currently flowing around in the municipality.

The following steps are proposed:

- The municipality (or network of municipalities) makes a **public declaration of its intention** to conduct an assessment of the municipality's energy supply from the point of view of the social metabolism and social, feminist and environmental justice.
- Carry out (or, if one already exists, complement) a **municipal-level energy assessment** that is participatory and seeks to answer the following questions:
  - What are the **main uses** of energy in the municipality or network of municipalities, paying particular attention to reproductive uses (at home) and community uses (at schools, associations, shelters, etc.)?
  - What are the main **sources of energy** that the municipality or network of municipalities has at its disposal? Which of these are local sources of renewable energy that could be used and expanded in order to replace the use of damaging energy sources from elsewhere?



- What does **each source of energy** contribute to public and private energy uses in the municipality and what are their ecological impacts (in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, infrastructure required, land use, etc.)?

- The assessment will make it possible to identify those groups who are most likely not to have their energy and material needs covered. It will also make it possible to pinpoint emissions associated with economic and social activities promoted by the council, etc.

Based on all this information, the municipality (the population and local government altogether) can push for an **ecosocial and ecofeminist energy covenant**, where institutions publicly declare their commitment to take action to achieve a socially just and sustainable social metabolism and energy use – for example, by publicising and offering discounts for reproductive and community uses of energy and promoting **sources of energy** that are non-polluting or low in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and radioactive waste. Public energy companies should be required to sign up to this covenant.

It is also important for this process to be communicated effectively to the public, and to involve public communication and participation at every stage. It is this dialogue and space for discussion, training and information that will make the proposal for new municipal energy planning meaningful.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

Although there is already a multitude of energy assessments and plans across Catalonia, none of them include the ecofeminist perspective so far or have explicit content about the need to guarantee uses of materials and energy that are related to the reproduction of life, such as those associated with decent housing and the provision of basic services.

- **Barcelona's Energy, Climate Change and Air Quality Plan for 2011-2020** brought together a set of measures under six separate sections which include: the reference framework; the city programme; the municipal programme; scenarios; the action strategy; and environmental assessment.<sup>48</sup>
- **Barcelona's energy assessment**. Approved in 2013, this is also part of the energy plan mentioned above. It analyses issues such as energy use, electricity generation, renewable energies, the energy supply and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as carrying out analyses sector by sector. The objective of this document is to gather all the information available about the energy situation in Barcelona, in order to identify how to achieve energy self-sufficiency.<sup>49</sup>

48 Barcelona City Council. 2011-2020 Barcelona, Energy, Climate Change and Air Quality Plan. English version available at: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/en/services/the-city-works/maintenance-of-public-areas/energy-management/energy-planning/energy-plan>

49 Barcelona City Council (2013). Energy diagnosis in Barcelona. Catalan version available at: <https://bcnroc.ajuntament.barcelona.cat/jsptui/handle/11703/97809>



- Barcelona City Council's policies include **measures to promote renewable energy generation and energy saving in the city's public buildings and facilities**. For example, installing solar panels in buildings, promoting heating and cooling distribution systems (Districlima, Ecoenergies Barcelona) and making use of biomass energy and geothermal energy.<sup>50</sup>
- A team of researchers from ICTA-UAB, with assistance from other European research centres as part of the EUFORIE project, have **described the city of Barcelona's metabolic system**.<sup>51</sup>

## SOURCES

[Feminist economy. 72 proposals, p16](#)<sup>52</sup>

[Summary: V state congress of feminist economy](#). p. 841

Energy and gender: ecofeminist views on energy. Xse. La Fede, 24 April 2017

50 Barcelona City Council (July 2016). Energy Management in the City. English version available at: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/en/services/the-city-works/maintenance-of-public-areas/energy-management>

51 Pérez-Sánchez, L., Giampietro, M., Velasco-Fernández, R. and Ripa, M. (January 2019). 'Characterizing the metabolic pattern of urban systems using MuSIASEM: The case of Barcelona'. English version available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421518306414>

52 Economic Alternatives magazine (Alternativas Económicas) (June 2018). Feminist economy. 72 proposals. It is possible to request copies by writing to [contacto@alternativaseconomicas.coop](mailto:contacto@alternativaseconomicas.coop). For more information visit the following webpage in Spanish: <https://alternativaseconomicas.coop/articulo/economia-social-y-colaborativa/economia-feminista-nuevo-extra-de-altereco>



## Proposal C.8

# Organise public events using ecofeminist criteria

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## ACTORS INVOLVED

Local governments - Event organisers - Carers

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There are groups whose access to public events may be limited because they need special care (children, older people, people dependent on carers or people with different abilities, for example) or people who are dependent carers. Women are the ones who most often face obstacles of this type when they try to combine their private lives, caring for others, and paid work. Therefore, the goal of an energy culture based on universal access and coverage of people's needs also implies bringing public forums for discussion and decision-making closer to people, taking into account the multiple, intersectional factors of social inequality that exist. It also means showing all the interconnections we have with the environment (eco-dependence) and other people (interdependence).

Furthermore, energy is a highly masculinised sector. The people usually invited to speak at events on energy tend to be men who are presented as experts. However, many women are also linked to the sector in one way or another.

- The proposal is therefore to make sure spaces are suitable and welcoming for children, people dependent on carers, and those with different abilities, specifically to encourage these groups to attend public energy events. This can be done by, for example, offering childcare, interpreters, access for people with reduced mobility, etc.
- Educational resources about energy issues can also be provided in these spaces.

For this to be viable, it is recommended that the budget be reviewed before the event to take into account the need for this type of support. It can help to hire a care monitoring specialist and look for venues that have facilities available for care to be shared. It is also important to let people know that the space is suitable to their needs, both before and during the event, so that these groups feel welcome to attend.

When organising public events about energy issues that have more than one invited speaker, at least one of these experts should be a woman. Women should at least be invited to speak even though they may turn down the invitation. Ensuring that women are present at public events is about mainstreaming representation of the different groups who are usually made invisible: women affected by energy poverty, for example. Another recommendation is to circulate, during and after the event, easy-to-read information about the attendants, broken down by gender, income and education, among other factors of inequality, while keeping people's identities anonymous.



- Take into account the level of effort required for people to travel to the public event by assessing their proximity, and providing transport for those who need special assistance or are cared for by others. Also, after the event it is recommended that information about its environmental impact is shared, for example by calculating the carbon footprint resulting from the type of transport used, as well as energy used and waste produced during the event.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- The anti-dam movement in Brazil (MAB) runs events for younger generations alongside its public assemblies, meetings and demonstrations.<sup>53</sup> In these 'Cirandas', children also learn about energy, social and environmental justice, and values such as sharing, helping and cooperating with others.<sup>54</sup>
- The manifesto 'In energy, not without women' ('En energía, no sin mujeres'), which associations, organisations and companies have signed up to, commits signatories to only participating in those events (with two or more speakers) that have at least one woman participating as an expert.<sup>55</sup>
- Barcelona's city council already has measures in place to make care more democratic, which emphasise that care is a key part of the social and economic life of the city. They seek to share the responsibility for providing care more collectively, and promote various initiatives around this issue, but they do still need to better connect care with other areas of people's lives, such as energy needs.<sup>56</sup>

## SOURCES

The journal Economic Alternatives organised workshops on the social economy and the future of employment - special issue on the Feminist Economy, with 72 proposals, pp21-3.

'Economy of care and municipal policy: Towards a democratisation of care work in the city of Barcelona'.<sup>57</sup>

53 For more information visit Movement affected by dams (Movimentos dos Atingidos por Barragens, MAB) webpage in Portuguese: <http://www.mabnacional.org.br/video/esta-ciranda-do-mab>

54 Latin network without borders. 'Ciranda: the energy of movement'. Spanish version available at: [https://redlatinasinfronteras.wordpress.com/2016/09/02/brasil\\_ciranda-la-energia-del-movimiento/](https://redlatinasinfronteras.wordpress.com/2016/09/02/brasil_ciranda-la-energia-del-movimiento/)

55 In energy, not without women. For more information visit the collective's website in Spanish: <https://sites.google.com/view/enenergianosinmujeres/manifiesto?authuser=0>

56 Barcelona City Council. Government Measure for a Democratization of Care, 2017-2020 plan. Catalan version available at: [https://media-edg.barcelona.cat/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/05124906/MGDCures\\_web.pdf](https://media-edg.barcelona.cat/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/05124906/MGDCures_web.pdf)

57 Ezquerro, S. and Mansilla, E. (May 2018) 'Care economy and municipal policy: towards a democratization of care in the city of Barcelona'. Spanish version available at: [http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/tempsicures/sites/default/files/economia\\_y\\_politica-cast.pdf](http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/tempsicures/sites/default/files/economia_y_politica-cast.pdf)



## Proposal C.9

# Ensure data analysis includes disaggregation by gender and other intersecting inequalities

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**ACTORS INVOLVED** Municipalities + District councillors

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Current laws reflect the need to mainstream the gender perspective in public policies. Recent studies have identified energy poverty as one of the clearest consequences of the oligopolistic model, with particular impacts for women, either because they lack a basic energy supply or because they are expected (by themselves and others) to take responsibility for dealing with the problem.

Even today, there is a lot of inaccurate information about the repercussions that the energy oligopoly has on gender inequality. Although vulnerability is a shifting concept, “gender inequality is a risk factor that increases vulnerability and the likelihood of suffering from energy poverty” (González Pijuan, 2017). Thus, it has been found that the most vulnerable groups are **families with single mothers, women pensioners and women who perform unpaid domestic tasks, as well as women working in the domestic services sector and migrant women**. For example, the risk of experiencing energy poverty is clearly higher in the case of single-parent families, of which more than 80% are women. This figure refers to Barcelona but the situation is most probably similar in other places.

Tools need to be available for intersectional analyses that enable gender to be combined with other parameters of inequality, such as level and distribution of income. This will help to mainstream energy data analysis that is gender sensitive. This implies overcoming the androcentric bias in official analyses of available data that have been conducted so far, for example around the risk of poverty or the assistance required to combat energy poverty. Making analysis gender- and intersectionality-sensitive acknowledges that income tends to be unevenly distributed within a household and, in particular, women’s dependence on the nuclear family to ensure decent living conditions.

In order to meet the needs of all women - understood as a heterogeneous group - the proposal is to take into account the following data, before formulating public energy policies:

- The **family situation** of women affected by energy poverty
- The **household and distributed** income of women
- The **administrative** situation (nationality and documentation) of the people who belong to family units
- The presence of people with **different abilities or dependent** on family units
- **Data from previous years** to monitor changes in the feminisation of poverty



## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- The Barcelona City Council and the Barcelona Open Data Initiative want to create a tool for measuring variables related to poverty and insecurity amongst women. The index will assess work overloads and women's state of health as well as material resources.<sup>58</sup>
- Data will be compiled and updated on the Women's Poverty and Insecurity Index. The conclusions will be used to put forward municipal proposals and policies, based on the Barcelona City Council's Strategy to Combat Gendered Poverty and Insecurity.<sup>59</sup>

## SOURCES

González Pijuan, Irene (2017). 'Gender inequality and energy poverty: access to energy broken down by gender; intersectionality in data; data invisibility'.<sup>60</sup>

'Barcelona City Council Strategy against the Feminisation of Poverty and Precariousness'. Activity 52 in this strategy is to "guarantee a basic supply of energy (gas and electricity) free of charge for women who are unable to pay."<sup>61</sup>

58 Barcelona City Council (27 October 2018). 'More than 40 data experts create the first index of poverty and female precariousness'. Catalan version available at: <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/2018/10/27/mes-de-40-persones-expertes-en-dades-creen-el-primer-index-de-pobresa-i-precarietat-femenina/>

59 Barcelona Open Data Initiative (2 November 2018). Chronicle: data issuance index Poverty Women and Precariousness in Barcelona. Spanish version available at: <https://iniciativabarcelonaopendata.cat/ca/2018/11/cronica-expedicio-de-dades-index-pobresa-dones-i-precarietat-a-barcelona/>

60 González, P. (2017). 'Gender inequality and energy poverty. A forgotten risk factor'. Barcelona: Engineering Without Borders groups of Energy and Extractive Industries and Gender. English version available at: <https://esf-cat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ESFeres17-PobresaEnergeticaIDesigualtatdeGenere-ENG.pdf>

61 Barcelona City Council. 'Strategy against the feminization of poverty and precariousness in Barcelona 2016-2024'. Catalan version available at: <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Estratègia-contra-la-feminització-de-la-pobresa-DEF.pdf>





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### ACTORS INVOLVED:

Local governments - General public - Other public administration bodies

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The urgent need to increase renewable energy generation and the aim of placing its distribution in the hands of partnerships run by local governments and communities means that we need to address two major challenges:

- The complexity of the electricity system and its legal framework
- The need to obtain investment

Municipal governments need to (re)build the ability to invest, from their own budgets or through a public bank, in installing renewable energy facilities on public land to supply energy to all inhabitants.

The current situation, however, is very different. Municipal governments' ability to borrow is very limited due to the so-called Montoro Law, and they are not allowed to sell energy directly. Instead, they must do it through a retailer or set one up themselves.

Starting from this reality, various different actions can be taken:

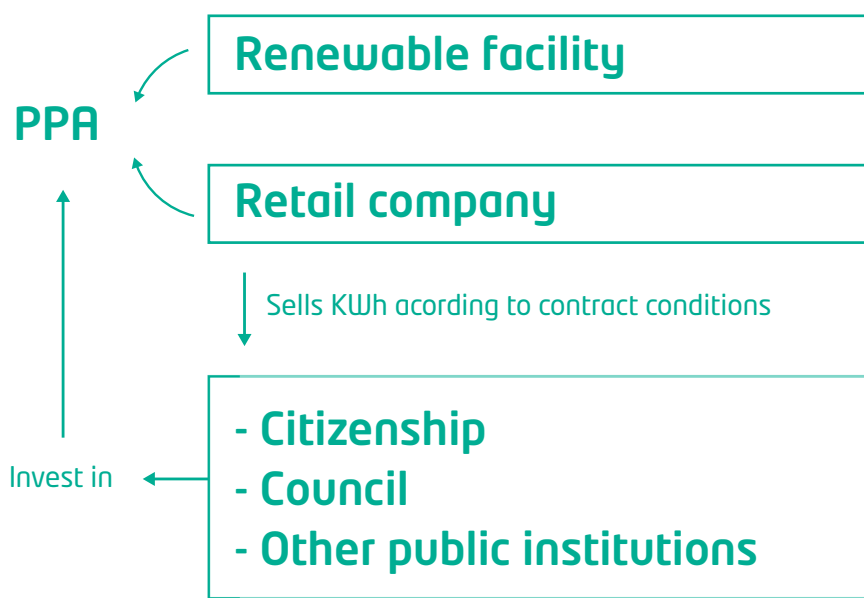
- Local governments should analyse the sites they have available (including municipal buildings and municipal land) which might be suitable for local renewable energy generation projects.
- They could offer the site to citizens' groups who wish to take forward a local renewable energy generation project under conditions to be agreed upon by both parties. In Catalonia, for example, we have examples of shared financing such as Vivir del Aire del Cielo, where urban and rural families jointly financed a wind turbine.

Another example is the purchase of renewable energy facilities that Som Energia financed with its Generation kWh initiative. It enabled members to buy energy shares of €100 each to (partially) offset their annual use. To provide an example: A typical household with an average annual electricity consumption of 2,400 kilowatt hours needs to invest €900 to cover 70% of its energy demand for 25 years. Every €100 contribution is equivalent to 170-200 kwh per year which Som Energia in turn deducts from the energy bill. After 25 years the initial investment is to be returned. In the meantime, the investor had savings on his or her energy bill for 25 years. The project bore fruit in May 2016, as the first collectively owned solar field started to provide energy to about 1,300 households. More than 2,700 people participated in this fundraising action and together they collected more than €2.5 million to be invested in even more



community-owned power plants.<sup>62</sup>

- Municipalities could also explore the potential for reaching a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with citizen funding and with fair conditions that benefit all sides and minimise future risks. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are long-term bilateral sale and purchase contracts (10-20 years). Although there are many ways of doing this, in general PPAs enable generators to obtain funding for their projects, while clients are given a fixed price that is advantageous compared to prevailing market conditions.



However, PPAs were designed to guarantee the private profits of large-scale facilities and investors (such as banks and investment funds). They are not designed with the purpose of enabling local governments and citizens to co-manage renewable energy generation projects and fairly redistribute their benefits. Each existing PPA therefore needs to be evaluated and potentially redesigned in order to ensure its long-term social and environmental benefits. The most important thing with PPAs is undoubtedly to agree on some clauses in the contract to safeguard the public interest of both the community and the local government. Clauses on early contract termination, the length of the agreement, guarantees that the energy will be paid for and sanctions for non-compliance are critical to address potential impacts, now and in the future. Local governments who choose to go down this path need to obtain good advice, adopt a pro-public policy approach to achieving their goal and, above all, open up decision-making processes to community and worker representatives.

62 For more information visit the energy democracy case study by and about Som Energia. English version at: <https://www.energy-democracy.net/?p=1050>



## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- Som Energia's Generation kWh. The partners involved enjoy a special tariff.<sup>63</sup>
- The Vivir del Aire del Cielo project. A community shared-ownership project in which participation is voluntary. The chosen technology is a 2.35kW wind turbine built in the municipality of Pujalt thanks to contributions from residents living in rural and urban areas.<sup>64</sup>
- Mancomunidad del Sureste (Gran Canaria). One county and three municipalities (Agüimes, Ingenio, St Lucia) have formed an association to implement an integrated system around renewable energies, water, waste and food.<sup>65</sup>

## SOURCES

'PPA Contracts, Contracts for the purchase and sale of energy: types and clauses. Market Application'.<sup>66</sup>

'Is the PPA key to the energy transition?'. Solartradex.<sup>67</sup>

63 For more information visit the Som Energia project website. Spanish version at: <https://www.generationkwh.org/>

64 For more information visit the Viure de l'Aire (Live from the air) project website. English version at: <http://www.viuredelaire.cat/en/>

65 For more information visit the Comarca del SurEste project website. Spanish version at: [http://www.surestegc.org/modules.php?mod=portal&file=ver\\_gen&id=12](http://www.surestegc.org/modules.php?mod=portal&file=ver_gen&id=12)

66 Enerinvest (15 March 2019). 'PPA contracts, energy purchase-sale contracts: types and clauses. Application to the market'. Spanish version at: <https://www.enerinvest.es/webinars/los-contratos-ppa-contratos-de-compra-venta-de-energia-tipos-y-clausulas-aplicacion-al-mercado-15>

67 Solartradex (26 February 2018) 'Is the PPA key to the energy transition?'. Spanish version at: <https://solartradex.com/blog/ppa-la-llave-la-transicion-energetica/>



## Proposal D.11

# Municipal bylaw on renewable energy installations

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**ACTORS INVOLVED:** Local governments

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Local level renewable energy installations often involve complex and bureaucratic paperwork or costly technical studies, both of which can discourage their spread. Urban planning regulations, procedures for requesting licences, and high taxes can appear as insurmountable constraints. For example, with the aim of protecting urban heritage, **urban planning regulations** may establish requirements or place limits on installations and alterations in buildings. These are often too restrictive and may prohibit the installation of solar panels. Similarly, obtaining a **licence to install renewable technology** involves presenting a large number of documents (professional accreditation of the project, plans, etc.). The review of these by local government can delay the implementation of the work, thereby increasing the costs. Finally, for **non-residential installations**, some local governments demand a business licence even though the surplus generated may be minimal and can hardly be considered as a business activity.

European Directive 2009/28/CE on renewable energies is clear about the need to simplify administrative procedures with the aim of promoting the spread of renewable energies. This exercise in minimising paperwork should maintain those procedures that are really fit for purpose, whilst actively enabling local energy generation.

We propose that:

- Urban planning regulations should be accessible and understandable, and provide clear information, in one place, about how to complete the required paperwork. Something as simple as an infographic or flow diagram of the necessary paperwork could be useful to streamline the procedure and demonstrate which departments are involved. This should simplify the process and make it easy to understand for everyone interested.
- Whenever possible, depending on the size of the installation, licences should include a simple 'statement of responsibility' to make the developer responsible for complying with current laws and regulations. The regulations themselves need to be updated in accordance with the European Guidelines that refer to community energy, among others, and should also be easily accessible and understandable. However, the installation may be subject to subsequent reviews by the technical team of the municipal government. This approach could, for example, apply to installations generating less than 10kW of electricity or 70kW of thermal energy. A technical report and simple plans should be sufficient to issue the 'statement of responsibility'.



- Ensure that the different departments involved coordinate their activities effectively to ensure efficient administrative procedures.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- The Som Energia local group in Sabadell developed a proposal for adapting municipal bylaws and promoting small-scale photovoltaic installations for self-consumption.<sup>68</sup> They succeeded in getting two of their proposals included in the Regulatory Municipal Ordinance Urban Planning Dossiers. Solar panel installations with nominal power lower than 10 kW for electric self-consumption and thermal energy systems covering a maximum of 7.1 m<sup>2</sup> are now classified as 'installations with low technical difficulty', equating them with the installation of air conditioning systems.

## SOURCES

[Guide for the promotion of renewable self-consumption from the municipal level. Ecooo revolución solar](#)<sup>69</sup>

[Sabadell local group, Som Energia cooperative. 'Free game for photovoltaic energy'](#).<sup>70</sup>

68 To know more about Som Energia's local groups go to the following link: <https://www.somenergia.coop/es/participa/#gruposlocales>

69 Ecooo team (July, 2018). Guide for the promotion of renewable self-consumption from the municipal level. Madrid: Creative Commons. Spanish version at: <https://autoconsumo.unef.es/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/guia-para-el-fomento-del-autoconsumo-renovable-desde-el-ambito-municipal.pdf>

70 Som Energia (10 December 2017). 'Free game for photovoltaics'. Catalan text can be translated to English from the website: <https://blog.somenergia.coop/grupos-locales/catalunya/sabadell/2017/12/via-lliure-a-lenergia-fotovoltaica/>



### ACTORS INVOLVED

Local governments - Political parties - General public  
Social organisations and movements

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One of the critical issues in the electricity sector is a lack of information and transparency. Several groups and collectives have demanded a citizen audit of the sector to find out the real state of play, in order to use this information as a starting point for undertaking actions to change it. Along the same lines, the proposal here is to specifically audit the electricity distribution business. Auditing is understood as the work required to obtain information about what the business was like in the past, how it is now and what actions need to be undertaken to ensure that it operates in a way that best serves citizens.

The audit should include information about:

**1. The current status of the distribution business from a technical perspective.**

Has proper maintenance of the grid and its component parts been carried out? Have technical improvements been introduced? Were these sufficient, appropriate and necessary?

**2. The service provided by the distribution company.** What has the service been like in terms of quality and continuity of supply? What has customer service been like for users? Have they received the necessary information and good advice? Has communication been good and have complaints been addressed? How have supply disconnections been dealt with? Has the municipal government been offered information about cases of non-payment so it can identify whether they are due to energy poverty?

**3. Revenue received from the service provided and payment of taxes.** Have rates paid by the distribution company been adjusted by taking into account all their business activities? Have they paid taxes for their use of public space?

**4. Ownership of the distribution networks.** How has the ownership of these networks changed over time? How, why and by whom were contracts concluded? What has happened with these contracts over time?

**5. Connection point concessions for new business installations.** Under what conditions were these awarded? Was the concession swift and efficient? Were there significant differences between different installations? Was the company's dominant position used to favour installations belonging to the same business group, while obstructing others?



**6. Working conditions for the company's workers.** What are working conditions like in the distribution business? How has subcontracting affected workers' rights? What is the level of accidents suffered by workers?

**7. Subcontracting arrangements.** How was the subcontracting of the business activities carried out? Which companies were involved and what was their role? What is the relationship between contracts for payments to the subcontracted companies and government payments for the system as a whole?

Just as important as the information the audit can provide is the way in which the information is obtained. Thus, rather than entrust it to specialists in a qualified institution and wait for the results, the audit should be an exercise in awareness-raising and building popular support for transforming the way in which electricity is distributed. Participation by residents obliges the process to be accessible and relevant to the general public, regardless of specific technical knowledge.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- The audit should be a process driven by citizens, following the tradition of citizen audits to determine illegitimate debt, which have been taken forward by the Citizen Debt Audit Platform (PACD) and other international organisations.<sup>71</sup>
- In 2017 the Catalan Government announced the start of an audit of the electricity grid in Lleida.<sup>72</sup> The aim was to find out about the continuity and quality of the power supply and identify the measures necessary to minimise the power cuts and problems with the service that Catalan mayors have reported. The audit planned to study the state of the grid in the municipalities and install electricity recorders at nine points in the network, among other measures. However, the results have not yet been published.

Although requesting a citizen audit is something that can be done by all local governments, regardless of their size, it should be borne in mind that larger councils are better able to exert pressure on the companies – although this can also be achieved if several small councils get together and coordinate their activities. For example, this was proposed in the manifesto of the Municipal Government of Montoliu de Segarra in March 2017. This urged the municipalities and institutions in the Lleida region to work together towards political, institutional, social and territorial unity to demand good quality power supply and solve the problems arising from the unreliable privatised electricity grid.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>71</sup> For more information visit the Citizen Debt Audit Platform project website. Spanish version at: <https://auditoriaciudadana.net/>

<sup>72</sup> Segre digital media (26 May 2017). 'The Catalan Government begins the audit of the electricity grid in Lleida'. Catalan version of the article at: <https://govern.cat/salaprensa/notes-premsa/301098/la-generalitat-inicia-el-proces-dauditicia-de-la-xarxa-electrica-de-lleida>

<sup>73</sup> Esquerra Republicana political party (27 March 2017). 'Manifesto of Montoliu de Segarra'. Catalan version of the article at: [http://locals.esquerra.cat/documents/manifest\\_montoliu\\_web.pdf](http://locals.esquerra.cat/documents/manifest_montoliu_web.pdf)



## SOURCES

ESFeres 19: 'Recovering energy control: Actions to (re)municipalise power distribution grid'.<sup>6</sup>

Xse: 'The electricity company in Barcelona is a good tool that will require long-term citizen support and political courage.'... 'Transforming the electricity sector is not just a matter of placing generation and retailing at the service of the people. It is also necessary to address those strategic activities in which more than 90% of the business is still in the hands of the oligopoly. This is the case in the electricity distribution network'<sup>74</sup>

<sup>74</sup> Energy Sovereignty Network (1 April 2017). 'The electricity company in Barcelona is a good tool that will require long-term citizen support and political courage'. Catalan version of the article at: <https://xse.cat/comunicat-de-la-xarxa-per-la-sobirania-energetica/>





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### ACTORS INVOLVED

Local governments, county councils and/or deputies

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The electricity system has two types of retail markets for contracting a power supply. Firstly, there is the regulated market, dominated by five companies. Here the price of electricity is determined by the price per hour of the daily supply. Second is the free market, comprising all the other retailers, where each retailer decides the prices it will offer and for how long (the price is normally fixed for a period of time).

Considering all the different scenarios, the Xse concludes that the most advantageous approach is to set up a publicly-owned retailer.

This provides an opportunity to reduce the cost of the electricity supply, obtain data on market prices and use energy directly without going through an intermediary company.

Looking at public retailers in Catalonia we found more than fifty initiatives throughout the region but none of them has a [participatory governance system](#), which would enable decisions to be developed and implemented on the basis of popular participation.

A public retailer should not restrict itself to energy generation and supply services. It should also offer other energy services, such as energy audits, energy use management, and easy-to-use software programmes that provide access to real-time energy data. It should also facilitate self-generation (self-consumption). If it does not offer these services, it runs the risk of becoming just like any other energy retailer.

The Xse has [two proposals on the energy retailing sector](#):

- Sign up:** Municipalities can sign up to an existing public retailer (or market agent) so that all public buildings are supplied with electricity by this retailer.
- Set up:** Alternatively, municipalities can set up a public retailer to generate electricity for all its municipal facilities.



## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- Barcelona City Council:  
[Barcelona Energia](#), the public electricity retailer for the Barcelona Metropolitan Area. In 2019, it started to provide the service to facilities in the Metropolitan Area and to citizens (up to a maximum of 20,000 homes). Xse has also proposed a public-community governance model for this retailer.<sup>75</sup>
- Municipal Government of Centelles:  
[Electracomercial Centelles S.L.U.](#) is a retailing company with public municipal capital owned by the Municipal Government of Centelles. This retailer was founded in 2001 with the aim of adapting to new Spanish and European Union legislation concerning the electricity sector.<sup>76</sup>
- Cádiz City Council:  
[Comercializadora Eléctrica de Cádiz S.A.](#) Set up in 2000, it is an example of a retailer that is 55% publicly owned.<sup>77</sup>

## SOURCES

Proposta energètica municipalista 2015 de la Xse<sup>78</sup>

75 To know more about Barcelona Energia go to the English link: <http://energia.barcelona/en/>

76 To know more about Electracomercial Centelles go to the Catalan link: <http://www.electradis.cat/>

77 To know more about Electrica de Cadiz go to the Spanish link: <https://comercializadora.electricadecadiz.es/> or Cadiz Energy Transition Table Spanish link: <http://transicionenergeticacadiz.es/>

78 Energy Sovereignty Network (22 April 2015). 'Xse presents a municipalist energy proposal'. Catalan version at: <https://xse.cat/la-xse-presenta-una-proposta-energetica-municipalista/>



## Proposal G.14

# Taking steps towards energy data control: energy audits

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**ACTORS INVOLVED** Local governments, associations and collectives

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Some local governments have already carried out energy audits of municipal facilities (buildings, street lighting, etc.). However, in most cases, these audits are not conducted on an ongoing basis, and local governments often fail to implement the recommended actions. In addition to this the audits have not so far involved active participation by residents.

Building the energy profile of an area is the first step that will enable subsequent actions to be taken to reduce energy use and encourage the transition towards a 100% renewable energy model. Energy audits open the way for action guidelines to reduce demand for energy in buildings whilst increasing their energy efficiency, and on promoting awareness about the use of energy and water resources.

To carry out these audits and ensure the necessary follow-ups, a minimum requirement is to monitor instant real-time energy use at supply points and to send that data directly to its rightful owners - the energy users themselves. Users should have absolute control over their energy consumption, be able to get immediate insights into their usage and have the freedom to decide whether they want to share that information with an energy retailer or not. However, the digital meters that have been installed so far do not allow this. This is why it is necessary to install monitoring devices alongside the meters. The Spanish government is responsible for regulating meters, but until it is willing to oblige the distribution companies to provide data on energy use (digital sovereignty), additional monitoring systems will need to be installed.

- The proposal is based on carrying out audits and giving them continuity by **implementing energy management systems** that enable energy use to be controlled, and shaping action guidelines that benefit people and the environment. As well as collecting financial data (such as the energy price per hour), these energy management systems should also include ecological parameters (greenhouse gas emissions, nuclear waste, etc.) and social ones (critically polluted areas, people affected, etc.). This data will enhance proposals and decision-making aimed at changing and reducing energy use.

This proposal is related to the citizen audits of electricity distribution. In this case, the involvement of technical professionals will be necessary, whether they be municipal government staff or from subcontracted companies.

This is the first step towards enabling other measures to be taken around the refurbishment of buildings, investment in energy efficient technology, conscious energy use and good practice, and the development of self-generation based on renewable and decentralised sources of energy.



## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- **Municipal government of Vallromanes:** The first local government in Catalonia to obtain the ISO 50001 certification of energy efficiency.<sup>79</sup>
- **Municipal government of Martorelles:** Renewal of the energy efficiency certification linked to the ISO 50001 standard.<sup>80</sup>
- **Municipal government of Sant Cugat del Vallès:** Sant Cugat del Vallès has successfully tested a tool for improving energy management.<sup>81</sup>

## SOURCES

**Municipal energy management guide:** EnerAgen and Energy Catalan Institute (ICAEN) based on the ISO 50001 standard. Objectives include sustainable development, promotion of renewable energies and encouraging energy saving and efficiency.<sup>82</sup>

**Action plan for sustainable energy and climate (PAESC) of Mataró:** Municipal government of Mataró, Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.<sup>83</sup>

79 Vallromanes City Council (2 September 2013). 'Vallromanes, the first City of Catalonia to obtain the ISO 50001 certification, energy deficiency'. English version available at: <http://translate.google.es/translate?js=y&prev=t&hl=enie=UTF-8&u=//www.vallromanes.cat//actualitat/noticies/vallromanes-primer-ajuntament-de-catalunya-a-obtenir-la-certificacio-iso-50001-deficiencia-energetica.html&sl=ca&tl=en>

80 Martorelles City Council (25 January 2016). 'The City Council renews the certificate linked to the ISO 50001 with SECE'. Catalan version available at: <http://www.martorelles.cat/actualitat/noticies/lajuntament-renova-el-certificat-vinculat-a-la-iso-50001-de-lempresa-sece>

81 Catalonia Government (6 June 2018). 'Sant Cugat del Vallès successfully tests a tool to improve energy management'. Catalan version available at: [http://smartcatalonia.gencat.cat/en/detalls/noticia/sant\\_cugat\\_valles\\_prova\\_exit\\_eina\\_millorar\\_gestio\\_energetica](http://smartcatalonia.gencat.cat/en/detalls/noticia/sant_cugat_valles_prova_exit_eina_millorar_gestio_energetica)

82 NZ Nova. 'Guide to municipal energy management based on the ISO 50001 standard'. EnerAgen, Catalonia Government. Spanish version of the guide at: [http://icaen.gencat.cat/web/content/10\\_ICAEN/17\\_publicacions\\_informes/11\\_altres\\_publicacions/arxius/20170719\\_Guia\\_Gestion\\_Energetica\\_Municipal\\_ICAEN.pdf](http://icaen.gencat.cat/web/content/10_ICAEN/17_publicacions_informes/11_altres_publicacions/arxius/20170719_Guia_Gestion_Energetica_Municipal_ICAEN.pdf)

83 Mataró City Council, Covenant of mayors for climate and energy (March 2018). 'Mataró Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (PAESC)'. Catalan version at: <https://www.mataro.cat/web/portal/contingut/document/publicacions/plans/docs/PAESC.pdf>



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**ACTORS INVOLVED** Local governments, associations and collectives

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Over the last few years, smart meters have been installed in every house in Catalonia. These meters measure the amount of electricity we use in our homes. The data on energy use, among other personal data, that they gather is sent directly to the distribution companies – the private companies that own the distribution network (the largest one in Catalonia is Endesa, which owns 94% of the grid). Furthermore, it is the public who pays for these meters, through a rental charge included in the bill.

The meters currently installed do not allow customers to easily obtain data about their energy use. The distribution companies receive it at the end of each day. This is not a technical problem, it could easily be solved by changing how the meters are programmed.

According to a study by the Catalan Competition Authority (Autoridad Catalana de la Competencia (ACCO)), recovering control of our energy data would enable us to be aware of how much energy we use and to adapt it consciously but also in accordance with our needs. It would allow people to adjust tariffs and contracted power to bring them in line with how much energy they actually use, enabling them to save on unnecessary costs. With the data on electricity use that the meters can provide, it would be possible to promote self-generation and find out how much energy is being used in buildings at all times. In addition, gaining control of data would help to improve the protection of people’s data generally, promote participatory democracy in the digital environment and establish a municipal model in which people are at the centre.

- The proposal is to campaign as a united front for data to be uploaded to a platform with the aim of **giving digital sovereignty back to the people** and providing options allowing citizens to decide what information they want to keep private and what information they want to be public. The DECODE project – designed to develop services that meet the needs of the community – provides a good example of this type of data management.

### EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- Development of the DECODE platform on the democratic management of data by local governments.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> To know more about Decode project go to the English link: <https://decodeproject.eu/what-decode>



## SOURCES

Digital sovereignty and the geopolitics of technology to change the world - international symposium organised by DECODE with Francesca Bria, Joan Subirats and Evgeny Morozov.<sup>85</sup>

'Data is an infrastructure like energy or water.' Interview with Francesca Bria by Salto Diario.<sup>86</sup>

'Access to the electricity consumption data of digital meters and their use' - relevant information on access to and use of data from smart meters, from the point of view of competition authorities. Pep Salas. Catalan Competition Authority.<sup>87</sup>

'Aggregation of distributed energy resources (DER). Obstacles and recommendations for full market development'. Carrasco, Alicia; Salas, Pep. Catalan Authority of Competition. December 2017.<sup>88</sup>

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85 El Public communication media (16 October 2018). 'Digital sovereignty and geopolitics of technology to transform the world'. Catalan version at: <https://www.publico.es/public/sobirania-digital-i-geopolitica-tecnologia-per-transformar-mon.html>

86 El Salto communication media (25 January 2019). 'Francesca Bria: Data is another public infrastructure, such as water, electricity or transport'. Spanish version at: <https://www.elsaltodiario.com/tecnologia/francesca-bria-los-datos-son-una-infraestructura-publica-mas-como-el-agua-la-electricidad-o-el-transporte->

87 Salas, P. (January 2017). 'Access to the electricity consumption data of the digital meters and their use'. Catalan version at: [http://acco.gencat.cat/web/.content/80\\_acco/documents/arxius/actuacions/20170419\\_ACCES-DADES-COMPTADORS-DIGITALS-ELECTRICITAT.pdf](http://acco.gencat.cat/web/.content/80_acco/documents/arxius/actuacions/20170419_ACCES-DADES-COMPTADORS-DIGITALS-ELECTRICITAT.pdf)

88 Salas, P., Carrasco, A. (December 2017). 'Aggregation of Distributed Energy Resources (DER)'. Spanish version at: [http://acco.gencat.cat/web/.content/80\\_acco/documents/arxius/actuacions/20180406-Agregacio-de-recursos-energetics-distribuits\\_esp.pdf](http://acco.gencat.cat/web/.content/80_acco/documents/arxius/actuacions/20180406-Agregacio-de-recursos-energetics-distribuits_esp.pdf)



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### ACTORS INVOLVED Local governments

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Vehicles with combustion engines cause a public health problem in large cities. They also chain us to fossil fuels. Figures from the Catalan Energy Institute (ICAEN) show that, in 2014, transport was the largest consumer of petroleum fuels (mainly diesel, gasoline and kerosene). Transport accounted for 83% of total energy consumption and was 95% dependent on fossil fuels. Electricity, in contrast, only accounted for 2% of the total energy used for transport.

To introduce electric vehicles in Catalonia is one of the objectives of the National Covenant on the Energy Transition. The covenant seeks to ensure that all the Catalan government's vehicles are electric by 2030 and that 30% of its vehicle fleet is replaced by electric vehicles by 2025.<sup>89</sup> In addition, assistance and incentives for electric vehicles – such as exemption from the registration tax, discounts on the vehicle tax (IVTM), toll-free travel on the Generalitat's motorways and reduced charges in public car parks – together with the strategic plan to develop infrastructure for charging electric vehicles in Catalonia (PIRVEC), consolidate the Catalan government's policy to promote electric vehicles.<sup>90</sup>

Xse is critical of plans that focus on promoting electric vehicles and encourage their use. A series of incentives are being introduced to encourage government institutions and affluent citizens to make the transition to electric vehicles, but the social and environmental implications of a transport approach that continues to rely on private vehicles go unmentioned.

The copper, nickel and lithium that is needed to produce the many batteries for private electric vehicles will be mined at great social and ecological costs. And to achieve universal access, the focus needs to be electrified public transport, potentially complemented by electric vehicle sharing when needed. In short, to transition to sustainable transport for all with the least greenhouse gas emissions, a policy switch is vital, promoting public transport rather than private vehicles. Existing plans promote a change in the source of energy, but without a structural change in the transport model as a whole.

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89 To know more about National Deal for the energy transition of Catalan Energy Institute project go to the Spanish link: [http://icaen.gencat.cat/es/plans\\_programes/transicio\\_energetica/index.html](http://icaen.gencat.cat/es/plans_programes/transicio_energetica/index.html)

90 To know more about electric vehicle project of Catalan Energy Institute project go to the Spanish link: [http://icaen.gencat.cat/es/energia/usos\\_energia/mobilitat/vehicle/index.html](http://icaen.gencat.cat/es/energia/usos_energia/mobilitat/vehicle/index.html)



Although Xse does not seek to attempt an in-depth analysis of such a broad and complex issue as transport, we are convinced that in the drive to promote electric vehicles:

- The use of private vehicles should be challenged and replaced by a focus on **electrified public transport and electric vehicle sharing**.
  - Government institutions should ensure that this initiative does not leave out low-income groups who, despite the incentives, cannot afford an electric vehicle at today's prices.
- Local governments are gradually replacing their fleet of municipal vehicles to make them 100% electric. Some of these vehicles are only used during the working hours of local government employees, whose working hours are usually concentrated in the mornings from Monday to Friday. Therefore, local government institutions should develop a plan for electric vehicle sharing, so that these cars can be enjoyed by the population and local public service organisations, outside the hours when they are used by municipal employees. These plans should pay particular attention to enabling access for low-income households.

This approach would benefit local residents, potentially encouraging them to support other energy transition proposals being promoted by local government. Electric car-sharing would also encourage people to see vehicles as a public resource for common use - a profoundly transformative concept. Aquesta proposta cercaria l'impuls d'acords públic-ciutadans o públic-comunitaris, que poden servir com a laboratori viu per altres propostes i, al mateix temps, posar a la pràctica el car sharing, el vehicle compartit, el vehicle com a bé d'ús, un aspecte profundament transformador.

## EXPERIENCES ON THE GROUND

- The municipal governments of Rubí, Amposta, Mataró and Olot have signed various agreements to work with the Som Mobilitat cooperative.<sup>91</sup>
- In the Masía de Can Serra the Municipal Government of Rubí has launched a campaign to promote shared electric vehicles that includes transport times, a website and campaign materials.<sup>92</sup>

91 To know more about Som Mobilitat services for city councils go to the Catalan link: <https://www.sommobilitat.coop/ajuntaments/>

92 Rubí City Council. 'Electric stations' and electric vehicles. Spanish version of the project at: <https://www.rubi.cat/ca/ajuntament/projectes-estrategics/rubibrilla/rubi-brilla-ajuntament/fotolineres-i-vehicles-electrics>





- The Municipal Government of Amposta has made an instant charging point (55Kw) available to the public and has approved the installation of three new semi-rapid charging points: one in the tourism office and the other two in Poblenou del Delta. Also, as part of its agreement to work with the Som Mobilitat cooperative, the municipality is offering the use of a shared vehicle (car-sharing) by the hour or by the day.<sup>93</sup>
- The Municipal Government of Mataró has 13 free charging points available for electric vehicles (motorcycles and cars), both on roads and in various public car parks, which can be used as needed by the public and by companies.<sup>94</sup> This municipal government is also supporting social and solidarity economy initiatives that are set up to work on transformative projects with the common good of the local area in mind.<sup>95</sup>
- The Municipal Government of Olot has approved an Action Plan for Sustainable Energy, which includes a transport plan offering two free charging stations for electric vehicles on public roads, which can be used as needed by the public and by companies. It is also complementing transport for local government workers, who on set days can use Som Mobilitat vehicles. This is managed by the Olot-La Garrotxa Local Group. These initiatives are aimed at reducing the emissions and pollution caused by the use of petrol and diesel vehicles in the town of Olot, but the plan is to expand the initiative to all the municipalities in La Garrotxa and to other vehicles.<sup>90</sup>

In order to encourage more municipalities to draw up such proposals, the cooperative Som Mobilitat set out 15 measures that municipalities can implement to promote more sustainable mobility (text in Catalan).<sup>96</sup>

## SOURCES

Bases for constituting the National Pact for the energy transition of Catalonia.<sup>90</sup>

Catalan Institute of Energy.<sup>97</sup>

93 Amposta City Council. Electric charging points. Catalan version of the project at: <https://www.amposta.cat/ca/n3/la-ciutat/coneix-amposta/punt-recarrega-vehicles-electrics>

94 Mataró City Council. Electric vehicles. Spanish version of the project at: [https://www.mataro.cat/es/temas/movilidad-y-transportes/vehiculos-electricos/vehiculos-electricos?set\\_language=es](https://www.mataro.cat/es/temas/movilidad-y-transportes/vehiculos-electricos/vehiculos-electricos?set_language=es)

95 Boixader, J., Rigol, M. 'Experiences of social and solidarity economy in the municipalities'. Barcelona County Council. Catalan version of the project at: <https://www1.diba.cat/l1libreria/pdf/56123.pdf>

96 Som Mobilitat. '15 measures for sustainable mobility in municipalities'. Catalan version at: <https://www.sommobilitat.coop/15-mesures-mobilitat-sostenible-als-municipis/>

97 Catalan Institute of Energy infograph. To know more about Electric Vehicle infographic go to the Catalan link: [http://icaen.gencat.cat/web/.content/20\\_Energia/24\\_usos\\_energia/04\\_mobilitat/arxius/2016\\_triptic\\_VE.pdf](http://icaen.gencat.cat/web/.content/20_Energia/24_usos_energia/04_mobilitat/arxius/2016_triptic_VE.pdf)

# MUNICIPAL ACTIONS FOR BUILDING ENERGY DEMOCRACY AND ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY



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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Provide advisory services on energy rights at the municipal and county levels</li> <li>② Enforce and defend law(s) that address energy poverty</li> <li>③ Guarantee the right to electricity in precarious housing</li> <li>④ Energy training, culture and empowerment plan</li> <li>⑤ Social and environmental criteria for public procurement in the energy sector</li> <li>⑥ Public-community governance of public enterprises</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⑦ Ensure an ecosocial and ecofeminist assessment of energy uses and sources to promote a new social metabolism in municipalities</li> <li>⑧ Organise public events using ecofeminist criteria</li> <li>⑨ Ensure data analysis includes disaggregation by gender and other intersecting inequalities</li> <li>⑩ Facilitate medium-scale energy generation projects</li> <li>⑪ Municipal bylaw on renewable energy installations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⑫ Citizen audits of electricity distribution</li> <li>⑬ Set up public electricity retailers</li> <li>⑭ Taking steps towards energy data control: energy resource audits</li> <li>⑮ Recovering data for digital democracy</li> <li>⑯ Sustainable electric transport</li> </ul> |
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**Xarxa per la sobirania energètica (Xse)** we're a group of associations and citizens from all over Catalonia who are working to move towards a new distributed, renewable, democratic, just and ecofeminist energy model.

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They have participated in the elaboration and financing of the Municipalist Manifesto from 2020 onwards:



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