

Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) Action Group

Minutes

Tuesday 4th May 2021, 5pm at Uniting Church Meeting Room

1. Welcome

2. Present: John Lloyd, Adrian Howden, Bev Lee, Heath Wiley, Frank Dunin, Larissa Montgomery

3. Apologies: None

4. Review of minutes of 17th March, 2021 meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting on 17th March 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Bev Lee 2nd: Kevin Smith All in favour. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Pamphlets – Adrian now has the pamphlets and will continue to refill real estate agent stands. Still reasonable stocks of all pamphlets. Renters appear to be pushing for solar PV and hot water installs.

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

6.1 Waste to Energy update

Still stalled at this stage. Adrian continuing to try to make contact with several businesses for further information.

6.2 Community energy project

An official 'switch-on' ceremony will be held at Munro Ave kindergarten on Thursday 6th May at 2:10pm.

Helen Haines will be the key note speaker. Invitations were sent to major contributors: Winton Sola Farm, Susan & Sandy Campbell and Brad Foletta from SolarGain. Mayor and councillors were invited – five have accepted as well as the CEO. Steph Ryan unable to attend but will be represented by her Electorate Officer. Helen Haines will officially launch the BCEP with a symbolic cutting of a ribbon. The next project will be Bernard Briggs kindergarten which will require fund raising. We have set up facility for online donations at benallacep@gmail.com which uses Raisely fund raising program. Links to this will be on REB and BSFG websites. A publicity pamphlet is also being produced to hand out.

6.3 Energy efficiency

Nothing to report at the moment but is something the group needs to work on. Adrian's son is still working on a virtual house tour.

6.4 Community Engagement

Bev, Peter and Heath are still working on community engagement. Community Energy Project will be the focus for the moment.

7. Action Plan and responsibilities

7.1 Mt Bruno minigrid

The Edge Project won't be happening in the Benalla area until at least late next year. There is interest in the Mt Bruno site, but would need to be quite a bit of work done to apply for funding etc.

Swanpool was successful in applying for a public hall grant and will be increasing solar PV capacity, installing battery and EV charger.

7.2 Solar Garden investigation

Waiting on information to be released from the Haystacks Project which should be coming out soon. This will be a good resource to work from.

Indigo Power and GV Community Energy have applied for the Community Power Hub program which would be of great assistance to groups such as REB.

7.3 Other responsibilities

8. General Business

URGENT: Finding more members for REB

Discussed draft letter seeking assistance. Should coordinate all comms at the same time i.e. get appeal for members on Facebook etc at the same time it appears in the Ensign. Heath can make up a poster to distribute. Discussed whether we should target specific people to join REB, e.g. someone from Council, solar installer etc. Bev will add a direct form on the website that people can register their interest on. John will be the contact point for anyone interested.

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th July @ 5pm