

Recent News

Strategic

Communities around Australia are taking clean energy into their own hands, the Indi win built on that

Why are more independent MPs being elected than ever before? In some places, like Indi, it's related to the growth of community energy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/01/communities-around-australia-are-taking-clean-energy-into-their-own-hands-the-indi-win-built-on-that>

Cheap wind and solar and “people-powered” revolution to kick out coal

Bloomberg's latest analysis suggests renewables and storage will drive coal and gas out of the Australian energy market.

It dismisses talk of a new coal-fired power station.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/cheap-wind-and-solar-and-people-powered-revolution-to-kick-out-coal-18726/>

W.A. councils demand “true to science” 50% renewable state target

WA councils have called on their state government to produce a renewable energy target that's true to climate science.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/w-a-councils-demand-true-to-science-50-renewable-state-target-97322/>

Networks want to hit household solar exports with extra grid charges

Electricity networks are floating the idea of imposing a tariff on solar exports to the grid.

The idea has been slammed by experts.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/networks-want-to-hit-household-solar-exports-with-extra-grid-charges-64553/>

Australia's largest solar and battery farm opens in Kerang, improves energy security

Australia's largest solar and battery farm opened in Kerang in Victoria on Friday June 14.

It is Tesla's second largest battery in the nation.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-14/australias-largest-solar-and-battery-farm-opens-in-kerang/11209666>

NSW hits 2GW of rooftop solar, as installation records continue to tumble

A record May of 47MW of rooftop solar installs in New South Wales has taken the state to the 2GW mark. Records in Queensland, too, delivered a 177MW total for Australia for the month.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/nsw-hits-2gw-of-rooftop-solar-as-installation-records-continue-to-tumble/>

NSW quietly cancels plans for 200MW virtual power plant, redirects funds to solar loans

NSW government confirms cancellation of planned 200MW virtual power plant to cover costs of interest-free loans for solar, promised in the state election.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nsw-quietly-cancels-200mw-virtual-power-plant-redirects-funds-to-solar-loans-54811/>

Queensland regional solar feed-in-tariffs cut as renewables push prices down

The Queensland Competition Authority has cited strong investment in renewables as a reason for reducing solar feed-in-tariffs in regional Queensland.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/queensland-regional-solar-feed-in-tariffs-cut-as-renewables-push-prices-down/>

Horizon Power-backed international body to champion microgrids

International Microgrid Association launches in Perth to facilitate cross-sector collaboration, investment and acceleration of stand-alone energy technologies and capabilities worldwide.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/horizon-power-backed-international-body-to-champion-microgrids/>

The Victorian government is inviting input from the community on state emissions reduction targets.

Have your say about what Victoria should do over the next five years and beyond to set the State on a pathway to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (includes a survey). An expert panel has recommended a 45-60% cut by 2030.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/climate-change-reducing-victorias-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

The Victorian government Solar rebates to return on July 1 with first-in best-dressed system.

Victorian solar rebates will be back on 1 July, with renters included for the first time.

The scheme will also cap at 3000 households per month, to manage demand.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/solar-rebates-to-return-on-july-1-with-first-in-best-dressed-system-20190618-p51ysq.html>

Tasmanian wind farm plans are not all hot air, but how will they work?

Tasmania is in the middle of a wind farm building boom. Does the state need them and where will all the energy go?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-16/not-all-hot-air-with-tasmanian-windfarm-plans/11209390>

A FERC First: Renewable Generating Capacity Surpasses Coal in the US

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)'s latest monthly Energy Infrastructure Update report shows electrical generating capacity by renewable energy sources edging past that of coal in the United States for the first time, according to the Sun Day Campaign's analysis this week.

<https://www.energymanagertoday.com/renewable-generating-capacity-surpasses-coal-0182911/>

Renewables

As Rooftop Solar Grows, What Should the Future of Net Metering Look Like?

Almost every state in the US has been weighing changes to how homes with solar are compensated for electricity they send to the grid. The results will impact solar growth. (RA - Interesting to compare with how we do it in Australia.)

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/11062019/rooftop-solar-net-metering-rates-renewable-energy-homeowners-utility-state-law-changes-map>

Victorian Solar rebates re-opening 1st July

Missed out on the state government solar rebates?
Well we've got good news for you. The solar rebates are returning on 1st July!
Find out what's on offer and how you can take advantage of it.

<https://www.positivecharge.com.au/news/2019/05/solar-rebates-re-opening-1st-july/>

Swan Hill Rural City Council Backs New Solar Bulk Buy

Households and businesses in the Swan Hill Rural City municipality can now access cost-effective solar thanks to a partnership between Swan Hill Rural City Council and the More Australian Solar Homes (MASH) initiative.

<https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/2019/07/council-backs-new-solar-bulk-buy/>

Events/Seminars

Australian Battery Performance Standard Project Update - Webinar 2

On Thursday 20 June, the Battery Performance Standard project consortium – DNV GL, CSIRO, Deakin University and the Smart Energy Council - held a webinar to update the industry on progress on this world-leading project. More than 900 people registered for the webinar, which highlighted progress in developing a draft battery performance standard and outlined a battery testing framework.

This project is funded by ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program and the Victorian Government's New Energy Jobs Fund.

WATCH WEBINAR HERE:

<https://www.smartenergy.org.au/news/australian-battery-performance-standard-project-update>

Webinar 1 on the Battery Performance Standard project was held on November 23 2018. Watch it here:

<https://www.smartenergy.org.au/resources/webinar-australian-battery-performance-standard-23nov18>

Part 1 in this special 3-part Webinar Series

Microgrids 101: Combining multiple power sources for maximum efficiency and uptime

This webinar was held in early June and is designed to educate energy professionals regarding microgrid and distributed generation projects. The presenter(s) will introduce the topic of microgrids, discuss commonly used power generation technologies and the circumstances that make microgrids an ideal energy solution. US and gas and diesel gensets focus but interesting and educational nonetheless.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1919411/DFCF36DCBD7E72A8097209FAF1BAA967>

Part 2 in this special 3-part Webinar Series

Microgrids 201: Integrating renewables and battery storage into your power solutions

This presentation will be held in August 14 2019 and is designed to educate energy professionals regarding microgrid and distributed generation projects incorporating battery storage with multiple energy sources including renewables. During this webcast, the presenter(s) will discuss the unique benefits and challenges of incorporating battery storage solutions into a microgrid, and provide real-world examples of successful projects including lessons learned and best practices identified. As it has a US focus the times may not suit Australia, so best to register and wait for the recording notification.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1919415/89F1DD82005F2A64E5FC952A40080B28?partnerref=emailShareFromReg&ms=1562059038724>

How To Take A Factory Off-Grid With Solar And Storage

Finn Peacock from SolarQuotes recently chatted with SolarQuip founder Glen Morris about an interesting project being carried out by his company involving taking a small factory off-grid with solar and storage. They also discussed partial grid defection for home owners. Video at this link:

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/off-grid-solar-factory-mb1090/>

Solar Insiders Podcast: Victoria's big solar and storage plan

Victoria outlines plan for rooftop solar and battery storage scheme, while the regulator cracks down on dodgy trading in certificates.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/solar-insiders-podcast-victorias-big-solar-and-storage-plan-79718/>

Reports/Articles

Zero Emissions Byron's Annual Review 2018/2019

ZEB has this month released their Annual Review for 2018/2019.

https://zerobyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ZEB_Annual_Report-2019_PRINT-compressed.pdf

Delta and Huawei Commercial Inverters Beat Fronius & SMA In PVEL Testing

Article from Solar Quotes - A torture test of commercial solar inverters has given top marks to Delta and Huawei, surprisingly beating perennial Aussie favorites Fronius and SMA. Score card is focused on North America.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/pvel-solar-inverter-scorecard/>

Green Power Vs. Rooftop Solar: Solar Easily Wins But Having Both Is Greenest

Article from Solar Quotes - discover why rooftop solar is far better than GreenPower.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/green-power-vs-solar/>

AEMO moves a step closer today in launching Australia's first database of distributed energy resources (DER)

The publication of Australia's DER register information guidelines follows extensive consultation with industry participants and consumer representatives to determine the data collection process and database of essential information on DER installed in the National Electricity Market (NEM).

<http://energylive.aemo.com.au/News/National-register-of-DER>

Australia's Clean Economy Future: Costs and Benefits

This paper compares the costs of emission reduction in Australia relative to the potential damages from climate change under current policy settings. The cost-benefit analysis finds that developing clean economies, whilst tackling climate change will actually deliver economic benefits.

<https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/publications/issues-papers/australias-clean-economy>

Australian Solar Systems Interest Index - June 2019

SolarQuotes' latest Australian Solar Systems Interest Index (auSSII) report, covering System Capacity Preferences, Readiness To Install, Price Vs. Quality etc.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/aussii-solar-june19-mb1084/>

Navigating the Australian energy revolution: A survival guide for business

How your business can mitigate risk and create opportunities as Australia's electricity market goes through this transformational period.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/navigating-the-australian-energy-revolution-a-survival-guide-for-business/>

Clean energy found to be a 'pathway to prosperity' for Northern Territory

The Northern Territory could be a renewable energy powerhub, according to a new report.

The Beyond Zero Emissions study says the energy economy needs to shift away from gas.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/20/clean-energy-found-to-be-a-pathway-to-prosperity-for-northern-territory>

Green/Circular Economy

There's a looming waste crisis from Australia's solar energy boom

Australia faces a looming waste problem as solar panels and batteries reach the end of their lives.

What's needed is a circular economy approach.

<https://theconversation.com/theres-a-looming-waste-crisis-from-australias-solar-energy-boom-117421>

Community Power/Solar Farms

Solar gardens can make energy transition more equitable when 40 per cent of households are locked out

Offsite solar gardens are offering some hope for renters and other parties locked out of the rooftop solar market.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/energy-lead/energy/solar-gardens-can-make-energy-transition-more-equitable-when-40-per-cent-of-households-are-locked-out/>

Daintree community split over renewable energy microgrid

Providing a renewable powered micro-grid might seem a no-brainer for people living off the grid with high power costs.

Not in the Daintree.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-13/renewable-energy-microgrid-daintree-solar-to-hydrogen/11182160>

Massachusetts Town Turns Closed Landfill into Solar Energy Generation Station

Ameresco, Inc., an energy efficiency and renewable energy company, today announced that it has partnered with the Town of Westport, Massachusetts to install a 622 KW-dc ground-mounted solar panel system at Westport's closed landfill. Ameresco will be responsible for the design, construction, operations and maintenance of the solar farm, at its own expense. Interesting to take into account the business model they use in the US when considering the feasibility of the Bendigo Bank project we are involved in.

<https://www.energymanagertoday.com/massachusetts-town-turns-closed-landfill-into-solar-energy-generation-station-0182887/>

Walmart Signs Agreement for Solar Garden Use Throughout Minnesota

Walmart announced it has reached an agreement with US Solar to subscribe to 36 of US Solar's community solar gardens located throughout the state of Minnesota. Another point of comparison for those of us in Oz looking for business models of community power generation.

<https://www.energymanagertoday.com/walmart-signs-agreement-for-solar-garden-use-throughout-minnesota-0182890/>

Domestic/Apartments

How to choose the right insulation for your home

Trawling through all the information online can make insulating your home seem complicated right? The good news is – it doesn't have to be! We've compiled the 6 things you need to know to help you choose the right insulation for your home.

<https://www.positivecharge.com.au/news/2019/05/how-to-choose-the-right-insulation-for-your-home/>

Commercial

Adelaide gets its first 6 Star NABERS Energy rating

Flinders Street in Adelaide is now home to what is claimed to be South Australia's first building to achieve the top six star NABERS Energy rating and the first NABERS Indoor Environment rating.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/innovation/building-construction/adelaide-gets-its-first-6-star-nabers-energy-rating/>

LGS's Scott Armstrong on why net zero is such a good thing to do

Local Government Super says building stock aiming to be net zero by 2050 is a good thing on multiple levels.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/business/finance/lgss-scott-armstrong-on-why-net-zero-is-such-a-good-thing-to-do/>

Sydney Opera House wind farm launches new community investment round

Developers of 170MW Sapphire wind farm, contracted to help power Sydney Opera House, extend co-investment initiative to all residents of NSW and the ACT.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/sydney-opera-house-wind-farm-launches-new-community-investment-round/>

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/sydney-opera-house-turns-to-wind-and-solar-may-add-battery-for-perfect-match-49734/>

Sydney Catholic schools preach solar savings with 1.3MW rooftop PV roll-out

1.3MW of rooftop solar installed across 19 Western Sydney Catholic schools

to cut grid power supply by 25% and save a collective \$1 million a year on electricity.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/sydney-catholic-schools-preach-solar-savings-with-1-3mw-rooftop-pv-roll-out/>

Colonial backs massive solar and battery storage roll-out in major shopping centres

A leading commercial property manager is building up to 9 MW of solar on shopping centres.

Charter Hall is also adding 12 MWh of battery storage.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/colonial-backs-massive-solar-and-battery-storage-roll-out-in-major-shopping-centres/>

"Australia's largest" school solar system generates 1GWh in first year

An 888kW rooftop solar system installed at Melbourne's Camberwell Grammar School has produced just over 1GWh of renewable electricity in its first year – almost exactly as predicted.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australias-largest-school-solar-system-generates-1gwh-in-first-year/>

Victorian college signs wind and solar PPA, in bid to go 100% renewable

Melbourne private girls school, Presbyterian Ladies College, has signed up to a power purchase agreement to take the school to 100% renewables by 2020.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victorian-college-signs-wind-and-solar-ppa-in-bid-to-go-100-renewable/>

Solar research champion UNSW sets 2020 date for 100% renewables

University of New South Wales sets 2020 date for 100% renewables, as part of three-year roadmap to take its buildings emissions-free and expand on-site solar generation.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-champion-unsw-sets-2020-date-for-100-renewables/>

Planet Ark Power and Regis Aged Care partnership to build a brighter future

Regis Aged Care is committed to significantly reducing its environmental footprint and energy costs for the benefit of the residents, the community and the planet. However, enabling their Sustainability Program requires partnerships, which is where Planet Ark Power can help.

<https://planetark.org/news/display/2742>

Environment

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are up again

The finally released December year-on-year figures show an annual 0.7% increase.

<https://theconversation.com/whichever-way-you-spin-it-australias-greenhouse-emissions-have-been-climbing-since-2015-118112>

Nillumbik E-waste to landfill ban

The State Government's e-waste landfill ban kicks off on 1 July. This means e-waste (anything with a cord, plug or battery that is unwanted or no longer working) can be recycled for free at Nillumbik Shire Council's Recycling and Recovery Centre in Plenty, or via a booked hard waste collection. Diverting e-waste from landfill is better for the environment and ensures the re-use of valuable resources

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/News/Victorian-e-waste-to-landfill-ban-on-1-July>

Sustainability/Energy Efficiency

Australian musicians band together to invest in solar farms

Australian musicians may clock up the carbon miles when touring. But they're seeking to offset that through investing in solar farms.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/04/theres-no-reason-why-this-couldnt-go-global-australian-music-industry-invests-in-solar-farms>

Thinking of upgrading your heating?

With so many options for heating, it can be hard choosing a system that will best meet your needs.

Positive Charge's NEW heating buyer's guide is here to help.

The guide will help you choose a system that is affordable, environmentally-friendly AND effective.

<https://www.positivecharge.com.au/energy-efficiency/heating-buyers-guide/>

The five sustainability features off-the-plan buyers now say they want – and you should not be surprised

After years of waiting for “consumer education” to kick in and encourage housing buyers to demand more sustainability features, there are some interesting green shoots emerging.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/innovation/retail/the-five-sustainability-features-off-the-plan-buyers-now-say-they-want-and-you-should-not-be-surprised/>

Australia missing out on huge cuts in emissions through energy efficiency failure

A new report says adopting global energy efficiency standards would save Australian households up to \$790 per year.

It would also help meet national emissions reduction targets.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/12/australia-could-cut-emissions-halfway-to-paris-target-under-global-energy-standards>

Victoria first: School trials solar-powered electric car charger

A secondary college in Melbourne's east has become the first school to trial an EV charging station.

<https://thedriven.io/2019/06/17/victoria-first-school-trials-solar-powered-electric-car-charger/>

Sustainable Development Report 2019

The Sustainable Development Report 2019 “Transformations to Achieve the SDGs,” prepared by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) which includes the SDG Index and Dashboards, is available now on www.sustainabledevelopment.report.

This fourth edition of the annual stocktaking of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) presents data for all 193 UN member states and assesses whether countries are on track to meet each of the 17 SDGs.

<https://sdgindex.org>