



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



# Benalla Rural City Community Plan

## 5. Our Future Challenges and Opportunities

### Climate Change

By 2030 Benalla Rural City will experience more extreme weather events such as fire, drought and flood due to the impact of climate change.

### Strategic Directions

#### 6.5 A Sustainable Environment

- Ensure that local and regional strategies and plans that support environment, waste, sustainability and climate change are actively delivered and implemented.
- *Promote renewable energy sources to support economic development and protect the environment.*
- Encourage people to take responsibility for the health of our natural resources by being environmentally conscious.

# Support for A Sustainable Environment

- **Benalla Rural City Council Plan 2017-2021**

  - ***Strategic Objective 3.1***

    - 3.1.2 Implement actions from various strategies and plans such as *Benalla Rural City Environment Strategy 2016-2020* and *Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2013-2025*.

  - ***Strategic Objective 3.3***

    - Support and implement an ongoing collaborative approach to exploring renewable energy opportunities.

- **Benalla Sustainable Future Group (BSFG)**

  - Benalla Sustainable Future Group is vitally concerned with promoting a sustainable environment and should be involved.

# Benalla Sustainable Future Group (BSFG)

**Renewable Energy Benalla** is an action group of Benalla Sustainable Future Group

Benalla Sustainable Future Group promotes the development of a sustainable vision for Benalla to:

- Reduce the region's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions,
- Promote adoption of renewable sources of energy,
- Promote environmental awareness and responsibility,
- Protect, restore and rehabilitate the natural environment.

## **Action Groups:**

- Bulk Food Cooperative
- Plastic Wise Benalla
- Food Security Action Group
- Sustainable Building Action Group

# Renewable Energy Benalla Action Group

Established following community forum in October 2016.

Overarching goals:

- Promote energy efficiency and reduce energy use within the community
- Promote awareness and support for renewable energy by community
- Develop a Future Energy Plan for Benalla to transition to zero net energy
- Achieve a significant increase in local renewable energy generation
- Keep financial benefits of renewable energy in local community

# Support from Beyond Zero Emissions

Dec 2016

Beyond Zero Emissions, (BZE) selects Benalla to help develop a transition strategy to zero net energy as part of its Zero Carbon Communities Project.

May 2017

Stakeholder workshop to begin planning process of transitioning to 100% renewable energy

Oct 2017

Business breakfast to explore key energy issues for the business community

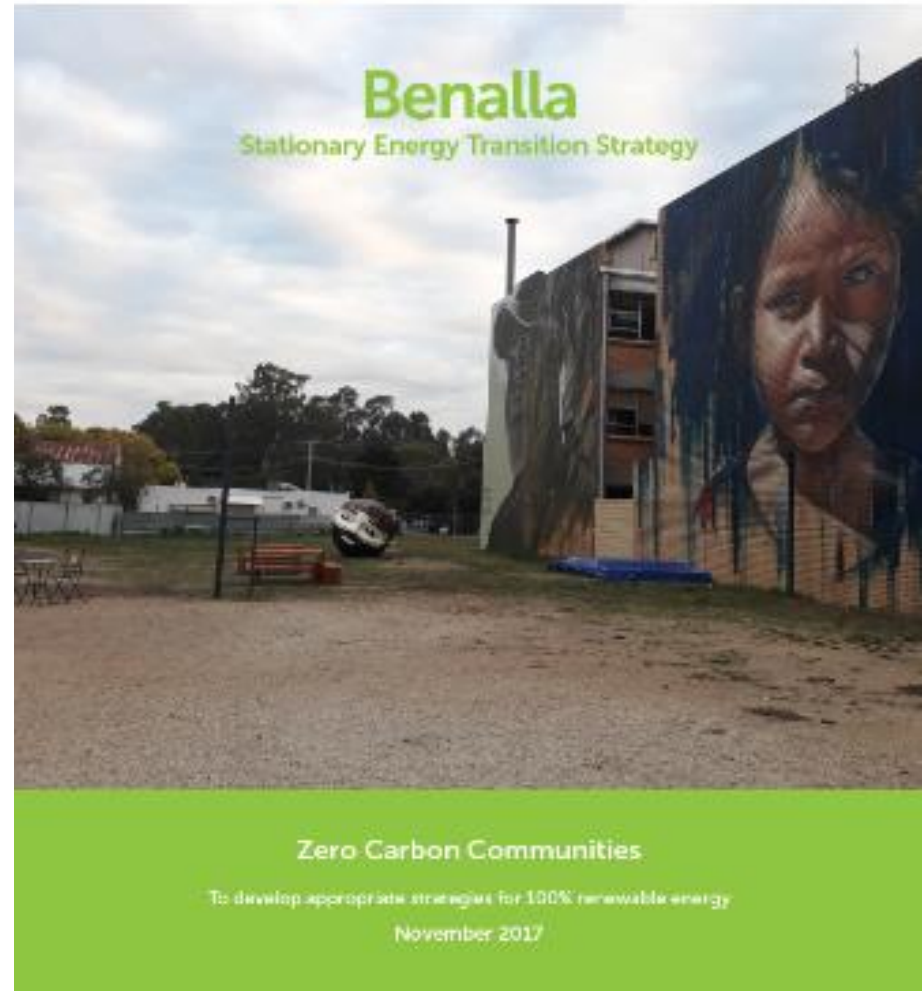
# Benalla Stationary Energy Transition Strategy

Launched November 2017

Goal: 100% Renewables by 2028



Benalla  
Sustainable  
Future  
Group



# Baseline Emissions

- Strategy includes baseline energy use and emissions data.
- Provides a starting point to measure progress against.

## 2016 Energy use, emissions and costs for Benalla municipality

	Usage (MWh)	Environmental Impact (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Emissions %	Cost	Cost per person
<b>Total Electricity</b>	<b>126,826</b>	<b>155,624</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>\$27m</b>	<b>\$1,967</b>
<b>Total Gas</b>	<b>169,612</b>	<b>34,161</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$6m</b>	<b>\$422</b>
<b>Total Electricity &amp; Gas</b>	<b>296,438</b>	<b>189,785</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$33m</b>	<b>\$2,389</b>



# Three key steps to reduce emissions to zero in ten years

<p>REDUCE <u>one third</u> through better building and efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retrofits, insulation, double glazing, pelmets and blinds</li><li>• Smart data power use</li></ul>
<p>REPLACE <u>one third</u> with renewable sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Household and business solar</li><li>• Solar and community energy</li></ul>
<p>SWITCH- <u>one third</u> Build utility scale and storage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support large scale investments</li><li>• Micro-grids and batteries</li></ul>

# Implementing the Transition Strategy

REB has established three working groups:

1. Improving **energy efficiency** of buildings, including business premises, to reduce energy demand and energy bills.
2. Investigating suitable roofs for a behind the meter **community energy project**. Initial focus will be on council owned buildings.
3. **Utility scale** - investigating the possibility of a waste to energy project.

REB partnered with Mondo Power to make a solar (and battery) offer to the Benalla community

## Assistance to Low Income Households

- Some low income households have very high energy bills
- REB and Connected Community Action Group have discussed possibility of providing help to understand energy bills and use less energy.
- Assist with comparing retail offers through Victorian Energy Compare website and obtaining \$50 credit.

# Community Climate Change Adaptation Grants

- Grants to support communities in Victoria's regions adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Key objective – build community resilience.
- Hume Region – housing for vulnerable/disadvantaged does not adequately protect against extreme heat, cold.
- REB will be making an application seeking funding to improve energy efficiency of existing housing.
- Priority to low income households.

# Keeping the Community Informed

- **Web Site:** [www.reb.org.au](http://www.reb.org.au)

Also link on BSFG website: [www.bsfg.org.au](http://www.bsfg.org.au)

- **Report to Community**

A quarterly report of REB activities is sent to our mailing list.

- **Links to business community**

Some contact with Business Network and Catherine McMillan

## ***Assistance needed to achieve our vision***

Achieving zero net energy by 2028 is an ambitious and complex task. REB needs more people from the community to assist with implementing the Transition Strategy.