



# Energy Transition and Behavioural Change in Rural Areas

## The Role of Energy Cooperatives

### Publication

[Report](#)

### Citation

Kaphengst, Timo und Eike Karola Velten 2014: Energy transition and behavioural change in rural areas - The role of energy cooperatives. Ecologic Institute.

How can energy cooperatives contribute to energy transition in rural areas? In this study, Timo Kaphengst and Eike Velten examine the role of energy cooperatives for Sustainable Development, analyzing a case study in Northern Bavaria. The report is available for download.

## Knowledge Interest: The Role of Energy Cooperatives

These are the three main topics of the study:

- the embedding of energy cooperatives in rural areas and their meaning for rural development and sustainable energy production
- governance structures as well as strengths and weaknesses of energy cooperatives
- the motivation of the persons involved, regarding their engagement for sustainable energy supply

## Theoretical Background: The Transition Management Concept

The study is based on the Transition Management Concept which assumes that long-term and complex societal transition can also be steered by political measures. Additionally, other approaches like practice theory and the diffusion of innovation theory have been included.

## Methodical Approach: The Case Study in Bavaria

Besides a literature analysis, a survey and expert interviews, an empirical case study has been carried out in Rhön-Grabfeld in Northern Bavaria where there are several energy cooperatives. The results were compared and complemented by other case studies in Denmark and Spain.

The study is available for [Download](#) [pdf, 3.4 MB, English].

### Language

English

## Authorship

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## Funding

European Commission, [Directorate-General Research & Innovation](#) (DG Research & Innovation), International

## Published by

[Ecologic Institute](#), Germany

## Year

2014

## Dimension

81 pp.

## Project

[Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe \(wwwforEurope\)](#)

## Project ID

[2712](#)

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## Keywords

### [Energy](#)

Behavioural economics, Post-industrialisation, Social development, Social innovation, Socio-ecological transition, Transition research  
Europe, Bavaria