Project Update Four: January 2019

Welcome to the January 2019 update of the DELWP Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap project.

The Roadmap will represent the voice of the community, identify local barriers and issues, understand the investment potential of the region and clearly identify what the community expects from the renewable energy transition.

What’s been happening with the roadmap project

Roadmap projects begin across the state

The successful pilot of the Hume Roadmap has resulted in roadmap projects across the state. The Hume Roadmap team are working closely with the other projects, sharing what we have learnt over the last 6 months. The roadmaps are being developed by different organisations on behalf of DELWP:

- Loddon Mallee – Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
- Grampians – G-NET Grampians New Energy Taskforce
- Barwon South West – Barwon Water
- Gippsland – Gippsland Climate Change Network

Creating our renewable energy future: Community workshops in 2019

Planning is underway for community workshops around the region during March-April. More details coming in the next newsletter.

Building our regional energy picture

The Hume Roadmap team are working with Ausnet services to understand our local electricity infrastructure and what opportunities and challenges exist in the system for our renewable energy future. Through this work the Roadmap project aims to:

- Understand our region’s electricity consumption and electricity network
- How much and where renewable energy is currently generated in our region
- Opportunities for small scale (1-5MW) community owned solar farms

Aligning the Roadmap with AEMO’s Integrated System Plan

In scoping the renewable energy future for Hume region, the roadmap team is examining the Integrated System Plan (ISP) produced by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). The plan is a comprehensive evaluation of the likely changes that will be occurring over the next 20 years across the National Electricity Market (NEM) and identifies opportunities and constraints.

Hume region is identified by the ISP as having nationally significant pumped hydroelectric storage (PHES) opportunities (p50, figure 24). Australian National University has done extensive research on PHES and provides site data and maps on its website. The Victorian atlas can be found here. PHES is an important part of our renewable energy future providing storage solutions to stabilise the electricity grid.
What’s happening in Hume region

Victorian Minister for Energy Lily D’Ambrosio announced nine projects across the state that will share in $1.1 million funding from the Renewable Communities Program. Funding was awarded to projects that:

- increase the uptake of renewable energy generation
- consider energy justice and social benefit
- promote community participation; and
- reduce greenhouse emissions.

Congratulations to the successful applicants from Hume region:

**Yackandandah Public Virtual Power Plant** - Totally Renewable Yackandandah - $103,788

Totally Renewable Yackandandah will install solar PV and battery systems on community buildings in and around the township of Yackandandah. This will provide low cost, behind the meter, electricity to the mostly volunteer groups housed in the buildings, helping to cut costs, reduce emissions and join the whole of town 100 per cent renewable energy target.

**The North East Solar Benefits program** - Renewable Albury Wodonga - $54,256

The installation of micro-grid enabled solar energy systems on ten Beyond Housing homes, provided for residents at risk of homelessness. These installations will address energy poverty, providing residents with constant and affordable electricity supply. The project will also assist residents with the development of an energy efficiency plan.

Did you know?

**Community Energy Projects Guidelines Booklet**

To increase the uptake of renewable energy by local communities the Victorian Government developed the Community-owned Renewable Energy Guide. It is ideal for community groups considering a community energy project and those already in the process of establishing a project. The guide can help community groups to develop sound business proposals to help raise project funds, obtain approvals and apply for grant funding.

There are practical tips on critical commercial, technical, governance and regulatory aspects of renewable energy projects. It contains useful information on identifying an appropriate business model, selecting the best technology and managing the project.

Other community energy resources such as how to guides, videos and webinars can be found at:

- Sustainability Victoria
- Coalition for Community Energy

**Submissions still open for the draft guidelines for Solar Energy Facilities**

The draft Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guidelines are still open for comment. Submit your comments through the Engage Victoria website until 1 March 2019.

For further information please contact:

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