Country Sections

Czechia

Handbook Update CLR II

Support service for citizens led renovation projects - ENER/2023/OP/0036

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B – Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation Unit B1 - Consumers, Local Initiatives, Just Transition

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Introduction

Czechia's building stock offers significant potential for citizen-led renovation, particularly in older family houses and large multi-apartment buildings, where energy performance is often limited by insufficient insulation, outdated windows, and inefficient heating systems. National renovation policy is closely linked to EU energy-efficiency and climate objectives and is implemented through a combination of building regulation, energy performance requirements, and grant/loan schemes administered primarily via environmental and energy institutions.[1]

The technical and legal basis for building energy performance in Czechia is anchored in the Energy Management Act (Act No. 406/2000 Coll.), which establishes obligations and frameworks for energy efficiency, audits, and building energy performance policy.[2] Detailed rules for calculating and documenting building energy performance are set in Decree No. 264/2020 Coll. on the Energy Performance of Buildings, which underpins energy performance certificates and renovation-related compliance assessments.[3]

For citizen groups, building renovation is typically financed through a mix of household resources, bank lending, and public support. The New Green Savings Programme (Nová zelená úsporám) provides a central national framework for supporting insulation, building systems upgrades, and renewable integration in residential buildings, and also plays a key role in improving housing quality and reducing emissions.[4]

In parallel, Czechia has recently introduced a new operational framework for electricity sharing and energy communities, enabling citizen groups to link renovation (demand reduction) with local renewable generation and shared consumption. This creates opportunities for housing associations, cooperatives, municipalities, and groups of residents to pursue renovation-plus-renewables pathways, provided governance, metering, and registration requirements are properly addressed.[5]

[1] Concerted Action – Energy Performance of Buildings – Link

[2] Energy Management Act – Policies - IEA – Link

[3] Implementation-of-the-EPBD-in-the-Czech-Republic.pdf – Link

[4] New Green Savings Programme – SFŽP ČR – Link

[5] Sdílení elektřiny - Energetická společenství | eru.gov.cz – Link

Energy Communities in Czechia

Czechia's legal and regulatory framework for energy communities has advanced substantially with the introduction of electricity sharing across the distribution system and the formal recognition of "community" market participants. The Energy Regulatory Office (ERÚ) describes how electricity sharing was enabled through an amendment to the Energy Act commonly referred to as Lex OZE II, which introduced energy communities and renewable energy communities and established registration requirements for communities.[6]

A core operational feature of electricity sharing in Czechia is that sharing is evaluated in a defined time interval (notably a 15-minute settlement/evaluation interval) and depends on compatible production and consumption profiles. ERÚ guidance also highlights the importance of agreeing allocation rules among participants (e.g., an allocation key), metering requirements, and contractual arrangements among members.[7]

ERÚ distinguishes between (i) sharing via an "active customer" arrangement (which does not require community registration at ERÚ) and (ii) sharing within a registered energy community / renewable energy community. This distinction affects eligibility conditions, governance obligations, and—in some cases—geographic or organisational constraints. Citizen-led renovation projects can benefit from the "active customer" pathway for simpler cases (e.g., within a single apartment building), while community registration may be preferable for broader group structures or more formal governance needs.[8]

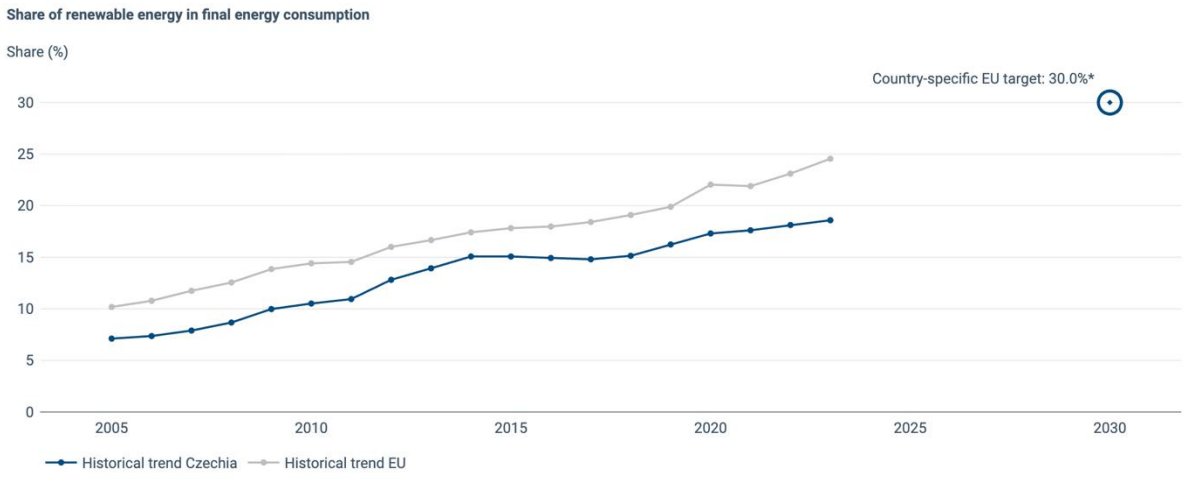

Fig. 1 Czechia's share of renewable energy in final energy consumption. Target/objective will not be reached following the historical trend[9]

Electricity sharing in Czechia is also linked to data infrastructure through the Electroenergetic Data Centre (EDC) registration of sharing groups, which enables the settlement and data exchange required for sharing. For citizen-led renovation projects, this means that technical preparation (metering

[6] Sdílení elektřiny - Energetická společenství | eru.gov.cz – Link
[7] Ibid
[8] Ibid
[9] Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption | Czechia | Europe's environment 2025 (EEA) – Link

readiness) and administrative steps (EDC-related registration) must be treated as part of project planning, alongside renovation audits, permits, and procurement.[10]

[10] Energy Data Centre (EDC) - Reforms and Investments - European Commission – Link

Country specific information on energy communities

In Czechia, energy communities can be formed by a range of actors, including natural persons, municipalities, SMEs, and other local entities, depending on the chosen legal form and the applicable registration path.[11] For citizen-led renovation projects, practical community structures often build on existing entities (e.g., homeowners' associations, housing cooperatives, municipal organisations), provided that community governance and participation requirements can be met.[12]

From an implementation perspective, citizen-led renovation projects with an energy community component typically involve:

- defining the participating buildings/sites and whether sharing occurs within a single building or across the distribution system;
- commissioning an energy audit or baseline;
- defining renovation measures (envelope, ventilation/heating, controls) and renewable integration (PV, storage where feasible);
- deciding on an electricity sharing model (active customer vs registered community);
- preparing metering and registration steps (including EDC registration);
- applying for grants/finance; and
- implementing works and monitoring outcomes.[13]

Key limitations and challenges include: the administrative burden of setting up governance and registration, aligning production and consumption (given interval-based evaluation), ensuring compatible metering and data readiness, and securing finance for combined renovation plus generation investments. These constraints are particularly relevant for multi-apartment buildings, where collective decision-making and cost sharing must be aligned with technical implementation plans.[14]

Despite these challenges, Czechia's developing electricity-sharing framework creates a clearer route for linking renovation and citizen energy: deep renovation reduces demand and improves economics, while shared PV/self-consumption improves affordability and resilience, especially important as energy prices and grid constraints remain salient concerns.[15]

[11] Sdílení elektřiny - Energetická společenství | eru.gov.cz – Link
[12] Czech Republic - REScoop – Link
[13] Sdílení elektřiny - Energetická společenství | eru.gov.cz – Link
[14] Implementation-of-the-EPBD-in-the-Czech-Republic – Link
[15] Community Energy Development in Czechia - EUKI – Link

Relevant legislation

Renovation-related legislation

Energy Management Act (Act No. 406/2000 Coll.)[16]: This is a core legal instrument setting the framework for energy efficiency policy, including provisions related to energy audits, energy efficiency obligations, and the energy performance of buildings. It forms the legislative backbone for energy performance requirements and related compliance processes relevant to renovations.[17]

Decree No. 264/2020 Coll. on the Energy Performance of Buildings: This decree operationalises building energy performance calculations and documentation and underpins energy performance certificates and renovation-related assessments.[18] It is a key reference for determining compliance in renovations and for documenting improvements.[19]

Building Act (Act No. 283/2021 Coll., as amended): This law governs the building permitting process and construction rules and has been introduced with phased effectiveness, shaping how renovation projects navigate permits, procedures, and administrative timelines.[20] Citizen-led renovation projects must ensure that required permits and procedural steps are addressed early, especially for larger multi-apartment projects.[21]

Legislation on engagement of neighbours and volunteers in the renovation

Czechia does not rely on a single "neighbour engagement law" for renovation. In practice, engagement and decision-making are governed through a combination of property/association governance rules (e.g., rules applicable to homeowners' associations or cooperative entities), building permitting procedures, and programme requirements set by funding bodies. For citizen-led renovation projects in multi-apartment contexts, this generally means that formal decisions must be documented according to the association's statutes and aligned with procurement and grant-application steps.[22]

Volunteer involvement can support non-technical project tasks such as outreach, resident coordination, information sessions, and basic administration. However, construction, installation, and regulated technical works must be carried out by qualified professionals and must comply with permitting, safety, and contractual obligations. This boundary is essential for citizen groups to avoid compliance or liability risks.[23]

[16] Act on Energy Management – Link
[17] Energy Management Act (Act No. 406/2000 Coll.) – Policies - IEA – Link
[18] Implementation-of-the-EPBD-in-the-Czech-Republic – Link
[19] Czech Republic I CA EPBD – Link
[20] Building Act – Link
[21] Dentons - New Building Act Part 3 – Link
[22] Housing Policy and Housing Finance – Link
[23] Implementation-of-the-EPBD-in-the-Czech-Republic – Link

Funding bodies and schemes

Funding bodies in Czechia

State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic (SFŽP ČR): SFŽP is the main implementing body for major household renovation support programmes and administers the New Green Savings Programme, including related strands aimed at improving building performance and reducing emissions.[24]

Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO): These institutions shape policy direction and coordinate major energy and renovation instruments, including those linked to EU funding streams and national energy legislation and implementation frameworks.[25]

Energy Regulatory Office (ERÚ): ERÚ plays a central role in the operationalisation of energy communities and electricity sharing, including guidance on registration, rules, and settlement processes relevant for community energy projects that may accompany renovations.[26]

Funding schemes in Czechia

New Green Savings Programme (Nová zelená úsporám – NZÚ): NZÚ is a flagship national programme supporting energy efficiency upgrades and renewable integration in residential buildings. It is a key route for financing citizen-led renovation measures such as insulation, windows, technical systems upgrades, and complementary low-carbon technologies.[27]

NZÚ Light (Nová zelená úsporám Light): NZÚ Light provides targeted support aimed at improving housing quality and reducing energy costs for eligible households, generally focusing on accessible renovation measures and simplified participation. This is a central programme for addressing energy poverty risks through renovation support.[28]

Modernisation Fund programmes (selected instruments): Czechia implements EU Modernisation Fund [29] resources through national programmes supporting renewables and related enabling infrastructure. These instruments can complement renovation strategies where citizen groups pursue PV, storage, or broader local energy system upgrades alongside efficiency improvements.[30]

Special grants for vulnerable households in Czechia

Czechia addresses affordability and energy poverty risks through targeted renovation support that lowers barriers for eligible households. NZÚ Light is specifically designed to make energy-saving improvements accessible for defined beneficiary groups (e.g., households meeting programme eligibility criteria), supporting measures that reduce energy bills and improve indoor comfort. Citizen-led initiatives can also use NZÚ Light as a social inclusion lever when communities include households with constrained resources.[31]

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[24] New Green Savings Programme – SFŽP ČR – Link
[25] Energy Act | MPO – Link
[26] Energy Regulatory Office | eru.gov.cz – Link
[27] New Green Savings Programme – SFŽP ČR – Link
[28] Nová zelená úsporám Light – Nová zelená úsporám – Link
[29] Electricity-storage-of-the-RES-Programme-New-renewable-energy-sources – Link
[30] New Renewable Energy Sources – Link
[31] Nová zelená úsporám Light – Nová zelená úsporám – Link

In citizen-led contexts, the practical implication is that project facilitators (e.g., municipalities, local energy advisors, housing associations) may need to support vulnerable households with administrative guidance, contractor coordination, and sequencing of measures, so that households can participate meaningfully alongside other residents in renovation pathways.[32]

[32] Ibid

Useful tools

- New Green Savings Programme portal (SFŽP): Provides official programme guidance, eligibility rules, and application pathways for household renovation and technology measures under NZÚ.[33]
- NZÚ Light portal: Provides eligibility and guidance for the targeted NZÚ Light programme, supporting vulnerable households with accessible renovation measures and simplified pathways.[34]
- ERÚ guidance on electricity sharing and energy communities: Provides official explanations of the electricity sharing framework, registration requirements, allocation principles, and the role of EDC registration in enabling settlement and data exchange.[35]
- EPBD national implementation context (Czechia): National summaries of EPBD implementation identify the relevant legal instruments used for energy performance rules, including Decree No. 264/2020 Coll., and note ongoing updates linked to EU directives, useful for keeping the handbook section current.[36]

[33] New Green Savings Programme – SFŽP ČR – Link

[34] Nová zelená úsporám Light – Nová zelená úsporám – Link

[35] Sdílení elektřiny - Energetická společenství | eru.gov.cz – Link

[36] Czech Republic I CA EPBD – Link