

# The energy transition to energy democracy

## Moving towards energy democracy

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# Dirk Vansintjan

- active in RE-sector Belgium since 1985
- watermill Rotselaar
- co-founder of
  - Ecopower °1991
  - e-production 1995<
  - ODE-Vlaanderen °1996
  - REScoop.be °2010
  - REScoop.eu °2013
  - REScoop.vl °2015
- president of REScoop.eu
- REScoop.eu sector of Cooperatives Europe/ICA



# What is REScoop.eu?

- European federation
- formally founded end of 2013
- members: national federations of REScoops or REScoops
- represents half of the more than 3000 known REScoops and +/- 650.000 EU-citizens
- participates in several IEE and Horizon 2020 EC projects, like: REScoop 20-20-20, REScoop MECISE, Community power, WisePower, Citizenenergy, WISEgrid...
- advocacy at EU level and develops services for members in collaboration with informal 'Community Energy Coalition'



# 'Community energy coalition'



- REScoop.eu and Cooperatives Europe
- ICLEI, Climate Alliance, Energy Cities
- Greenpeace, WWF, Climate Action Network, Client Earth, Friends of the Earth Europe, WFC...
- BEUC
- EREF
- Solar Europe
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- ...

# Situation 2016: global versus local

Big consumers and producers (coal/nuclear) are still at the core of EU and MS policies:

- the more you consume, the lower price you get
- the more you pollute, the more support you get.

All this in the name of the 'Treaty', 'Free Market', 'Competitivity', ... at the expense of small consumers and small RE producers.

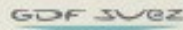
Incumbent power companies actively try to prevent the energy transition to energy democracy:

e.g. EDF legal action against municipal initiative in Amel/Bülingen (BE)

# Situation 2016: global versus local

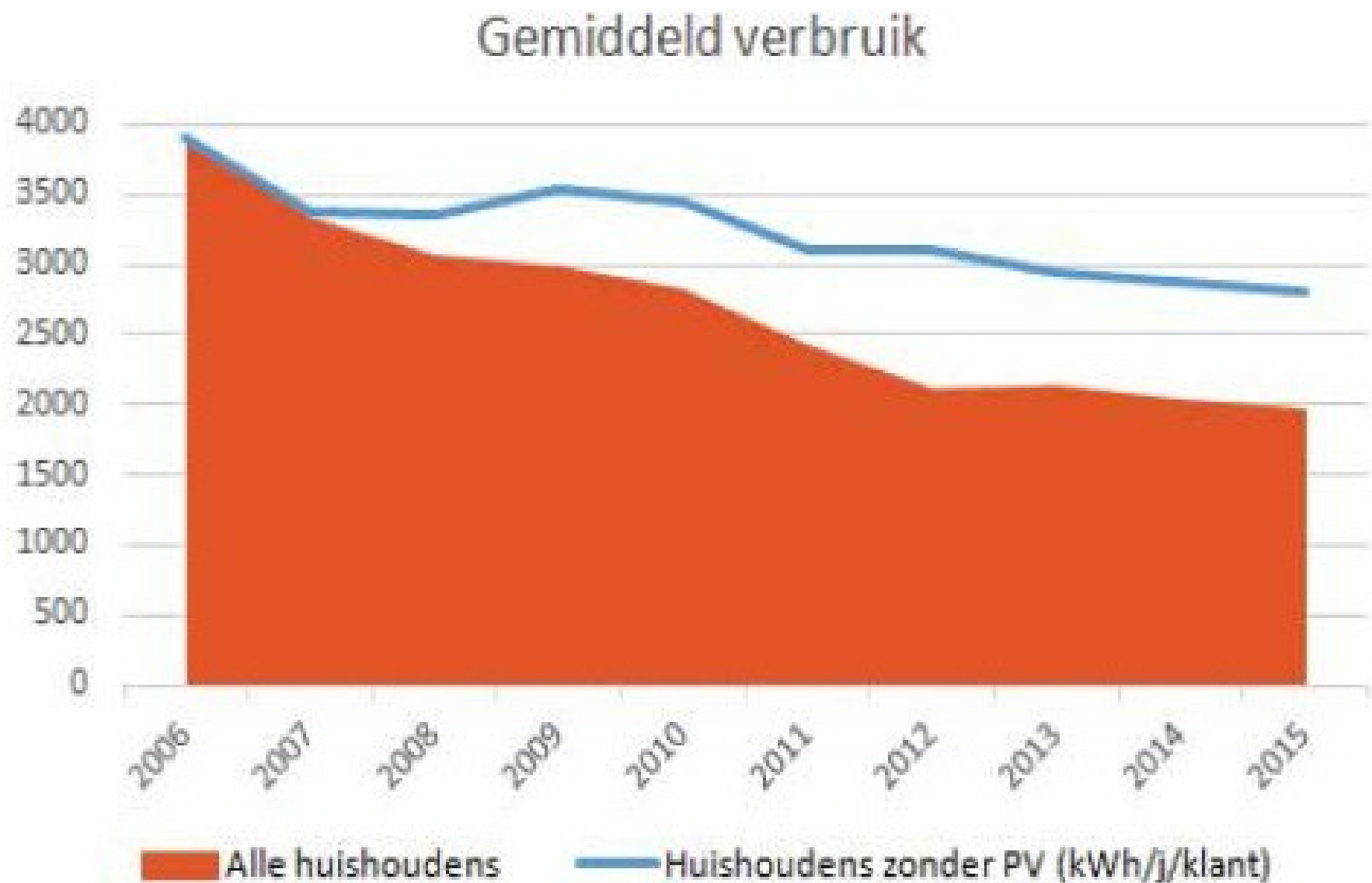
## *Ceci n'est pas une transition énergétique*

10 CEOs push for EU energy policy to change direction



Magritte Museum, October 2013

# Energy transition has been unleashed



# Ecopower members are prosumers

## Privately:

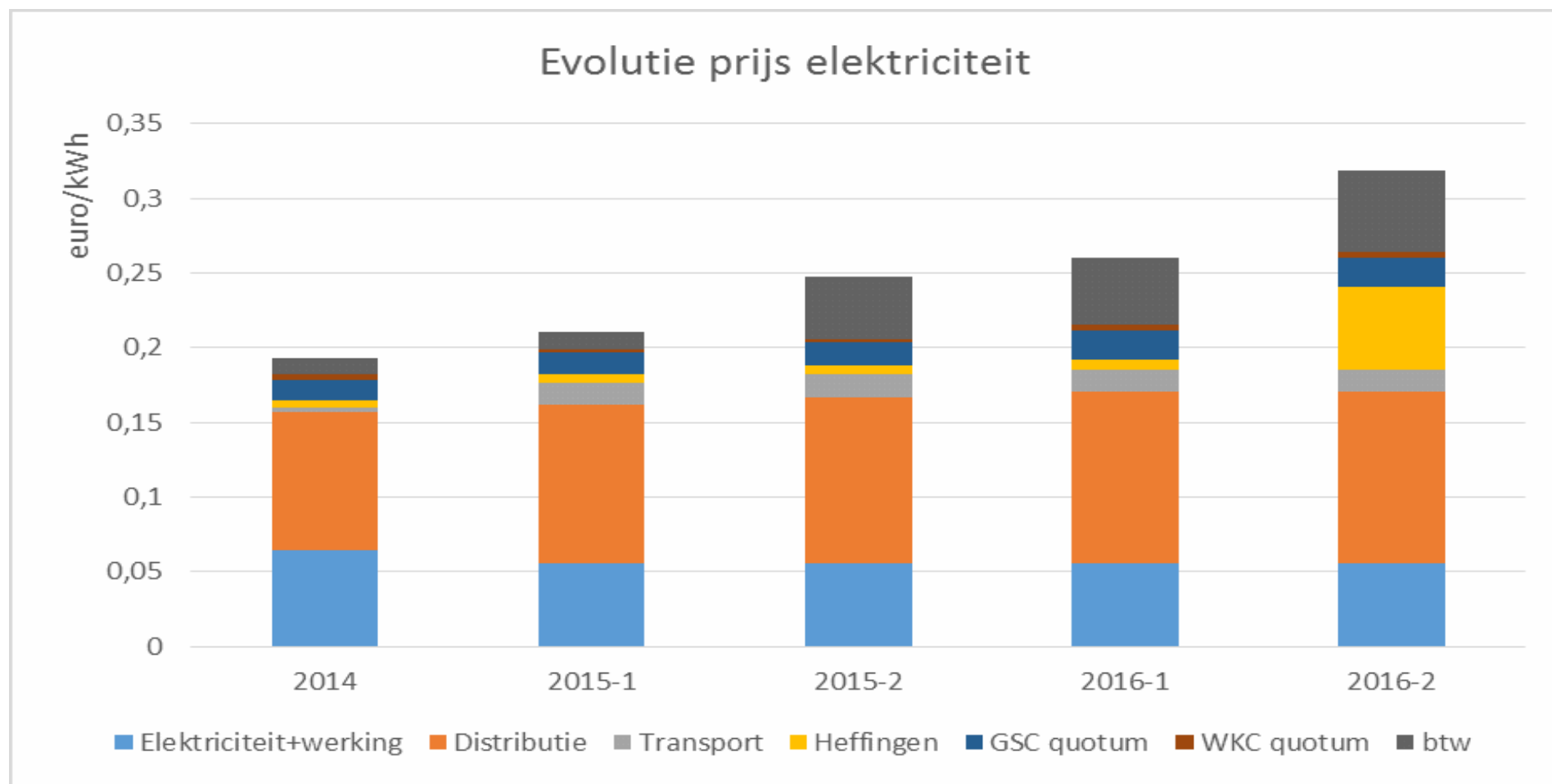
- 41 % of 41.341 client/members have PV panels (end 2015)
- average PV installation: 4,49 kW
- average production PV installation: 3816 kWh
- total PV production of members: 64.7 GWh
- average consumption from the grid: 998 kWh
- kWh's 'lost' to the grid ? kWh
  - no smart meters
  - net metering

## Collectively:

- total production Ecopower as a cooperative: 72.2 GWh



# Evolution share of price green electricity for Ecopower: $\frac{1}{3}$ ----> $\frac{1}{6}$



# Intention of EU Commission 2016: citizen at the core of energy policy...

## Implications (1):

- the less you consume, the lower price you get
- the more you pollute, the more you are taxed
- market place (DSO/TSO) is collectively owned and not-for-profit:

energy democracy!

# Intention of EU Commission 2016: citizen at the core of energy policy...

## Implications (2):

- prosumer takes responsibility as co-owner of the grid-he-needs
  - costs grid, smart meters, ...
  - balancing
  - planning
- prosumer shows solidarity with people not able to become prosumer (energy poverty)
- citizen can also become a prosumer through collective investments in REScoops/Community energy with same advantages as when investing individually through an 'energy communities' (Winterpackage proposal RE directive)



# Intention of EU Commission 2016: citizen at the core of energy policy... needs good implementation by MS

Scotland: good policy for community energy

- renewable energy target with community energy sub-target
- CARES fund
  - money and staff to support local projects
  - loan with interest if succesful: revolving fund
  - grant if unsuccessful: guarantee fund
- succesful: - 500 MW community energy 2020 target met already in 2016
  - Shared Ownership with commercial developers

See: [www.localenergyscotland.org](http://www.localenergyscotland.org)

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