



RAW Energy update – May 2018

Wodonga Community Solar Project – good news!

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.

Well guess what! We have been successful! Only 10% of projects submitted were funded and this was one of them. This will allow a project officer to be employed part time over an 18-month period to advance the business case. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Jill Croome who was instrumental in putting the submission together last year. Robyn Nicholas from Wodonga Council and RAW Energy's President Bobbi McKibbin attended an information session in Melbourne in April to receive further information about the grant.

Here's a media release from the office of the Minister Lily D'Ambrosio:

[Victorian Innovators Lead Climate Change Action April 17, 2018](#)

Community Energy Network

The Community Energy Network is a network of groups that has been created to support a community energy retailer for North East Victoria and Albury. The community energy retailer will source renewable energy from across the region. It will also invest in local energy initiatives and retain profits in local communities. The network currently has groups from Beechworth, Benalla, Corryong, Euroa, Indigo Valley, Mansfield, Taggerty, Wangaratta, Wodonga, and Yackandandah.

[Sign up, find your local group and join the local movement.](#)

And join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/165509014154698/>

An information meeting in our area is being planned for the near future. For further details, contact Cam Klose, Communications & Engagement, Community Energy Retailer Project
cam@communityenergyretailer.com 0490 436 948

Community energy network to set up trading of electricity

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5315770/community-energy-network-to-set-up-trading-of-electricity/?cs=48>

Thurgoona Community Bulk Buy project

The Thurgoona Community Action Group (TCAG) met in February with Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy (RAW Energy) to discuss the outcomes of the Thurgoona Community Renewable Energy Forum held in November 2017. Details here: <https://goo.gl/bV79iE>

With an aim to keep the community momentum in renewable energy moving forward, RAW Energy is willing to support a Bulk Buy project in partnership with TCAG in the Thurgoona area. We are proposing to hold an event in the coming months to discuss bulk buy of solar and battery installations. To assist in organising this event, we are asking for willing helpers to join with us to form a small project group, If you are interested in joining our project team or in being kept in touch with the bulk buy project, please email your details to Katrina Passey kppassey@gmail.com

Solar farm in Baranduda

A public drop in session for a proposed solar farm at Baranduda was held at the Baranduda Community Centre on 11th April. Director of APR Australian Solar, George Hughes, hosted the session ahead of lodging a development application with Wodonga Council. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community, understand any potential issues and answer questions. Bobbi and Jenny attended on behalf of RAW and made Mr Hughes aware of our community energy group and its purpose. It was useful to hear concerns raised by residents and also to recognise the importance of successful community engagement. Baranduda Landcare members have already had discussions with the developer re environmental enhancement of the site.

Construction jobs created in proposed \$100 million solar farm

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5331033/construction-jobs-created-in-proposed-100-million-solar-farm/?cs=11>

Events and resources

Yackandandah Innovative Housing Forum, Thursday 17th May, Yackandandah Public Hall, 7 - 9.30pm

Join us to explore the quiet revolution happening in housing development in Australia showing the potential to transform the way housing is conceived, funded and designed. Details here:

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/innovative-housing-forum/> Please RSVP Cheryl Graham, 0408 393 105 or cheryl@farminganswers.com

Home Battery Storage Systems: Frequently Asked Questions

http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/What_We_Do/Greener_living/Home_battery_storage_systems

This document was written by the Alternative Technology Association for Indigo Shire Council, the Borough of Queenscliffe Council and Towong Shire Council. [Download this information pack](#) to find answers to the most commonly asked questions:

Power to save – NSW Government

The NSW Government has recently announced a household and business program called [Power To Save](#). AlburyCity has been promoting this program for about twelve months. The Household component has a couple of sections:

[Appliance replacement offer](#) This offers up to 50% discount to replace inefficient fridge/ TV for eligible NSW households.

[Discounted energy efficient lighting for households](#) This replaces old lights with new energy efficient lights such as LEDs.

Community renewable energy

[People Power: Communities funding their own wind and solar projects](#)

An excellent Landline program featuring Yackandandah!

Indi communities embracing renewable energy, pumped hydro and battery

Watch Cathy McGowan in this video clip:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Vxin5lXntio&sns=em>

Community-funded power 'doable', leading energy expert says - ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-06/community-funded-power-doable-leading-energy-expert-says/9621474>

Membership

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. Any community member can join Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy Inc (even if you don't live in Albury-Wodonga) \$5 per annum – payable each January. Our membership form is here [\[download PDF\]](#)



Manny Pasqualini (Moreland Energy Foundation), Bobbi McKibbin and Jenny Davies (RAW), Taryn Lane (Hepburn Wind) and Michelle Wilkinson (RAW) at the 2017 Sustainable Living Fair in Wodonga.

Stay in touch!

Contact us at: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

RAW website: www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au

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