

Recent News

Australian Industry Group urges Coalition to spend 'at least' \$3.3bn on renewable energy over coming decade

The peak employer body, Australia Industry Group, has called on the Federal Government to spend \$3.3 billion over 10 years on renewable energy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/31/australian-industry-group-urges-coalition-to-spend-at-least-33bn-on-renewable-energy-over-coming-decade>

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

The Sun Cable project that sees 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/>

Turning the tide: Building support for a net zero emissions future in regional Queensland

Despite what the polls might say, there is strong and growing support across regional Queensland for an economy sustained by action that reduces and absorbs emissions across all sectors of the economy. In this webinar, Dr Amanda Cahill presented the findings of her consultation with 450 Queenslanders in a series of community forums, and the range of existing and emerging economic opportunities being explored by regional areas to accelerate the transition to zero emissions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGVtDh43S5M>

Re-defining the role of government agencies in community transition — The Latrobe Valley Authority, a case study

Hear how The Latrobe Valley Authority is leading the transition of the Latrobe Valley economy and community through long-term work that continues the efforts of many people in the Latrobe Valley community. Through genuine collaboration important decisions are being made now and for the future that will benefit all members of the community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-0fVJSaZ94>

Construction begins at Australia's largest community-owned solar farm

Construction work has begun on Australia's largest community energy project, near Canberra.

The Majura solar farm will produce 1 MW of power.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/construction-starts-at-one-of-australias-largest-community-owned-solar-farms/>

Daytime solar subsidies to be slashed as WA moves to head off grid overload

Subsidies to West Australian households that pump solar power to the grid during the middle of the day are set to be slashed in a bid to avoid the risk of renewable energy overloading the state's electricity system.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-31/wa-solar-subsidy-overhaul-to-avoid-grid-overload/12608036>

Hobsons Bay – Virtual Power Plant To Generate Almost 4 MWs Of Solar Power

Hobsons Bay City Council is building a virtual power plant to generate almost 4 MW of renewable energy.

The installation will meet up to 55% of council needs.

<http://waga.com.au/hobsons-bay-virtual-power-plant-to-generate-almost-4-mws-of-solar-power/>

Electricity provider authorised to switch off rooftop solar in SA in emergencies

South Australian energy authorities will have the power to turn off solar on households next summer if they perceive the grid to be under threat.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-27/authorities-power-to-switch-off-south-australia-solar-panels/12602684>

Aldi Australia says it will be 100 per cent renewable by end of 2021

Supermarket chain, ALDI, has pledged to be 100% renewables powered by the end of 2021.

This follows major solar installations and wind energy off take deals.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/aldi-australia-says-it-will-be-100-per-cent-renewable-by-end-of-2021/>

Preparing Alice Springs electricity grid for renewables

The electricity network that serves Alice Springs and its surrounds will be transformed to accommodate more renewable energy.

<https://arena.gov.au/blog/preparing-alice-springs-electricity-grid-for-renewables/>

Rooftop solar sector to face inquiry after reports of dodgy sales practices and installations

The domestic solar industry is to be subject to a Federal inquiry.

This follows reports of dodgy sales tactics and installations.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-24/rooftop-solar-faces-inquiry-over-reports-of-dodgy-practices/12589886>

Australia's Chief Scientist is wrong on gas, say leading experts

Australia's chief scientist, Alan Finkel, has come under fire from leading scientists for his support for gas as a transition energy source.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-chief-scientist-is-wrong-on-gas-say-leading-experts-20200824-p55oty.html>

Electric car surge dominates Europe's best car sales in 10 months

Hybrid and electric-car registrations soared in Europe last month, seizing a record share of the market and lifting total sales to the highest in 10 months.

<http://econews.com.au/65218/electric-car-surge-dominates-europes-best-car-sales-in-10-months/>

China, US dominate world renewables output

According to the International Energy Agency's Key World Energy Statistics report, just released China continues to be the world's largest producer of renewable power from wind as well as solar photovoltaics.

<http://econews.com.au/65225/china-us-dominate-world-renewables-output/>

SA's First Electric Garbage Truck Doing The Rounds

What's said to be South Australia's first zero-emissions electric-powered kerbside garbage and recycling collection truck went into service in Adelaide last week.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/electric-garbage-truck-mb1420/>

Queensland Government Announces First Step Towards 13,400 Ongoing Clean Energy Jobs

Solar Citizens today congratulates the Queensland Government on their announcement to invest \$145 million to develop Renewable Energy Zones in North and Central Queensland, as well as the South West.

<https://www.solarcitizens.org.au/queensland-government-announces-first-step-towards-13-400-ongoing-clean-energy-jobs?fbclid=IwAR2kTbwNVX6pcMWIY21ZntSATkuCfwMYqrde3Hc2rkyL6hBjabY6cHy23c>

That's not a big battery this is a big battery, 1500MW storage project gets approval

A permit to expand California power generator Vistra's natural gas-fired Moss Landing generation station to 1500 megawatt (MW) of storage has been approved, setting the stage for the world to see gigawatt-scale battery energy storage for the first time ever.

<http://econews.com.au/65101/thats-not-a-big-battery-this-is-a-big-battery-1500mw-storage-project-gets-approval/>

Yarra All Electric Homes Webinar: The How, Why and When of Transitioning from Gas at Home.

This Webinar was held recorded in late August and uploaded to youtube on August 26.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eDD3yyh2Og>

More coal power generation closed than opened around the world this year, research finds

China continues to increase its coal power, but in India new construction has ground to a near halt. Same in Bangladesh which is considering dropping 90% of its planned coal power.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/03/more-coal-power-generation-closed-than-opened-around-the-world-this-year-research-finds>

<http://econews.com.au/64989/bangladesh-considers-dropping-90-of-its-planned-coal-power/>

Podcast: AEMO Q2 2020 Quarterly Dynamics Seminar

In this podcast, Dr Myrtle from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) discussed key findings of the Q2 2020 report including:

- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on electricity demand;
- drivers of falling wholesale electricity and gas prices, and;
- the changing generation mix – including black coal-fired generation reaching its lowest Q2 level since 2014.

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

Energy Ministers' Summit – Recording Now Available

This is a recording of the Energy Ministers' Summit, held by the Smart Energy Council on 05 August 2020.

The Energy Ministers' Summit brought together energy ministers from WA, SA, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, NSW and the ACT for an update on policies and programs being implemented by their governments to revitalise and decarbonise their economies at the same time, creating jobs, building new industries and helping regional communities.

<https://www.smartenergy.org.au/energy-ministers-summit-2020>

Solar panel and battery system recycling targeted in NSW grant round

The NSW government has launched a grants program to trial methods of recycling and reusing old solar panels and batteries.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/solar-panel-and-battery-system-recycling-targeted-in-nsw-grant-round-63090/>

Our Power documentary

If you've got a library or a student card, treat yourself to the 'Our Power' documentary, about the struggle of the Latrobe Valley to reinvent itself after coal.

<https://ourpowerdoco.com/watch/>

Energy efficiency is a jobs machine - and local governments can start it up/

Energy efficiency should be a core part of any green-led recovery from Covid-19.

And councils are leading the way.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6878737/energy-efficiency-is-a-jobs-machine-and-local-governments-can-start-it-up/>

Re-energise Australia: A clean jobs summit for local government

Hosted by the Cities Power Partnership, this event brought together local government leaders and experts to explore local government's key role in delivering solutions that can rapidly put Australians back to work, reboot the economy, while also tackling long-term challenges like climate change. Agenda [here](#). (For actual videos, look for the blue coloured videos at the following link)

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ClimatecouncilOrgAu/videos>

Electric vehicle sales triple in Australia despite lack of government support

The sale of electric vehicles tripled in 2019, without Federal Government support.

But an industry report says the total number remains small

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/19/electric-vehicle-sales-triple-in-australia-despite-lack-of-government-support>

German energy utilities now earn more money from renewables than fossil fuels

The energy transition in Germany is moving fast.

Now, the country's energy utilities make more profit from renewables than they do from fossil fuels.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/german-energy-utilities-now-earn-more-money-from-renewables-than-fossil-fuels-27104/>

The national home energy rating scheme (NatHERS) is coming out with an upgrade.

How comfortable is your home in the hot weather or cold? Soon you'll be able to prove the claims (and maybe get a better price when you sell), thanks to an improved national rating scheme.

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/innovation/residential-2/how-comfortable-is-your-home-in-the-hot-weather-or-cold-soon-youll-be-able-to-prove-the-claims-and-maybe-get-a-better-price-when-you-sell/>

Victorian government to fund more than 15 new EV chargers in state's north west

The Victorian government is funding the installation of at least 15 new EV chargers in the state's north-west.

It's part of the Charging the Regions project with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance.

<https://thedriven.io/2020/08/14/victorian-government-to-fund-more-than-15-new-ev-chargers-in-states-north-west/>

Agents lack knowledge of energy ratings: Environment Victoria study

Just 9% of real estate agents know the energy rating of homes they are selling, according to a survey.

The Environment Victoria research found only one in three agents could name energy efficient features.

<https://www.realestate.com.au/news/agents-lack-knowledge-of-energy-ratings-environment-victoria-study/>

City of Hobart proposes higher price to buy rooftop solar from residents

The City of Hobart has proposed buying renewable energy from households at a higher price than they can get with their feed-in tariff.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/city-of-hobart-proposes-higher-price-to-buy-rooftop-solar-from-residents/>

Australia “back on radar” as global companies switch to wind and solar supplies

The global corporate renewables power purchase agreement market is booming.

And Australia has been one of the stronger performers.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australia-back-on-radar-as-global-companies-switch-to-wind-and-solar-supplies-39732/>

North-facing rooftop solar panels rarely best for consumers – or the grid

Most Australian homes face their solar panels north.

But new research from South Australia, suggests that's not always the best option.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/north-facing-rooftop-solar-panels-rarely-best-for-consumers-or-the-grid/>

Fight For Planet A: Our Climate Challenge

If you missed the episodes of ABC's Fight for Planet A, don't sweat. It's available now on iView. There are also extras on the page worth viewing.

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/fight-for-planet-a-our-climate-challenge>

Business chiefs urge PM to invest 'sustainably' for COVID-19 recovery

The Australian finance sector has written to the Federal Government urging investment in renewables as part of a sustainable response to coronavirus.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/business-chiefs-urge-pm-to-invest-sustainably-for-covid-19-recovery-20200807-p55jm2.html>

Don't rush into a hydrogen economy until we know all the risks to our climate

There's a lot of enthusiasm for shifting to a green hydrogen economy. But scientists warn, we must be aware of all the possible environmental effects.

<https://theconversation.com/dont-rush-into-a-hydrogen-economy-until-we-know-all-the-risks-to-our-climate-140433>

W.A. launches "solar schools" VPP pilot in Goldfields region

Western Australia is trialling the building of virtual power plants on schools.

The combined solar and battery storage systems will be trialled on 10 schools in the Goldfields region.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/w-a-launches-solar-schools-vpp-pilot-in-goldfields-region/>

Melbourne airport's massive behind-the-meter solar farm nears completion

Melbourne Airport is building one of Australia's largest behind-the-meter solar installations.

The 12 MW system will meet about 15% of the airport's needs.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/melbourne-airports-massive-behind-the-meter-solar-farm-nears-completion/>

Rooftop solar's stunning surge to new records, as Australia installs reach 2.5 million

Coronavirus hasn't slowed down the uptake of solar with a record month of installations in July.

Australia now has 2.5 million homes with solar.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/rooftop-solars-stunning-surge-to-new-records-as-australia-installs-reach-2-5-million-55528/>

Australia's trilemma of providing good, fast and cheap energy finally has a clear solution

The idea that Australia is stuck with an energy trilemma is outdated.

Renewables and a map to the future have changed everything.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/31/australias-trilemma-of-providing-good-fast-and-cheap-energy-finally-has-a-clear-solution>