



Toward a more inclusive energy democracy

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Agenda

The promise

The current situation

Who is excluded?

How to include them?

The promise

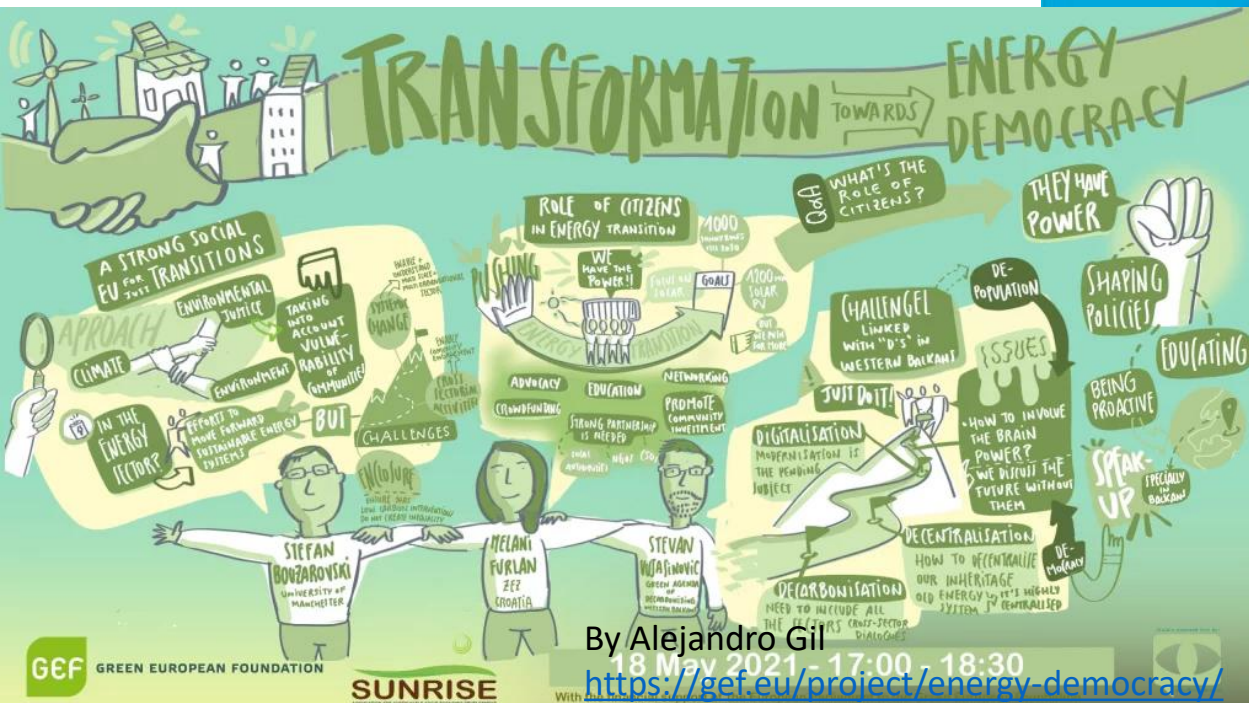
Techno-utopias

Digital democracy

Energy democracy



From <https://coverjunkie.com/magazines/wired/>





The promise

- Citizen ownership of energy production
 - Decentralized, decarbonized energy system
 - Electrification of end-uses
 - Energy-literate flexible citizens
 - Intelligent control
 - Benefits for Finnish business!
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- Possibility for a new and different, more community-based and grassroots approach to energy ("people power")?

The promise requires



Investment in new technology



Electrification of end uses



Flexible use in response to intermittent production

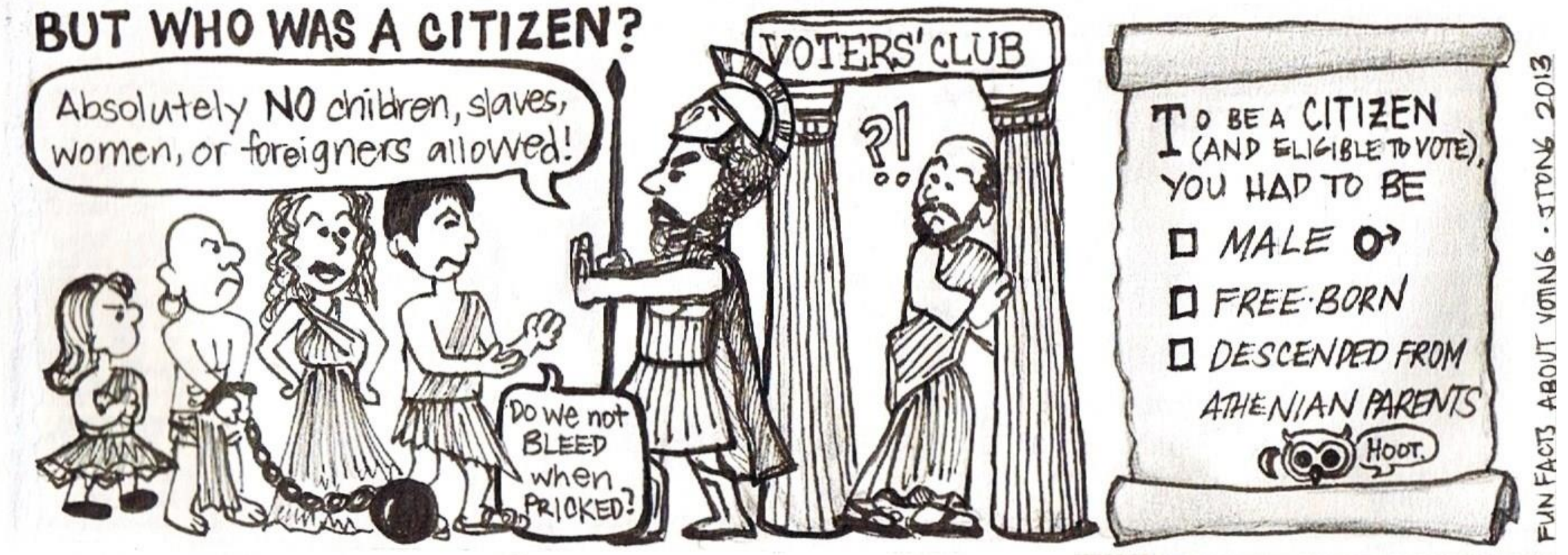


New and different skills

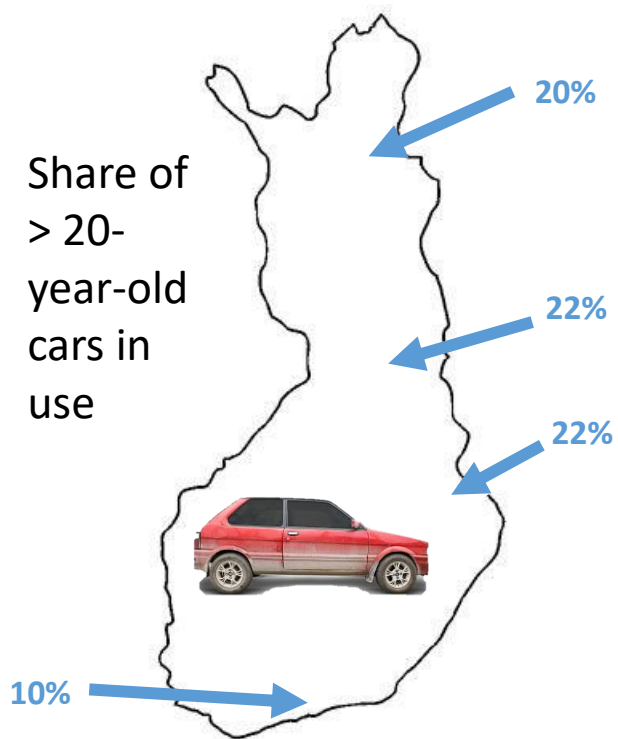


Popular participation and public acceptance

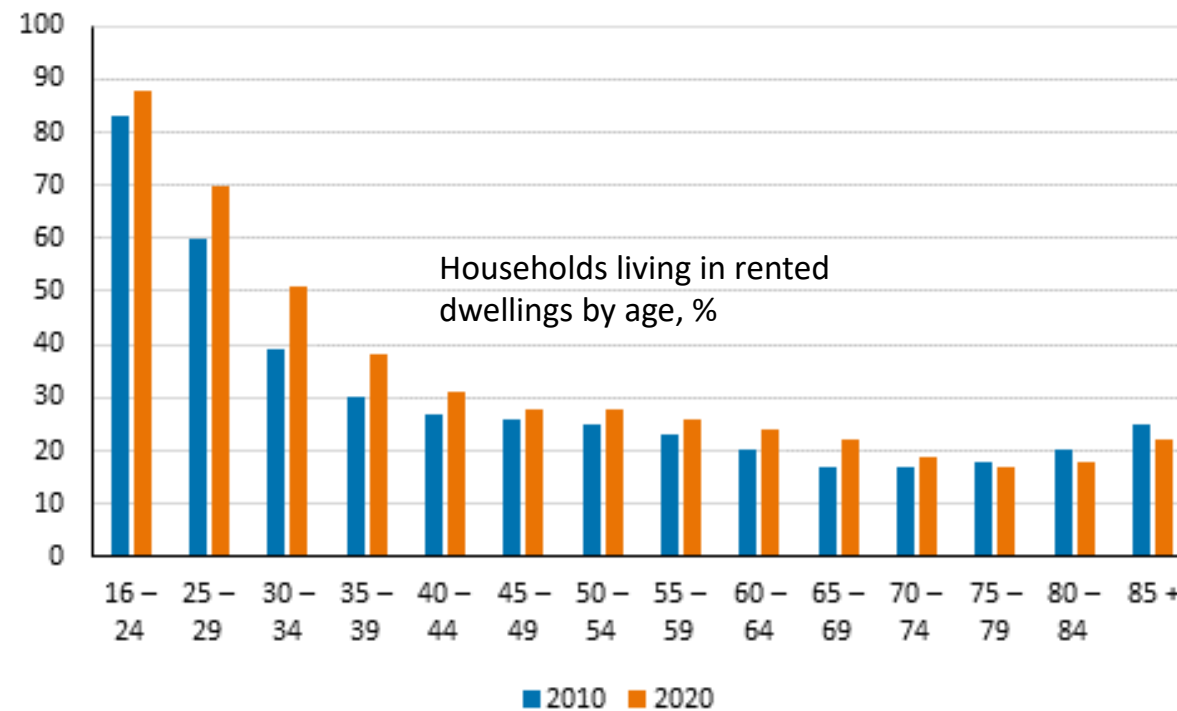
Is energy democracy Athenian democracy?



Who is excluded?



Source: Traficom



Omakotitalo | 4h, k, s
 Kalkkinokantie 60, Peurasaari, Kemi

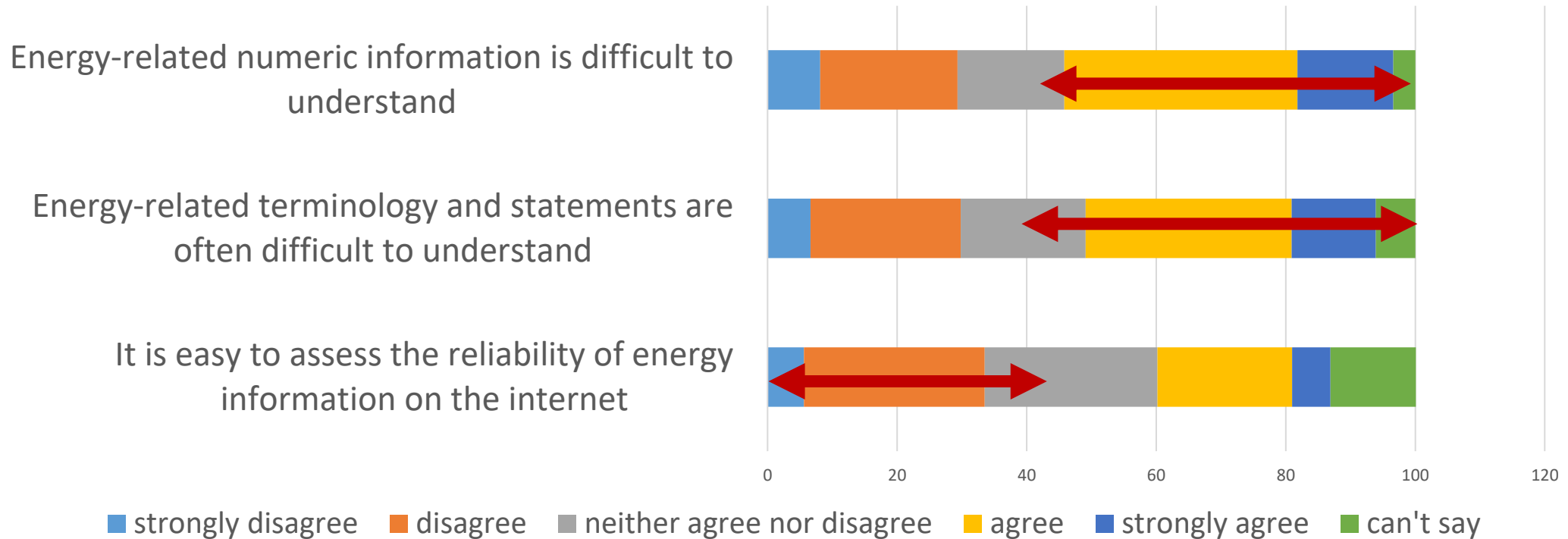
Hinta
 8 000 € ↓ 12 500 €

Koko
 70 / 97 m²

Hintamuutos

Who is excluded?

Items of energy literacy (Keränen 2021)



Keränen, T. (2021) Everyday energy information literacy : defining the concept and studying it empirically in Finland. Acta Universitatis Ouluensis. B, Humaniora 187. <http://jultika.oulu.fi/Record/isbn978-952-62-3020-7>

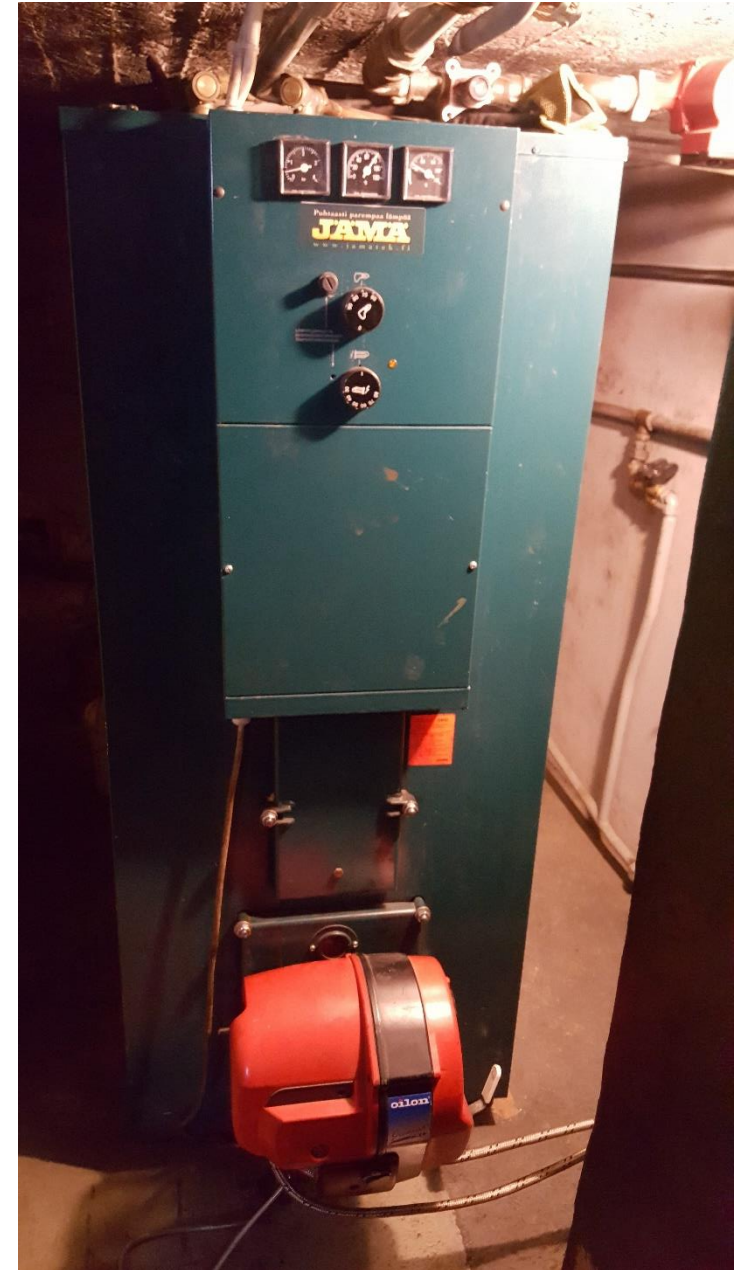
Who is excluded?

- Lack of capabilities for getting organized
- Lack of trust in institutions
- Lack of identification with image of energy/“green” transition
- ... low-income people, but also “green/grassroots people” who are put off by business-driven tech utopias

Who is excluded?

“A couple in their thirties, Sini and Sami, who had recently bought their house built in the 1940s, were very conscious about the need for an old house to be able to breathe, and explained how they had, instead of renovating, lowered their own standards for comfort, and gotten used to wearing more clothes during the winter. They mentioned that they felt uneasy with any renovation to an old house such as theirs, and explained that they had decided not to install an air-source heat pump, which the previous owners had left uninstalled because they were afraid that it would cause mould.”

Kajoskoski (forthcoming) *The role of practical knowledge in keeping existing systems: a qualitative study of Finnish homeowners with oil heating.*



Who is excluded?

Rural residents' responses to "what would make you purchase a low-emission/electric car?" in the public consultation for the long-term climate plan (KAISU)

If they cost 2000€

"I drive the cheapest shit that moves"

Once used cars are available at a reasonable price – that is, in about 10-15 years

At the moment, nothing, because it isn't possible economically, and I can't maintain a contraption that is full of electronics ... electronics also don't work in the Finnish climate without acting out.

As soon as low-emission cars aren't soulless boxes

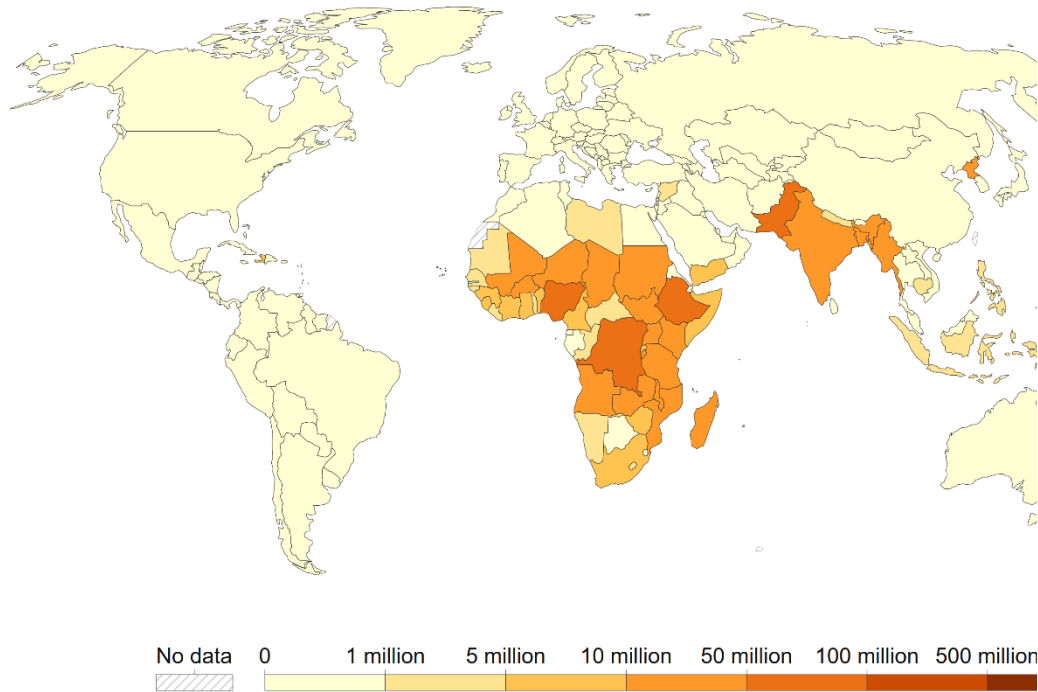
"If the government donates the car. My work run is 70 km. My car costs 2000,-. And I'm supposed to buy a low-emission electric hybrid car with that!"

Who is excluded?

Number of people without access to electricity, 2019

The definition used in international statistics adopts a very low cutoff for what it means to 'have access to electricity'. It is defined as having an electricity source that can provide very basic lighting, and charge a phone or power a radio for 4 hours per day.

Our World
in Data



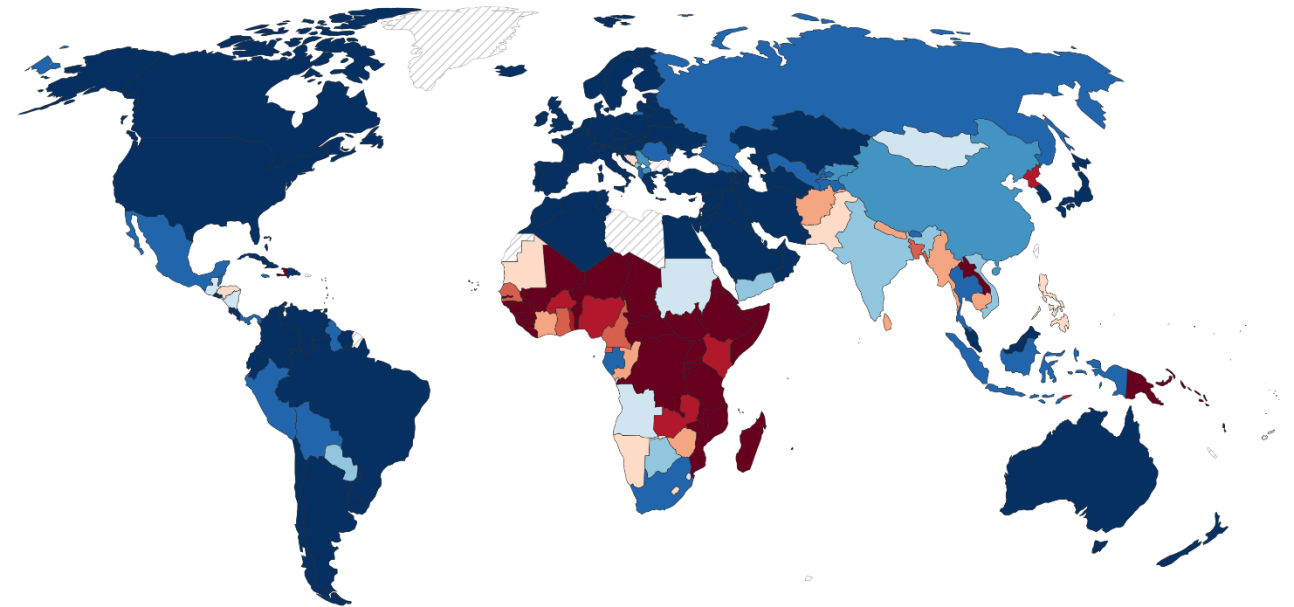
Source: Calculated by Our World in Data based on the World Bank

OurWorld

Share of the population with access to clean fuels for cooking, 2020

Access to clean fuels or technologies such as clean cookstoves reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants, a leading cause of death in low-income households.

Our World
in Data



Source: WHO, Global Health Observatory (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/energy • CC BY



How to include them?

Finance for investments

- Current subsidies help the "haves" more than the "have nots"
- Renewable investments are profitable but many people lack capital
- Several schemes have been piloted in different countries, such as soft loans, on-bill finance, even crowdfunding....

Finnish banks took up the EIF's offer – InvestEU loan guarantee scheme makes it easier to finance green transition investments

Published 25 JAN 2023 JOHANNES PALMGREN



The InvestEU guarantee model allows funding to be allocated to investments that improve the energy efficiency of buildings, for example. Image: Shutterstock



- The InvestEU loan guarantee scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), households and housing companies promotes investment in clean

Provide cheaper/more suitable alternatives

DIY electrification



Older forms of electrified transport

Own sources of energy storage: e.g. battery, boiler, hot water tank from former oil tank?



Provide accessible info


- There is much confusion about heat pumps, EV charging and environmental impacts
- "Official info" often received with some suspicion
- Peer examples are more accessible
- DIY options?




Decouple energy democracy from ownership

- Participating in energy democracy requires investment, i.e., ownership
 - Enable participation by tenants?
 - Encourage shared ownership?
 - Acknowledge work as participation in the energy transition?
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- Acknowledge frugal energy use as participation in the energy transition?
 - **Consider global aspects of transition beyond business benefits!**

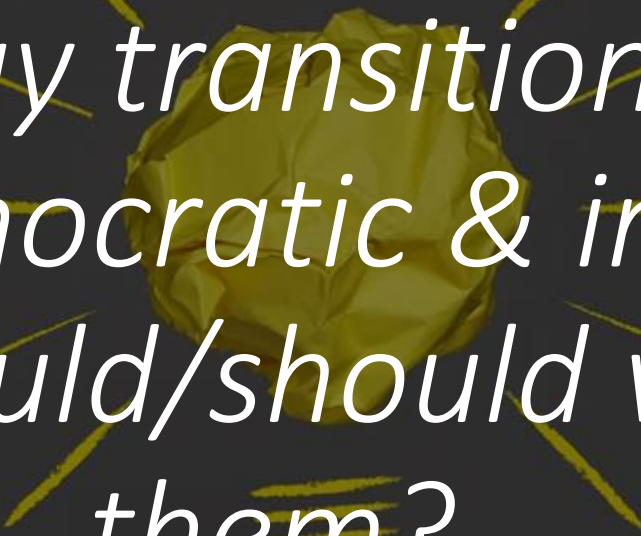


B R I X T O N
E N E R G Y 

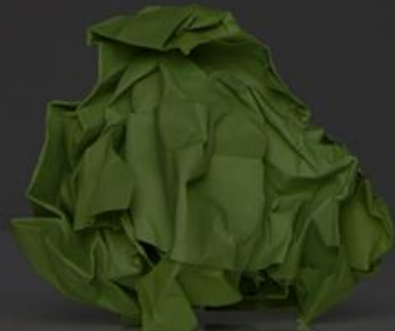
 **REPOWERING LONDON**

BES3 delivers Power To, For and By the people. This project not only generates clean electrical energy but also social energy that brings people together and creates opportunities for communities to flourish. In the three years since the project began, BES3 have:

- purchased and installed 200 solar panels using £64,500 raised via a community share offer. This money was raised predominantly from local investors who will continue to receive a healthy return on their investment for the 20-year life of the project.
- generated around 40,000kWh each year – enough to power 12 homes.
- given 10 young people from the estate the opportunity to complete Repowering London's unique 30-week paid internship programme.



*The energy transition started
with democratic & inclusive
ideals – could/should we revive
them?*



Thanks!

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