

Recent News

Free energy efficiency/consumption advice for Nillumbik residents

From 1 July, Nillumbik residents will be able to obtain free, expert advice from the Australian Energy Foundation on how to reduce energy consumption and reduce their bills.

This will include advice around solar panels and battery storage, draught-proofing, insulation, heating and cooling, hot water, windows, lighting, and electricity bills.:

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Sustainable-living/Australian-Energy-Foundation>

Sun Cable's massive 10GW solar export plan awarded Major Project status

The Sun Cable project that see massive renewable energy exports to Singapore, has been fast-tracked after being granted Major Project status

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/sun-cables-massive-10gw-solar-export-plan-awarded-major-project-status-99423/>

Free in-home energy assessments extended to Canberra renters

Canberra renters can get free home energy assessments, as part of a scheme to reduce emissions and household energy costs.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6855408/renters-offered-free-assessments-to-help-reduce-energy-bills/>

World's fastest energy transition: AEMO maps path to 94 per cent renewables

The Australian Energy Market Operator has mapped a route to 94% renewables by 2040.

It would be the world's fastest transition.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/worlds-fastest-energy-transition-aemo-maps-path-to-94-per-cent-renewables-26955/>

Electric cars have few downsides except price. One company is looking to change that

The big barrier to EV uptake in Australia is price.

But what if we started with a market built on cheap secondhand vehicles?

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/30/electric-cars-green-recovery-price-second-hand-bulk-buy>

World's largest solar power plant moves forward with world's lowest price

The world's largest solar farm is moving ahead with a record low electricity tariff.

The 2 GW plant will be built in Dubai.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/worlds-largest-solar-power-plant-moves-forward-with-worlds-lowest-price-61208/>

How Australia's looming solar panel waste crisis could actually be a big opportunity

Australia currently has a looming solar waste problem.

But recycling panels could be a good business opportunity.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/waste/how-australias-looming-solar-panel-waste-crisis-could-actually-be-a-big-opportunity/>

Victorian government to introduce interest free loans for new rooftop solar panels

The Victorian government is introducing interest free loans to boost solar.

The incentive is particularly aimed at renters and landlords.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/victorian-government-to-introduce-interest-free-loans-for-new-rooftop-solar-panels-20200726-p55flg.html>

Solar and Tesla Powerwall offer Victorian town bushfire resilience

A community sports centre in Hepburn has had a solar and battery installation that will reduce its energy costs and boost its effectiveness as a place of last resort in a bushfire.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-and-tesla-powerwall-offer-victorian-town-bushfire-resilience/>

La Trobe University switches on massive 2.5MW solar array

La Trobe has officially turned on its 25 MW solar rooftop array at its Bundoora campus.

It's part of the university's plan to be at net zero emissions by 2029.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/la-trobe-university-switches-on-2-5mw-solar-array-on-road-to-net-zero-2029/>

IEA chief tells Australia all coal must go if world to meet climate targets in orderly fashion

The head of the International Energy Agency says all coal plants, including Australia's, must shut down before the end of their projected lives, if the world is to meet emissions reduction targets.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/iea-chief-tells-australia-all-coal-must-go-if-world-to-meet-climate-targets-in-orderly-fashion-94805/>

Global heating: best and worst case scenarios less likely than thought

Scientists have narrowed the range of possible temperature increases expected from climate change, in a new study.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/22/global-heating-study-narrows-range-of-probable-temperature-rises>

Qld council claims renewable energy milestone

Logan Council, in Queensland, is claiming a record 1000 kW of rooftop solar on its facilities.

It's projected to save \$140,000 a year in power costs.

<https://www.governmentnews.com.au/qld-council-claims-renewable-energy-milestone/>

Grid emissions hit record low, as renewables displace coal and prices plunge

Emissions from the national grid have fallen to their lowest point. It follows a collapse in coal usage in the system.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/grid-emissions-hit-record-low-as-renewables-displace-coal-and-prices-plunge-13548/>

Climate Council unveils plan to create 76,000 jobs in three years

The Climate Council says the Federal Government could create 76,000 jobs in three years, if it invests in renewables as part of a post-coronavirus recover.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2020/07/21/climate-council-job-creation-policies/>

Coronavirus: Tracking how the world's 'green recovery' plans aim to cut emissions

Carbon Brief has started tracking the emissions impacts of 'green recovery' plans as they are developed by countries around the world.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/coronavirus-tracking-how-the-worlds-green-recovery-plans-aim-to-cut-emissions>

Community Power Hub Resources

Community energy organisations in Victoria have collected a range of documents and guidance on what's needed for effective projects.

<http://www.communitypowerhub.com.au/resources/>

Energy efficiency insulates us from economic shocks

Economic recovery from Covid-19 is an opportunity to build back better.

Energy efficiency improvements must be at the heart of this.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6836509/why-energy-efficiency-is-vitally-important/>

NABERS to level the playing field for gas and grid electricity usage

The environmental benchmarking scheme, NABERS, is updating its processes to account for booming renewables uptake.

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/innovation/rating-tools/nabers-to-level-the-playing-field-for-gas-and-grid-electricity-usage/>

Solar exports: Should households pay for right to export more solar to the grid?

Rooftop solar has been criticised for its impact on the grid. A new proposal says it should be up to networks to be better prepared.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/solar-exports-should-households-pay-for-right-to-export-more-solar-to-the-grid-86776/>

Hydrogen didn't work for the Hindenburg, but can the gas be safely supplied to Australian homes?

Hydrogen has the potential to be a cleaner fuel in homes if powered by renewables. A project in Adelaide is testing how feasible that will be.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-10/hydrogen-energy-project-to-pump-gas-into-adelaide-homes/12439426>

NSW sets itself for biggest and quickest transition from coal to renewables

NSW is accelerating its transition towards renewables with the construction of a new Renewable Energy Zone. The REZ in New England will provide 8,000 MW of projects.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-sets-itself-for-biggest-and-quickest-transition-from-coal-to-renewables-10319/>

ACT government EV fleet in grid support trial

ACT government fleet cars are participating in a trial to test how they can support the grid. The 2 year project uses the cars as 'batteries on wheels' to provide energy security.

<https://www.governmentnews.com.au/act-government-ev-fleet-in-grid-support-trial/>

States give clean energy sector big confidence boost in absence of federal policy

There might not be much in the way of Federal Government policies but investor confidence in renewables is growing, thanks to the efforts of state governments.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/states-give-clean-energy-sector-big-confidence-boost-in-absence-of-federal-policy-83234/>

Renewable energy PPAs: How to minimise social risks and maximise community benefits

Renewable energy power purchase agreements are growing in popularity for organisations wanting to reduce emissions. But what about the social benefits of PPAs?

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/renewable-energy-ppas-how-to-minimise-social-risks-and-maximise-community-benefits/>

Some good news from Europe

Germany hits record high in renewables production while Spain shuts down half of its coal plants.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/german-renewables-surge-to-55-8-of-net-generation-for-first-half-2020/>

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/spain-closes-half-of-all-its-coal-fired-power-stations-in-one-fell-swoop-47885/>

45,000 renewables jobs are Australia's for the taking – but how many will go to coal workers?

There's an estimated 45,000 renewable jobs that could come from increased investment post-Covid.

But how many will go to former coal workers?

<https://theconversation.com/45-000-renewables-jobs-are-australias-for-the-taking-but-how-many-will-go-to-coal-workers-141531>

City of Sydney completes switch to 100 per cent renewable supply

Big day for council PPAs on July 1.

City of Sydney also officially switched to 100% renewables.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/city-of-sydney-completes-switch-to-100-per-cent-renewable-supply-42264/>

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/sweet-stuff-as-shopping-centres-unis-and-chocolate-factories-move-to-wind-power-20200629-p5578f.html>

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/city-of-adelaide-reaches-100-per-cent-renewables-through-flow-power-deal-88653/>

Research finds pricing on carbon helped slow emissions

According to a comparison of 142 countries pricing carbon emissions drives bigger falls in greenhouse gas emissions than in economies that have not embraced a similar policy approach.

<http://econews.com.au/64838/research-finds-pricing-on-carbon-helped-slow-emissions/>

The startup putting energy efficiency in the hands of first home buyers and renovators

Adelaide-based sustainability consultancy SUHO, which is responsible for South Australia's first 10-star home, has decided to make its sophisticated energy consumption software available for purchase through a web-based platform called Hubble.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/business/investment-deals/the-startup-putting-energy-efficiency-in-the-hands-of-first-home-buyers-and-renovators/>

Solar generation in Delhi “clearly” boosted by clear skies of Covid lockdown

Global measures enforced to contain the runaway global health disaster posed by the spread of the novel Coronavirus, while crippling to economies, have delivered a number of positive outcomes – both expected and unexpected.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/solar-generation-in-delhi-clearly-boosted-by-clear-skies-of-covid-lockdown-22289/>

Australia cannot expect China to import and burn coal it no longer needs

We have to prepare for this shift and our policymakers need to stop misleading coal mining communities on the outlook.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/11/australia-cannot-expect-china-to-import-and-burn-coal-it-no-longer-needs>

Green energy takes record share of power during coronavirus pandemic

Renewable power has taken up a record share of global electricity production since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a Reuters Newsagency review of data, suggesting a transition away from polluting fossil fuels could be accelerated in the coming years.

<http://econews.com.au/64907/green-energy-takes-record-share-of-power-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Research shows Europe steams towards coal exit

According to data just released Europe's long goodbye to coal is speeding up, in a transition smoothed by the rise of wind and solar power and energy policy that has priced the fossil fuel out of many markets.

<http://econews.com.au/64937/research-shows-europe-steams-towards-coal-exit/>

Podcast: AEMO Q2 2020 Quarterly Dynamics Seminar

On Wednesday 29 July Melbourne Energy Institute was pleased to host Dr Jonathan Myrtle from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) for their third Quarterly Energy Dynamics seminar of the year.

<https://energy.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/news/podcast-aemo-q2-2020-quarterly-dynamics-seminar>

Slides available [here](#).

Tesla battery protects Malmsbury Fire Station from power outages

Malmsbury Fire Station in Victoria has been generously donated a Tesla Powerwall 2 battery, a gift that allows the Malmsbury Fire Brigade to remain operational and vigilant despite power outages.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/07/31/tesla-battery-protects-malmsbury-fire-station-from-power-outages/>

Solar dreaming in Broome, WA Recovery Plan for Kimberley revealed

The Kimberley Recovery Plan spells out in regional focus the renewable energy investments heading to the Kimberley from the Western Australian Government's \$5.5 billion WA Recovery Plan.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/07/31/solar-dreaming-in-broome-wa-recovery-plan-for-kimberley-revealed/>

WA Recovery Plan to invest \$66.3m in solar and batteries

The Western Australian Government's \$5.5 billion WA Recovery Plan was released yesterday, the plan features \$66.3 million in renewable energy investment, most of that to go on solar and batteries, along with a significant top up of the Clean Energy Future Fund..

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/07/28/wa-recovery-plan-to-invest-66-3m-in-solar-and-batteries/>