

Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) Action Group

MINUTES

Wednesday 3rd February, 2021, 10am at Uniting Church Meeting Room

1. Welcome

2. Present: John Lloyd, Kim Lukey, Heath Whiley, Frank Dunin, Adrian Howden, Bev Lee, Kevin Smith, Larissa Montgomery

3. Apologies: None

4. Review of minutes of December 9th, 2020 meeting

Moved: Kevin Smith

2nd: Adrian Howden

All in favour

5. Business Arising - Future of REB

5.1 Target of 100% by 2028

Is the target of 100% renewable energy by 2028 too ambitious? Still need a target. This target is based on the BZE Transition Strategy and stationary energy only. Will also need to consider transport etc. in future. After a general discussion, all present supported keeping the target.

5.2 Ensuring REB performs better in the future

Heath, Kim, Bev and Peter have been working on the Instagram page and website. Other items to discuss as outlined in action table.

5.3 Request to BSGF to adopt Transition Strategy

BSGF adopted the Transition Strategy at its committee meeting on 18 January 2021.

6. Action Groups - report on action plan to implement key strategies

6.1 Waste to Energy update

Still stalled. In the process of talking to a new company completing an installation in south. Adrian will check what their capabilities and objectives are. There is a movement worldwide to dig up landfills and use the resources.

6.2 Community energy project

John has been working on savings calculations and loan repayments for the kinder (see attached), along with the loan agreement. This has all been sent to the NERPSA board for approval. Quarterly repayments to be \$300 per quarter for 19 quarters. Electricity account savings should easily cover the repayments. FRV funding has not arrived as yet.

Looking at holding an official 'Switch On', perhaps in conjunction with an expo at the end of March or in April. Will invite Mayor and Councillors and possibly MPs, acknowledge major sponsors and contributors. Launch community fund raising, i.e. the community revolving fund. Indigo Power, Solar Gain and Matt Charles-Jones (Mondo EDGE Project) are all willing to be involved. Will check if SunReal want to be involved.

David Blore, Trish Brooke and Karen Nankervis are on working group, with another couple of younger people interested in being involved.

6.3 Energy efficiency

Adrian to send the link to the virtual house tour to John.

Still need to develop some case studies about energy efficiency retrofits.

7. Action Plan and responsibilities

See updated table below.

8. Indi Stronger Community Grants

\$2,500 - \$20,000 grants for capital projects. \$150,000 available across electorate.

Adrian to follow up with Men's Shed

Bev to follow up with Waminda

Larissa to check arrangements at Drill Hall (Council building, would require 50% contribution)

Helen Haines website has lots of information on grants.

9. General Business

- Add Community Engagement as an action group so that it can be reported on at each meeting and any opportunities for stories, media etc. can be raised.
- John to check with Peter Maddock on how many pamphlets are available. Peter can just drop them around to Adrian.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th March, 10am – 12pm Uniting Church meeting room

Meeting Action Table – to be updated at each meeting

	Meeting date	Action	Responsibility	Notes / update
1	9/12/20	Create Instagram page	Kim, Heath	Complete Have started an REB page and a BSFG page. Discussed whether to have separate or just one under BSFG. Thought better to keep separate.
2	9/12/20	Launch CEP Project	John & CEP group	Starting to plan for an official 'Switch On' event, towards the end of March or in April. Potentially with expo event following. Further notes under 6.2.
3	9/12/20	Scope expo event	Bev, Larissa	Sought info from Michelle at Sustainable Upper Ovens who held a solar expo June 2019. Scoping document complete. Larissa to send info to John to take back to the CEP group for discussion. REB probably only has capacity to run a small event. But consider a larger sustainability expo with BSFG and others in future.
4	9/12/20	Investigate Mt Bruno mini-grid feasibility	Adrian	Orchard in harvest so haven't had time to discuss. But Adrian will follow up. Will need to identify someone in the area to lead discussion with people in the area. Has been some discussion about Schneider being interested in micro-grid.
5	9/12/20	Investigate solar garden	Kevin	Keeping an eye on the Haystacks Solar Garden in Narrandera, small 2-3mW solar garden. Aimed at commercial and domestic renters. A lot of work involved and a lot of support from Council and community. If member you remain a member even if you move. State funding available for community batteries.
6	9/12/20	Identify potential young videographers	John (check with Peter H, CEP volunteers) Larissa (check with youth coordinator)	Phone videos would probably be sufficient for now. Keep an eye out for potential funding for funding for some professional productions in future.
7	9/12/20	BSFG adoption of Transition Strategy	John	Complete
8	9/12/20	Presentation to Council	John, Larissa	Not started
9	9/12/20	Create project planning template	Larissa	Complete Group to start using the template and provide feedback if any changes needed.
10	9/12/20	Identify potential sources of funding	All	Ongoing
11	3/2/21	Energy Efficiency – virtual house tour	Adrian / John	Adrian to email John the link again
12	3/2/21	Indi Stronger Communities Grants	Adrian, Bev, Larissa	Adrian to follow up with Men's Shed Bev to follow up with Waminda Larissa to check status of Drill Hall
13	3/2/21	REB Pamphlets stocktake	John	John to check with Peter Maddock. Pamphlets can just be dropped off to Adrian.

Estimate of Electricity Account Savings with Installation of Solar Panels on Munro Ave Preschool

System to be installed: 18 x 330W panels = 5.94kiloWatt system.

Clean Energy Council estimate of production: Annual daily average of 20.9 kWhrs per day which is based on Melbourne calculations.

North-East production is consistently 10% greater = 23kWh per day. This figure is used in the calculations below.

Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) - for energy fed into the grid. Origin standard FIT pays 10.2c/kWh which is Victorian government's minimum rate. This is reviewed on July 1st each year. This means there is a possibility it could be reduced.

Current Origin Electricity Charges (as of October 2020)

Peak Usage Charge (kWh) First 0-1028kWh @ 41.55 c/kWh Balance 1029kWh + @ 46.67 c/kWh
Supply Charge 174.06 c/Day Average Billing Period Charge - \$160 per 3 months
Discounts and Rebates Guaranteed usage discount (32%)

In the following table 2019 figures are used in Previous Usage column to avoid COVID disruptions but 2020 costs are used due to increase in electricity rates in 2020.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION		PREVIOUS USAGE	BALANCE	PREVIOUS COST	/-----CALCULATING ACCOUNT SAVINGS WITH PANELS-----/					
Billing Periods	Energy Produced	2019 (no COVID)	Production Versus Usage	2020	Supply Charge	Estimated Usage Cost	Discount 32%	FIT	Estimated Account	Compare to 2020 a/cs
Feb - April	2200kWh	924kWh	1250kWh in excess of usage	\$416	\$160	\$85	\$75	\$125	\$45	\$360 savings
May - July	1000kWh	2211kWh	1200kWh less than usage but will reduce usage by 1000kWh at higher rate of 46.67c/kWh	\$753	\$160	\$495	\$200		\$450	Savings approximately \$300
Aug - Oct	1958kWh	1570kWh	400kWh in excess of usage	\$561	\$160	\$125	\$90	\$40	\$155	\$400 savings
Nov - Jan	3206kWh	920kWh	2200kWh in excess of usage	\$385	\$160	\$75	\$75	\$220	\$60	\$440 savings
Annual Amounts	8380kWhrs	5625kWh	Annual Production 2700kWh in excess of previous usage	\$2175					Annual Cost \$590	Total annual savings > \$1500

LOAN DETAILS

Loan amount - \$5575

Loan Repayments

Nineteen Quarterly repayments - 18 @ \$300 = \$5400 plus final payment of \$175 = \$5575
 Repayments based on savings in excess of \$300 for each quarterly billing period.