

# ROLE OF LOCAL ENERGY ENTITY IN LOCAL ENERGY PROJECT

## -CASE STUDY OF ENERGY AGENCY IN EU AND OHISAMA PROJECT IN JAPAN-

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Local energy entity, Photovoltaic generation, ESCO*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

There are two requisite approaches to achieve sustainable energy society. One is through promotion of energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources (RES). And the other is through creation of community governance with diverse actors including citizens. And with the objective of global warming prevention, reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission in end-users like SMEs and individuals is necessary. This paper reviews cases of Energy Agencies in EU and Ohisama project in Iida city, Japan and then will figure out the functions and the role of local energy entities to build up community governance.

### 2. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ON ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Governments, local authorities and citizens hold three aspects as actors in energy management. First is as a energy producer through production of heat and power, second is as a energy consumer using energy in their business and life, and third is as a energy policy actor in the policy making process. This paper defines community governance with diverse actors is derived from active participation of local authorities and citizens in these aspect in energy management. Through the case study of Energy Agency and Ohisama project, this paper looks at how local energy agencies promote participation of citizens in community governance.

### 3. ENERGY AGENCY IN EU AND OHISAMA PROJECT IN NAGANO, JAPAN

Establishment of an Energy Agency is officially-recommended and supported in the program for promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, which is managed by The Directorate-General for Energy and Transport. Through the program, many local and regional Energy Agencies are established and plays a role to boost citizens participation in energy management by the provision of information and advise.

Ohisama-shimpo energy inc is a private entity which based on an local environmental NPO operating in Iida city and is responsible for the implementation of Ohisama project, which consists of photovoltaic generation and ESCO projects. Ohisama-shimpo energy also plays a key role to encourage citizens participation in energy management, and partnership between the local government, environmental education activity to the citizens, and co-funding scheme from citizens are the remarkable points of this project.

### 4. CONCLUSION

Local energy entity promotes activity of citizens as the energy consumer and producer in energy management through activities such as, dissemination of specific information, advising and consulting. It also accelerates participation of citizens in community governance. At the same time the Local energy entity itself is a energy policy actor, and it contributes to the diversification of actors in community governance. Thus it has practical role to build up community governance.