

Recent News

Melbourne lord mayor contender pledges to expand renewable energy push

More than 20,000 homes and small businesses would be added to a renewable energy drive that has been credited with reducing emissions by 5 per cent in the inner city and generating 140 jobs, under an ambitious council election pledge.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/melbourne-lord-mayor-contender-pledges-to-expand-renewable-energy-push-20200929-p560be.html>

Rooftop solar enters brave new world as South Australia leads shift to tighter rules

New rules allowing energy operators to turn off rooftop solar units during high demand, come into force in South Australia today. The rest of the national grid will follow.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/rooftop-solar-enters-brave-new-world-as-south-australia-leads-shift-to-tighter-rules-68583/>

Warm, cool and energy-affordable housing policy solutions for low-income renters

Up to 40% of Australians who rent experience energy hardship, according to new research.

Full report available here:

https://www.ahuri.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/64867/AHURI-Final-Report-338-Warm-cool-and-energy-affordable-housing-policy-solutions-for-low-income-renters.pdf

California and the UK move to ban sale of all petrol and diesel vehicles by 2035

California has announced it will ban the sale of all petrol-powered cars by 2035.

The largest car market in the US joins countries such as the UK that have made similar pledges.

<https://thedriven.io/2020/09/24/california-moves-to-ban-sale-of-all-petrol-and-diesel-vehicles-by-2035/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-51366123>

Independent MP launches \$483m Local Power Plan to boost community energy

Independent Federal MP, Helen Haines, has launched a Local Power Plan to massively scale up community-owned renewables.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/independent-mp-launches-483m-local-power-plan-to-boost-community-energy/>

Councils muscle up for the climate emergency and planning is on the front line

Details are out on the City of Melbourne's amendment to its planning scheme that encourages greater uptake of renewables and energy efficiency in new buildings.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/business/government/councils-muscle-up-for-the-climate-emergency-and-planning-is-on-the-front-line/>

Essential poll: two-thirds of voters would prefer Coalition support renewables rather than new gas plants

Two thirds of Australians support renewables over gas, according to a new poll.

The Essential survey found 70% for renewables versus 15% for gas.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/sep/22/essential-poll-two-thirds-of-voters-would-prefer-coalition-support-renewables-rather-than-new-gas-plants>

'A dose of reality': Morrison government's new \$1.9 billion techno-fix for climate change is a small step

The Federal Government's announcement of \$1.9 billion investment in technology to combat climate change is a mix bag. And it needs a plan on how to deploy at scale.

<https://theconversation.com/a-dose-of-reality-morrison-governments-new-1-9-billion-techno-fix-for-climate-change-is-a-small-step-146341>

Unlocking the potential of net zero precincts

Tackling emissions through planning at the precinct scale offers new opportunities, according to a soon-to-be released report.

But there are hurdles to be overcome as well.

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/urbanism/planning/unlocking-the-potential-of-net-zero-precincts/>

All-electric, all-solar Canberra suburb set to launch unique home battery trial

One of Australia's first all-electric, all-solar suburbs is adding batteries to the mix.

Ginninderry has won an ACT Government grant to trial residential battery storage.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/all-electric-all-solar-canberra-suburb-set-to-launch-unique-home-battery-trial/>

Scott Morrison's power plan is nothing but a gas-fuelled calamity

The Federal Government's gas-led recovery plan has been slammed by experts.

They say it's not needed, won't decrease prices and ignores Australia's Paris commitments.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/sep/15/scott-morrison-s-power-plan-is-nothing-but-a-gas-fuelled-calamity>

COMMUNITY WEBINAR : THE GAS FALLACY

The speakers at the webinar held on Sept 15 covered these questions:

What impact will plans for gas expansion have on greenhouse gas emissions and on the climate?

What impact would it have on people's health?

Why is the Australian government supporting this gas expansion? Do we actually need more gas?

Can the transition to renewables be achieved without gas?

Recording of the webinar available here:

<http://pecan.org.au/community-webinar-the-gas-fallacy/>

A shift to 90 per cent renewables in the West would create 5,000 jobs a year

Switching Western Australia's grid to 90% renewables by 2030 would create up to 5000 new jobs, according to a new report by Sustainable Energy Now.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/a-shift-to-90-per-cent-renewables-in-the-west-would-create-5000-jobs-a-year-17434/>

NZ Labour pledges 100 pct renewables by 2030, national hydrogen refuelling network

In New Zealand, the Labour government has pledged to reach 100% renewables by 2030.

The election promise brings forward a previous target by 5 years.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nz-labour-pledges-100-pct-renewables-by-2030-national-hydrogen-refuelling-network-11793/>

South Korea's Green New Deal shows the world what a smart economic recovery looks like

Plenty of countries are talking up a green new deal to recover from Covid-19.

South Korea has already started.

<https://theconversation.com/south-koreas-green-new-deal-shows-the-world-what-a-smart-economic-recovery-looks-like-145032>

Push to make sustainable city buildings the new norm

The City of Melbourne is pushing for stronger sustainability measures in its planning scheme.

It includes environmentally sustainable design, water conservation and transport measures.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/push-to-make-sustainable-city-buildings-the-new-norm-20200911-p55usg.html>

Climate policy pressure builds as Steggall sets November date for zero emissions bill

Independent MP, Zali Steggall, is planning to reintroduce her private members' bill in November, that would set a bipartisan target of zero emissions by 2050.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/climate-policy-pressure-builds-as-steggall-sets-november-date-for-zero-emissions-bill-29407/>

“Netflix for EVs:” AGL offers electric cars, home charging on subscription deals

A subscription service for EVs might be the answer to overcoming high upfront costs.

That's what AGL is betting on with its offer to customers.

<https://thedriven.io/2020/09/09/netflix-for-evs-agl-offers-electric-cars-home-charging-on-weekly-subscription/>

Garbos go emissions free

Blacktown City Council, in Sydney, says it's had positive feedback from its staff on the operation of an electric waste truck, as part of a trial off the vehicle.

<https://www.governmentnews.com.au/councils-jump-on-electric-garbage-truck-bandwagon/>

Victoria regional EV charging network expands up to 24 chargers

Victorian councils are investing in major EV charging infrastructure expansion.

A tender has been released for the Charging the Regions project in central Victoria.

<https://thedriven.io/2020/09/08/victoria-regional-ev-charging-network-expands-to-18-chargers/>

Australia's biggest renewable energy hub to deliver low-cost power for ACT

The country's biggest renewable energy hub, in South Australia, has signed its first contract.

The \$3 billion project will supply wind power to the ACT Government.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australias-biggest-renewable-energy-hub-to-deliver-low-cost-power-for-act-69264/>

With record new solar and wind installed, Australia's clean energy is booming – for now

Renewable energy is booming in Australia, at the moment. But future investment is far from certain.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/sep/06/with-record-new-solar-and-wind-installed-australias-clean-energy-is-booming-for-now>

Apple to invest in renewable energy projects in Australia

Tech giant Apple has announced it plans to invest in renewable energy projects in Australia. It's part of the company's push to be carbon neutral by 2030.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/technology/apple-to-invest-in-renewable-energy-projects-in-australia-20200903-p55s2x.html>

House hunters are rarely told the home energy rating – little wonder the average is as low as 1.8 stars

House hunters are rarely told the energy rating of houses they want to buy. It's part of the reason why Australian housing energy performance is so bad.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/innovation/residential-2/house-hunters-are-rarely-told-the-home-energy-rating-little-wonder-the-average-is-as-low-as-1-8-stars/>

Renewables pour into grid at record rates despite COVID-19

Renewable energy is expanding at record rates in Australia. Much of it is due to faster than expected growth in rooftop solar.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/politics/federal/renewables-pour-into-grid-at-record-rates-despite-covid-19-20200902-p55rlx.html>

Queensland solar proposal could power job creation, slash bills for social housing tenants

Queensland is considering a plan to put solar on public housing throughout the state.

The proposal was developed by Queensland Council of Social Services.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-02/queensland-weighs-up-solar-power-for-social-housing-proposal/12616332>

'A shot in the arm:' Victoria backs clean energy in bid to fuel COVID-19 recovery

Renewables look set to be a key part of Victoria's post-Covid recovery plans.

The government is about to tender for up to 600MW of renewable energy.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/business/the-economy/a-shot-in-the-arm-victoria-backs-clean-energy-in-bid-to-fuel-covid-19-recovery-20200901-p55r9r.html>

How to decarbonize America — and create 25 million jobs

If you're up for a deep dive into what it takes to decarbonise a major economy by 2035, check out the Ezra Klein Show podcast interview with Saul Griffith

<https://www.vox.com/podcasts/2020/8/27/21403184/saul-griffith-ezra-klein-show-solve-climate-change-green-new-deal-rewiring-america>

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 has gone into service in Adelaide.

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

Changing tack: wind power breezes back into shipping with Swedish venture

A Swedish consortium aims to launch commercially by 2025 a wind-driven car carrier that will emit 90 per cent less carbon dioxide than a conventional roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) cargo ship

<https://econews.com.au/65302/changing-tack-wind-power-breezes-back-into-shipping-with-swedish-venture/>

Australia's first big solar battery discovers highs and lows of energy market

The first big battery to be fitted retrospectively to a large-scale renewable energy generator in Australia, and the first to be paired with a solar farm, has provided some valuable insights into how battery storage can position itself in the country's energy markets, and also identified some of the barriers and hurdles.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australias-first-big-solar-battery-discovers-highs-and-lows-of-energy-market-49142/>

McCain Foods Ballarat sustainability success

McCain Foods Ballarat has recorded a 20 per cent improvement in water efficiency over the past 12 months, as part of its Growing Green and Golden sustainability campaign. It has also reduced waste by 40 per cent and is on track to reduce its energy use by 39 per cent.

<http://www.foodanddrinkbusiness.com.au/news/mccain-foods-ballarat-sustainability-success>

The EV Transition - Policy & Practice – Webinar recording

The Driven held the first in a series of webinars to discuss the global transition to electric vehicles.

The Driven's Editor, Giles Parkinson, is joined by Shane Rattenbury, the ACT Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability; the Electric Vehicle Council's CEO Behyad Jafari; and ABB Australia's Electric Vehicle Segment Lead, Steve Amor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4X76Rg8K4M>

Global Smart Energy Summit 2020 Event – Recording

On Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 September 2020 the Smart Energy Council and partners the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Zoom delivered an amazing lineup of international and local industry and political leaders in exploring ways to tackle the economic and climate crises simultaneously.

<https://www.smartenergy.org.au/global-smart-energy-summit-2020-event-summary>

Householder perspectives on community batteries – Webinar Recording

Australian National University (ANU) researchers spoke with more than 50 householders across Australia to explore their perspectives on the concept of a shared battery as part of ARENA funded research on local energy models. The webinar presented the detail on these findings as well as a case study of responses to a proposed community battery in Broome, Western Australia, through a collaboration between ANU and Horizon Power.

When you reach the web page use 'copy and paste' to enter the password provided into the subsequent page you're directed to.

<https://bsgip.com/news-events/events/householder-perspectives-of-community-batteries/>

