



Update 19 – May 2021

Welcome to our newsletter combining news and information on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in our region and beyond.

The Victorian Government is committed to [being climate ready and resilient by 2050](#) and is helping our regional communities and organisations work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change by investing \$9.3 million in the Supporting our Regions to Adapt program.



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Hume region is working with our communities to develop a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RAS) identifying our regional priorities, the necessary skills and knowledge required by communities, and to fund local adaptation and mitigation projects.

Climate Ready Hume project update

RAS community consultation OPEN UNTIL 25 MAY 2021

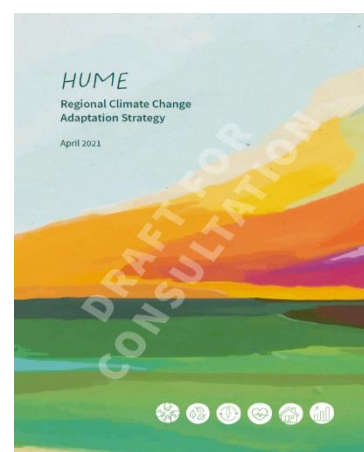
The draft RAS community consultation period has commenced and is **open until 25 May 2021**.

Over the last few weeks, we have received valuable feedback through the online survey and thank you for your submissions.

We would still like to hear from you! We invite you to read the draft RAS and give us your feedback through the [Climate Ready Hume page](#) on the Engage Victoria website.

The **draft RAS** reflects climate change adaptation issues Hume residents identified as priorities during 18 months of consultation. We talked and listened with participants in youth groups and network projects, Climate Ready Hume working groups, community and youth mini-grants projects, regional grants projects, health services, agriculture research and projects, education and business projects, and community workshops.

Since the start of the engagement programs in mid-2019, Climate Ready Hume has connected with over 5180 individuals (across youth, household, community groups, education and schools, business, renewable energy, agribusiness, natural environment services, agencies and local government).



Visit the [EngageVic site](#) to access these valuable resources:

- the *Journey* infographic and Digi-Kit series
- archived newsletters and subscription form
- latest climate and water projections
- policy and program weblinks (RE Roadmap included) and resources
- current project data
- case study booklet participation EOI form

Share your climate change adaptation journey – we want to hear your story!

To accompany the final RAS, DELWP is creating a **case studies booklet** to share our communities' actions on climate change. Sharing your story will help others in their climate change journey.

To be involved or for further information please register your interest by clicking [HERE](#), or submit your story via the online form, and we will be in touch with you.

Share your journey

Would you, your community or organisation like to share your story on climate change action? To accompany the final Strategy, DELWP are creating a Case Studies Booklet to share our communities' actions on climate change. To be involved or for further information please register your interest.

[Post your story](#)

Government releases the Victorian Climate Change Strategy

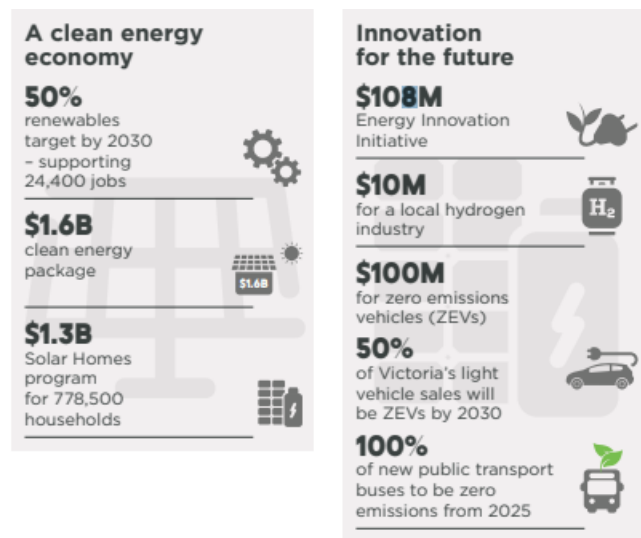
[Victoria's Climate Change Strategy](#) is a roadmap to net-zero emissions and a climate resilient Victoria by 2050.

Key to the plan are ambitious but achievable targets to reduce emissions by 28-33 per cent by 2025 and 45-50 per cent by 2030.

The initiatives in the Climate Change Strategy will support communities and businesses to make the changes needed to reduce the impacts of climate change and continue to support our economy to grow.

For more information visit:

<https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-climate-change-strategy>.



Resilient farms and forests

\$120M
to phase out commercial native forest harvesting by 2030

\$110M
for plantations

30M
trees in plantations and shelterbelts

100K
hectares of restored biodiverse habitat by 2030

Almost **\$20M**
for Agriculture sector's response to a changing climate

Climate smart businesses and communities

\$515M
to transform waste and recycling, supporting 3,900 jobs

Victorians to save **\$13B**
on energy bills by 2030

All Victorian government operations, including metropolitan trains and trams powered by **100%** renewable electricity by 2025

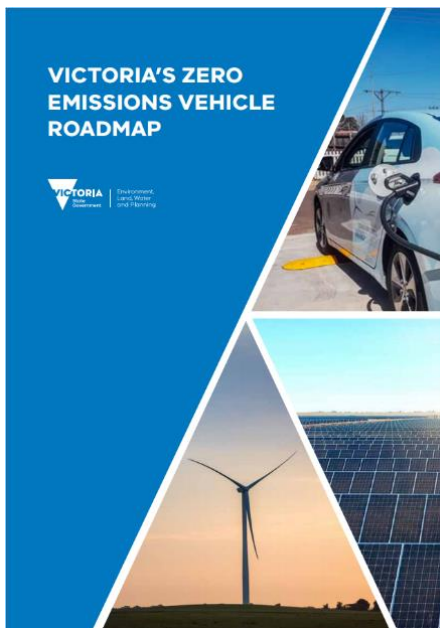
>\$18B
to expand and modernise public transport

A climate resilient Victoria

16
priorities to 2025 to address impacts, reduce barriers and support transformational adaptation

Every dollar spent on adaptation now can avoid future costs of up to **6X** as much

Victoria's Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap



By 2030, half of all light vehicle sales in Victoria will be Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs). The Victorian Government has released its [Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap](#), supported by a \$100 million dollar package of policies and programs.

One of the biggest (and growing) sources of greenhouse gas emissions is the transport sector – in fact it accounts for 25% of Victoria's total carbon emissions.

Find out more about the policies and programs supporting the adoption of ZEVs by [clicking here](#).

Zero Emissions Vehicle Subsidy Program

The Victorian Government has allocated \$46 million to encourage Victorians to buy an ZEV sooner through the [Zero Emissions Vehicle Subsidy Program](#), saving people up to \$3,000 on the purchase of a ZEV and driving Victoria's transition to a net-zero emissions future.

This program is **now open** with 20,000 subsidies available.

What is a ZEV?

ZEVs do not use petroleum fuels, and therefore do not emit greenhouse gas emissions from the tailpipe. Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) are examples of these technologies.

For more examples, explainer videos and podcasts visit the [Australian Renewable Energy \(ARENA\) website](#).



ARENA funds project in Wodonga - Murray Valley Hydrogen Park

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is contributing [\\$32.1 million towards a 10MW electrolyser](#) for hydrogen gas production at the proposed Australian Gas Networks Limited (AGIG) [Murray Valley Hydrogen Park \(HyP Murray Valley\)](#) in Wodonga, Victoria.

The AGIG HyP Murray Valley project is a partnership with global energy company [ENGIE](#) that will be co-located at the West Wodonga Wastewater Treatment Plant and supply renewable hydrogen blended with natural gas (up to 10 %) to the whole of Albury-Wodonga through the existing natural gas distribution network (40,000 connections), as well as providing other services including electricity grid support, oxygen sales and the potential to supply hydrogen to cars, buses and trucks.

Locating hydrogen production adjacent to the West Wodonga Wastewater Treatment Plant has many benefits including access to water and renewable electricity, both of which are key inputs into making renewable hydrogen.

At 10 MW, the electrolyser in this hydrogen plant will be among the largest so far built in the world.

Wanting to know more about the potential of hydrogen?

Read [Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy](#) and the [Victorian Hydrogen Industry Development Plan](#)

Benalla Community Energy Project switches on!

Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) is reducing energy costs for community buildings through its donation based revolving fund to install solar panels and undertake energy efficiency upgrades on community facilities in and around Benalla.

REB's first Community Energy Project at the [Munro Avenue Kindergarten in Benalla](#) was officially switched on last week. This project was seeded by a community grant of \$5000 from [Winton Solar Farm](#); a significant donation from the Campbell family and a generous in kind contribution of the cost of installation from local firm [Solar Gain](#).



The revolving fund is based on the [CORENA](#) model and works by providing Interest free loans to the selected host site to fund the works with no upfront contribution required by the organisation. Loan repayments are based on the estimated savings made on energy bills.

To find out more about the project and to donate [click here](#).

In March 2020 REB participated in a Hume DELWP Community Energy Project Development workshop receiving expert advice from [Community Power Agency](#) and a \$3,000 grant to employ consultants to prepare guidelines for project management of the revolving fund including governance, fundraising, selection criteria, publicity and community engagement.

Photo credit: Heath Whiley

2030Yea website goes live!

Visit the brand new [2030YEA Community Energy website](#) to find out what this community is doing about renewable energy and climate change as they adapt to the risks caused by climate change.



Looking for inspiration for your own community? [Check out the resources](#) shared by 2030Yea on their local climate adaptation activities.



This project was funded by the Community Mini-grant Program, a part of Climate Ready Hume, a Victorian Government initiative, aiming to support positive climate change activities and action.

Calling all Victorian schools and students!

The ResourceSmart Schools of the Future Challenge 2021 is a fun, educational activity open to all Victorian schools where students can create and share their visions for a sustainable future.

The Challenge is part of Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart Schools 2021 program and is designed to draw on students' vision for a sustainable future, using a guided series of three online workshops that teachers can use anytime to tap into students' creativity. Teamwork, brainstorming, voting, and action planning are some of the strategies in the Challenge workshops, and only pens and papers are required to complete the activities.



Schools of the Future Challenge and Competition

Entries open >



More details and resources are [available here](#).

RSS active schools who take the Challenge before 3 June go in the draw to win \$1000!

For more information phone 03 8626 8844 or email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

Collecting stories of courage and loss

2020 was an unprecedented year, from extreme bushfires to a global pandemic. In country Victoria, these challenges, combined with persistent drought and adverse international trade conditions, struck at the heart of many regional industries and communities.

State Library Victoria (SLV) plans to document country Victoria's stories of courage and loss while these experiences are still vivid.

SLV are running an appeal to raise \$100,000 **before 30 June** to support the commissioning of regional photographers and oral history specialists, allowing the Library to capture history as it happens and build the State Collection. Find out more:

[Appeal 2021 | Annual Appeal 2021 \(slv.vic.gov.au\)](#)



Reducing energy costs in your agricultural business

In the November 2020 budget the Victorian government announced a \$30 million extension to the [Agriculture Energy Investment Plan](#). The AEIP is open to farmers and businesses whose primary operation is in the agriculture sector. The plan supports agricultural businesses to reduce energy costs, improve energy efficiency and explore other energy options.

[Apply for a free on-farm energy assessment](#) to understand where energy efficiency improvements can be made. Undertaking an on-farm energy assessment provides you with advice and a plan to reduce on-farm energy consumption and bills, which may not require any further upfront investments.

Applications for on-farm energy assessments close **15 July 2021**.

Webinar: Understanding your on-farm electricity bill and supply

Geoff Lodge, CEO of [GV Community Energy](#) explores the answers to reducing energy costs on-farm by leading us through the electricity grid and connections, electricity tariffs and charges and how to get the best deal for your farm. Access the recorded webinar [here](#).

Webinar: Zero or net-zero, does it matter and why should we care?

Australia's electricity sector is rapidly transitioning to a low emissions future, yet policy makers and commentators disagree on how to sustain this momentum while maintaining reliability and affordability. Watch the recording of this joint State Library Victoria and Grattan Institute webinar about the future of the National Energy Market. Moderated by Tony Wood from the Grattan Institute. [Webinar: Zero or net-zero, does it matter and why should we care? \(slv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Victoria's regional renewable energy roadmaps

[Visit the link](#) to access all the regional renewable energy roadmaps that show the way for the Victorian transition to renewable energy.

For further information about Climate Ready Hume contact:

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Climate Ready Hume | Hume Region

Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

