



## T3 FOSTERING THE CO-CREATION OF LOCAL ENERGY COOPERATIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CITIZEN BASED PILOT ACTIONS

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D.T3.10.2 - Creation of a citizen energy group in the Niemce Commune, in the Lubelskie Voivodeship, i.e. an energy-saving community in the form of an energy cluster: "Niemce Energy Cluster", aimed at, inter alia, raising citizens' awareness of energy efficiency measures and funding opportunities.

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Creation of a citizen energy group in the Niemce Commune, in the Lubelskie Voivodeship, i.e. an energy-saving community in the form of an energy cluster: "Niemce Energy Cluster", aimed at, inter alia, raising awareness of citizens about related activities with energy efficiency and funding opportunities.

"Niemce Energy Cluster" was created by the local community of the Niemce Commune as one of the effects of the activities carried out in the international ENES-CE project, implemented, among others, by the Lubelskie Voivodeship in cooperation with the Niemce Commune.

On 22th of October 2021, a civil law agreement was signed in the Niemce Commune on the establishment of the Energy Cluster in the Niemce Commune, in the Lubelskie Voivodeship: "Niemce Energy Cluster" and the cooperation of the Cluster Members. Then the Cluster Council was formed. Next, there were elected and appointed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Cluster Council: "Niemce Energy Cluster" and the Coordinator of the Energy Cluster. On the same day, the upcoming activities of the energy cluster and its members were agreed.



*Photo: Niemce Commune Office.*

"Niemce Energy Cluster" was created in accordance with the assumptions of the ENES-CE project, the idea of which is to create energy cooperatives or other citizens energy groups in order to support public bodies in implementing energy strategies in a more effective, with bottom-up approach, taking into account, first of all, the needs of the inhabitants.

In the Lubelskie Voivodeship as part of the project, in order to engage stakeholders into the bottom-up process of energy planning and the creation of an energy cluster in the Niemce Commune, a series of meetings were carried out, during which interviews in the form of a questionnaire as well as presentations and discussions were conducted during 3 workshops in 2020 and 3 more in 2021. The workshops were conducted with the use of documents and tools developed in the ENES-CE project.

At the workshops, discussions were held in the process of creating an energy cluster for joint energy planning and implementation of investment activities in renewable energy in the future.

The idea of the project, common values and goals were presented, along with emphasizing the involvement of active lokal politicians in the project. There was also a discussion with the residents about the proposal of investment in RES. The workshops were attended by residents, experts in various fields, entrepreneurs, an energy advisor and an external expert.



During the meetings and talks, the needs and expectations of residents, entrepreneurs and representatives of various institutions in the Niemce Commune were articulated. They were included in the LCEP document for the Niemce Commune for 2020-2025, which was updated in 2020, and in the draft of the document for another LCEP update for the Niemce Commune for 2021 - 2030 with a vision of actions until 2050 (update), in which the implemented actions are still being consulted.



**Plan Gospodarki Niskoemisyjnej  
dla Gminy Niemce na lata 2021-2030  
z wizją działań do roku 2050 (Aktualizacja)**

*photo: Niemce Commune Office.*

The Workshops in the commune made it possible to share experiences and knowledge among the participants and to engage in joint energy planning in the commune. It was also an excellent opportunity to present the experience in planning and implementing investments in renewable energy on the example of other partners of the ENES-CE project, for example through an account of a study visit to the German state of Bavaria in Pfaffenhofen and the activities of the German citizen energy group.

When creating the "Niemce Energy Cluster" during 3 workshops in 2021, it was necessary to establish a number of formal issues in order to sign the Agreement. At the same time, it is only the basis for joint planning, agreeing on the details of obtaining financing for the investment activities in renewable energy proposed by the cluster members, as well as educational and consulting activities as part of energy planning in the Niemce Commune.

The civil-legal agreement on the establishment of „Niemce Energy Cluster" and cooperation of Cluster Members has been signed by the Niemce Commune, 3 economic entities, 2 associations and 4 inhabitants of the commune. The "Niemce Energy Cluster" in the Lubelskie Voivodeship does not have a closed formula, it is open to accepting new members. At the time of its establishment, the cluster is not a legal person and does not conduct business activity. It is allowed to transform the Cluster into an energy cooperative, a commercial company or any other legal form enabling business activities in the area of heat and electricity distribution. The aim of the Cluster is to support the development of local distributed energy, improve energy security in an economically effective manner, respecting the principles of sustainable development.

In the preamble to the agreement, it was also stated that the Cluster was established in order to:

- Raising citizens' awareness of activities related to:
  - Energy efficiency and financing possibilities.
  - Introducing a low-carbon economy.
  - Protection and care for the environment.
  - Saving energy through its rational and effective use.
  - Ensuring energy security.
  - Achieving energy autonomy.
  - Counteracting energy poverty.
  - Introducing low-carbon technologies.
- To strive, with the capabilities, to enable the financing of the above-mentioned activities to achieve the goals set out in the document "Poland's energy policy until 2040".
- Integration of entities associated in the Cluster in order to introduce solutions that meet the goals set for a low-emission economy using the potential of Cluster Members.



Based on the proposals of citizens and using the meetings as a means of communication, an atmosphere of acceptance was created for the conducted project activities and the participants were informed about the arrangements from the previous meetings and local energy plans. Information about the workshops with the invitation to participate and the meeting agenda were posted on the commune's website and Facebook. After the workshops, the information about the results of the workshop meetings was also provided via the website. A Polish version of the information brochure was also used for communication in the project. The information on the creation of the „Niemce Energy Cluster“ as part of the ENES-CE project will be published in the local newspaper "Communal News" and on the websites and the Facebook profile of: the Niemce Commune, Lubelskie Voivodeship and the ENES-CE project. The first activity carried out by the cluster within the timeframe of the ENES-CE project will be to conduct a pilot environmental education action, entitled "Every resident and entrepreneur from the Niemce Commune can contribute to clean air in the commune."



*Photo: Niemce Commune Office.*