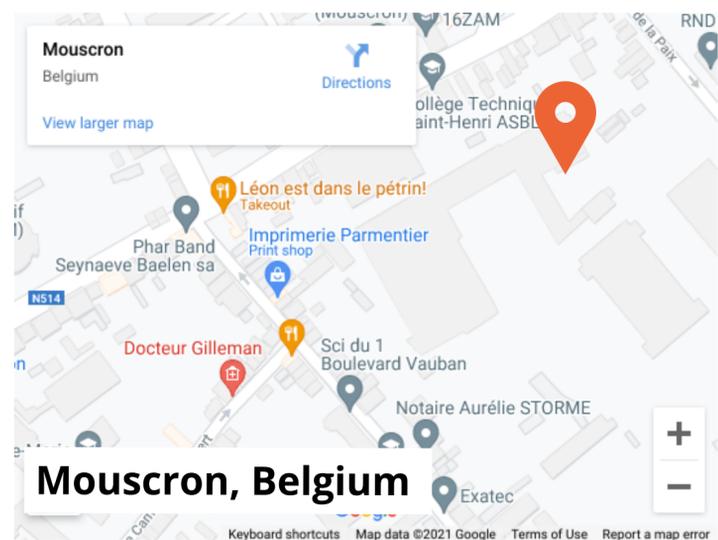


Coopem

Aim: Promote the installation of more solar PVs locally and at accessible prices



Stakeholders involved in the project

Coopem is a joint venture between the city, the citizens of Mouscron, and two technical partners, Energiris and Aralia. The former is a Brussels-based cooperative focused on citizen investment for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and the latter offers technical expertise in installation of PV solar panels.

Financial streams for financing the project

The cooperative is run on a voluntary basis as there are no paid staff. Convincing citizens to take part in the project was critical to the initial funding of the project. To join the cooperative, members pay 250 euros per share, for up to 20 shares. In return, they are allowed one vote and promised 3-6% in dividends over the course of a few years. With the backing of the city, the founders of Coopem participated in many city hall meetings to raise interest and support. Coopem's partnerships with the city and two technical partners ensured it had initial funding and the necessary expertise to meet its goals.



Technologies used in the project

Coopem has managed to complete around 100 installations since its inception, accounting for 1,145 PV solar panels (producing around 292 MWh). This has been achieved through Coopem's mechanism for installation cost reductions. At the time, the region had a "Qualiwatt Bonus" for PVs (discontinued in 2018), namely people who installed PV would receive 500 euros per year. Coopem leveraged this bonus, providing citizens with the 2500 euros upfront, thus promoting rapid installation. Coopem also works with SMEs and businesses wishing to install capacities above 10 kWp. In this case, Coopem pays for at least 75% of installation costs with third-party financing.

Project achievements

Coopem works within the "Local eco-responsible energy communities" (COLÉCO) project which aims to provide a platform for collective self-consumption in the Walloon region. As part of the project, Coopem has chosen to install 100 kWp of PV at the Saint-Exupery school in Mouscron. The school will use the energy it produces but may also sell energy to the grid when it is not in use (e.g. summer holidays, weekends, and public holidays). Finally, Coopem has joined the BE REEL project. The project, launched and led by the city of Mouscron, hopes to retrofit the city's homes by offering one central contact point for all potential services.



To learn more:

<http://coopem.be/>

<https://www.citiesoftomorrow.eu/resources/toolbox/factsheets/coopem-mouscron-s-energy-cooperative>

<https://smart-beejs.eu/>