

The introduction of clean energy technologies can be greatly accelerated by involving individuals and communities in addition to the large entities generally undertaking projects.

As a member of a renewable energy cooperative (www.ecoop.org.il) I would encourage the CEFC to support such cooperatives (which are generally for profit initiatives, e.g. windshare.ca). This support can come in the form of regulatory changes allowing coops to buy, install, and benefit from various renewable/efficiency projects, as well as direct financial support for instance in the form of matching investments that allow the coop to develop larger projects.

Beyond financial viability it strikes us that community involvement in green energy initiatives has value in itself and thus could be considered as an external or hidden benefit in analogy to the consideration of emissions impacts as external or hidden costs. To this end subsidies or the like based on these considerations could be introduced.

The CEFC might do well to consider partnering with renewable energy cooperatives as this would provide a way to bridge the gap between large corporate projects (which will generally provide no direct financial benefit to the individual or community) and small household investments in renewable energy (which due to their small scale will generally provide a lower return on investment).

In our experience funds availability has been a limiting factor; thus any methods for encouraging green-sector lending would help, for instance loan guarantees, matching loans, and the like.

Respectfully,
Hanan.

--

Hanan Einav Levy
Wind energy specialist