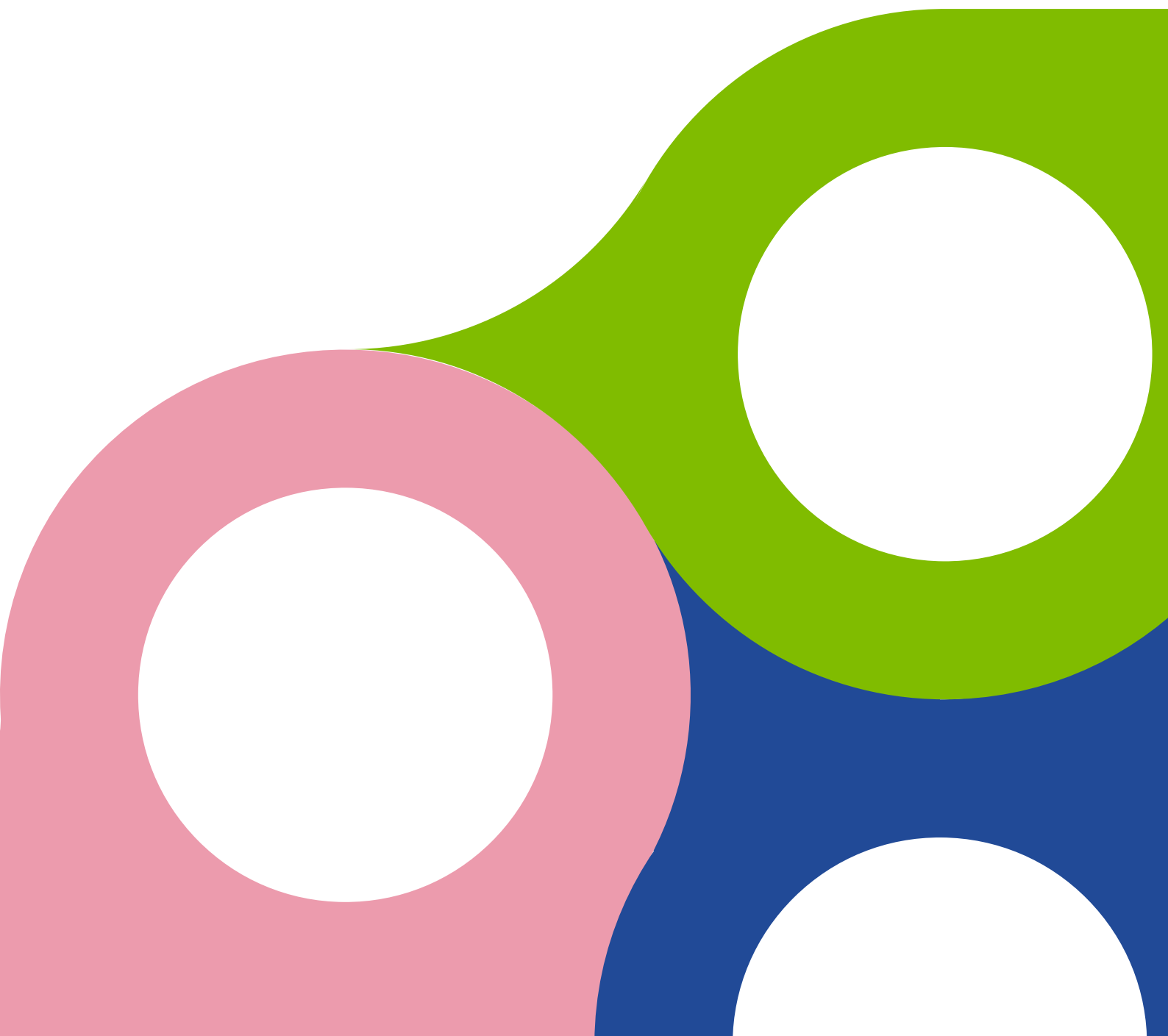


The Energy Cooperative Pogórze



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Local Action Group Dunajec-Biała, operating in 4 communes of the Tarnów county, i.e. Ciężkowice, Pleśna, Wojnicz and Zalkliczyn, promotes the use of energy from renewable sources, including the creation of an Energy Cooperative called „Pogórze”, thus entering a new stage of building self-sufficiency in energy in the region and reducing CO2 emissions to the atmosphere, including care for the purity and quality of air in the region. The idea of the Energy Cooperative is in line with current trends of the so-called Green Energy.

At the centre of the activities of the Local Action Group Dunajec-Biała is the organisation of awareness-raising events for residents, including young people, of the Pleśna commune, neighbouring communes and the Małopolska region on the harmfulness to their health and the environment of air pollution and the deterioration of its quality as a result of the use of so-called „fossil fuels” while at the same time indicating alternative energy sources for heating buildings or cooking meals.



Source: <https://www.grupa.odrolnika.pl/> (30.04.2024)

Awareness is being raised about the idea of Energy Cooperatives, the use of photovoltaics and heat pumps as part of ongoing activities.

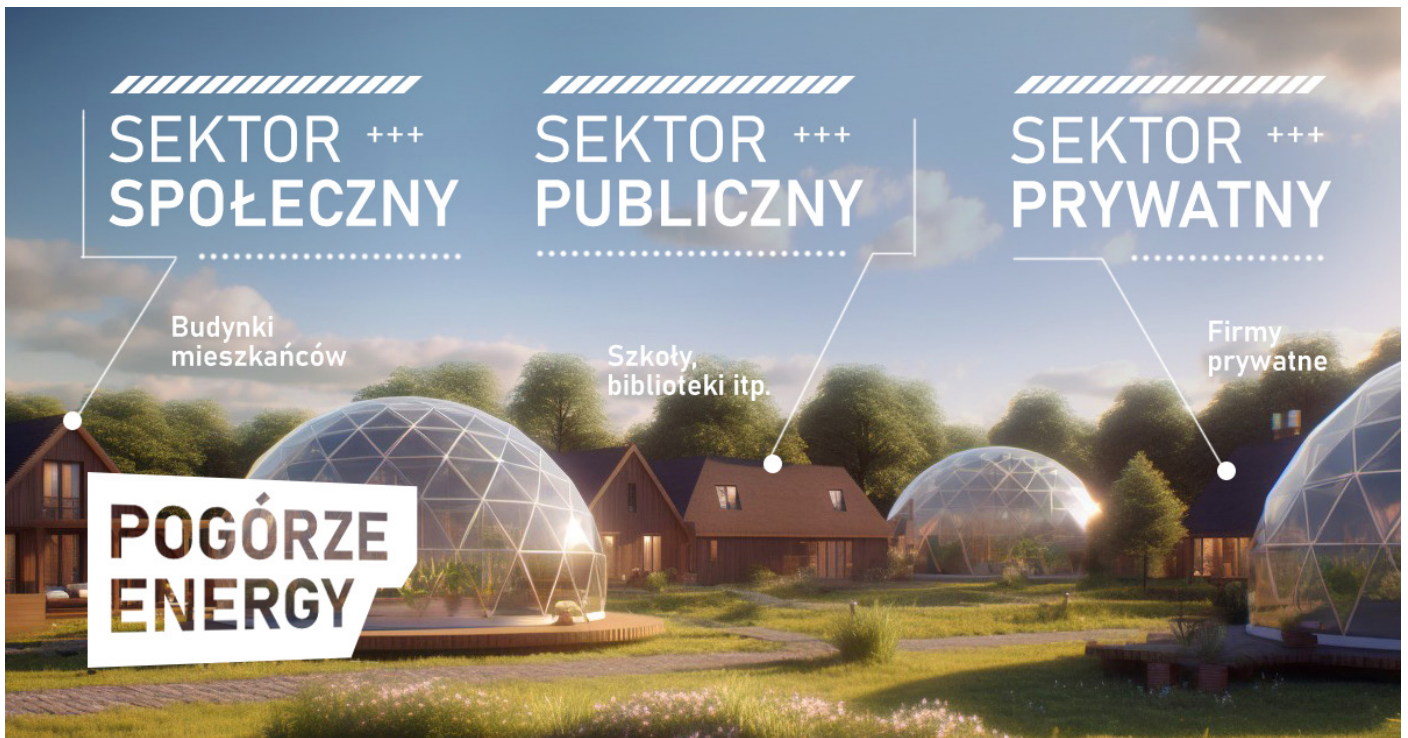
Promotion of the idea of the Energy Cooperative in the LGD Dunajec-Biała area, including renewable energy sources (pho-

tovoltaics, heat pumps) as an alternative to traditional sources of energy, „fossil fuels”, is carried out during events by means of a special Information Point on the Energy Cooperative, presentations and demonstrations of exemplary equipment and installations combined with numerous attractions at the stand in the open space, including a special exhibition consisting of 10 charts showing air pollution caused by the use of traditional sources of energy, the so-called „fossil fuels”. Another important activity is targeting the younger generation on the Internet, including social media, which allows information to reach the widest possible group of people.

Energy cooperatives are being formed in response to the various needs and challenges that can exist in the energy field. Here are some of the main reasons why people, including the younger generations who are open to novelty and new technologies, choose to form this type of cooperative:

- Energy autonomy: Energy cooperatives allow local communities to control their own energy source. They enable them to produce, distribute and manage electricity directly at the local level, increasing their independence from large suppliers and energy networks.
- Sustainable development: Increasing environmental awareness is leading people to look for alternative, greener energy sources. Energy cooperatives often focus on producing energy from renewable sources such as solar, wind or biomass, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.
- Local economic development: The creation of energy cooperatives can stimulate the local economy by creating jobs, investing in energy infrastructure and generating income from local electricity production.
- Reducing energy costs: Through energy cooperatives, community members can





have access to electricity at a lower cost than when using traditional suppliers. The joint production and distribution of energy can result in savings for participants.

- Social participation: Energy cooperatives promote social participation and democratisation of the energy sector. They enable residents to actively participate in decisions about energy production, distribution and use, which promotes greater equity in access to energy resources.

Overall, energy cooperatives respond to the need for local control of energy, environmental care, economic development and social participation, creating an alternative energy model based on the principles of cooperation and sustainability.

Finally, it is worth emphasising that the effectiveness of these initiatives depends on cooperation between the Local Action Group and local authorities, NGOs, young entrepreneurs and the inhabitants themselves. This proves that by acting together, significant changes for a better future and environment can be achieved. Dunajec-Biała Local Action Group shows that with commitment and the right tools, even a small community can have a big impact on its environment and inspire others.

Bibliography:

<https://www.dunajecbiala.pl>

