

Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) Action Group

Minutes

Tuesday 13th July 2021, 5pm at Uniting Church Meeting Room

1. Welcome

John welcomed John Burnell to his first REB meeting.

2. Present: John Lloyd, Adrian Howden, Bev Lee, Frank Dunin, Larissa Montgomery, John Burnell, Kevin Smith

3. Apologies: Heath Whiley

4. Review of minutes of 4th May, 2021 meeting

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

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting on 4th May 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Adrian Howden 2nd: Frank Dunin All in favour. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Seeking more members

Email letters were distributed through the BSFG contact list. This resulted in interest from a few people to become involved, including John Burnell. Heather Thomas is interested in fundraising for the revolving fund. Rhani might be able to assist with social media – Bev will contact Rhani.

Bev will put a form on the websites – the draft wording was distributed and everyone happy with it.

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

6.1 Waste to Energy update

Adrian continuing to investigate potential for waste to energy proposals and new plants that are being installed, including in Victoria.

6.2 Community energy project

A successful launch was held at Munro Avenue Kindergarten. Helen Haines attended along with the major contributors to the project. The second project will look at Bernard Briggs. Donate links website to fundraising page. A bit over \$600 has been raised so far.

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.

Most Real Estate agents are including the pamphlets in new renter packs.

Bev has put an Ag Vic Energy Efficiency support program on websites/Facebook. Bev suggested that after the Plastic Free July series in the Ensign, energy efficiency could be the next topic. Bev also noted that it has been 5 years since the BSFG Sustainable Housing Forums, might be worth considering again.

6.4 Community Engagement

Considering consolidating the REB website into the BSFG website, as paying two lots of annual website fees. Bev will keep plugging away at the websites.

7. Action Plan and responsibilities

7.1 Mt Bruno minigrid

No further updates, potential to be part of the Mondo Edge project but it won't be in the Benalla area until next year.

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. Could also be a good project to consider with the assistance of the Hume Community Power Hub.

8. Hume Community Power Hub

Indigo Power and GV Community Energy were successful in their application to develop the Hume Community Power Hub, just starting to set the hub up. This should be of great assistance to groups such as REB.

9. General Business

9.1 Indi Powering Communities Grant

Each electorate has \$67,000 of grants. Indi will have 12 grants between \$5,000-\$12,000 available. EOI's were due early July. John is representing REB on a consultative committee to assess the EOI's.

9.2 Launch of Yackandandah Community Battery

Kevin attended the launch of the Yackandandah Community Battery and showed some photos he had taken of the installation.

9.3 BBN Awards

Bev has talked to BBN, they would be interested in doing a sustainability award. They are not holding the big Business Awards nights anymore.

9.4 Winton Solar Farm Tour

John has been in touch with Sarah from Banksia Communications about the potential to have a tour of the Winton Solar Farm. Would be able to do it from Spring onwards, up to 20 people and would take about 1.5hrs. Potential dates discussed October 11th, 12th or 13th. John will provide these dates to Sarah and we will confirm details at the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st September @ 5pm

Changed to **13th September at 5pm. (Not the 6th)**