

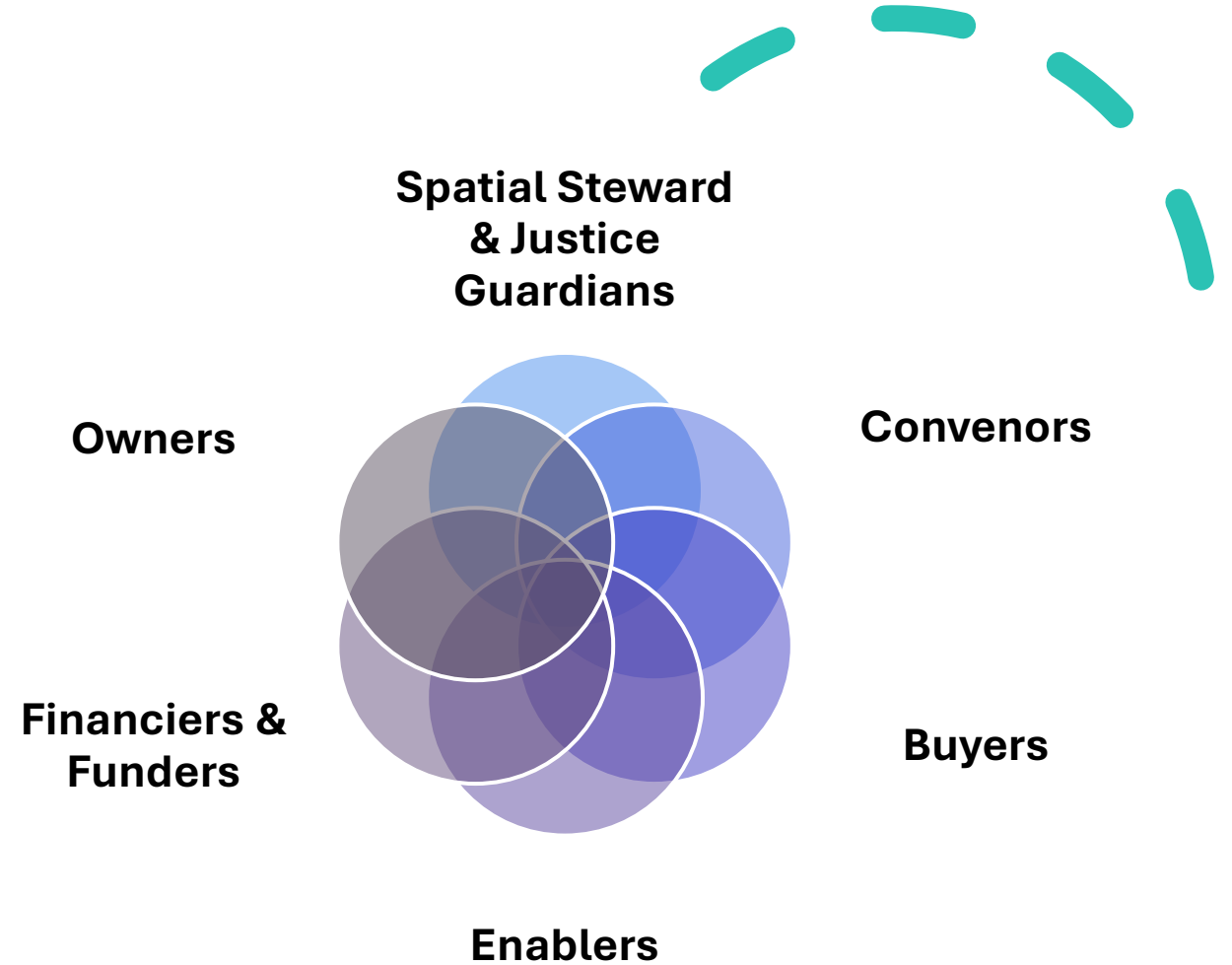


Local Governments Advancing Energy Justice

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Key roles for local governments



Local Government Role	What it is	How it advances energy justice	In the toolbox
Spatial steward & Justice guardian	• Encode energy justice into plans and permits. • Leverage zoning and siting to prevent sacrifice zones. • Mandate benefit sharing & safeguards.	All energy justice tenets: Sets the rules of the game; Breaks public policy siloes.	• Zoning that prioritizes Indigenous/territorial protections. • Renewable energy zones with local benefit requirements. • Climate and energy plans with robust “Just transition” and “public participation” components.
Convenor	• Design sustained spaces for co-decision and co-design. • Ensure marginalized groups have a voice and can meaningfully influence decisions.	Recognition & procedural justice Who is at the table and how they participate.	• Participatory budgeting for energy investments. • Citizen assemblies. • Multi-stakeholder just transition councils. • Community energy forums.
Buyer	• Procurement with “energy justice” criteria. • Long-term off-taker contracts for community projects. • PPA with local hiring & benefit clauses.	Distributional & procedural justice Demand-side leverage for just outcomes.	• PPAs with energy cooperatives. • Procurement requiring % of community ownership. • Service contracts with local job guarantees. • Renewable certificates from local projects.

Local Government Role	What it is	How it advances energy justice	In the toolbox
Enabler	- Remove administrative barriers. - Technical assistance & capacity building. - Provide municipal assets (roofs, land).	Procedural & distributional justice Makes participation in energy transition & benefits accessible.	- One-stop shop models. - Technical assistance services. - Simplified procedures for small-scale projects. - Municipal roofs for community solar.
Financier and funder	- Use public resources to “de-risk” projects. - Community share purchases for vulnerable households. - Guarantees, concessional loans Grant/subsidy programs.	Distributional & recognition justice Channels benefits to those who need them.	- Energy poverty relief funds. - First-loss guarantees for community / local projects. - Buying/underwriting shares for income-eligible residents. - Additional layer of funding for retrofits for income-eligible residents.
Owner	- Municipal utilities. - Co-ownership via mixed economy companies. - Shareholder in energy communities.	All energy justice tenets Direct control over outcomes & governance.	- Municipalized utilities with community boards. - Mixed economy companies with city/community/private shares. - Municipal stake in renewable energy cooperatives. - City as a member of an energy community.

Useful Tools & Guides

Environmental Justice Toolkit 2.0, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

This toolkit provides recommended approaches, best practices, and examples to help local governments engage environmental-justice communities on climate, energy, and air quality.

([Link](#))

Community Energy Municipal Guide, SCCALE 20-30-50, REScoop.eu and Energy Cities

This guide describes municipal roles such as “promoter” and “facilitator,” including how cities organize participatory processes and multi-stakeholder coalitions for community energy.

([Link](#))

Just Transition in Practice: Lessons from the Ground, Net Zero Cities

Two webinars are summarized, highlighting how European cities operationalize just transition principles in areas such as buildings, land use, budgets, and municipal services, with examples from cities like Valencia and Stockholm.

([Link](#))

Building Energy Communities, mPOWER

Examines energy community models across Europe and highlights how municipalities collaborate with residents, cooperatives, and other stakeholders to create democratically owned and financed projects (e.g., Wolfhagen, Plymouth).

([Link](#))

Unlocking Urban Energy Access and Poverty, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Toolkit to help cities define their local energy access and poverty context, analyze systemic barriers, and identify tailored interventions.

([Link](#))

Solar for All and Sun4All Toolkit for Local Governments

Practical toolkit from the Sun4All project that helps local and regional governments, utilities, and social actors understand and address energy poverty using the Sun4All framework.

([Link](#))

Cities and Clean Energy Workforce Development, ACEEE

A topic brief that identifies 37 US cities with clean-energy workforce strategies and reviews policy options for local governments, including inclusive procurement, equity-focused training and green job goals.

([Link](#))

Procurement Guide for Community Energy, REScoop.eu

Explains how municipalities can integrate social and environmental criteria into procurement and adapt tenders, concessions, and PPAs to promote citizen and renewable energy communities.

([Link](#))

Sustainable Just Cities resources hub, ICLEI

The ICLEI hub supports ‘urban experimenters’ working on sustainable and just cities, offering micro-grants, workshops, and resources on integrating social and spatial justice into urban transformations.

([Link](#))

Social business models to address local energy poverty: six cities tell their story, Energy Cities

Profiles six local ‘social energy players’ (e.g. Valencia, Eeklo, Rožnov) that combine municipal engagement, co-creation and innovative business models to tackle energy poverty through collective self-consumption, social tariffs and shared ownership.

([Link](#))

C40 Cities Finance Facility and inclusive Climate Action guidelines

Workbook for Global South city officials to explore finance, equity, and inclusion in preparing urban infrastructure projects, covering climate-finance instruments, equitable processes, and project preparation, with case studies in energy, buildings, waste, NBS, and transport.

([Link](#))