

Recent News

Electric cars better for climate in 95% of the world

Fears that electric cars could actually increase carbon emissions are unfounded in almost all parts of the world, new research shows.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200323125602.htm>

Solar Citizens - Get Involved as a digital volunteer

The idea of the program is simple: join an online group with other friendly solar citizens, and receive one online campaign action via Whatsapp per week - such as posting on social media, writing a quick letter to the editor or even calling a decision maker.

https://www.solarcitizens.org.au/digital_volunteers

Cure for coronavirus-hit economy could be in renewables: Garnaut

Australian economist Ross Garnaut argues renewables could be the cure for a corona-hit economy.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/cure-for-coronavirus-hit-economy-could-be-in-renewables-garnaut-20200311-p5494c.html>

Spain's Acciona to build 1GW wind farm in Australia

Our biggest onshore wind farm – a 1GW project in Qld – has just been given the green light.

<https://ieefa.org/spains-acciona-to-build-1gw-wind-farm-in-australia/>

7 Ways You Can Lower Energy Bills While Stuck at Home

As the government encourages social distancing to help slow COVID-19's spread, many of us will spend much more time in our houses than usual.

And as we and our family members work, study, and care for children at home, our houses will use more electricity than usual too.

However, the last thing anyone needs right now is a higher electricity bill.

So here are seven easy ways to save energy while keeping you and your family connected, comfortable, and entertained.

<https://aef.com.au/news/aef-news/2020/03/7-ways-you-can-lower-energy-bills-while-stuck-at-home/>

Your Guide To Choosing the Best Solar Panels For Your Home

A guide from the Australian Energy Foundation.

<https://aef.com.au/for-home/solar-power/best-solar-panels-guide/>

Danish Study Shows Solar Panel Optimisers Aren't Always Optimal

Have solar panel optimiser manufacturers been too optimistic in their performance claims? A Danish study indicates optimisers can be the opposite of optimal.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/panel-optimisers-danish-study/>

Covid-19 – The Low-Carbon Crisis

Emissions are dropping due to coronavirus, but what is happening in different sectors?

And is there a way we could build back greener?

<https://about.bnef.com/blog/covid-19-the-low-carbon-crisis/>

Highly efficient and stable double layer solar cell developed

A research team has developed a new type of solar cell that can both withstand environmental hazards and is 26.7% efficient in power conversion.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200327103038.htm>

Why Cities, Towns and Regions are Creating Roadmaps Towards 100% Renewable Energy

For a perspective on why cities and regions are going renewable and what a roadmap to 100% renewables looks like at the subnational level, REN21 talked to Rohit Sen, Renewable Energy Senior Officer at ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

Sen also digs into what is needed to kick-start the energy transition and how the 100% Renewables Roadmap Cities and Regions project will show how it can be done, especially in the global south. Here's what he had to say.

<https://talkofthecities.iclei.org/why-cities-towns-and-regions-are-creating-a-roadmap-towards-100-renewable-energy/>

Record year sees world wind power capacity up by fifth

Robin kindly put me onto this article. Thanks Rob!

The world's wind power capacity grew by almost a fifth in 2019 after a year of record growth for offshore windfarms and a boom in onshore projects in the United States and China.

<http://econews.com.au/63981/record-year-sees-world-wind-power-capacity-up-by-fifth/>

Solar Insiders Podcast: Can solar isolate itself from Covid-19 pandemic?

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought great uncertainty to the solar industry. Demand is up in some quarters, and down in others. But there is real fear of a brutal slowdown.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-insiders-podcast-cane-solar-isolate-itself-from-covic19-pandemic/>

Rooftop solar rebates slow to a trickle in Victoria as Covid-19 starts to bite

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought great uncertainty to the solar industry. Demand is up in some quarters, and down in others. But there is real fear of a brutal slowdown.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/rooftop-solar-rebates-slow-to-a-trickle-in-victoria-as-covid-19-starts-to-bite/>

Indigo Power launches crowd investment round to expand community owned renewables

Indigo Power calls for EOIs for crowd-funded investment to expand community owned renewables projects across Victoria.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/indigo-power-launches-crowd-investment-round-to-expand-community-owned-renewables/>

PV maker Tindo Solar prepares move into 'solar rental' market

Australia's only solar panel manufacturer applies for regulatory approval to offer "solar rental" services to homes and small businesses.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/pv-maker-tindo-solar-prepares-move-into-solar-rental-market/>

Clean energy industry seeks clarity on renewables as an essential service

The renewable energy industry is seeking clarification that it is classified as an essential service during coronavirus work restrictions.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/clean-energy-industry-seeks-clarity-on-renewables-as-an-essential-service-36552/>

Snowy 2.0 is a wolf in sheep's clothing - it will push carbon emissions up, not down

Snowy 2.0 is supposed to act as a big battery for new renewable energy generation.

But will it work that way?

<https://theconversation.com/snowy-2-0-is-a-wolf-in-sheeps-clothing-it-will-push-carbon-emissions-up-not-down-133006>

8 Reasons Why Right Now Is A Great Time To Go Solar

The (very understandable) distraction of COVID-19 is resulting in some Australians missing out on the advantages of installing solar panels sooner rather than later. Here's eight reasons why right now is a great time to go solar.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/solar-power-reasons-mb1455/>

The Post-Virus Economic Recovery Could Be a Green One

Looking forward to a post-coronavirus economic recovery, could massive investment in renewables and electric vehicles lead the way?

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-18/green-projects-could-pull-economies-out-of-the-coronavirus-slump>

PROSPERING IN A LOW-EMISSIONS WORLD: AN UPDATED CLIMATE POLICY TOOLKIT FOR AUSTRALIA

The Federal Government needs to go far beyond its planned technology roadmap to meet its Paris emissions reduction commitments, according to a new report from the Climate Change Authority.

<http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/Updated%20Toolkit%202020/Prospering%20in%20a%20low-emissions%20world.pdf>

Coronavirus May Mean Halt to Global Solar Gains—For Now

Mainly US focused but still worth a read: Projects are likely to slow this year because of disruptions being experienced by the companies that do the work and pay for it.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/campaign-archive/clean-economy-weekly/1827945>

CRC for better buildings gets under way

The Australian government has provided \$28 million in funding to a 30-partner collaborative initiative to revolutionise the way buildings are designed and built in Australia.

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/articles/crc-for-better-buildings-gets-under-way/>

Win for energy “disenfranchised” as Orange community solar project goes ahead

A 5MW, 5MWh community solar and battery project proposed for Orange in NSW will go ahead with grant funding from the state government.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/win-for-energy-disenfranchised-as-orange-community-solar-project-goes-ahead/>

Solar and batteries in demand as Coronavirus encourages shift to “self-reliance”

COVID-19 impact on Australia's solar and storage sector may not be all bad, particularly as homes and businesses look for ways to cut energy costs and increase self-reliance.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-and-batteries-in-demand-as-coronavirus-encourages-shift-to-self-reliance/>

RAYGEN’S DISPATCHABLE SOLAR POWER PLANT RECEIVES FUNDING FROM ARENA, PROGRESSES TOWARDS FINANCIAL CLOSE

RayGen Resources Pty Ltd (RayGen) has recently formalised an agreement for \$3 million in funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to conduct a technical and commercial feasibility study for a flagship solar-plus-storage project to be built at Carwarp in north-west Victoria.

<https://energystoragealliance.com.au/raygens-dispatchable-solar-power-plant-receives-funding-from-arena-progresses-towards-financial-close/>

<https://arena.gov.au/news/plans-for-world-first-solar-power-plant-in-western-victoria/>

Victoria seizes power to speed-up network investments, skip RIT-T assessments

The Victorian Parliament has passed legislation allowing the state to by-pass some national energy market rules that are holding up network investment to grow renewables.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-seizes-power-to-speed-up-network-investments-skip-rit-t-assessments-17368/>

The Complete Guide To Choosing Your Perfect Heat Pump Hot Water System

The Australian Energy Foundation has launched a brand-new guide to help you learn more about an efficient alternative to typical hot water systems - hot water heat pumps.

What is a heat pump and is it really worth it?

How does it compare to gas hot water and electric storage?

Are there any rebates available and what brands are best?

Find this out and more in the brand-new, jam-packed guide.

<https://aef.com.au/for-home/hot-water/hot-water-heat-pump-guide/>

UNSW hydrogen storage technology to debut at community solar farm

The NSW regional town of Manilla will host a world-first project thanks to researchers at UNSW: hydrogen storage technology that will be integrated with a new community-owned solar farm.

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/03/11/unsw-hydrogen-storage-technology-to-debut-at-community-solar-farm/>

Albanese says we can't replace steelmaking coal. But we already have green alternatives

Zero-emissions steelmaking continues to gain momentum, casting doubt on the continuing role of metallurgical coal.

<https://theconversation.com/albanese-says-we-cant-replace-steelmaking-coal-but-we-already-have-green-alternatives-126599>

Homegrown autonomous EV charges from solar panels in roof

Electric, self charging and autonomous. An Australian startup is reimagining the car.

<https://arena.gov.au/blog/homegrown-autonomous-ev-charges-from-solar-panels-in-roof/>