



## RAW Energy update – July 2019

### Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy Inc AGM, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

#### Office bearers 2019 - 2020

At the recent AGM, the following were elected as office bearers:

**President** Bobbi McKibbin

**Vice President** Katrina Passey

**Secretary** Michelle Wilkinson

**Treasurer** Kate Sleeman.

For further information, please download the PDF version of the minutes posted on our website: [RAW AGM Minutes 2019](#)

#### Membership

Annual memberships are now due and have increased to \$10 annually to support our efforts to increase local community renewable energy projects. We are now required to be insured for public liability as an incorporated association, so the membership fees assist us to continue serving our community. 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:** \$10 per annum – payable each AGM.

Our membership application form is here: [\[download membership PDF\]](#)

Our membership renewal form is here: [\[download renewal PDF\]](#)

### Australian Clean Energy Summit, 30 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, Sydney

RAW Energy's Bobbi McKibbin is speaking at the Women in Renewables breakfast at this important event: <https://www.cleanenergysummit.com.au/page/1392221/speakers>

## Current project updates

### Wodonga Community Solar Project

The Wodonga Community Solar Project (WCSP) is gaining momentum in its two key focus areas. The first is the delivery of a working solar model. To meet this objective, RAW have is creating a commercial energy hub, partnering with businesses in the Moloney Drive industrial estate in Wodonga. RAW has set up strong relationships with a number of businesses along the Drive.

RAW Energy Inc has advertised a Request for Quote through the Wodonga Council to find a partner to deliver a power purchase agreement for one of the sites. The power purchase agreement would supply solar power to the onsite business, through a solar power system situated on site, delivering clean energy and a small payment to support RAW's Energy Benefit Program. We are currently seeking suitable qualified individuals or organisations to support the development of a financial model that can manage financial investment from the local community to support this project. Find out more information by checking the tender page or getting back in touch with us at

[renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com) The details are: Wodonga Community Solar Project (WCSP) Tender # W 1721 - 19Q | Closing: 6/08/2019 12:00:00 PM <https://www.eprocure.com.au/wodonga/>

### Energy Benefit Program

The Energy Benefit Program is already underway and is the second important component of the WCSP. With assistance from a Victorian Government grant, RAW Energy Inc is working with BeyondHousing to install ten solar power systems on social housing. The ten solar power systems will be placed on BeyondHousing homes in Wodonga. These ten installations are intended as a pilot study, with RAW working closely with BeyondHousing to monitor the impact that these solar power systems have for the tenants. The ten solar power systems are being installed in the next few weeks. The Wodonga Local Government Area has the highest rate of electricity disconnections in Victoria, and RAW's Energy Benefits Program aims to raise awareness of this local problem and to take practical steps to address it.

We'll have plenty of exciting announcements coming up in the next few months so make sure you're tuned into the RAW Facebook page to stay up to date.

## Grants

### Community Impact Grant from City of Wodonga \$3000

RAW was thrilled to be the recipient of a Community Impact Grant of \$3k from Wodonga Council. RAW Energy will use these funds to further our community energy projects battling "energy poverty" and promoting local renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that benefit our community.

## Solar farm to power Wodonga's sewage treatment plant

Wodonga's sewage treatment plant will soon be powered by a three megawatt solar farm as part of North East Water's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. Tenders are expected to be issued in the coming months for the multi-million dollar project to be built on Corporation owned land between Old Barnawartha Road and the Hume Highway at West Wodonga. Managing Director, Craig Heiner, said approximately 10,000 panels will be installed at the site and will utilise a single axis tracking system to increase solar generation capacity. "The farm will generate enough electricity to power the nearby sewage treatment plant during daylight hours",

Bobbi McKibbin spoke to Nine News re the benefit to the community of this initiative. Here's a link to the video:

[https://m.prod.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=846503089061680&id=384005941978066](https://m.prod.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=846503089061680&id=384005941978066)

## Local council news

### Solar Project at the Albury Waste Management Centre

The new solar farm will produce enough energy to power approximately 400 homes or over 1,000 electricity users in the local community. Details here:

<https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/inside-alburycity/major-projects/solar-project-for-the-albury-waste-management-centre>

### City of Wodonga is one step closer to purchasing 100% of its power usage from renewables

At the recent Wodonga Council meeting, most councillors agreed to participate in the Local Government Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement Project (LG PPA) and commit to purchasing 100% of our power usage through this process. The LG PPA is a unique opportunity to purchase renewable energy from a known and verified source in partnership with 39 Councils across Victoria. We congratulate City of Wodonga on this bold and forward-thinking decision.

## Victorian Solar Homes Announcement

**18 June 2019**

The Premier and the Minister announced the upcoming changes to the Solar Homes Program from July 1. This program is for 10 years so below we have broken that down to annual numbers.

- **40,000 solar power rebates** up to \$2,225. These will be delivered in monthly allotments across the 2019/20 financial year
- **2,000 solar rebates for renters/landlords** up to \$2,225
- **Interest free loans of up to \$2,225**, only available on the above 2 rebates
- **6,000 hot water rebates** of \$1,000
- **1000 battery rebates for those with existing solar**. This rebate is limited to certain postcodes.

Sadly, at this time there are no postcodes for the North East, however hopefully as the program evolves, we will see this extended to our region.

There are certain criteria to be met for each of the rebates such as;

- Combined household income below \$180,000
- House and land value below \$3m
- Solar Power Rebate – to upgrade existing system old system must have been installed pre 1 November 2009
- Hot Water Rebate – system being replaced must be a minimum of 3 years old

Also worth noting that there have been more stringent requirements put on companies selling and installing any product connected to the rebates from July 1 (and November 1 for the smaller installers).

### **Welcome to the Solar Homes Program | Solar Victoria**

Helping Victorians to take control of their energy bills, create jobs, tackle climate change and provide a cleaner, better future. <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/?>

### **Energy Smart Housing Manual – Sustainability Victoria**

The Energy Smart Housing Manual is a comprehensive and easy to read manual that explains six key energy efficiency concepts specific to Victorian regulations and climate conditions, and how incorporating these design guidelines will contribute to greater energy efficiency to maximise comfort levels year-round.

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-Your-Home/Building-and-renovating/Energy-Smart-Housing-Manual>

### **The Good Energy**

The Good Energy campaign is documenting communities, businesses, individuals and local govt. entities that are taking the power back by implementing energy justice and plugging in their own.

[The Good Energy](#) is showcasing the inspiring work of local individuals, organisations, businesses and communities in our region while encouraging others to follow in their footsteps.

### **Energy Entertainers**

10 facts you may not know about energy in Australia from the Climate Council:

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/energy-entertainers-10-facts-you-may-not-know-about-energy-in-australia/?>

### **Stay in touch!**

**Contact us at:** [renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com)

**RAW website:** [www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au](http://www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au)

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

**Warm regards**

**RAW Energy Committee**

**President:** Bobbi McKibbin

**Vice President:** Katrina Passey

**Secretary:** Michelle Wilkinson

**Treasurer:** Kate Sleeman

**Committee members:** Narelle Martin, Janet Gillespie, Simon Duncan, Ash Swarup

**Newsletter editor:** Jenny Davies