

Recent News

Environment Victoria's Survey on Residential Gas Consumption

Want to shape Victoria's clean energy future and help phase out polluting fossil gas?

The Victorian government is calling for input into their Gas Substitution Roadmap. This will set the direction for government policy on gas for the next decade and beyond. Environment Victoria has put together a simple and easy to use survey to get your feedback. They will then present the results in their people-powered submission.

<https://environmentvictoria.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1b4e526590351f44adf894e1&id=7a56c6f347&e=05df98daed>

or if the above link fails,

<https://www.getfeedback.com/r/LG0WE6YD/195e45a7-ac5b-4418-aace-91393c7f777b>

Yarra Valley Community Energy Hub awarded by Vic Govt to Healesville CoRE (Convener), Clean Energy Nillumbik and 6 other community organisations

Clean Energy Nillumbik is a participant in the successful bid for the Yarra Valley Community Energy Hub. The hub proposal, led by Healesville CoRE, will support 8 community organisations in the region in developing community energy projects, building awareness and reducing community greenhouse gas emissions. The hub will assist the participating organisations with bulk purchase programs, energy efficiency programs, education campaigns, marketing, governance, systems and processes. This will be an enormous boost to CEN's work towards 100% renewable energy for buildings in Nillumbik.

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/empowering-victorian-communities-reduce-emissions>

And here:

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/grants-and-funding/community-power-hubs>

Another 1,200 Tesla Model 3 EVs arrive in Australia ahead of NSW rebates

1,200 more Tesla Model 3 EVs arrive at Port Kembla, signalling the potentially record-smashing impact the Californian automaker will have on the Australian market in 2021.

<https://thedriven.io/2021/07/09/another-1200-model-3-teslas-arrive-in-australia-as-nsw-waits-for-rebates-to-kick-in/>

Lumea plans huge “first of its kind” big battery in Melbourne

A 300 MW big battery is to be constructed in northern Melbourne. It's the first to be fully funded by the commercial market.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/lumea-plans-huge-first-of-its-kind-big-battery-in-melbourne/>

Renew Economy Big Battery Storage Map of Australia:

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/big-battery-storage-map-of-australia/>

The Morrison government wants to bail out coal-fired generators. Guess who'll pay?

The federal Government is about to provide a financial bailout for failing coal-fired power stations.
But should they have seen this coming?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/07/the-morrison-government-wants-to-bail-out-coal-fired-generators-guess-wholl-pay>

Inquiry into the Australian Local Power Agency Bill 2021 and Australian Local Power Agency (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2021

The Federal Parliament has been taking submissions on The Australian Local Power Agency Bill. Individuals and organisations had until Friday July 9 to make submissions. You can track the inquiry progress here:

<https://www.aph.gov.au/LocalPowerAgency>

Solar export tax proposal put on hold after flood of competing ideas

Energy regulators have hit pause on the idea of applying a tax to exported solar from households. Instead, they're looking at alternative ways to manage exports to the grid.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-export-tax-proposal-put-on-hold-after-flood-of-competing-ideas/>

AEMO looks to smarter ways of managing abundant rooftop solar

Regulators need smarter ways to manage excess solar rather than simply cutting off export. Now, AEMO may have found a way.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/aemo-looks-to-smarter-ways-of-managing-abundant-rooftop-solar/>

Help Us Build Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap

The Victorian Government is currently consulting on developing a roadmap to shift away from a reliance on gas. Public submissions to consultation paper closes 30 July 2021.

Papers and consultation process here:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/help-us-build-victorias-gas-substitution-roadmap>

Victorian government commits \$14 million to battery facility, regional hydrogen hub

The Victorian government is funding a \$14 million battery facility and hydrogen hub. Both facilities are part of Deakin University at its Burwood and Warrnambool campuses.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-29/regional-hydrogen-hub-at-deakin-university/100251468>

Energy consumer survey reveals who wants to quit gas, and who's afraid of smart meters

A new survey has found that the number of Australian households considering switching from gas to an all-electric home, is increasing.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/energy-consumer-survey-reveals-who-wants-to-quit-gas-and-whos-afraid-of-smart-meters/>

Is rooftop solar a play-thing of the well-to-do? A critique of the argument and evidence

Is solar really just a technology for the well-off?

New research suggests it's more complicated than that. A very worthwhile read.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/942a5046701/dd45b96a-413b-41c9-a9dc-d440101b1de6.pdf>

Victoria to add 100 destination EV chargers with \$5 million state funding

Victoria is installing more than 100 EV charging stations across the state. The government will spend \$5 million on the rollout

<https://thedriven.io/2021/06/24/victoria-to-add-100-destination-ev-chargers-with-5-million-state-funding/>

Senate sinks Angus Taylor's plan to allow renewables agency to invest in fossil fuel technologies

The Senate has voted down a government proposal to change the remit of ARENA. It would have allowed the renewable energy agency to invest in carbon capture and black hydrogen.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jun/22/senate-sinks-angus-taylors-plan-to-allow-renewables-agency-to-invest-in-fossil-fuel-technologies>

NSW waives stamp duty on EVs and spends \$171m on chargers throughout the state

NSW has given a boost to EVs by waiving stamp duty and providing subsidies. It's also investing \$171 million in public charging stations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/20/nsw-waives-stamp-duty-on-evs-and-spends-171m-on-chargers-throughout-the-state>

Great Solar Business Podcast: Grid 3.0 – What will the grid look like?

What will the future of the grid look like? The Great Solar Business podcast maps some of the options.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/great-solar-business-podcast-grid-3-0-what-will-the-grid-look-like/>

AGL taps RayGen to build dispatchable “solar hydro” plant at Liddell

Australian solar technology firm RayGen will partner with AGL Energy to deploy the company’s innovative concentrating solar and energy storage technologies that could become a leading example of zero-emissions dispatchable power.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/agl-taps-raygen-to-build-dispatchable-solar-hydro-plant-at-liddell/>

Where WA is installing all that rooftop solar – and where home batteries are following suit

A new AEMO map shows that rooftop solar in Perth is adopted fastest in the outer suburbs. But that’s not the case with batteries.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/where-wa-is-installing-all-that-rooftop-solar-and-where-home-batteries-are-following-suit/>

NSW to invest \$380 million to turbocharge renewable energy rollout

The NSW government is investing \$380 million to boost renewable energy, in the latest state budget. The money is designed to speed up investment in the state's renewable energy zones.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/rezs-20210616-p5811a.html>

NT supercharges home battery rebate, with more money and new rules

The NT government has changed its battery subsidy scheme, including adding an extra \$2.8 million. The scheme is also shifting from a flat subsidy structure.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/nt-supercharges-home-battery-rebate-with-more-money-and-new-rules/>

Should we pay a carbon tax to our own government or to someone else's?

Australians overwhelmingly support using technology rather than taxes to fight climate change. They may not have a choice for much longer.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/should-we-pay-a-carbon-tax-to-our-own-government-or-to-someone-else-s-20210615-p5819q.html>

Excellent ABC Infographic Climate Change Storyline

The next five years are crucial for Australia's efforts to tackle climate change. An ABC storyline explains why.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-15/acting-now-can-buy-us-time-on-climate-change/100020944>

G7 to agree tough measures on burning coal to tackle climate change

The G7 nations have agreed to end support for coal fired power stations, in an attempt to meet the 1.5 degree temperature rise target to combat climate change.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-57456641>

Telstra inks new wind farm PPA as it prepares to launch energy retail offer

Telstra has launched its third PPA with an agreement with a 58MW wind farm in NSW. It's also preparing to become an electricity retailer.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/telstra-inks-new-wind-farm-ppa-as-it-prepares-to-launch-energy-retail-offer/>

Queensland commits \$2bn to boost local renewable energy jobs

Queensland has committed \$2 billion to support local renewable energy jobs. It includes money for hydrogen, batteries and electric vehicles.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jun/10/queensland-commits-2bn-to-boost-local-renewable-energy-jobs>

Bright side: what Australia's rooftop solar can teach us about electric cars

Australia has had one of the most successful uptakes of rooftop solar in the world. What can we learn from that for the roll-out of electric vehicles?

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jun/10/bright-side-what-australias-rooftop-solar-can-teach-us-about-electric-cars>

Kurri Kurri costs could blow out and could run out of gas, energy experts say

Analysis of the Federal Government's proposed gas-fired power station have raised concerns. Chief among them are potential cost blowouts and running out of gas.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/kurri-kurri-costs-could-blow-out-and-may-not-get-enough-gas-energy-experts-say/>

Electric vehicles 'caught in the culture wars' despite household savings, expert says

Electric vehicles have been caught in the 'culture wars' in Australia, according to energy expert Saul Griffith. This is despite their potential savings for households.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-09/electric-vehicles-victim-of-culture-wars-expert-says/100196982>

Tasmania's reached net-zero emissions and 100% renewables – but climate action doesn't stop there

Tasmania has reached net zero and 100% renewables. But it can go much further in tackling climate change.

<https://theconversation.com/tasmanias-reached-net-zero-emissions-and-100-renewables-but-climate-action-doesnt-stop-there-160927>

Rooftop solar resumes upward march, but what's going on with NSW?

After a flat April, the rate of uptake of rooftop solar in Australia has resumed, with a 5% monthly increase. That's despite a slight decline in NSW.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/rooftop-solar-resumes-upward-march-but-whats-going-on-with-nsw/>

An Australian inventor wants to stop global warming by electrifying everything

Rewiring America sets out an ambitious vision for electrifying US homes. How much can be achieved by technology and how much by policy?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2021/saul-griffith-mass-electrification/>

Gridlock on the grid stalls the transition to renewables

Grid constraints are holding back the growth of large scale renewables in Victoria. It could lead to higher electricity prices.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/gridlock-on-the-grid-stalls-the-transition-to-renewables-20210528-p57w6q.html>

Electric vehicle taxes not needed to offset falling fuel excise revenue: report

A new report suggests that taxes on electric vehicles are not needed to arrest declining fuel excise revenue. It says too many barriers are being placed in front of EVs in Australia.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/electric-vehicle-taxes-not-needed-to-offset-falling-fuel-excise-revenue-report-20210607-p57ysy.html#comments>

Aldi claims first place in major retailer race to 100 pct renewables in Australia

Aldi has become the first supermarket chain to be powered by 100% renewables. The company said it hit its target six months ahead of schedule.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/aldi-claims-first-place-in-major-retailer-race-to-100-pct-renewables-in-australia/>

Green steel is picking up steam in Europe

Strong demand from automakers is driving the first wave of hydrogen-powered plants producing iron for steel production.

<https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/green-steel-is-coming-sooner-than-you-think/>

Solar+battery project has Victorian town on target for 100% renewables

The small town of Yackandandah in northeast Victoria is one step closer to being powered by 100% renewable energy with the state's first behind-the-meter, community-owned solar PV and battery energy storage system the latest addition to its community's energy generation strategy.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/07/08/solarbattery-project-has-victorian-town-on-target-for-100-renewables/>

Victorian government funds Indigenous groups \$1.1 million to determine communities' renewable projects

The Victorian government has allocated \$1.1 million in funding to Indigenous groups to determine how they want to be part of Victoria's renewable energy boom. Fortescue has likewise awarded \$350 million to a majority-owned Aboriginal business in Western Australia, its single largest contract under its Billion Opportunities program.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/07/07/victorian-government-funds-indigenous-groups-1-1-million-to-determine-communities-renewable-projects/>

CSIRO allocated \$5 million for hydrogen research program

The federal government has awarded \$5 million to the CSIRO to deliver a hydrogen research, development and demonstration program aimed at strengthening hydrogen knowledge both domestically and in cooperation with our international partners.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/07/07/csiro-allocated-5-million-for-hydrogen-research-program/>

'Residential batteries are less profitable than selling excess power to the grid'

Although self-consumption of solar power is the optimal economic approach, the expense of household batteries at present outweighs the increased ability they offer to use electricity generated on the roof. Whether aggregated 'virtual batteries' offer better returns is an open question, due to lack of electricity company transparency.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/07/06/residential-batteries-are-less-profitable-than-selling-excess-power-to-the-grid/>

The prospects for solar in a 1.5C world

We will need 10.7 TW of clean energy generation capacity this decade to stay on track with the most ambitious of the climate change paths agreed in Paris, which would include plenty of solar investment and jobs, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/07/05/the-prospects-for-solar-in-a-1-5c-world/>