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Community renewable energy at a crossroads: A think piece on degrowth, technology, and the democratization of the German energy system

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**Community Renewable Energy at a Crossroads: A Think Piece on  
Degrowth, Technology, and the Democratization of the German Energy  
System**

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of technology – Practical approaches (planned as a “think piece” of  
approximately 4,000 words)

**ABSTRACT:** Degrowth activists and scholars have questioned society’s current levels of material throughput and energy use. The energy sector is at the core of any modern economy, and Germany serves as an international showcase for the transition of a large industrialized economy to a low-carbon energy system. Diverse actors, organizational models, and technologies have contributed to the initiation of Germany’s energy transition through a wide range of community renewable energy projects. The think piece investigates how far these diverse actors embrace the aims of the Degrowth movement. It also provides a critical account of on-the-ground realities through six hypotheses and contrasts them with claims

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