

Benalla's Renewable Energy Future Community Forum

Help develop a future clean energy plan for Benalla

- Hear how other towns are planning for a renewable energy future
- Find out what community owned renewable energy means for you
- Get involved in shaping Benalla's clean energy future



**Benalla
Sustainable
Future
Group**



Benalla Renewable Energy Future – Community Forum Objectives

- To develop a shared understanding about Benalla's current energy use, and to share the vision for Benalla to be a zero net energy town.
- Inform the community that the council and BSFG will apply for funding to conduct a feasibility study of renewable energy options for Benalla and to develop a Benalla Future Energy Plan
- To develop a shared understanding of the concept of community owned renewable energy generation.
- Provide examples of possible renewable energy projects suitable for Benalla.
- To explore community interest and support in the concept and to seek community involvement in progressing this concept further.

Benalla's Renewable Energy Future

Vision – Benalla no longer relies on fossil fuel based energy

Why?

- Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels are a major contributor to climate change.
- Climate change threatens our livelihoods and those of future generations, including our children and grandchildren.
- Adopting clean renewable energy will result in a major reduction to greenhouse gas emissions and help reduce impact of climate change.
- *“We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last generation to be able to do anything about it.”* President Obama



Current Situation in Benalla

Photovoltaic Installations in Benalla Rural City (2016) – Australian PV Institute

<u>Number of</u>		<u>Percent of</u>	<u>Capacity (kW)</u>		
Houses	Installs	houses	Domestic	Commercial	Total
6374	1203	18.6%	3641kW	423kW	4065kW



Council installations:

Indoor recreation centre	15kW	Art Gallery	15kW
Council owned kindergarten	1.5kW	Town Hall	5kW

Hospital 185 kW of solar panels installed

Schools a number of installations on schools – some significant

Commercial installations

Benalla Timber Products 60kW Bell's Joinery 30kW

Benalla Toyota 30kW Marsha Watson Pharmacy 20kW

Benalla Engine Reconditioning 15kW

Plans for a further 100kW to be installed on various businesses

Benalla's daily electricity demand – approx. 14MW (includes Henderson's)

New Energy Jobs Fund

The Victorian Government's \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund will support Victorian community based renewable energy projects that:

- Create long-term sustainable jobs
- Drive economic development
- Increase community participation
- Increase the uptake of renewable energy generation
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Community groups including councils can apply for funding to support:

- development of a business case and the
- implementation of projects for the benefit of local communities.

Funding to support new energy technology projects will be available through three annual grant rounds.



New Energy Jobs Fund

Projects under the Community category are able to apply for funding of up to:
\$100,000 for the development of a business case,
or up to \$1 million for project implementation and advisory services.

Community-based projects funded for business case development in the first or second years will be eligible to apply for project implementation funding in subsequent year(s).

Up to \$5 million was available for round one which closed in March 2016

Northern Victorian recipients of grants in first funding round

Wodonga City Council - \$80,000 for a community solar project

Wangaratta Government Centre - \$100,000 to fund study into clean energy project

GV Community Energy - \$50,000 to determine viability of large scale PV project in Tatura

Euroa Environment Group - \$50,000 to prepare business case for a Pumped Hydroelectric Storage project

BSFG Presentation to Council

A Future Energy Plan for Benalla!

Vision: Benalla becomes a zero net energy town by reducing and balancing local energy needs with a 100% renewable energy supply.

A Possible Plan: Follow the Z-NET Blueprint which sets out 4 stages to achieve this vision.

Investigate the current non-renewable energy use in Benalla and develop a Benalla Future Energy Plan

Encourage use of less energy and greater energy efficiency across the total community.

Generate renewable energy on site with PV panels on roofs.

Generate large scale renewable energy nearby.

Obviously council and community support is essential for such a vision to be achieved.

What BSFG Sought from Council

- 1) In-principle support for the development of a future energy plan for Benalla.

Action 11.8 in Benalla Rural City's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan states:
Undertake a feasibility study to assess alternative energy options for the Benalla community and identify actions for Council to undertake.

- 2) Active support in engaging the community in this development.
- 3) Active involvement in developing an application for funding through the New Energy Jobs Fund to conduct a feasibility study to look at all the options for Benalla to become a zero net energy town and develop a Benalla Future Energy Plan.

Council subsequently resolved to support Benalla Sustainable Future Group to engage the wider community in this project and also to assist with an application to the New Energy Jobs Fund.

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Presenters:

- **Taryn Lane - Embark and Hepburn Wind**
Community Benefits of Renewable energy
- **Mathew Charles-Jones - *Totally Renewable Yackandandah***
The Yackandandah Journey to Totally Renewable by 2022
- **Gavin Ashley - Moreland Energy Foundation**
Z-NET Approach to becoming a renewable energy community