

Recent News

Strategic

Renewables driving “fundamental change” as Victoria leaves coal behind (28 June 2019)

Victoria's electricity market is leaving coal behind according to a new report from AEMO.

It warns the state needs to invest in new infrastructure to support renewables growth.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/renewables-driving-fundamental-change-as-victoria-leaves-coal-behind-41757/>

Growing the Market for Sustainable Homes: Industry Roadmap (2 July 2019)

Addressing sustainability in the housing sector could attract half a billion dollars of investment and create more than 7000 new jobs, according to a roadmap just released.

<https://www.asbec.asn.au/research-items/growing-market-sustainable-homes-roadmap/>

CRC for Low Carbon Living: what it did and what's next (2 July 2019)

The CRC for Low Carbon Living wrapped up at the end of June. It's run of achievements have been notable.

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/urbanism/planning/crc-for-low-carbon-living-what-it-did-and-whats-next/>

Renewable energy is growing, but NSW and Queensland are still undershooting their targets (10 Jul 2019)

Victoria and South Australia are likely to meet renewable energy supply targets.

But NSW and Queensland are lagging.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-02/renewable-energy-targets-may-not-be-met-by-all-states/11267824>

Could hydrogen energy be Australia's future? This village might show us how (July 5, 2019)

Could Australia become a hydrogen superpower?

It depends on technology, policy and the availability of water and renewable energy.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/could-hydrogen-energy-be-australia-s-future-this-village-might-show-us-how-20190705-p524h8.html>

Industry wants Victoria solar rebates to target lower income homes, more batteries (July 8, 2019)

The solar industry is calling on the Victorian government to focus rebates on low income homes.

It comes after the most recent round of rebates was exhausted in a few days.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/industry-wants-victoria-solar-rebates-to-target-lower-income-homes-more-batteries/>

Victoria government resists calls to rein in rooftop solar rebate (15 July 2019)

The Victorian Government says it won't be changing the solar rebate scheme despite calls from industry.

The scheme, which has a monthly quota, was oversubscribed within three days.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-government-resists-calls-to-rein-in-rooftop-solar-rebate-11446/>

Solar flare-up: Installers to rally at Parliament over subsidy woes (July 23, 2019)

Solar installers are rallying today at Parliament House in Melbourne to protest the structure of the state government's incentive scheme.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/solar-flare-up-installers-to-rally-at-parliament-over-subsidy-woes-20190723-p529vs.html>

“D-day” for Victoria solar rebate, as government holds firm on design (1 August, 2019)

The latest round of solar rebates in Victoria opens today.

It comes as the Victorian government refuses to change the design of its Solar Homes scheme.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/d-day-for-victoria-solar-rebate-as-government-holds-firm-on-design/>

Victoria solar rebate “disaster” as August quota fills in 90 minutes (2 August, 2019)

It was open and then 90 minutes later, it was shut.
Victoria's solar rebate program under pressure to change due to unmanageable demand.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/victoria-solar-rebate-disaster-as-august-quota-fills-in-90-minutes-97021/>

Should the Victorian solar rebate be abolished? (1 August, 2019)

Demand for residential solar systems has plunged in Victoria after the Andrew's government solar scheme was put on hold a few months ago.

<https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/energy-lead/energy/should-the-victorian-solar-rebate-be-abolished/>

Wind and solar cut rather than boost Australia's wholesale electricity prices (16 July 2019)

Wind and solar cut the cost of wholesale electricity prices, according to new research.

It undercuts the myth that renewables add to energy costs.

<https://theconversation.com/wind-and-solar-cut-rather-than-boost-australias-wholesale-electricity-prices-119979>

Energy prices: large users could be paid to reduce demand at peak times (17 July 2019)

Large scale demand response will be coming to the Australian energy market in 2022.

A new AEMO ruling could ease pressure on prices.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jul/18/energy-prices-large-users-could-be-paid-to-reduce-demand-at-peak-times>

Power prices would be lower under emissions trading scheme, outgoing public service head Martin Parkinson says (25 July 2019)

The outgoing head of the Federal public service says we would have lower power prices if we still had a price on carbon.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-25/power-prices-lower-under-emissions-trading-martin-parkinson-says/11347752>

The new electricity boom: renewable energy makes staggering leap but can it last? (28 July 2019)

Australia is undergoing a renewables boom, with 3.5 GW of power added last year.

But can the good times last?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/29/the-new-electricity-boom-renewable-energy-makes-staggering-leap-but-can-it-last>

Nillumbik Council seeking community members to join committees

Nillumbik Council is looking for community members who would like to join the Environment and Sustainability Environment Committee or the Pantom Hill Bushland Reserves System Advisory Committee.

Applications close at 5pm on 25 August

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Environment-Advisory-Committees>

Renewables

Australia now has more than 9GW of small scale rooftop solar (July 11, 2019)

Australia reaches another key milestone in rooftop solar installations, with 9GW across the country and the 10GW mark likely to be reached by year end.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australia-now-has-more-than-9gw-of-small-scale-rooftop-solar-76901/>

'Just a matter of when': the \$20bn plan to power Singapore with Australian solar (14 July 2019)

Australia could be a renewable energy hub powering Asia. One of the first plans is to pump solar power to Singapore.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/14/just-a-matter-of-when-the-20bn-plan-to-power-singapore-with-australian-solar>

Related article (NT government backs 10GW solar and storage plant, biggest in world) here:

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/nt-government-backs-10gw-solar-and-storage-plant-biggest-in-world-71012/>

Following Berkeley's Natural Gas Ban, More California Cities Look to All-Electric Future (1 July 2019)

Berkeley in California has become the first US city to ban natural gas to new low-rise housing.

Up to 60 cities across the state are considering going all electric.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/23072019/berkeley-natural-gas-ban-california-cities-incentive-all-electric-building-construction-future>

Events/Seminars

Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Conference 2019 Snapshot: Sharing a Few Gems

In case you missed the recent Victorian greenhouse alliances conference, Ironbark Sustainability has generously shared some of the highlights from the day.

<https://www.ironbarksustainability.com.au/resources/news/article/greenhouse-alliances-conference-2019-snapshot-sharing-a-few-gems/>

Microgrids 101: Combining multiple power sources for maximum efficiency and uptime

This webinar was held in early June and is designed to educate energy professionals regarding microgrid and distributed generation projects. The presenter(s) will introduce the topic of microgrids, discuss commonly used power generation technologies and the circumstances that make microgrids an ideal energy solution. US and gas and diesel gensets focus but interesting and educational nonetheless.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1919411/DFCF36DCBD7E72A8097209FAF1BAA967>

Part 2 in this special 3-part Webinar Series

Microgrids 201: Integrating renewables and battery storage into your power solutions

This presentation will be held in August 14 2019 and is designed to educate energy professionals regarding microgrid and distributed generation projects incorporating battery storage with multiple energy sources including renewables. During this webcast, the presenter(s) will discuss the unique benefits and challenges of incorporating battery storage solutions into a microgrid, and provide real-world examples of successful projects including lessons learned and best practices identified. As it has a US focus the times may not

suit Australia, so best to register and wait for the recording notification.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1919415/89F1DD82005F2A64E5FC952A40080B28?partnerref=emailShareFromReg&ms=1562059038724>

Reports/Articles

Growing the market for sustainable homes: Industry roadmap

Sustainable Report mentioned earlier in this newsletter. Produced by the Low Carbon Living CRC and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (asbec).

<https://www.asbec.asn.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/190701-ASBEC-CRCLCL-Growing-Market-for-Sustainable-Homes-web.pdf>

The Renewable Energy Target 2018 Administrative Report (24 July 2019)

The Clean Energy Regulator today released the 2018 Renewable Energy Target Administrative Report – The acceleration in renewables investment. The report highlights the record investment in large scale, commercial and industrial and household solar over the last year.

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/About/Pages/Accountability%20and%20reporting/Administrative%20Reports/The%20Renewable%20Energy%20Target%202018%20Administrative%20Report/The-Renewable-Energy-Target-2018-Administrative-Report.aspx>

National Energy Emissions Audit: July 2019 (26 July 2019)

Hugh Saddler, an energy consultant and honorary associate professor at ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy, says the pace of renewable energy growth is equivalent to the electricity boom of the 1950s, when new coal and hydro plants transformed the electricity system. In a new report for the progressive think-tank the Australia Institute, he says the most populous state, NSW, doubled the power it received from large-scale wind and solar plants in just 14 months

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/About/Pages/Accountability%20and%20reporting/Administrative%20Reports/The%20Renewable%20Energy%20Target%202018%20Administrative%20Report/The-Renewable-Energy-Target-2018-Administrative-Report.aspx>

Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest – a bold new strategy for a greener, more liveable Melbourne (5 June 2019)

Resilient Melbourne in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have developed Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest – a bold new strategy for a greener, more liveable Melbourne. A flagship action of the Resilient Melbourne strategy Living Melbourne presents a transformative approach to respond to urban challenges with nature.

<https://resilientmelbourne.com.au/living-melbourne/>

Green/Circular Economy

The chemical recycling technology that might unlock a plastic neutral Australia (25 June, 2019)

A breakthrough technology that turns plastics back into oil is now commercially viable, with the potential for 80 plants throughout Australia and work under way in the UK and Canada.

<https://www.thefifthstate.com.au/waste/the-chemical-recycling-technology-that-might-unlock-a-plastic-neutral-australia/>

Community Power/Solar Farms

“Australian first” residential solar PPA a big hit with new home buyers (3 July, 2019)

A residential power purchase agreement in WA has signed up 90% of target households.

The scheme involves solar power which is owned by the retailer and sold back to residents.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australia-first-residential-solar-ppa-a-big-hit-with-new-home-buyers/>

On Country renewable energy partnership gets green light (9 July, 2019)

DELWP has signed an agreement to get power for a regional office from a community energy project on First Nations land in the north-east of Victoria.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-09/on-country-renewable-energy-gets-green-light/11292928>

'No limits': Victoria's biggest solar farm paves way for more (19 July, 2019)

Victoria's largest solar farm has reached full-capacity, with its French owner Neoen declaring the plant to be operating "slightly above" expectations as it eyes 3 gigawatts of new renewable developments in Australia.

https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/no-limits-victoria-s-biggest-solar-farm-paves-way-for-more-20190718-p528j5.html?fbclid=IwAR1a8QFeoMFbOZh_oHruhDCaBLn10NIRt9UOkDA_WF0buVYDvO38OU3miuA

Domestic/Apartments

Australia now has more than 9GW of small scale rooftop solar (July 11, 2019)

Australia now has more than 9GW of small scale solar.
The fastest growth in installations remains in Queensland.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/australia-now-has-more-than-9gw-of-small-scale-rooftop-solar/>

Sunrise TV Gets It Wrong: Installing Batteries Will Lose Most Households Money (July 4, 2019)

After watching a Channel 7 Sunrise segment in early July, you'd think the secret to saving money is to splash out cash on batteries. This is really, really bad advice according to Ronald Brakels of Solar Quotes - and here's why. It's sad and frustrating we have to keep saying this, but misinformation on the economics of batteries at this point in time is still rife.

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/blog/sunrise-tv-solar-batteries/>

Commercial

Canberra's first zero emissions office block to house ACT government (July 15 2019)

Canberra is getting its first zero emissions office building.
It will house ACT government offices in the inner city suburb of Dickson.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/canberras-first-zero-emissions-office-block-to-house-act-government/>

Victorian hospitals get solar treatment in 1.5MW PV rollout (July 23 2019)

Eight Victorian hospitals have completed a 1.5 MW solar fit out. Wonthaggi Hospital added 500 KW of rooftop solar this week.

<https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/victorian-hospitals-get-solar-treatment-in-1-5mw-pv-rollout/>

Sustainability/Energy Efficiency

Canberra renters advised to use bubble wrap as insulation as winter temps bite (1 Jul 2019)

Renters often struggle to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

In Canberra, some renters are using bubble wrap to stay warm in winter.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-01/renters-using-bubble-wrap-to-keep-warm-in-canberra-winter/11265598>

Sustainable businesses in Darebin council area

Two examples of businesses operating more and more sustainably over time - Moon Rabbit and Terra Madre.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFKZQfl2WZc&list=PL50VRsbC_lolWsCXeL3aSv6pHGgqbN5ch

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

CRC for Low Carbon Living: how to build a new low carbon home that can set you free from bill shocks (25 Jul 2019)

If you've ever watched an episode of ABC's Gardening Australia you will know its star presenter Josh Byrne is not only an environmental scientist but a highly accomplished professional who's built a 10 star house in Fremantle near Perth for his family.

<https://thegreenlist.com.au/listing/crc-for-low-carbon-living-how-to-build-a-new-low-carbon-home-that-can-set-you-free-from-bill-shocks/>

Guide to low carbon residential buildings – new build (13 May 2019)

A new house is an opportunity; not only to ensure affordability and the best possible liveability for future occupants, but to create high-performance dwellings that actively 'give back' by generating more power than they use, collecting and recycling water and reducing the built environment's carbon footprint.

This document offers practical advice to developers and owner builders on how to achieve these objectives through the conception and realisation of a new home.

<http://builtbetter.org/node/7730>

Actual Document download:

<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2019/11/apo-nid239826-1367171.pdf>

Guide to low carbon residential retrofit (13 May 2019)

The document builds on key research conducted nationally by individuals and organisations, including the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Energy and local universities, working in the areas of low carbon retrofit options, housing typology and climate.

<http://builtbetter.org/node/7567>

Actual Document download:

<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2019/05/apo-nid235556-1367196.pdf>

Guide to low carbon households (13 May 2019)

Occupants, or householders, may be owners or renters and there may be multiple householders within one dwelling. This document recognises the needs and capacities of these different householder

groups and, where appropriate, also addresses the needs of households in different climate zones.

<https://apo.org.au/node/235381>

Actual Document download:

<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2019/05/apo-nid235381-1367181.pdf>