



RAW Energy update March 2018

A message from RAW Energy's President

We need your help!

Apologies for beginning our update like this but it's true!

We are working on a number of projects, some in collaboration with other groups. We need to increase our reach so we can involve a broad cross section of people in our community engagement process. Here's why:

- There is the possibility of at least one solar farm being built in the area that will allow for local investment. We would like to hear from anyone who may be opposed to these developments so that we can gain an understanding of their concerns and see if there is anything that needs to be addressed.
- We need ideas for smaller projects that can be rolled out when funding is available. If a solar farm goes ahead we may receive a monetary benefit to invest in energy education and a perpetual fund.
- Meetings are currently being held for the purpose of setting up a network that will work in partnership with a community energy retailer. For a community energy retailer to succeed, we need to be able to reach as many people as possible in order to create a customer base.

Please!

Forward this newsletter to friends, family and community groups. Encourage them to contact us via our email address in order to be added to our mailing list to receive regular updates.

Another way to stay in touch is by checking our Facebook page as we regularly post updates. Have you liked our page? Can you invite others to do the same? Albury Wodonga has a population of around 100,000 and currently we have a base of around 200. We need to build our numbers and extend our reach.

Next general meeting

You are cordially invited to attend our next meeting.

When: Wednesday 4th April, 5.30pm

Where: Committee room on Level 2 at Wodonga Council.

To reach Wodonga council's committee room, go up the ramp at the council building and it's on the second level. A reminder will be sent around closer to the date. Anyone is welcome to attend and catch up on all the news.

Incorporation

On February 9th, 2018, Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy became an incorporated association! Thanks to everyone for support advice and encouragement through the process of becoming incorporated and our journey thus far, with a special mention to Michelle Wilkinson, Tas Davies and Tim Frazer for their particular work on this.

Below are our 2018 office bearers and committee members:

President: Bobbi McKibbin

Vice President: Michelle Wilkinson

Secretary: Katrina Passey

Treasurer: Tas Davies

Committee members: Jenny Davies, Guy Rowson, Narelle Martin

Membership

Why join RAW Energy?

Our small membership fee supports volunteer work to promote renewable energy in our community. Becoming a member formalises your support for renewable energy projects locally and connects you with volunteers working to achieve our goals.

Who can join? Any community member can join Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy Inc (even if you don't live in Albury-Wodonga)

Membership Fee: \$5 per annum – payable each January. Our membership form is attached to this email.

Towards a Totally Renewable Indi

A case study in community action (March 2018) Communities of Indi creating a future of 100% renewable energy

This is a comprehensive resource with useful links to many regional organisations and local groups including RAW Energy and is available [here](#). The launch of this case study of renewables in Indi coincided with Minister Frydenberg's visit.

Josh Frydenberg visits Indi

On Monday 19th March, Bobbi and Michelle from RAW Energy and Mark Verbaken from Wodonga Council, along with members of local community energy groups, local government reps plus representatives from Mondo Power and Ausnet Services, met with the Federal Minister for Energy and Environment, the Honourable Josh Frydenberg.

What did we learn from the meeting? We learnt that what we have been doing locally apparently isn't being done as widely as we would think in other areas of the country or even globally. There's a lot of food for thought as we have an amazing opportunity to create something of great significance right here in our own communities. Exciting times ahead!

A massive thank you to [Cathy McGowan](#) MP and her staff for making the visit possible and for all the support that she has shown, not only for RAW Energy but for all community energy groups. it is greatly appreciated.



Wodonga Community Solar Project

As you know, over the course of the last year, council staff have been working with RAW Energy and consultants Moreland Energy Foundation Limited to develop a feasibility study and business case for

a solar farm in Wodonga that delivers benefits back to the community. A presentation on 13th December was the culmination of the project and the business case has now been completed.

An application for a DELWP Climate Change Innovation Grant was submitted on November 30th with the title 'Putting the Wodonga community solar project business case into Action'. The lead organisation is Wodonga council with Renewable Albury Wodonga, AusNet Services, North East Water, Border Trust and WAW as partners. If successful, this will allow a project officer to be employed part time over an 18-month period to advance the business case. We will keep you updated as soon as we have some definite news to share!

MOU with solar developer

RAW Energy has signed an MOU with Wodonga Solar Pty Ltd, a solar developer that is planning to build a 50MW solar farm at Barnawartha. Wodonga Solar Pty Ltd. has put in an application to participate in the Reverse Auction for energy in Victoria.

If the company is successful in building their solar farm then RAW Energy could benefit financially. We would use any funds to deliver energy education programs within our community. It may also be possible to create a perpetual fund for energy efficient upgrades/installations within our community.

Community energy retailer

Indigo Shire, in partnership with TRY - Totally Renewable Yackandandah - was successful in receiving funding through New Energy Jobs Fund Round 2 to develop a business model for a community energy retailer. RAW Energy and other community groups from across Indi are now meeting to work through how this might look. Being a retailer is a very complex beast and not something you can do in a small community, hence the reason there is now a much larger approach.

The model will be designed where part of the profits will be delivered back to the community groups to be invested in various renewable/energy efficiency projects. Please stay tuned as we look forward to being able to offer this to you in the not too distant future.

Thurgoona Community Action Group

Thurgoona Community Action Group (TCAG) is partnering with RAW Energy to assist Thurgoona residents participate in a solar and battery bulk buy program in 2018. More information to come shortly.

Community energy in the news

[It takes a village: How community will make \(or break\) shift to renewables](#)

According to two separate reports published recently, communities will have a vital role to play in the success of Australia's shift to renewables.

Simon Corbell talks microgrids and community investment models - Beyond Zero Emissions

<http://bze.org.au/podcast-technology20171205simon-corbell-victorian-renewable-energy-advocate/>

Clean & Reliable Power: Roadmap to a Renewable Future

Climate Council report released 2 March 2018

The Climate Council has released a roadmap outlining how Australia can cut its rising greenhouse gas pollution levels, while continuing the transition to clean, affordable and reliable renewable energy and storage technology.

Stay in touch!

Contact us at: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

RAW website: www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rawenergyinc/>