

Grassroots energy transformation.  
The support is there, so why aren't  
we moving forward?

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# Amory Lovins - hard vs. soft energy path

„(...) the energy problem should be not how to expand supplies to meet the postulated extrapolative needs of a dynamic economy, but rather how to accomplish social goals elegantly with a minimum energy and effort (...)“

*Amory Lovins, 1977*



# Amory Lovins - hard vs. soft energy path

- Hard energy path
  - Centralized energy production;
  - Reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear energy
  - Big players dominate the power sector and shape states' policies

# Amory Lovins - hard vs. soft energy path

- Soft energy path
  - Distributed energy production close to the consumer;
  - Renewable sources of energy as a solution to the issues of energy security and environmental issues;
  - Power as the mean to a better life, not goal in itself;
  - Local production would empower power consumers by making them independent from the big energy companies

# From theory to reality... 30 years later

- In Germany in 2012 there were:
  - 754 energy cooperatives
  - August 2012 – 1.223.000 PV plants in Germany installed
  - Average size of a PV plant – 20 kW
  - 75% of new PV-plants smaller than 10 kW (February 2014)
  - 89% of the society supports further energy transition despite rising energy prices

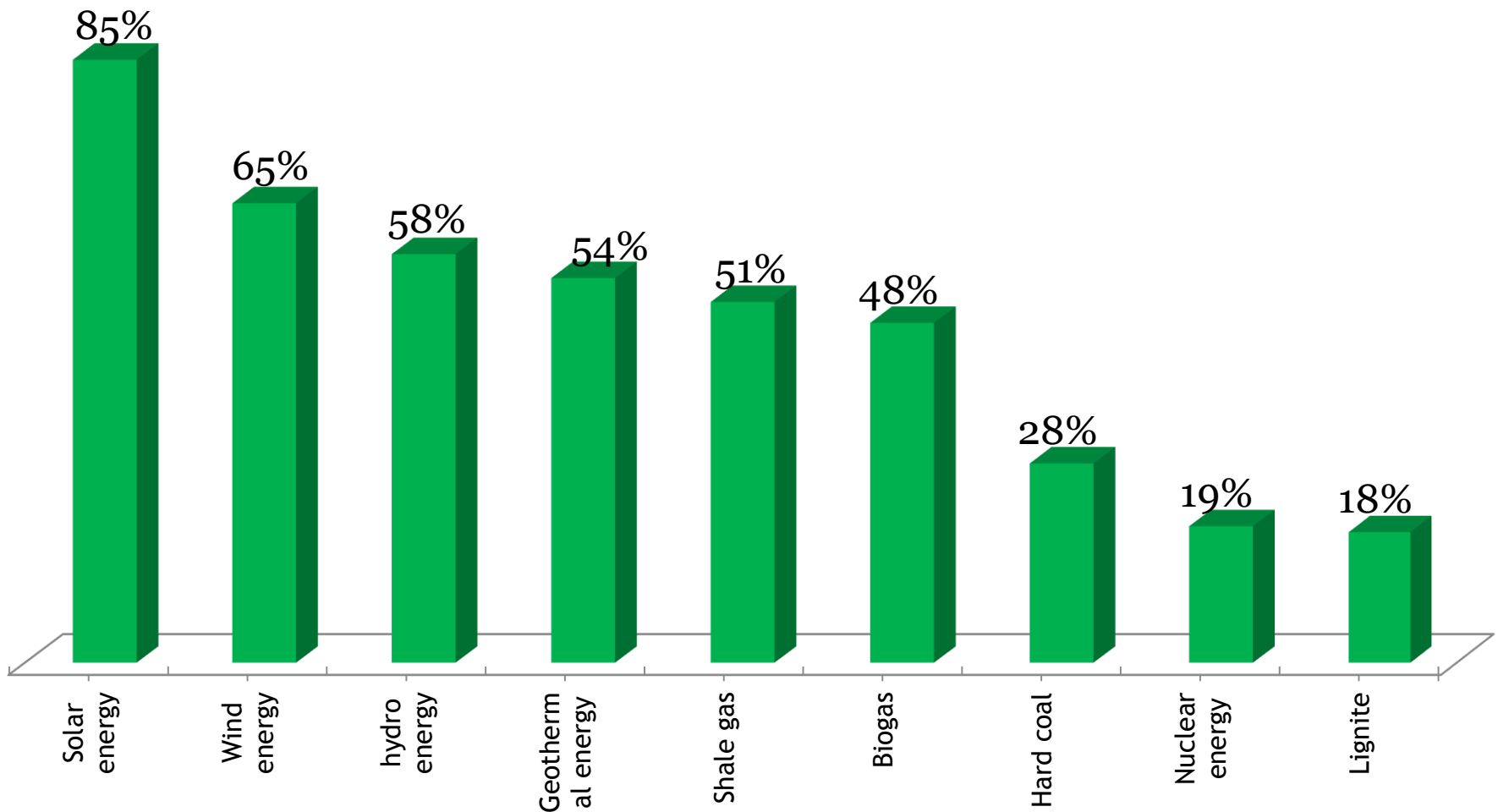
# Meanwhile in Poland

- In most Eastern European Countries, including Poland, power market is dominated by state owned companies;
- „New renewables“ such as wind and solar are playing a very small role;
- Distributed power production is almost non existing;
- Close connections between the governments and the state owned energy companies lead to mismanagement of public money for the benefit of few.

# Support for renewable energy at the local level in Poland is very high

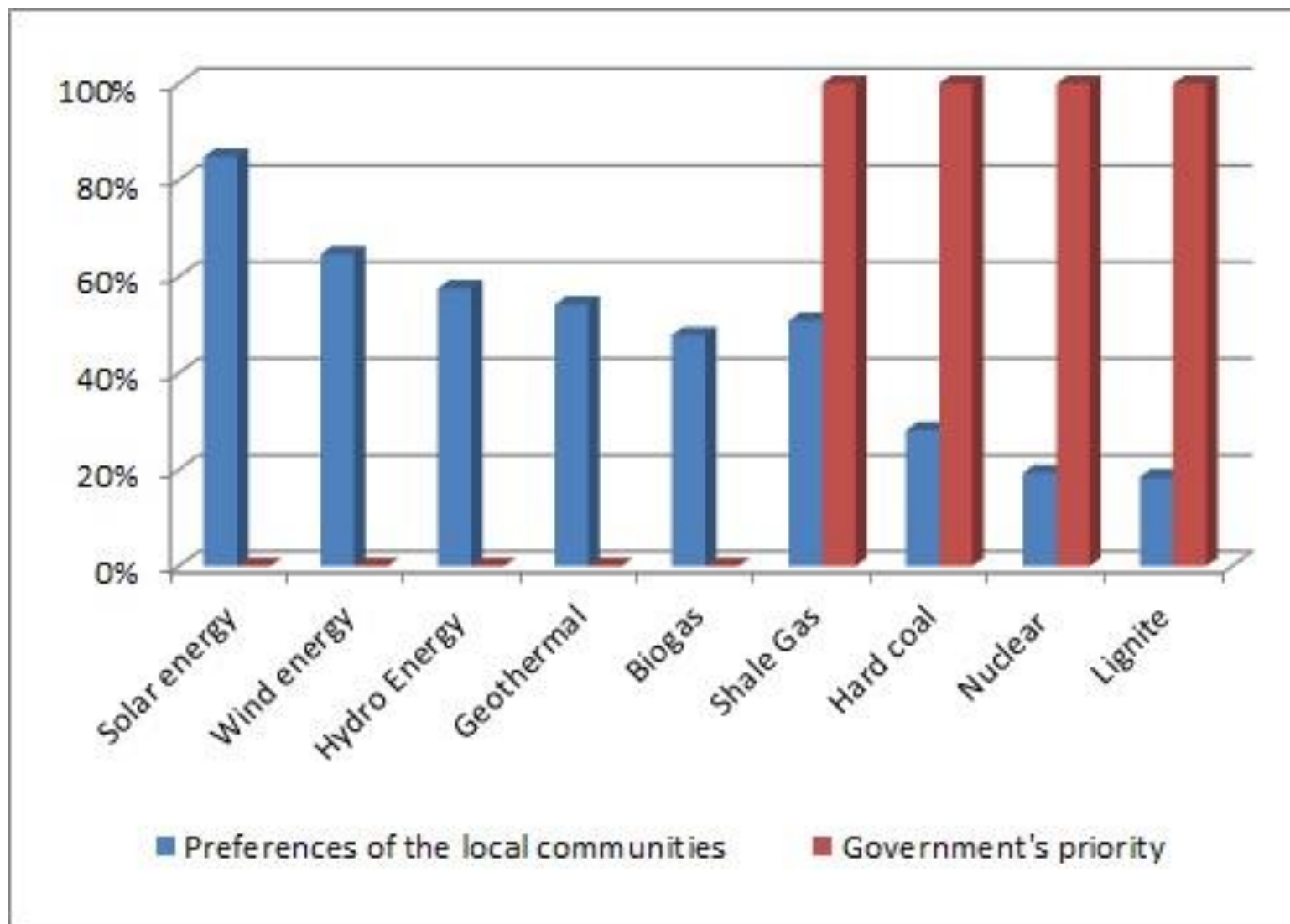
- Survey conducted by CBOS in 2013:
  - 89% of Poles would like to see more energy coming from renewable sources.
  - 16% purport that Poland should develop nuclear energy
- Homo Homini Institute
  - The best source of energy: wind 30%, PV 28%, Nuclear 7%.
- SW Research late 2013
  - According to 95% more energy should be retrieved from renewable energies.

# What sources of energy should be supported in Poland?





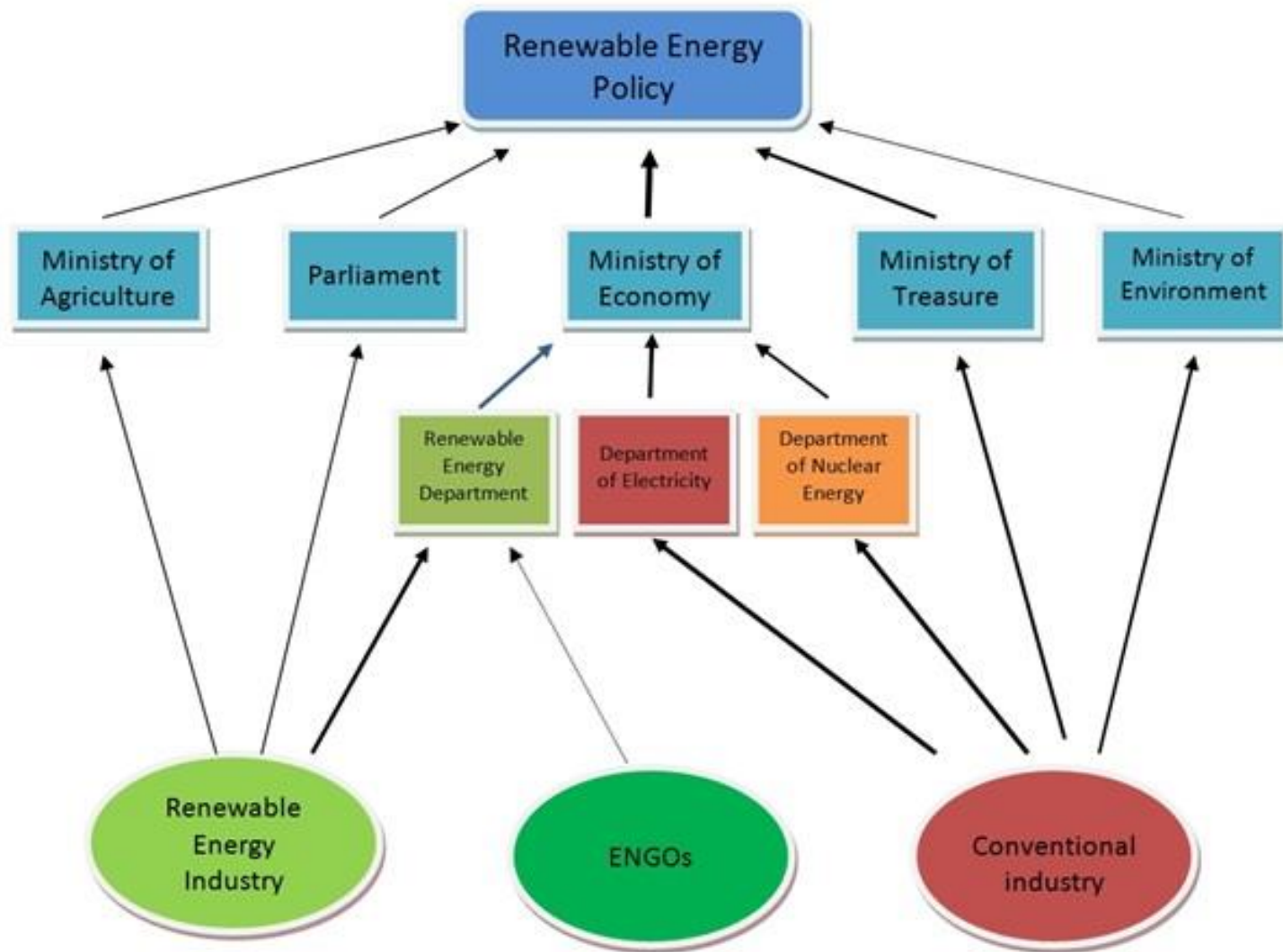
# ...and the government's priorities



# Why is the government's policy not what the population expect?

- Following traditional dependency path?
  - Ambitious climate policy in late 1990s
  - Policy turnaround since 2002
  - Consolidation of the power sector in 2007
- Keeping low prices of electricity?
  - Plans to build nuclear power plant
  - Construction of expensive coal fired power plants in Opole
  - RES support mechanism that's beneficial for 'big energy companies, not the citizens.

# Channels of influence



# Conclusions

- Grassroot change is not enough to instigate policy change;
- The policy is far not only from the options preferred by the majority of the populations but also from that of many stakeholders;
- The influence dependends on the efficiency of the *channels of influence*.