

# The energy transition to energy democracy

## Ecopower and REScoop.eu

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# Dirk Vansintjan

- active in RE-sector 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



# Ecopower



## end 2015

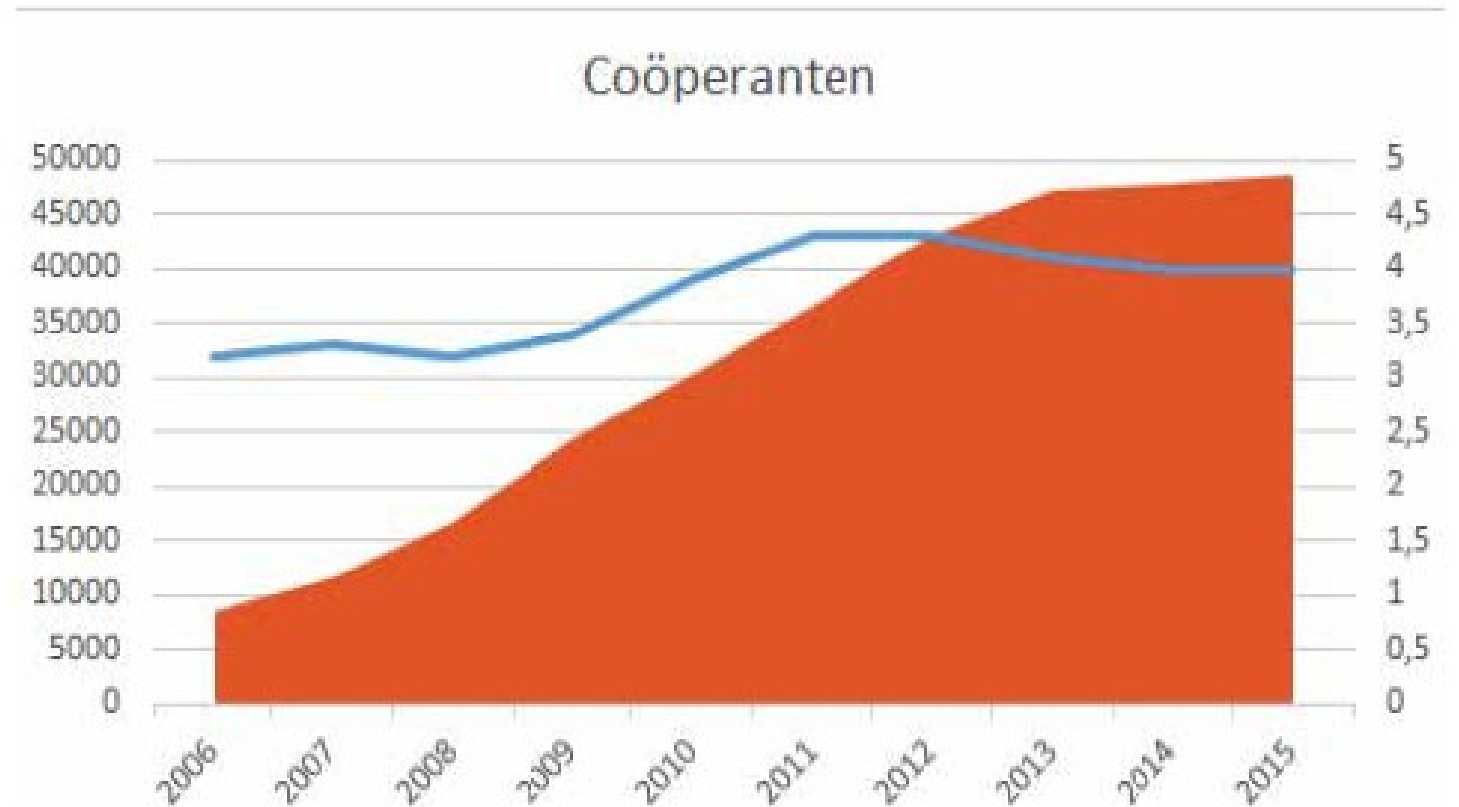
Naam en rechtsvorm	Ecopower cvba		
Jaar	2013	2014	2015
Coöperanten (aantal)	47.419	48.004	48.833
Aandelen (aantal)	193.315	194.017	194.830
Personeelsleden (aantal)	24	27	34
Personeelsleden (VTE)	23	25	30
Omzet (euro)	25.700.000	24.413.827	29.230.437
Andere bedrijfsopbrengsten (euro)	5.995.752	6.036.951	6.296.785
Te bestemmen winstsaldo (euro)	990.256	1.700.317	1.939.006
Totaal vermogen/balanstotaal (euro)	66.202.021	66.779.477	83.927.652
Kapitaal (euro)	48.328.750	48.504.250	48.707.500
Schulden op meer dan een jaar (euro)	0	0	4.500.000

- 61 M€ investments in hydro, sun, wind, biomass
- 48.833 members
- 48,7 M€ equity, share 250€, average 4 shares
- supplier since 2003: 1,5% market share households
- 100% own production by the end of 2016:
  - 100 GWh electricity
  - up to 40.000 tons/y woodpellets/briquettes from local wood
- largest REScoop in Europe (members)

# Ecopower



## participation



# Ecopower



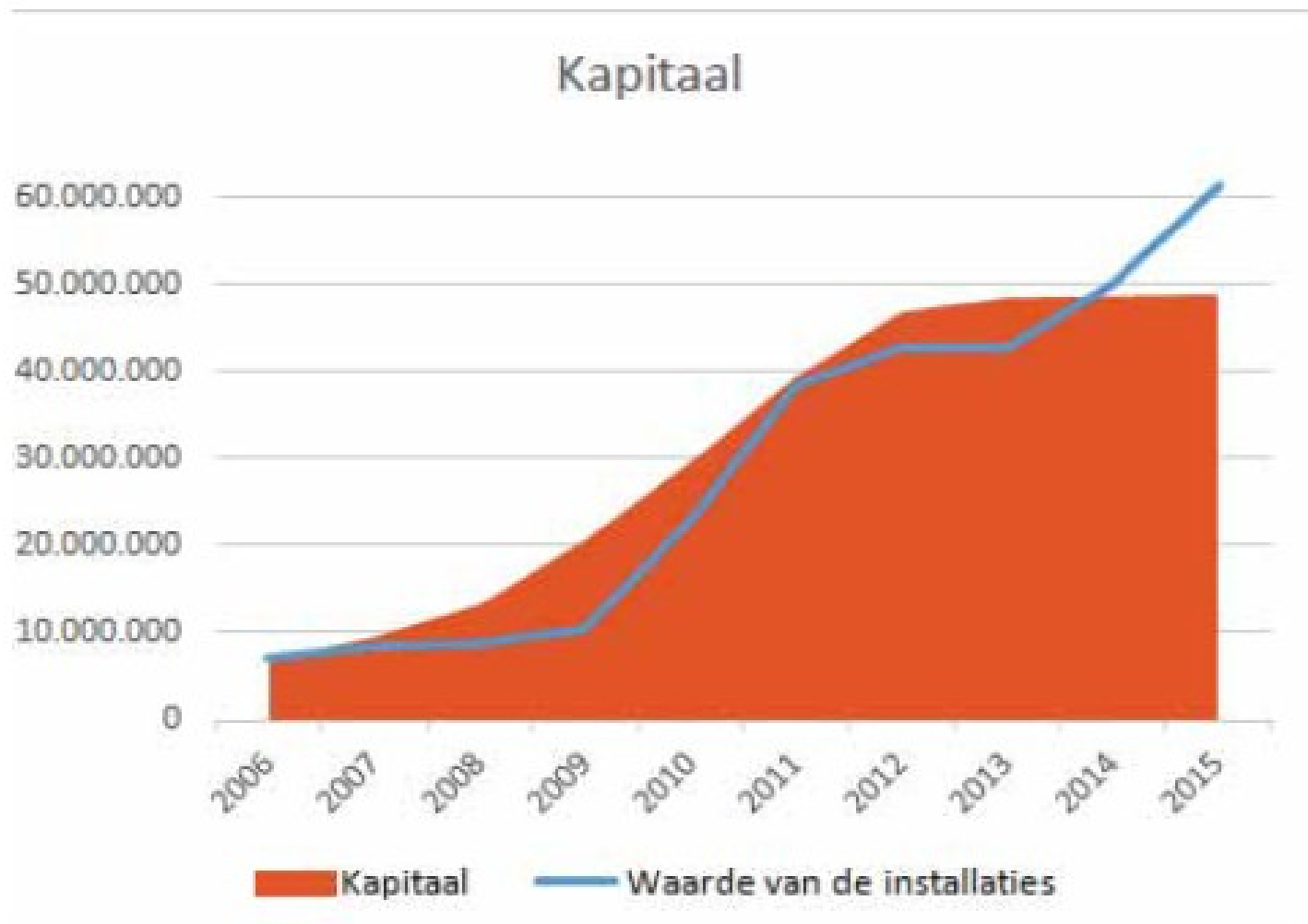
# cooperation



# Ecopower



## equity



# Ecopower



## investments

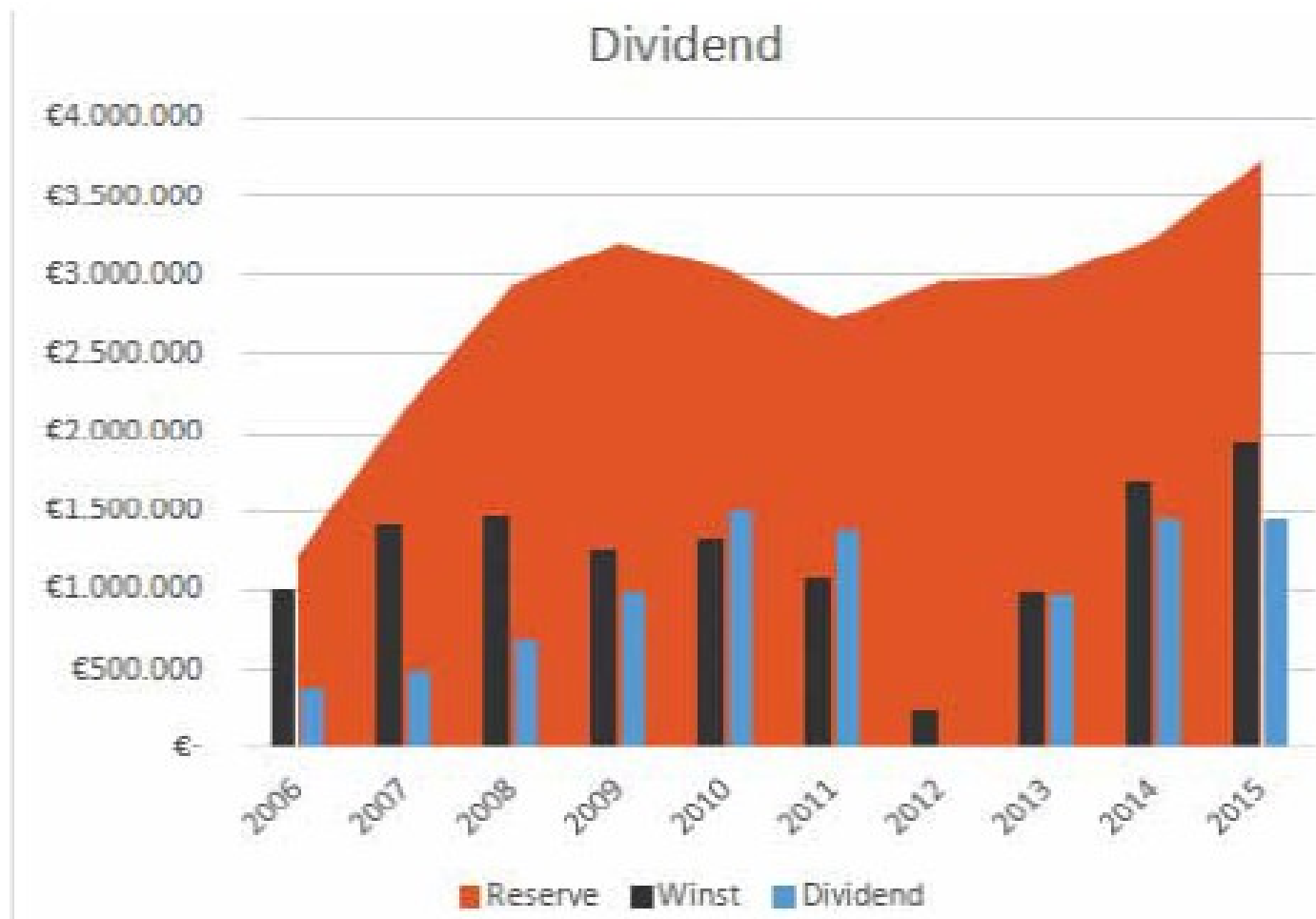
Waarde van de installaties



# Ecopower



## dividend





# Ecopower



**staff**



**24**



*Mannen*

**10**



*Vrouwen*

*A: arbeider*

*B: bediende*

*groen: nieuw in 2015*

# Ecopower



# education



# Ecopower



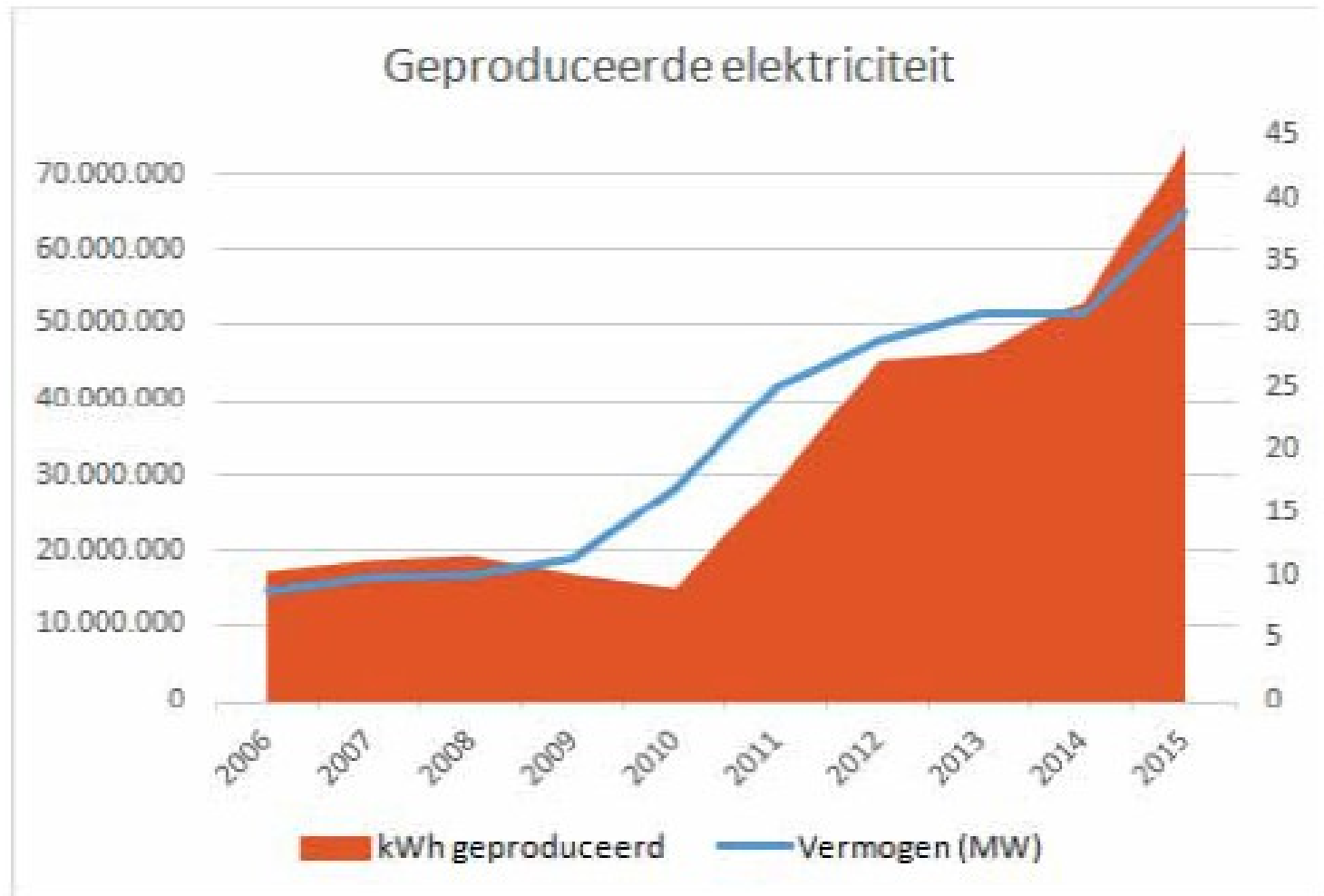
## production

Bron	Locatie	Start	Investering (€)	Vermogen	Productie 2015 (kWh)
Wind	Eeklo 1	2001/2002	4.125.000	4,2 MW	7.931.725
	Eeklo 2	2011	6.430.000	4,6 MW	11.474.740
	Gent	2005	4.700.000	4,4 MW	8.521.998
	Gistel	2007	810.000	0,76 MW	1.735.000
	Doornik/Dour	2010/2011	7.060.000	4,6 MW	11.294.918
	Waimes	2011	3.800.000	2,3 MW	4.702.800
	Mesnil	2012	4.150.000	2,3 MW	4.655.373
	Essen-Kalmthout	2013	2.700.000	2,05 MW	5.249.092
	Asse	2015	10.375.000	8,2 MW	16.170.247
Waterkracht	Overijse	2003	720.000	0,1 MW	348.840
	Rotselaar	2004			
	Schoonhoven	2010			
Zonnepanelen	322 installaties bij coöperanten en scholen	2007-2013	14.570.000	5,26 MW	1.640.810 + lokaal verbruik
Biomassa	Ham	2014	11.750.000		7.800 ton

# Ecopower



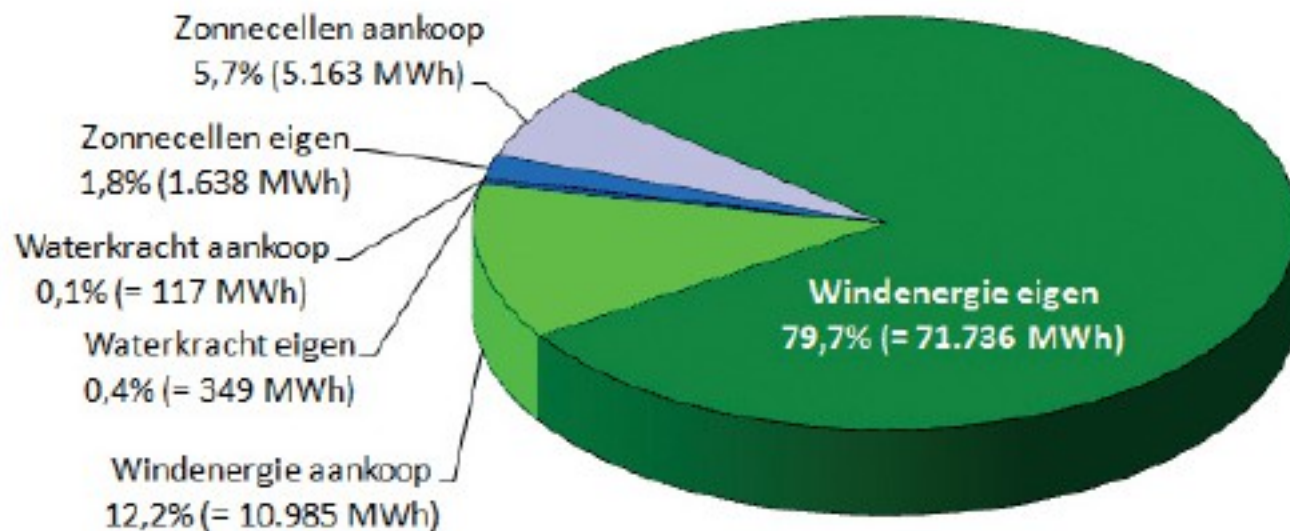
## production



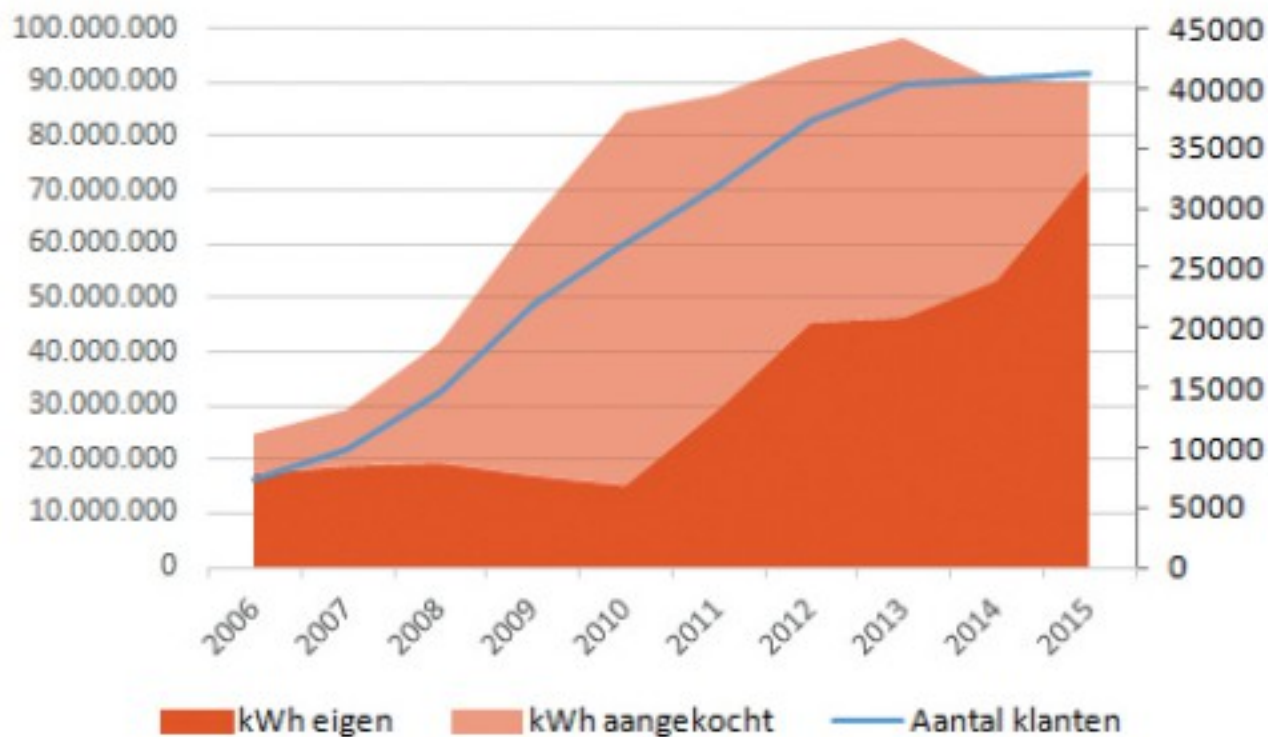
# Ecopower



## supply



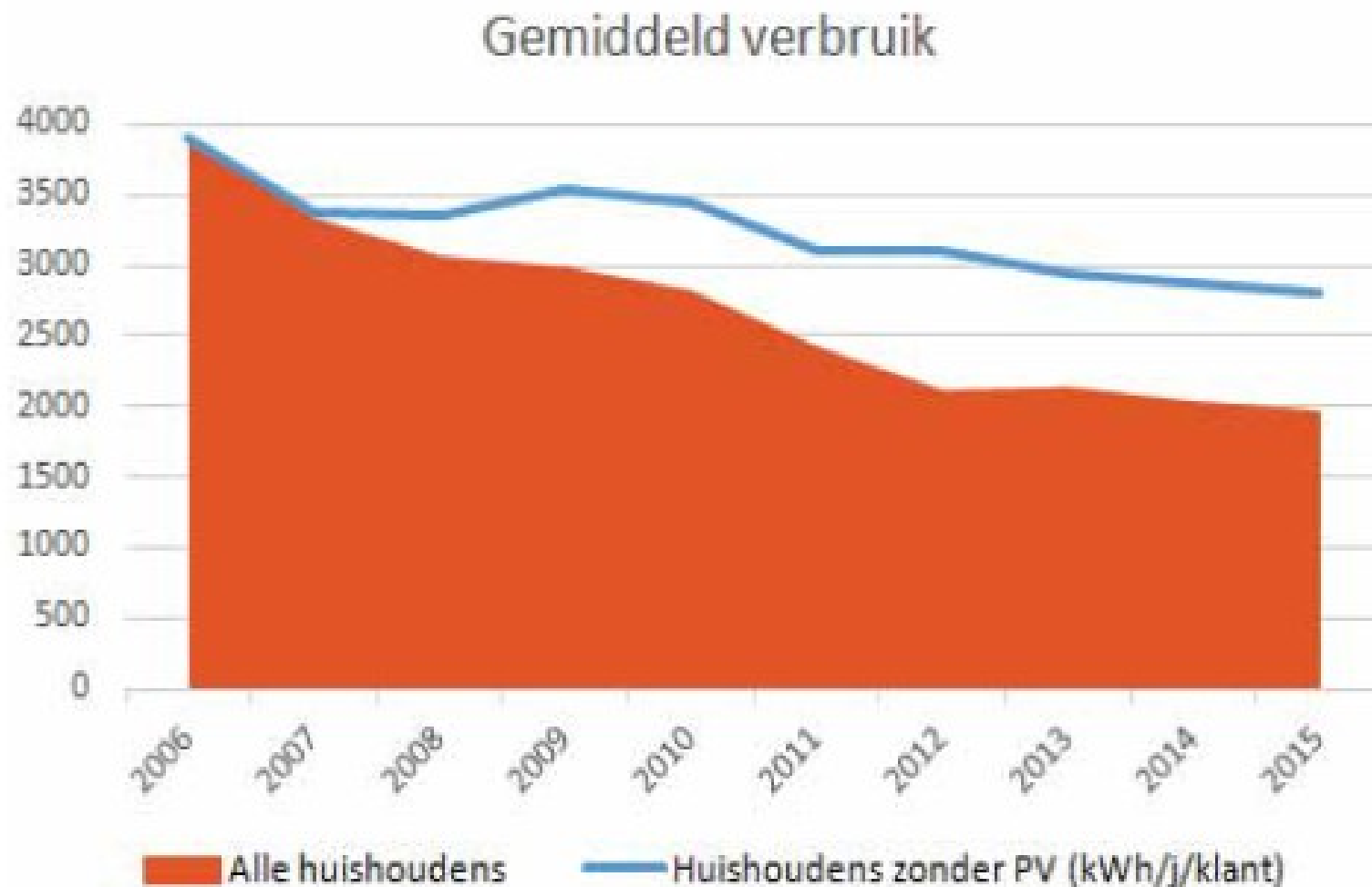
Verkochte hernieuwbare elektriciteit / klanten



# Ecopower



## average consumption





# Ecopower members are prosumers

## Privately:

- 41 % of 41.341 client/members have PV panels
- 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

# **Ecopower**



## **approach**

- Asse

- Beersel

- Schoten

- Eeklo



# What is a REScoop?

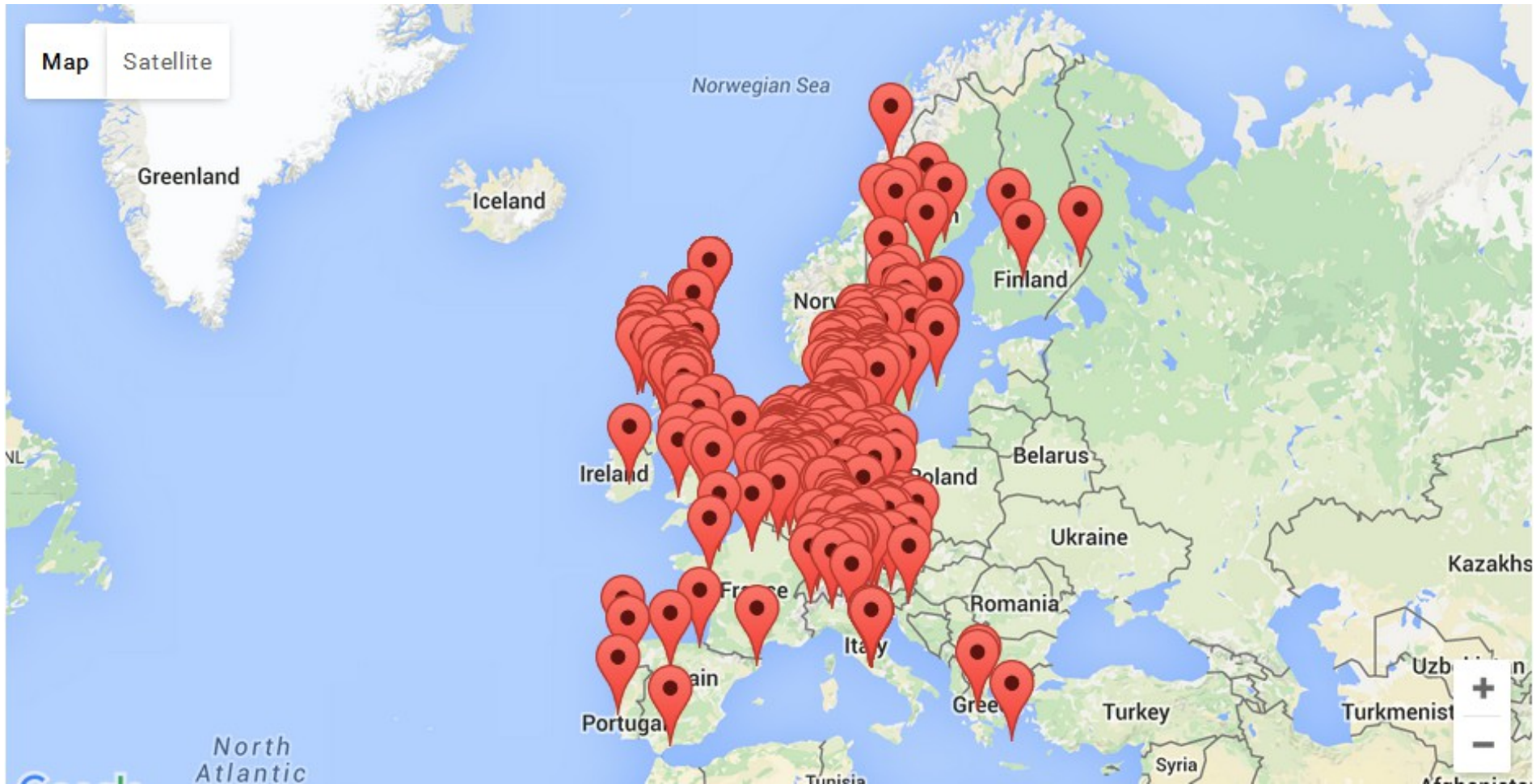
- REScoop short for  
Renewable Energy Sources COOPerative
- a REScoop is an open group of citizens who co-operate on renewable energy or energy efficiency (production, distribution, supply, services), also called 'community energy initiatives'
  - regardless their legal entity
- [www.rescoop.eu](http://www.rescoop.eu)



# What is REScoop.eu?

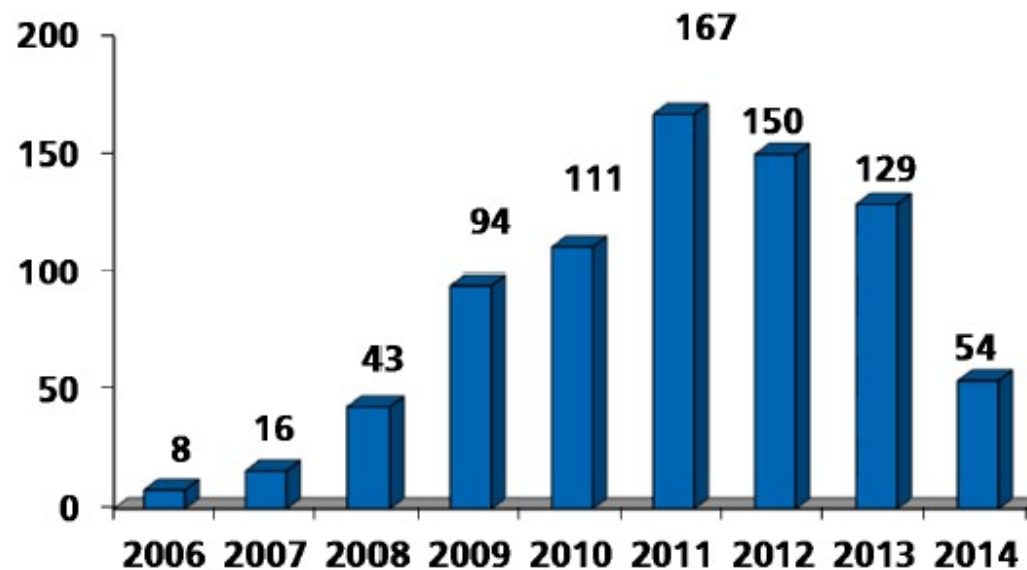
- European federation
- formally founded end of 2013 by Ecopower (BE), De Windvogel (NL), Enercoop (FR) and Somenergia (ES)
- members: national federations of REScoops or REScoops
- now: Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Greece, Ireland, UK, Croatia, Portugal, (Brazil, South Africa)
- represents half of the more than 3000 known REScoops
- member of Cooperatives Europe (ICA)
- advocacy at EU level and develops services for members in collaboration with 'Community Energy Coalition'

# Where can you find REScoops?



# Most of them very new REScoops

- e.g. Germany: 800 since 2006
- but: tendering of support (implementation of EU State Aid Guidelines) has negative effect on creation of new REScoops



# Some century old REScoops

- Italy: South Tyrol: production, distribution and supply, but now unbundling?
- e.g. E-werk Prad, South Tirol (IT) and SEV



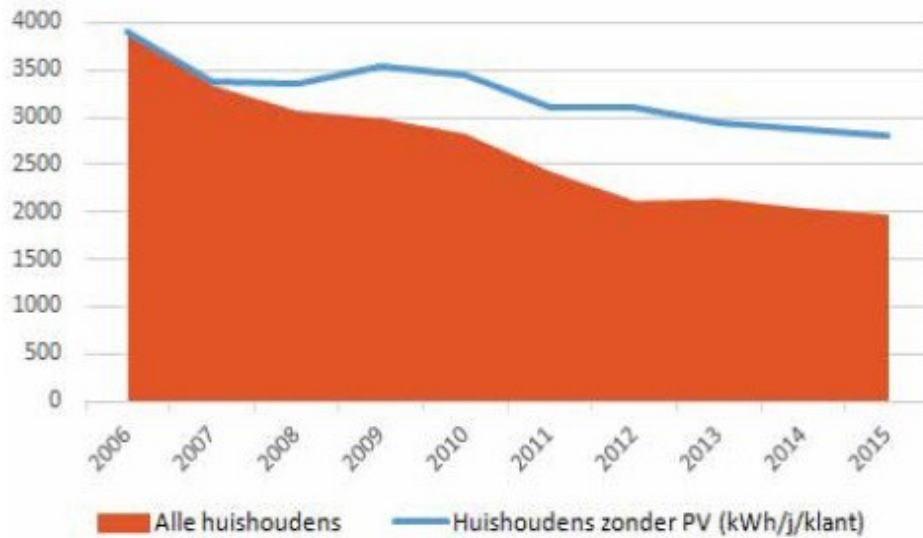
# Completely absent REScoops

- Eastern Europe: coop connotated with communism...



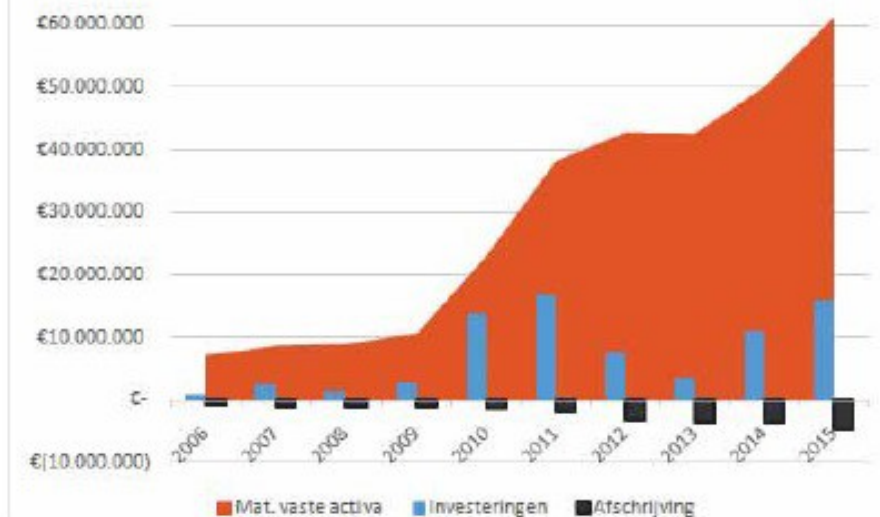
# The energy transition is unleashed

Gemiddeld verbruik



- from fossil/nuclear fuels to renewable energy
- from wasting to saving energy
- from centralised to a more decentralised production
- growing number prosumers
  - private at home: PV/ST
  - together: REScoops or CEI

Waarde van de installaties



# Example: the energy transition in Belgium

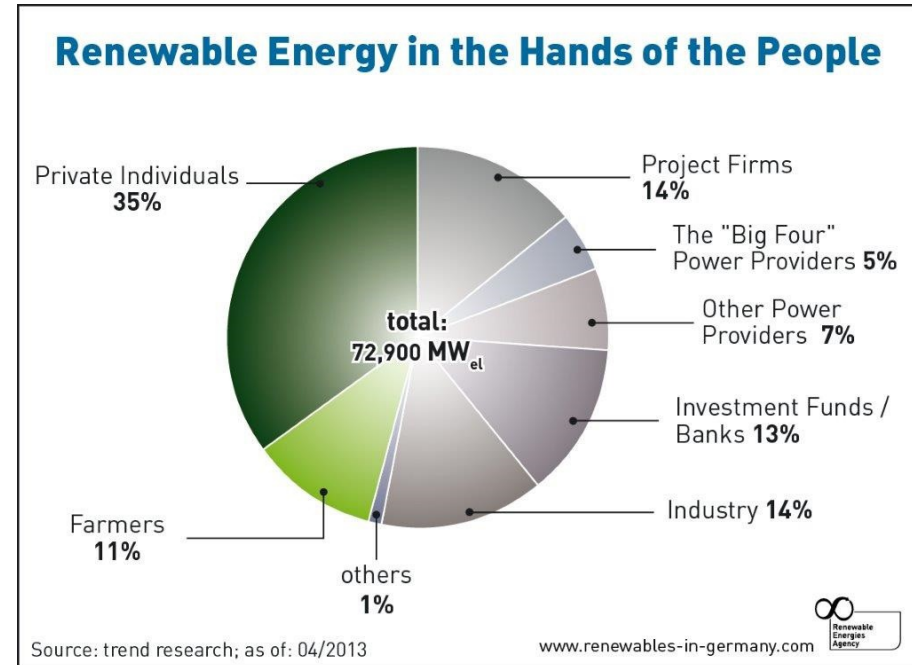
- is being payed by citizens
  - as consumers (green certificates: 90% for small consumers)
  - as tax payers
  - when having savings in the bank
- is a unique opportunity for citizens to choose whether
  - to stay passive and undergo
  - to become active and...





# The energy transition in Belgium

- until now: low hanging fruit
- 4% owned by BE citizens / in Germany close to 50% in 2013
- VITO/Federal Planning Bureau: 400 B€ investments needed for energy transition until 2050
- savings (BE): 250 B€?
- cost import energy: 20 B€/yr?
- public awareness, acceptance and participation citizens in investment is essential



# **REScoop.eu recommendations to policy makers and citizens in Europe**

- Keep the common goods in the hands of citizens
- Keep production/profits as local as possible
- Keep the transmission and distribution networks in the hands of citizens/prosumers
- Spread and join the REScoop-movement across Europe

# Keep production in the hands of citizens



- local energy production should stay in hands of local people
  - money for energy stays in local economy
  - up to 240.000 €/y/windturbine
- authorities should promote:
  - direct participation
  - citizen owned energy projects
  - selfconsumption (private and cooperative renewable energy production)

# Join and spread the REScoop movement



- join an existing REScoop
- start a new local REScoop
  - bring people around kitchen table
  - professional advice on REScoops: REScoop.eu and its mentor network
  - professional advice on coops: eg. Febecoop and Coopburo (BE)
- REScoop MECISE: tools
  - Horizon 2020 program EU project
  - links RE with EE
  - links REScoops with municipalities
  - REScoop revolving fund



Mobilizing European Citizens to Invest in Sustainable Energy

# Community energy coalition



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