**REB Action Group**

**MINUTES**

**Monday 18 November 2019, 10:00am Benalla Council Offices**

1. **Present:**

John Lloyd, Adrian Howden, Peter Maddock, Sandy Campbell, Frank Dunin, Larissa Montgomery, Punarji Gunaratne

1. **Apologies:**

Kevin Smith

1. **Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 11th October 2019 be accepted*

Moved: Peter Maddock 2nd: Adrian Howden All in favour

1. **Business Arising**
   1. Screening of ‘2040’ film. Confirmed for 11 December.
   2. PV panels for Beyond Housing properties. Beyond Housing are going to organise themselves.
   3. Have shared REB flyer and fact sheet with DELWP. Larissa will check with Kristy if there was any feedback.
2. **Correspondence**

No correspondence received.

1. **Action Groups – report on action plan to implement key strategies**

6.1 Waste to Energy – report from Adrian.

Adrian is going to send a hard copy of information and business case to Minister. Sydney University have developed a process to use high water temp and pressure to convert plastic to oil, which can then be used to create plastic again.

6.2 Community Energy Project – report from John

John has done some calculation for the kindergarten project, a 3kw system would probably be sufficient. Repayments would be approximately $90 - $100 per month over 4 years. Need to talk to 1-2 installers to get some quotes and expected savings. Need to consider holidays etc. and feed in tariffs. Retailer may have impact as well.

6.3 Energy Efficiency sessions – general discussion

Good attendance at the last session. Yackandandah have an ‘energy coach’ to assist community members. John will look into it. Might be worth following up a few attendees to do a case study. Could consider other formats for next year.

1. **Grants for Micro-grid Feasibility Studies**

Puna gave an overview of what has been happening in developing an application for micro-grid feasibility study. Contacted TRY Yak, Mondo, AusNet – haven’t had a lot of feedback yet. Spoke to consultant and got some feedback on what info we need to make application. Not enough time to put an application together now but would like to keep progressing to prepare for round 2 application. Feasibility study would look at potential locations. Warby Ranges / Taminick Gap / Boweya area is a SWER line and a few houses off grid. Enterprise Park might be another option for different funding from ARENA. Indigo Power might be interested in a regional project. Peter interested and happy to help Puna. There is a consultant that may be able to work with no up front costs, work based on further work under funding if project successful.

1. **Community Engagement Strategy**
   1. Distribution of communication materials

Benalla West Post Office – John has provided Amanda Challis with three sets of flyers: REB, Rental Housing and Energy Efficiency.

Real Estate Agents – Adrian has spoken to them all and those who do property management are all keen to have a stand with information on Rental Housing.

* 1. Stall at Day in the Gardens

Fairly quiet day but a few people came through and materials were handed out.

Met Taryn Schultz from Benalla Youth Action Society (YAS), group just starting up but are very keen and active.

BSFG will consider applying for a grant for an easy up marque.

* 1. John sent out the letter seeking assistance and has had two responses. John will make contact and meet up with them. Catherine Macmillan also happy to help. Adrian suggested putting something in the Ensign and will draft an article.

1. **North East Community Energy Network**
   1. Hot water bulk buy

Seven EOIs from Benalla for the hot water bulk buy. Two of those interested indicated it was because they wanted to move away from gas. Where there is mains gas available there hasn’t been a lot of interest.

* 1. Community benefit from solar farm developers

A sub-group has been set up to create a standard response for developers around what community benefit should be. Was a meeting but unsure where it will go from there.

1. **General Business**
   1. Community energy webinars. The workshop was postponed until a later date, John will attempt to go when re-scheduled.
2. **Next Meeting**

Monday 13th January, 10am, Council offices