

## INVITATION – FREE WEBINAR SERIES

# Designing community-owned renewable energy projects with strong community participation

September-October 2019

**Webinar 1: Introduction to designing community owned energy projects with strong community participation.**

Thursday 19 September 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

**Webinar 2: Facilitating participation through economic arrangements.**

Thursday 26 September 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

**Webinar 3: Facilitating participation through governance structures.**

Thursday 3 October 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

**Webinar 4: Facilitating participation through community engagement practices.**

Thursday 10 October 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

**FREE registration here:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JDGbLZVRTSu8pkEON95aQg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JDGbLZVRTSu8pkEON95aQg)

All webinars will be recorded

### About the webinars

Community participation is a key driver of many community owned energy projects as we seek to work together towards a clean energy-powered future. Local residents are looking to become a driving force behind the transition to clean energy, necessitating a community-led approach.

But how do you make sure community participation is at the heart of the enterprise model you create for your local project? How do we ensure our community owned energy projects are truly community-led?

These webinars will take you through the process of understanding and analysing how the design of your enterprise model impacts on how people participate in the project.

Governance structures (such as voting and membership), economic arrangements (such as shares, debt or donations) and community engagement practices (stalls, workshops and events) all have implications for how participation is either enabled or restricted.

This series will introduce the 'Participation Footprint' method, a useful and practical tool to guide enterprise design to drive strong community participation.

### Who is it for?

This webinar series is designed for Community energy groups that are keen to ensure their projects enable strong community participation, or those seeking to understand how to create more effective opportunities for community participation.

### About the presenter and supporting partners

The series will be presented by Dr Jarra Hicks from Community Power Agency in partnership with Sustainability Victoria's Community Power Hub program. Dr Jarra Hicks is one of the founding directors of the Community Power Agency, a national organisation dedicated to supporting communities to take the power back and develop and deliver their own clean energy projects. The Community Power Hub is a pilot program based in Ballarat, Bendigo and Latrobe Valley, which is investigating and implementing a range of models for community energy.



## Program Details

### **Webinar 1:**

#### **Introduction to designing community owned energy projects with strong community participation.**

Thursday 19 September 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

This session will have us thinking through why participation is so important for community owned renewable energy projects, and what important outcomes participation contributes to for projects and communities. As we will see, strong participation is at the heart of many desired social outcomes, such as empowerment, skills development and community building. This webinar will expand on the 'Spectrum of Public Participation' by adding depth to the way that we think about participation and it will introduce the 'Participation Footprint' as an effective visual tool for analysing participation. The webinar will draw on Australian case study examples.

### **Webinar 2:**

#### **Facilitating participation through economic arrangements.**

Thursday 26 September 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

How we design community owned renewable energy enterprises impacts on how participation is enabled or restricted. There are many different economic arrangements that can contribute to making a community owned renewable energy project a viable business endeavour. This webinar will look at a diverse range of economic arrangements that community energy groups draw on to deliver successful projects, including donations, volunteer time, in-kind contributions, share offers, grants, etc. It will then analyse what these different economic options mean for how people participate (or not) in the project. The webinar will draw on Australian case study examples.

### **Webinar 3:**

#### **Facilitating participation through governance structures.**

Thursday 3 October 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

Governance structures are a fundamental part of any community owned renewable energy project. Governance structures include both legal structure (e.g. cooperative, company, association) and "extra-legal" elements (e.g. policies, certifications, culture). This webinar will look at the influence of different governance structures and how this influences participation. In particular, we will look at different possible choices around membership limits, voting rights, quorum, surplus distribution, etc. and what is possible within different legal structures. It will also look at different legal and extra-legal options for protecting and embedding your mission and values over the lifetime of the project. The webinar will draw on Australian case study examples.

### **Webinar 4:**

#### **Facilitating participation through community engagement practices.**

Thursday 10 October 2019, 6:00–7:30 PM

Community engagement practices are often what people think of first when they think of facilitating participation in community owned renewable energy projects – and certainly community engagement is a crucial part of the mix. This webinar will look at different community engagement techniques (e.g. tours, workshops, visioning processes, forums, stalls, education programs, etc.) that can be used and we will talk about when to do engagement. We will look at different ways to tailor community engagement to your local context and to your project type. The webinar will draw on Australian case study examples.

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#### **Enquiries:**

For any enquiries, please contact [webinar@cpagency.org.au](mailto:webinar@cpagency.org.au)

