

## **Recent News**

### **As South Australia now knows, local jobs must be a priority in the clean energy transition**

Is a just transition from coal to renewables possible? Developments in Port Augusta show what's possible and what still needs to be improved.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/26/as-south-australia-now-knows-local-jobs-must-be-a-priority-in-the-clean-energy-transition>

### **Australia's first offshore wind farm promises jobs boom**

Australia's first offshore wind farm could provide up to 8000 jobs in Victoria, according to a study. The proposed Star of the South farm would also provide up to 20% of the state's energy needs.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-first-offshore-wind-farm-promises-jobs-boom-20201022-p567i5.html>

### **REPORT | Clean jobs for communities: How local governments can create sustainable, strong economies**

A new report shows how local governments can deliver jobs as part of a green recovery from Covid. The report identifies 8 key opportunities.

<https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/2020/10/21/report-clean-jobs-for-communities-how-local-governments-can-create-sustainable-strong-economies/>

## **NSW Southern Highlands to get jobs boost with new EV factory planned**

Electric bus builder, Nexport, has announced plans for a \$700 million factory in NSW.

The plant is needed to meet NSW state government commitments to replace Sydney's diesel buses.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/urbanism/infrastructure/nsw-southern-highlands-to-get-jobs-boost-with-new-ev-factory-planned/>

## **Newcastle Waters Station in Northern Territory earmarked for world's biggest solar farm**

A cattle station in the Northern Territory has been proposed for at the world's largest solar farm.

The 10 GW solar farm would be part of the Sun Cable project supplying power to Singapore.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-10-20/newcastle-waters-station-nt-set-for-worlds-biggest-solar-farm/12785256>

## **Solar panels on schools, hospitals and prisons could power Queensland into a renewable future, report finds**

A new report finds that installing solar on public buildings in five Queensland council areas would produce enough energy equivalent to power 44,000 homes.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-19/qld-report-solar-panel-energy-public-buildings-power-households/12779552>

## **Climate and clean energy leaders win big in New Zealand, ACT elections**

Strong election results for renewable energy, over the weekend. In both New Zealand and the ACT, parties supporting renewables did well.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/climate-and-clean-energy-leaders-win-big-in-new-zealand-act-elections-87775/>

## **New poll in US on climate change: Denial is out, alarm is in.**

Americans are now four times more likely be alarmed than dismissive about climate change. It's the highest rate since surveys began.

<https://grist.org/climate/new-polling-on-climate-change-denial-is-out-alarm-is-in/>

## **'Solastalgia': Arctic inhabitants overwhelmed by new form of climate grief**

'Solastalgia' is the word for homesickness felt without leaving home. It's particularly acute amongst Arctic communities.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/oct/15/arctic-solastalgia-climate-crisis-inuit-indigenous>

## **Solar Trinity: Rooftop PV to power S.A. school and student learning**

A South Australian school has become one of the first in the country to integrate its solar system with the educational curriculum.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/solar-trinity-rooftop-pv-to-power-s-a-school-and-student-learning/>

## **Global emissions fall faster than at any time on record as COVID-19 hits economies**

Global emissions have dropped at a faster rate than at any time, in 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic has suppressed demand for travel and energy.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/global-emissions-fall-faster-than-any-time-on-record-as-covid-19-hits-economies-20201014-p56511.html>

## **People power: everyday Australians are building their own renewables projects, and you can too**

Community energy projects are gathering momentum with the number of groups up fourfold since 2015.

Goulburn solar farm in NSW is amongst the latest.

<https://theconversation.com/people-power-everyday-australians-are-building-their-own-renewables-projects-and-you-can-too-146885>

## **Climate Reality Check 2020**

Breakthrough Institute's latest report updating the science of climate change is out now.

Essential reading for policymakers.

<https://www.climaterealitycheck.net>

## **Rooftop solar and battery storage take centre stage in W.A energy transition**

WA has released a 20 year plan for its south-west grid, which sees strong growth in renewables.

But it could have gone further.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/rooftop-solar-and-battery-storage-take-centre-stage-in-w-a-energy-transition-72332/>

## **Net zero emissions target for Australia could launch \$63bn investment boom**

Australia could create a \$63 billion investment boom in renewables if it sets a net zero target for 2050, according to new modelling.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/oct/12/net-zero-emissions-target-for-australia-could-launch-63bn-investment-boom>

## **City of Newcastle has gone wind and solar, now it's time to look at EVs and charging**

The City of Newcastle was the first local government in NSW to go 100% renewables for its electricity.

The next step? Transport emissions and the role of EVs.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/city-of-newcastle-has-gone-wind-and-solar-now-its-time-to-look-at-evs-and-charging-21744/>

## **Federal budget funds Vales Point upgrade and CCS, but snubs EVs**

The budget was a win for fossil fuels with little for addressing climate change.

New money for Vales Point and carbon capture storage.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/federal-budget-funds-vales-point-upgrade-and-ccs-but-snubs-evs-13886/>

## **Tweed Shire taps wind and solar PPA for more than half its power needs**

Tweed Shire Council has signed a PPA that will see half its energy demand, supplied by wind and solar.

Council is backing it up with energy efficiency upgrades and solar on buildings.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/tweed-shire-taps-wind-and-solar-ppa-for-more-than-half-its-power-needs/>

## **ACT's all-electric revolution is shaking up the system**

Canberra is on the way to switching away from gas to be an all-electric city.

But it hasn't been without its stumbles.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/energy-lead/business-energy-lead/acts-all-electric-revolution-is-shaking-up-the-system/>

## **Australian renewables hit new high of 52.9 per cent**

Renewables hit a new record high of supplying 53% of demand on the national grid on Friday.

30% of that was from rooftop solar.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australian-renewables-hit-new-high-of-52-9-per-cent-61480/>

## **Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Roles and Responsibilities under Victorian legislation** **Guidance for local government decision-makers**

The Victorian Government has released guidance for councils on their roles and responsibilities when responding to climate change.

[https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0030/490476/Local-Government-Roles-and-Responsibilities-for-Adaptation-under-Victorian-Legislation\\_Guidance-Brief.pdf](https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/490476/Local-Government-Roles-and-Responsibilities-for-Adaptation-under-Victorian-Legislation_Guidance-Brief.pdf)

## **Place-based Adaptation Planning Guidance**

The Climate Change Exchange has released new place-based adaptation planning guidance.

The guidance was developed with the support of the Victorian government.

<https://climatechangeexchange.org.au/resources-training/place-based-adaptation-planning-guidance/>

## **Victoria charts “dramatic plunge” in rooftop solar installs as Covid takes toll**

Rooftop solar installations in Victoria have dropped dramatically, as Covid-19 restriction hit.

It's dropped by almost half in the past three months.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victoria-charts-dramatic-plunge-in-rooftop-solar-installs-as-covid-takes-toll/>

## **Victorian town’s bid to go 100% solar wins grant to “supersize” battery**

The Victorian town of Yackandandah has moved closer to its goal of being powered 100% by renewables, after it won a grant to 'super-size' its battery storage.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victorian-towns-bid-to-go-100-solar-wins-grant-to-supersize-battery/>

## **Why green hydrogen could be cheaper than fossil fuels in just a few years**

A new report has found that green hydrogen could be cheaper than fossil fuels in a few years.

Improved electrolyzers and Australia's abundance of solar are the keys.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/why-green-hydrogen-could-be-cheaper-than-fossil-fuels-in-just-a-few-years-32918/>

## **CSIRO goes 100 per cent solar, telescopes and all**

CSIRO is going 100% renewables in three states.

That includes not just offices and labs but also big installations like telescopes.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/csiro-goes-100-per-cent-solar-telescopes-and-all/>

## **China's zero emissions target puts Australia on notice**

China's target of reaching zero emissions by 2060 will involve a massive at-scale restricting of their economy.

It will also put Australia on notice for its climate policy

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/china-s-zero-emissions-target-puts-australia-on-notice-20200930-p560kn.html>

## **Sydney Water's 'greenprint' for Western Sydney**

A planned new development in Western Sydney is being touted as a 'green print' for dealing with projected climate change impacts, such as the urban heat island effect.

<https://www.governmentnews.com.au/sydney-waters-greenprint-for-western-sydney/>

## **The Green New Deal - Opportunities and Obstacles: Comparing Proposals in Europe, the US and Australia**

In this webinar Professor Robyn Eckersley and Associate Professor Peter Christoff discussed and compared approaches to Green New Deals. This discussion was chaired by Professor Boris Frankel.

<https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/home/news-events/past-events/the-green-new-deal-opportunities-and-obstacles-comparing-proposals-in-europe,-the-us-and-australia>

## **ECI Public Forum: Digging deeper into the Technology Investment Roadmap**

The Australian Government's Technology Investment Roadmap and First Low Emissions Technology Statement outline various technologies aimed at reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

Such "priority investments" include clean hydrogen, energy storage, and low carbon steel and aluminium.

This public forum explored the Roadmap and Statement in detail, and the panel comprised:



Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO  
Dr Patrick Hartley (Leader, CSIRO Hydrogen Industry Mission),  
Dr Liz Ratnam (Future Engineering Research Leader Fellow, ANU)  
Assoc. Prof. Llewelyn Hughes (ANU Crawford School of Public Policy)  
Anna Skarbek, CEO of ClimateWorks Australia  
Chair: Prof Ken Baldwin, Director, ANU Energy Change Institute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6z5QBSvZSw>

## **You've probably heard of the Green New Deal in the US — is it time for one in Australia?**

The idea of a Green New Deal started in the US but is spreading around the world.

Is it time for one in Australia?

<https://theconversation.com/youve-probably-heard-of-the-green-new-deal-in-the-us-is-it-time-for-one-in-australia-148254>

## **Rooftop solar and Covid shutdown lead to record lows in Australian electricity use**

Australians' embrace of rooftop solar panels and the Covid-19 shutdown in Victoria have combined to reduce the amount of power being drawn from the national grid, with several states setting record lows for daily large-scale electricity consumption.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/oct/22/rooftop-solar-and-covid-shutdown-lead-to-record-lows-in-australian-electricity-use>

## **The EU Methane Strategy: An Important Step for Our Climate**

The European Union has taken a big step toward solidifying plans to become the first climate-neutral continent with the European Commission's announcement that it is adopting a methane strategy as a part of the European Green Deal.

<https://rmi.org/the-eu-methane-strategy-an-important-step-for-our-climate/>

## **Tasmania step closer to 200% renewable energy target**

An ambitious 200 per cent renewable energy target is one step closer to being realised in Tasmania.

<https://econews.com.au/65585/tasmania-step-closer-to-200-renewable-energy-target/>

## **WA Labor government approves proposed 15GW solar and wind project**

The Western Australia's Labor state government has approved development of a 15,000MW solar and wind project, which will export electricity to Indonesia and supply the WA iron ore sector.

<https://econews.com.au/65593/wa-labor-government-approves-proposed-15gw-solar-and-wind-project/>

## **Network operators push into community batteries for greener network**

Ausgrid and United Energy, two of Australia's biggest network operators have revealed plans to invest in community-scale battery storage in moves that will boost the grid's capacity to absorb more rooftop solar, and also put network companies on a collision course with the major energy retailers.

<https://econews.com.au/65597/network-operators-push-into-community-batteries-for-greener-network/>

## **Clean Energy Is Cancelling Gas Plants**

While COVID-19 has disrupted many aspects of the economy and daily life in 2020, the trend toward clean electricity is still going strong. Renewable energy and storage technology costs continue to fall, with expanding adoption by utilities and other investors, while new gas-fired power plants face ever-stronger financial headwinds.

<https://rmi.org/clean-energy-is-canceling-gas-plants/>

## **EU says home electrification, clean transport, and energy justice key to higher targets**

Electrification of housing, climate justice and decarbonisation of the transport system are at the heart of European ambitions to reduce emissions, according to senior EU officials.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/eu-says-home-electrification-clean-transport-and-energy-justice-key-to-higher-targets-15433/>

## **Buildings must now eliminate gas to qualify for top Green Star ratings**

Australian buildings hoping to achieve the gold standard for sustainability will now have to ditch gas, as part of a major overhaul of the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star rating system.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/buildings-must-now-eliminate-gas-to-qualify-for-top-green-star-ratings/>

## **The Healesville Energy Revolution is Here!**

This two hour video was recorded on Monday 12 October 2020. It consists of three parts: an introduction by the President of Healesville CoRE, Jeff Barlow; this is followed by the first speaker, Ben McGowan from Indigo Power; second speaker, Matthew Charles-Jones from Mondo and Totally Renewable Yackandandah; third speaker, Julian Guess from the Sustainability unit at Yarra Ranges Council.

Due to a technical problem with Jeff's video camera, his image appears as a still rather than a moving image.

<https://www.healesvillecore.org.au/the-healesville-energy-revolution-is-here/>

## **In a world first all of South Australia's power comes from solar panels**

A global milestone has been achieved by South Australia's renewable energy boom with the state, once known for not having enough

power, becoming the first major jurisdiction in the world to be powered entirely by solar energy.

<https://econews.com.au/65634/in-a-world-first-all-of-south-australias-power-comes-from-solar-panels/>

### **Is a just transition from coal to renewables possible?**

Port Augusta once supplied 40% of South Australia's electricity through its huge coal-fired power station. But the town saw the writing on the wall for fossil fuels and began to campaign for a transition to renewable energy to secure jobs for future generations. Jake Morcom and Adam Morton discuss what went wrong for the town's promising renewables projects

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/audio/2020/oct/26/is-a-just-transition-from-coal-to-renewables-possible>