

A photograph of a wind farm with several white wind turbines. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The sun is visible in the upper right quadrant, creating a lens flare effect. The turbines are silhouetted against the sky, with the closest one in sharp focus.

# Report Release

# Outline

## Overview of RECs and Data Collection

- Chapters 1-4

## Barriers, Enablers, and Trends

- Chapters 5-8

## Recommendations and Next Steps

- Chapters 9-10

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVES (CCSC)

## A Census of Renewable Energy Co-operatives in Canada

Author(s): **Marc-André Pigeon**, Director, Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and Assistant Professor, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

**Martin Boucher**, Faculty Lecturer, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

**Renata Leonhardt**, PhD student, University of Victoria

February 2022

[usaskstudies.coop](http://usaskstudies.coop)



# Why RECs in Canada?

## Respond to climate change

- Increase pressure and need to reduce emissions

## Overcome the challenge of provincial silos

- Energy markets different from market-to-market

## Enhance communities

- RECs are democratically controlled and can generate local economic opportunities

## Limited research on RECs in Canada

- Our report is first of its kind in the country



# Research Questions

What is the current state of affairs for RECs in Canada?

How can RECs overcome obstacles and leverage opportunities within the Canadian market?

# Data Collection

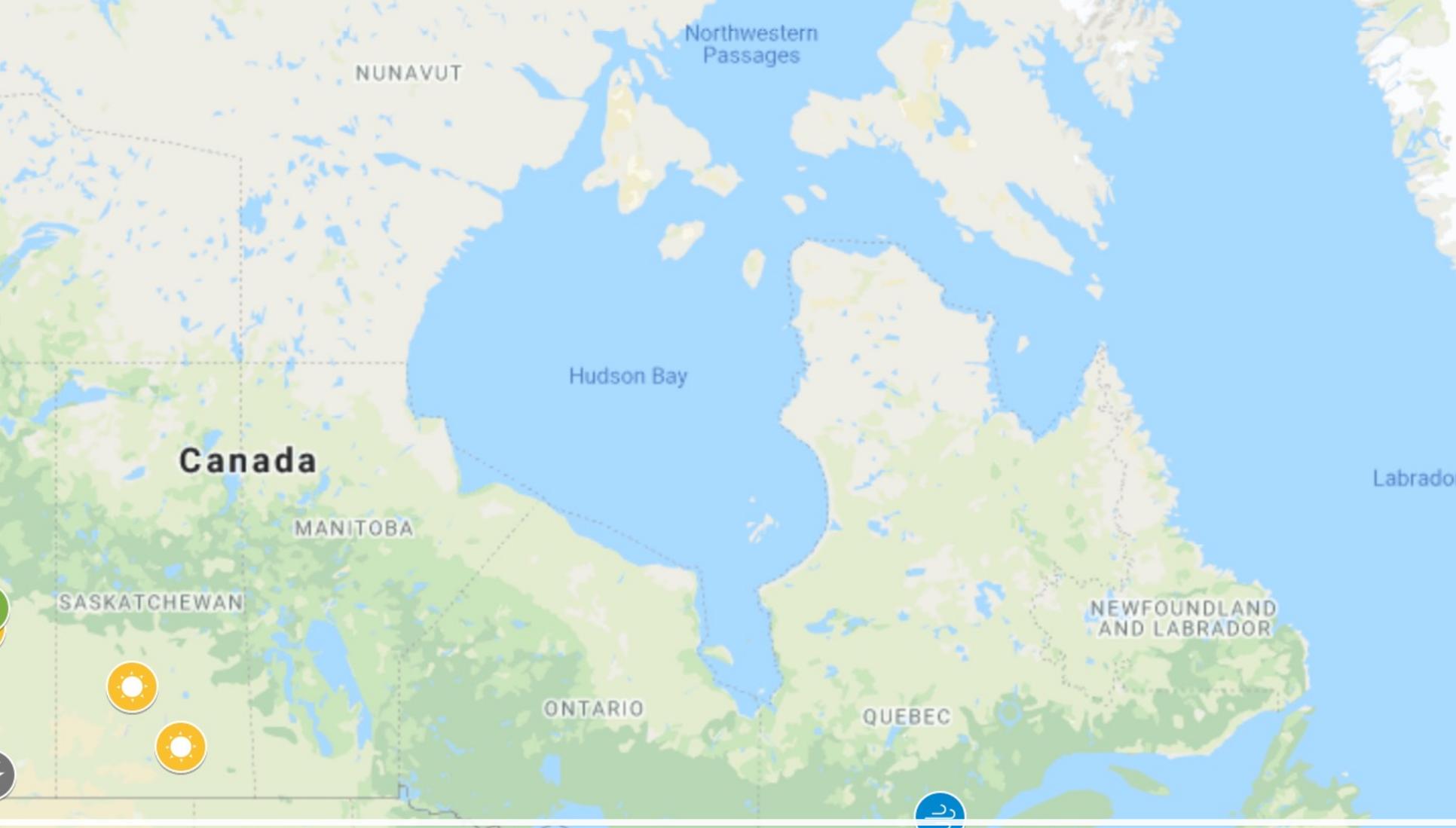
## Desk Research

- Demographics
- Mapping
- Energy mix
- Board make-up
- Type of co-op

## Interviews

- Barriers
- Enablers
- Trends
- Next steps

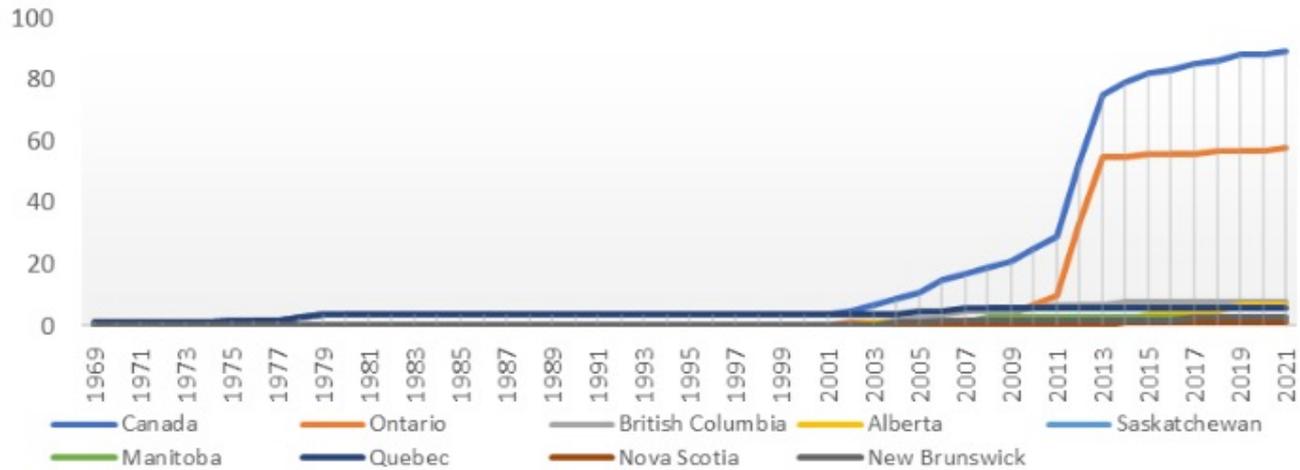




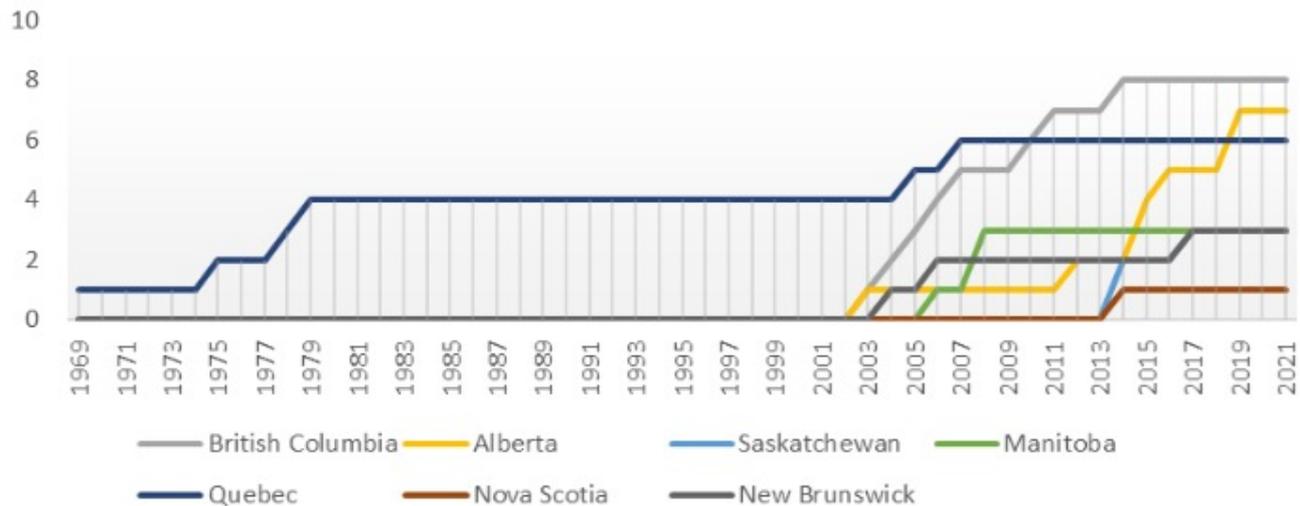
# REC Census Database



**Figure 4: Growth of RECs across Canada and in the provinces considering the foundation date<sup>4</sup>**



**Figure 5: RECs across provinces considering the foundation date, excluding Ontario**





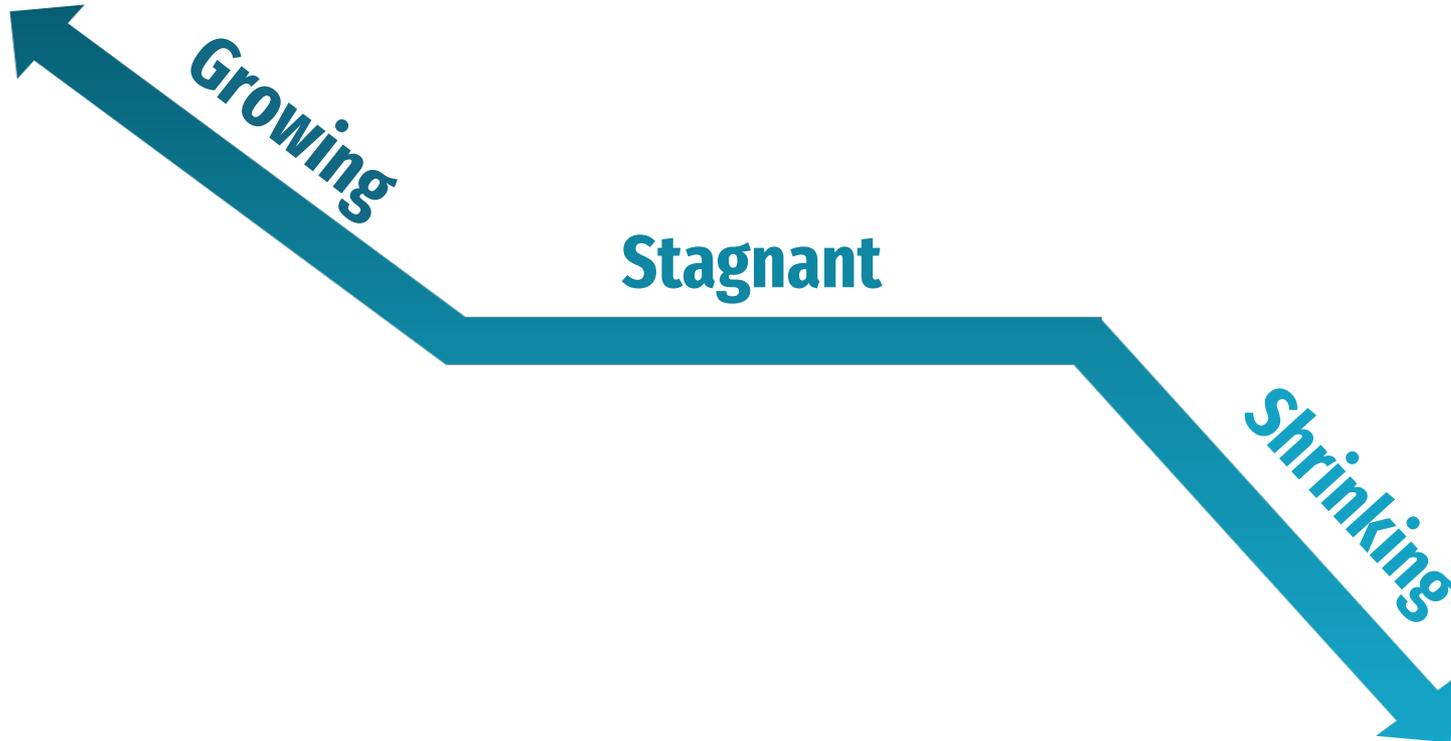
# Interviews

# Participant's overview: Geographic distribution

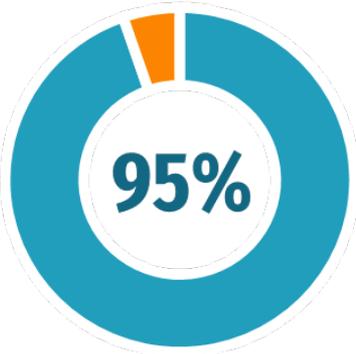


## Current Status of RECs in Canada: interviews

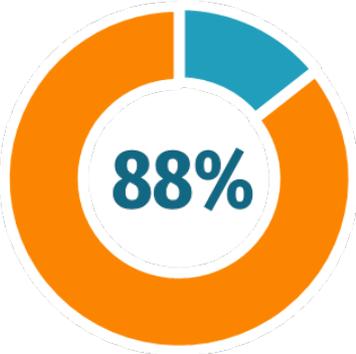
“How would you characterize the REC sector in your province or in Canada?”



# Perceptions of public and policy-makers interest in RECs

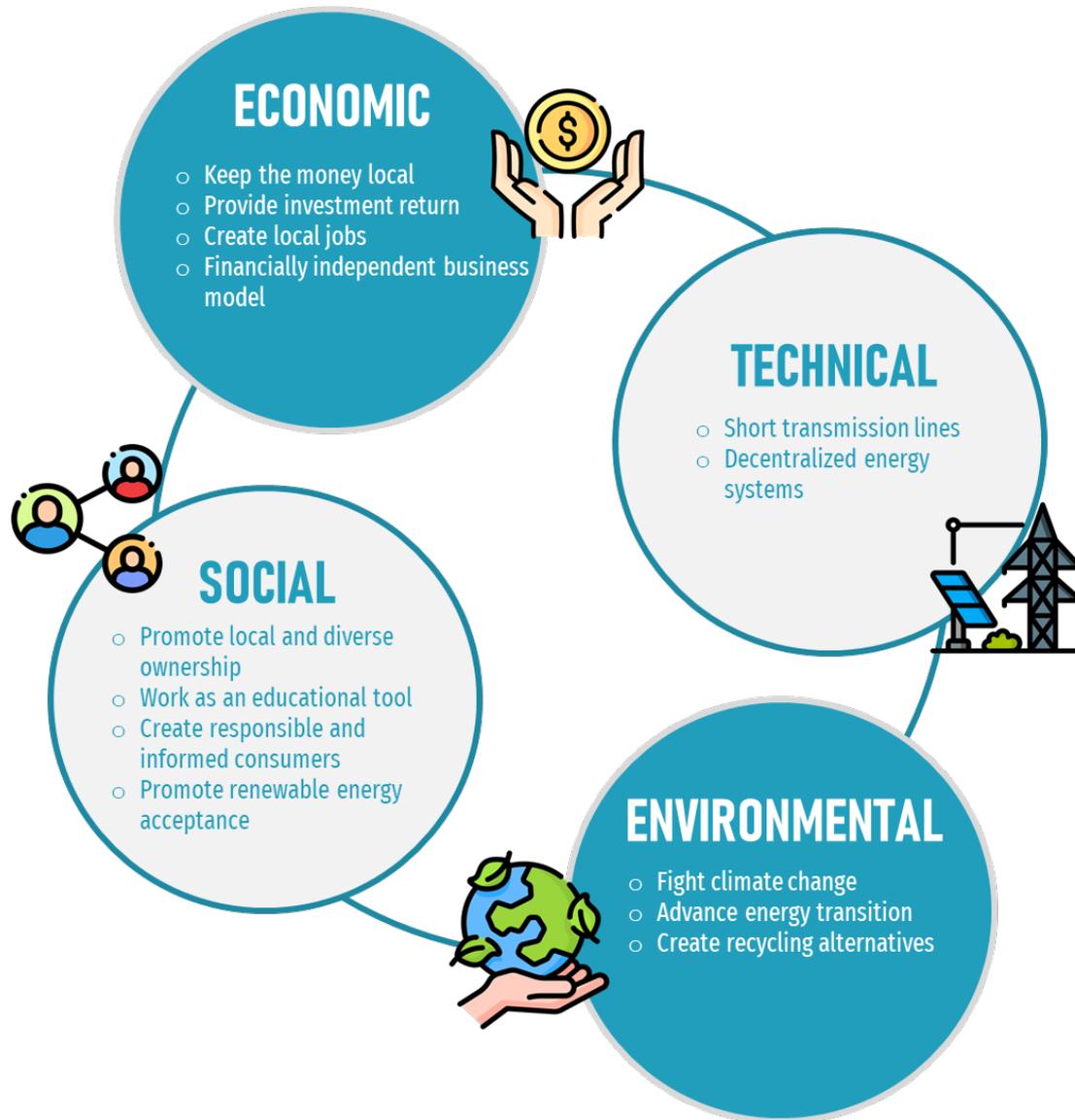


think that the **general public** is interested in RECs

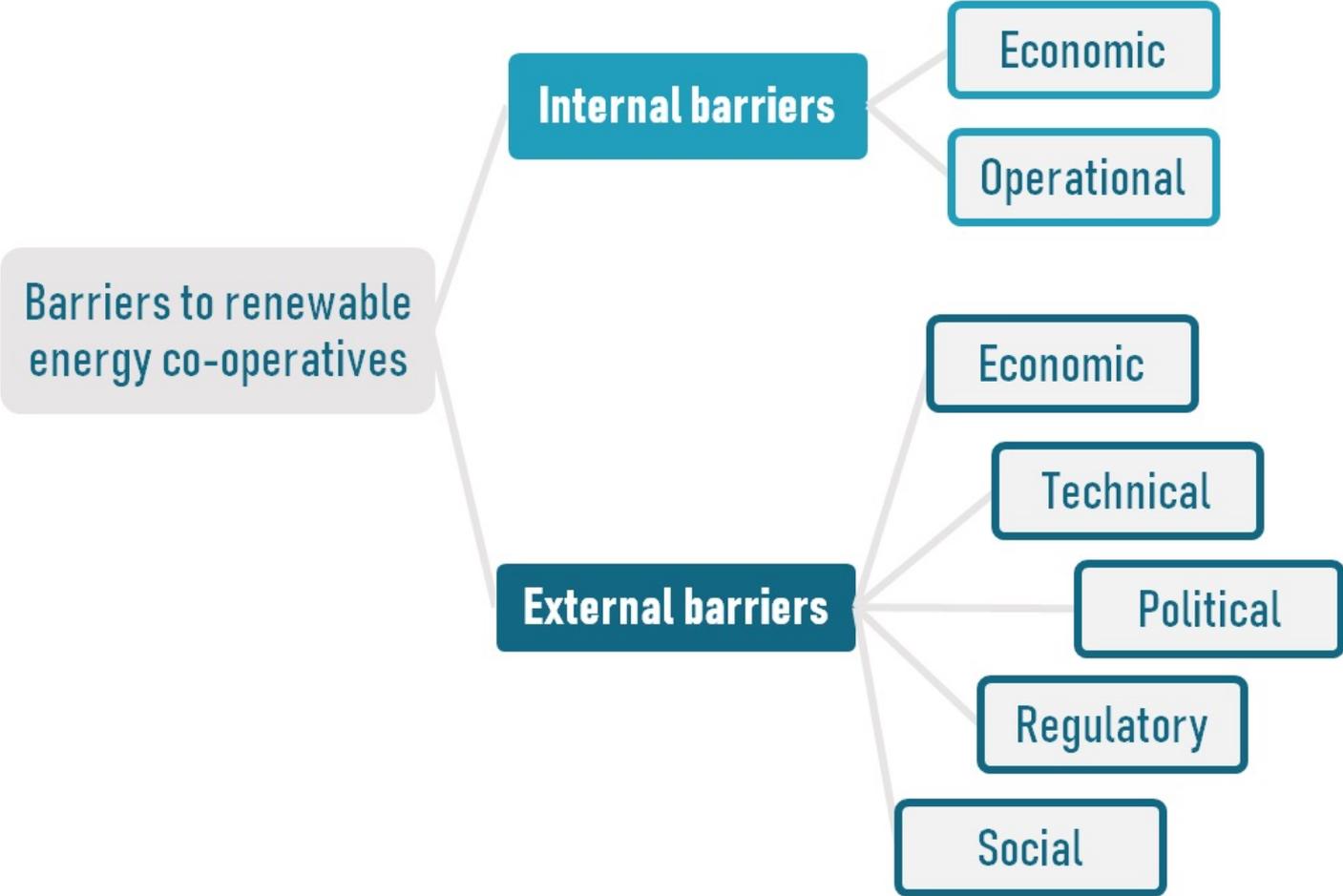


think that **policy-makers** don't see value in RECs

# Benefits of RECs



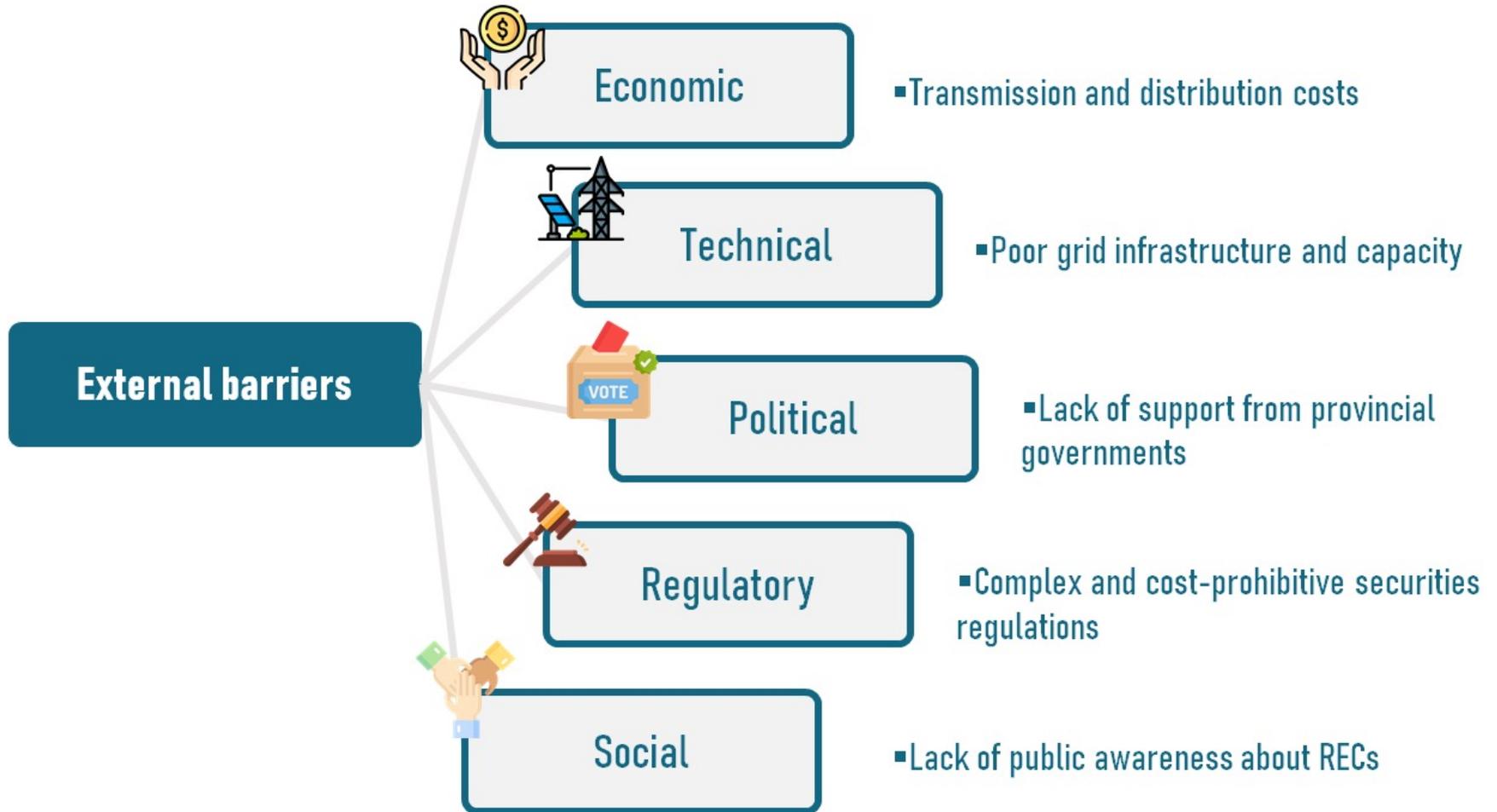
# Barriers to RECs



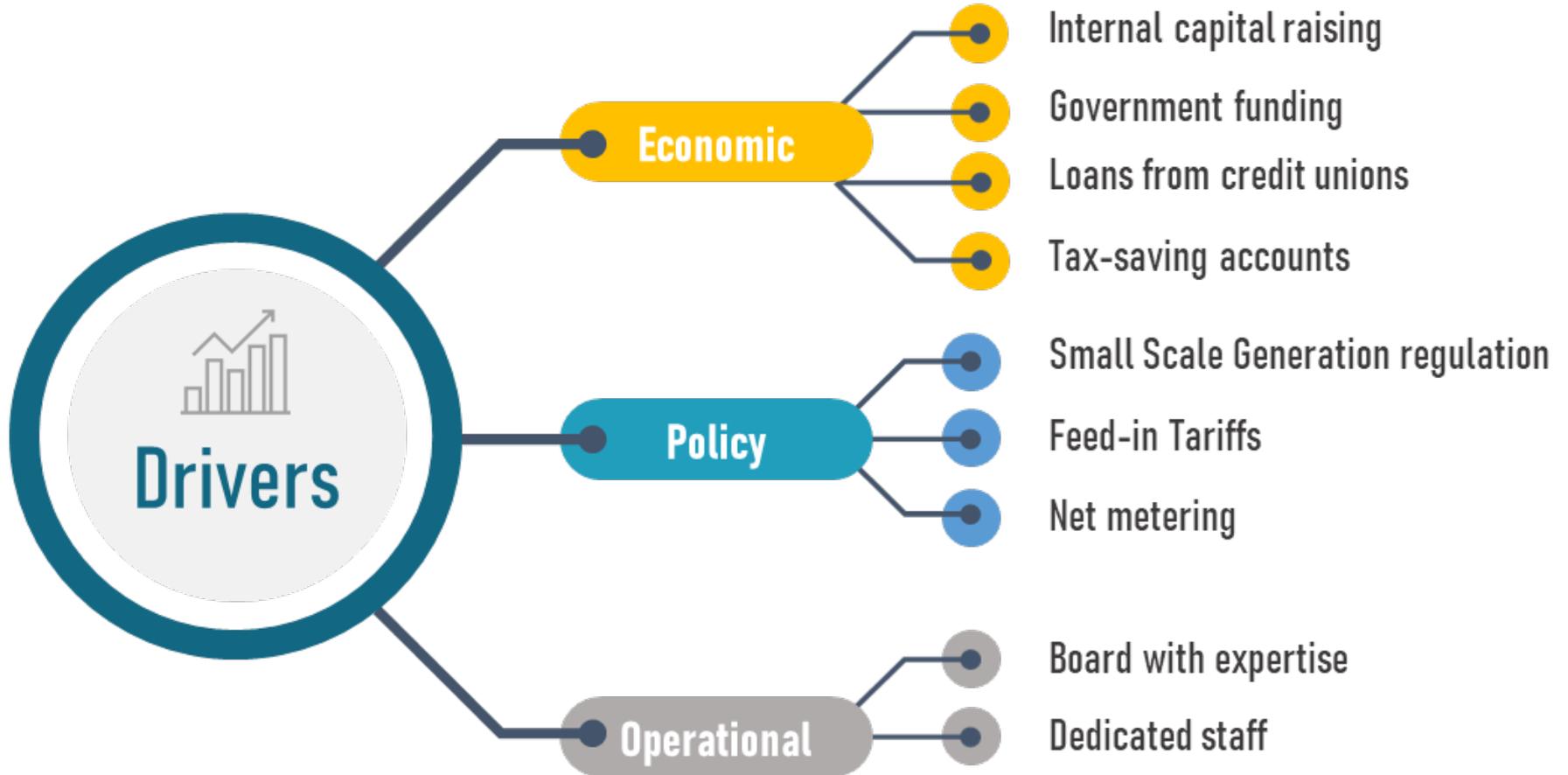
# Barriers to RECs - Internal barriers



# Barriers to RECs – External barriers



# Drivers and enablers



# Future perspectives

## Leveraging Opportunities in the Next Five Years

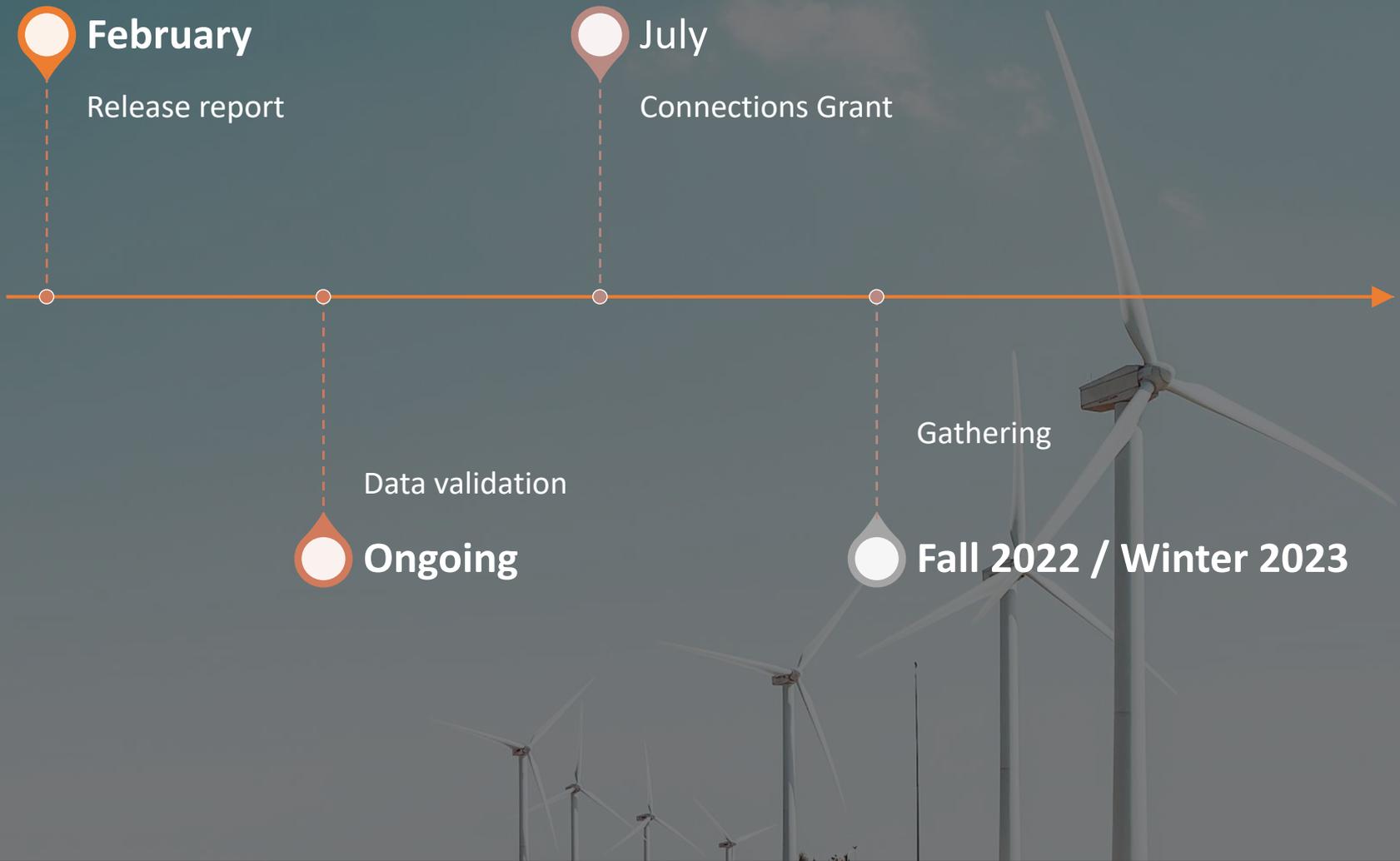
	Preferred	Possible	Probable
Changes in policies and legislation			
Government support and engagement			
Public engagement and participation			

# Recommendations

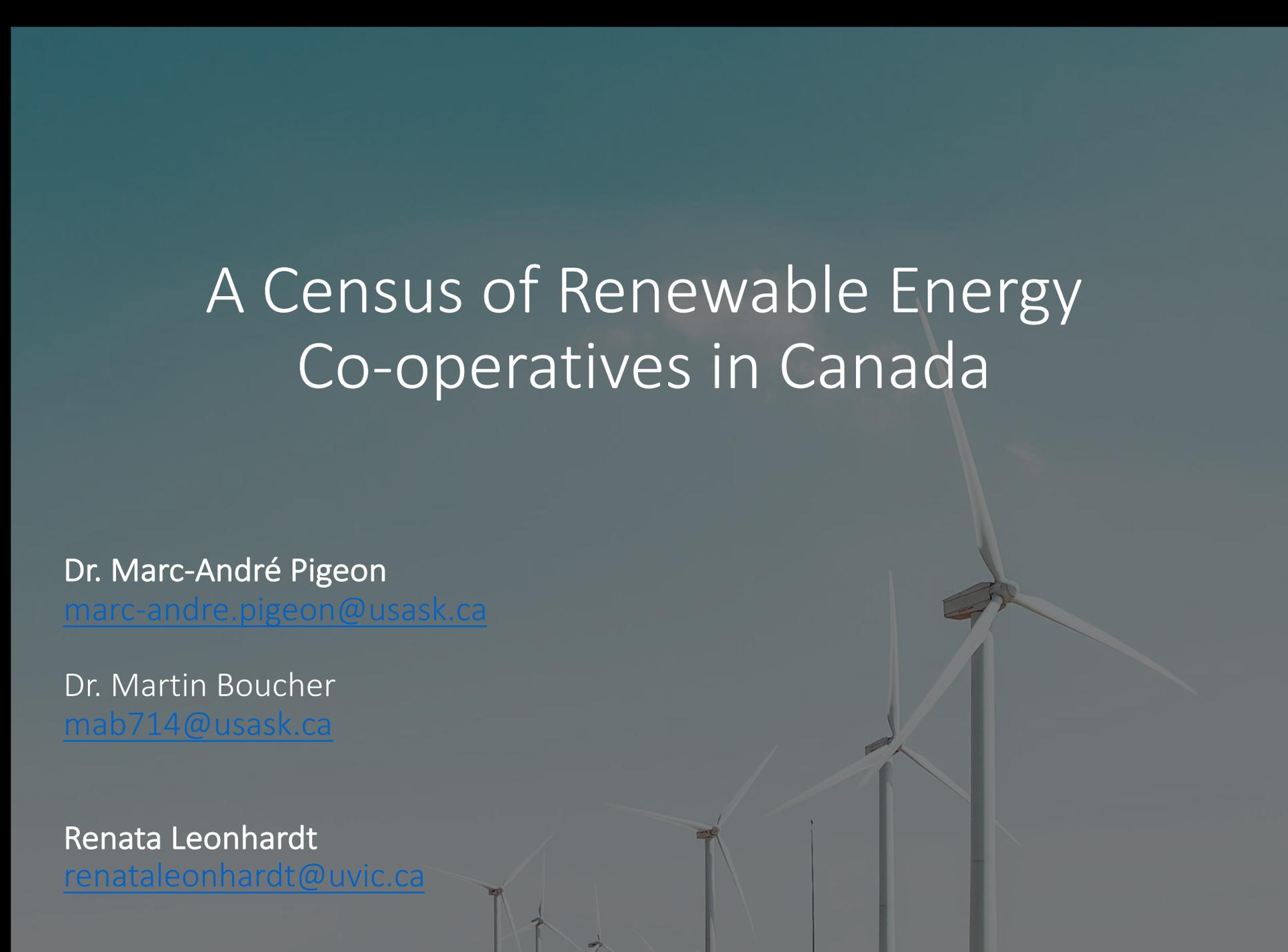
1. Validate data in map
2. Seek funding to support an event
3. Create a League



# Timing



# A Census of Renewable Energy Co-operatives in Canada



Dr. Marc-André Pigeon

[marc-andre.pigeon@usask.ca](mailto:marc-andre.pigeon@usask.ca)

Dr. Martin Boucher

[mab714@usask.ca](mailto:mab714@usask.ca)

Renata Leonhardt

[renataleonhardt@uvic.ca](mailto:renataleonhardt@uvic.ca)