

PRESS RELEASE

FRANKFURT, 5 DECEMBER 2016



Community energy's "TripAdvisor" to award best contributor to sustainable energy future

Citizenenergy platform hands 2016 Project of the Year Award voting to the crowd in celebration of first year online

Frankfurt, 5 December 2016. What gets funded by the crowd should also get judged by the crowd. Today marks the official start of a one week voting period for the Citizenenergy 2016 Project of the Year Award. Until 12 December, members of the public will be able to rate renewable and energy efficiency projects featured on Citizenenergy on the basis of their contribution to a sustainable energy future.

The award celebrates Citizenenergy's first year online. The portal has shown considerable growth in the last several months: over 23 crowdfunding platforms and energy cooperatives from 12 European countries now feature their projects on Citizenenergy. Launched by 13 organisations across Europe with support from the European Union, it is the first portal of its kind to promote cross-border investment in community energy and the first to bring the crowdfunding and cooperatives worlds together in one space.

"People across the developed world are expressing an increasing desire to have a say over both their energy supply and the type of future their investments are supporting – sustainable energy cooperatives and crowdfunding projects are increasingly filling this gap," affirms Nuno Brito Jorge, founder of Boa Energia, a Portuguese PV installer. "Citizenenergy is helping make this possible on a pan-European scale."

"Each of the 14 candidate projects for the 2016 Project of the Year Award stands as an example of how people are taking control of their energy future," asserts Robert Pasicko of the UN Development Programme Croatia. The organisation will be partnering with Boa Energia to run and maintain the portal once the EU funding period comes to an end in March 2017.

The Citizenenergy team pre-selected candidate projects featured in Citizenenergy's first year on the basis of their novelty as well as criteria such as energy saved and/or produced, involvement of community, adaptation to local needs and conditions, contribution to energy independence and social aspects. Among other benefits, winners of the award will receive the chance to speak at the European Parliament at a special event next year.



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Winners of the Citizenenergy 2016 Project of the Year award will be officially announced in January 2017.

Further information

- **Public voting**
- **Candidate projects**
- Citizenenergy featured **crowdfunding platforms and energy cooperatives**

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CITIZENERGY

Crowdfunding platforms and cooperatives both enable individuals to directly invest in sustainable energy, but it is difficult to get an overview of the possibilities. Citizenenergy changes all this. Made possible by European Union funding, Citizenenergy is the first platform to encourage cross-border investment in sustainable energy and the first to provide information on sustainable energy opportunities from both crowdfunding platforms and cooperatives. It reinforces the work of such organisations in financing renewable and energy efficiency projects, increasing their reach while promoting transparency. The Tripadvisor of our sustainable energy landscape, Citizenenergy is a valuable resource for individuals looking to get involved in the energy revolution. citizenenergy.eu



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