

Recent News

Community battery “solar sponges” to be trialled across Melbourne network

A series of community-scale batteries will be installed across the inner-city suburbs of Melbourne, in a joint venture between local network distribution company CitiPower and the not-for-profit Yarra Energy Foundation.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/community-battery-solar-sponges-to-be-trialled-across-melbourne-network/>

Angus Taylor’s electric vehicle emissions claims “fundamentally flawed,” says expert

Transport experts have criticised the assumptions underpinning the Federal Government's electric vehicle strategy, which has favoured hybrid vehicles over EVs.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/angus-taylors-electric-vehicle-emissions-claims-fundamentally-flawed-says-expert/>

World's biggest battery with 1,200MW capacity set to be built in NSW Hunter Valley

Developers have announced plans to build the world's biggest battery in the Hunter Valley.
The battery will have a capacity of 1200 MW.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/feb/05/worlds-biggest-battery-with-1200mw-capacity-set-to-be-built-in-nsw-hunter-valley-australia>

Victoria gives \$10m for hydrogen hub which will study storage and clean energy vehicles

The Victorian Government will provide \$10 million for a hub to test and improve hydrogen storage and vehicle technologies.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/07/victoria-gives-10m-for-hydrogen-hub-which-will-study-storage-and-clean-energy-vehicles>

Climate Active City goal achieved for Adelaide

The City of Adelaide is now officially carbon neutral. The target has been achieved through investment in renewables and energy efficiency.

<https://glamadelaide.com.au/climate-active-city-goal-achieved-for-adelaide/>

Australian carbon offset prices jump on surging corporate demand

Prices of Australian carbon offsets have hit a new 12 month high. Corporate demand has pushed permit prices up to \$17 per tonne.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australian-carbon-offset-prices-jump-on-surging-corporate-demand/>

Western Australia to splash \$35m on virtual power plant pilot

WA is trialling a \$35 million virtual power plant in the southern suburbs of Perth. If successful, it would pave the way for larger VPPs across the state grid.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/western-australia-to-splash-35m-on-virtual-power-plant-pilot/>

Flinders University goes 100 per cent renewable with wind farm deal

Flinders University has become the latest academic institution to go 100% renewables.

The university has signed a PPA with the Willogoleche wind farm.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/flinders-university-goes-100-percent-renewable-with-wind-farm-ppa/>

Engineers have built machines to scrub CO₂ from the air. But will it halt climate change?

New US research suggests carbon can be scrubbed from the air to cut emissions.

But how successful could the technology be?

<https://theconversation.com/engineers-have-built-machines-to-scrub-co-from-the-air-but-will-it-halt-climate-change-152975>

Most Victorians want support for electric vehicles, not taxes

A new survey has found that Victorians want more support for electric vehicles, not taxes on their use.

An EV tax has been proposed by the state government.

<https://thedriven.io/2021/02/01/most-victorians-want-support-for-electric-vehicles-not-taxes/>

'We need incentives': Technology alone not enough to meet PM's climate target

The Federal Government says new technology is needed to get us to zero emissions by 2050.

Experts say that won't be enough by itself.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/federal/we-need-incentives-technology-alone-not-enough-to-meet-pm-s-climate-target-20210202-p56yse.html#comments>

Coal-rich Hunter Valley ponders jobs future as Asian giants commit to net-zero carbon emissions

People in the Hunter Valley are thinking about a transition away from coal.

Part of the answer may lie in new solutions, like brick energy storage.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-02/coal-transition-climate-change-hunter-region/13109642>

Australia needs to stop thinking that setting a target of zero emissions by 2050 is good enough

Why net zero by 2050 isn't enough.

How do we shift the conversation to more urgent action?

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/grogonomics/2021/feb/02/australia-needs-to-stop-thinking-that-setting-a-target-of-zero-emissions-by-2050-is-good-enough>

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL 1-28 FEB 2021

The National Sustainable Living Festival is on throughout February with a mix of face-to-face (for Melbourne) and online events.

<http://www.slf.org.au>

The Deadly Costs Of Climate Inaction

A new report from the Climate Council finds the costs of extreme weather in Australia has doubled since the 1970s.

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/deadly-costs-climate-inaction/>

Adjusting to a 3 degree world

What would it look like to adapt to a 3 degree world?
ABC's The Signal investigates.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/the-signal/climate-adaptation/13093088>

Electric vehicles close to 'tipping point' of mass adoption

Sales projections suggest that electric vehicles are reaching a tipping point, after which they will dominate the market.
That's already been passed in Norway.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/22/electric-vehicles-close-to-tipping-point-of-mass-adoption>

ACT Budget to offer free registration for electric cars and deliver promised loans scheme

The ACT Government will offer loans of up to \$15,000 for residents to buy EVs or purchase solar.
EVs will also get free rego.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-21/act-electric-vehicles-free-rego-solar-panel-loans-in-budget/13077258>

Forget about the trade spat – coal is passé in much of China, and that's a bigger problem for Australia loans scheme

Even after the current trade dispute, there's no guarantee that China will buy Australian coal.

It's important to see what's happening with Chinese power stations.

<https://theconversation.com/forget-about-the-trade-spat-coal-is-passe-in-much-of-china-and-thats-a-bigger-problem-for-australia-153300>

Home battery uptake sets record highs in Victoria

Victoria has recorded record home battery uptake in 2020.

It's in response to state government rebates.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/home-battery-uptake-sets-record-highs-in-victoria/>

Something new under the sun

A study has recommended changes to government incentives in South Australia to help renters get solar. It includes adopting a Victorian scheme.

<https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/P943-Something-new-under-the-sun-Web.pdf>

Electric car batteries with five-minute charging times produced

EV batteries capable of being fully charged in 5 minutes, have been produced in a factory.

It brings EVs closer to internal combustion vehicles in charging times.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/19/electric-car-batteries-race-ahead-with-five-minute-charging-times>

Shaded, not stewed: Solar study examines how PV could protect fruit orchards

Research has found that combining solar with orchards could not only generate power, but also provide protection for fruit on extreme heat days.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/shaded-not-stewed-solar-study-examines-how-pv-could-protect-fruit-orchards/>

What is the role of gas in a green economy?

Gas is promoted as a transition fuel as the grid shifts from fossil fuels to renewables.

But does it really have a place in a green energy economy?

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/what-is-the-role-of-gas-in-a-green-economy-20210115-p56ud9.html>

2021 is here: what to watch out for in Australian climate and energy politics

It's set to be a big year for climate politics in 2021.

There's the COP in Glasgow, how the Australian grid is handling the renewables transition and what emissions targets we should be setting.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/2021-is-here-what-to-watch-out-for-in-australian-climate-and-energy-politics/>

Climate change pushed ocean temperatures to record high in 2020, study finds

Global ocean temperatures also hit record highs in 2020, according to a new study.

That's going to give us stronger cyclones and monsoons.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-18/ocean-temperatures-reached-record-high-in-2020-study-finds/13062628>

Climate change: what would 4°C of global warming feel like?

Last week, we noted that the world is way off hitting the 1.5 degree target.

So, what would it feel like if we miss it?

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-what-would-4-c-of-global-warming-feel-like-152625>

Western Australia LNG plant faces calls to shut down until faulty carbon capture system is fixed

There are calls to shut down the Gorgon carbon capture plant in WA, after sand clogged the system.

It's resulted in more carbon being released during operation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/15/western-australia-lng-plant-faces-calls-to-shut-down-until-faulty-carbon-capture-system-is-fixed>

Nation's capital celebrates strong year for households embracing solar power

Solar installations in the ACT grew by 17% in 2020.

This is despite the ACT sourcing 100% of its energy from renewables.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nations-capital-celebrates-strong-year-for-households-embracing-solar-power/>

ESB's market vision falls short of what's needed for renewable grid

Australia's Energy Security Board has mapped out a future plan for transforming Australia's grid.

But does it go far enough?

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/esbs-market-vision-fall-short-of-whats-needed-for-renewable-grid/>

Worried about Earth's future? Well, the outlook is worse than even scientists can grasp

A major new scientific report out today paints a bleak picture of the future. And global policymaking is falling short in its response.

<https://theconversation.com/worried-about-earths-future-well-the-outlook-is-worse-than-even-scientists-can-grasp-153091>

Global Energy Perspective 2021

The preceding analysis above is backed up by a new report from McKinsey that notes current projections have us missing reaching 1.5C temperature rise. More likely we'll be seeing a 3.5C increase.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/oil-and-gas/our-insights/global-energy-perspective-2021>

What's a 'just transition' and can you switch to green energy without sacking coal workers?

When Germany closed its black coal industry, it did so without sacking a single worker. Can Australia do the same?

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/what-s-a-just-transition-and-can-you-switch-to-green-energy-without-sacking-coal-workers-20201218-p56oub.html>

Cities could get more than 4°C hotter by 2100. To keep cool in Australia, we urgently need a national planning policy

Average temperatures in cities could rise by up to 4 degrees by the end of the century. We need a national framework of green city principles.

<https://theconversation.com/cities-could-get-more-than-4-c-hotter-by-2100-to-keep-cool-in-australia-we-urgently-need-a-national-planning-policy-152680>

As the Arctic melts, a regime shift is taking place

As the Arctic melts, what is replacing the usually ice-bound environment? A lot of plankton, for starters.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-13/regime-shift-is-taking-place-as-arctic-sea-ice-melts/12956328?nw=0>

A wrap on 2020: From denial to acceptance, and from acceptance to action

What were the big energy market changes in 2020?
And what can we expect in 2021 as renewables continue to replace coal?

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/a-wrap-on-2020-from-denial-to-acceptance-and-from-acceptance-to-action-30722/>

Alan Kohler: Investors will pull Australia into the future even if EVs don't tow Scott Morrison's boat

The Morrison Government can no longer put off producing an EV policy of its own because 23 other countries have now promised to ban petrol and diesel cars in favour of EVs within 10 to 15 years.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/finance/2021/02/08/alan-kohler-electric-vehicles/>

New data reveals 2020 was a shocker for gas, but great for solar and wind

New data reveals gas generation in Australia's largest electricity grid fell by 19 per cent in 2020 while solar and wind had a record year despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://econews.com.au/66300/new-data-reveals-2020-was-a-shocker-for-gas-but-great-for-solar-and-wind/>

Smart Energy Vision 2021

Smart Energy Vision 2021 is a FREE three-hour webinar forum that contains standalone presentations from renewable energy experts that aims to simplify complex topics about how councils and local government may use "Smart Energy" as localized economic stimulus.

<https://www.linkedin.com/events/6751735624551792640/>

Five-year-old German coal plant gets new life as a hydrogen hub

Swedish power producer Vattenfall plans to turn the site of its recently shuttered five-year-old Moorburg coal power plant in northern Germany into a hub for turning wind and solar power into hydrogen.

<https://econews.com.au/66215/five-year-old-german-coal-plant-gets-new-life-as-a-hydrogen-hub/>

Australia's cheapest EV: can it survive a week of on-street parking and one very sandy dog?

The MG ZS EV brings electric cars into the realm of financial possibility for many more families. But is there a gap between possible and practical?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/24/australias-cheapest-ev-can-it-survive-a-week-of-on-street-parking-and-one-very-sandy-dog>

Energy Transition Investment Trends – Tracking global investment in the low-carbon energy transition - Report

This is an abridged version of BloombergNEF's annual accounting of global investment in the low-carbon energy transition

<https://assets.bbhub.io/professional/sites/24/Energy-Transition-Investment-Trends-Free-Summary-Jan2021.pdf>

Putting Electric Logistics Vehicles to Work in Shenzhen

In this report series—Putting Electric Logistics Vehicles to Work in Shenzhen— a reference point and a goal post for governments looking to reduce the health and climate impacts of freight transport in their communities is Provided. This is done by diving deeply into how Shenzhen, a metropolis in Southern China, has electrified logistics vehicles and where it can make changes to accelerate that transition.

<https://rmi.org/insight/putting-electric-logistics-vehicles-to-work-in-shenzhen/>

The Top 11 Clean Energy Developments of 2020

2020 will be a year to remember. Fortunately, we don't only have to remember it just for a global pandemic, wildfires, an economic recession, racial justice protests, and locust swarms. Plenty of exciting and positive things happened in the energy space throughout the year.

<https://rmi.org/the-top-11-clean-energy-developments-of-2020/>

Newest coal-fired power station written off as worthless as renewables rise

The owners of Australia's newest coal-fired power station have written down the value of the asset to zero, wiping out a \$1.2 billion investment in the face of an onslaught of renewable energy.

<https://econews.com.au/66090/newest-coal-fired-power-station-written-off-as-worthless-as-renewables-rise/>

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