

# Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) Action Group

## Minutes

**Monday 13th September 2021, 5pm at Uniting Church Meeting Room**

### 1. Welcome

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

**3. Apologies:** Heath Whiley, John Burnell

### 4. Review of minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 meeting

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

*Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be accepted.*

*Moved: Kevin Smith                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Adrian Howden                      All in favour. Motion carried.*

### 5. Business Arising

#### 5.1 Future of REB

John distributed a discussion paper before the meeting.

What can we focus on achieving over the next 6 months to ensure a sense of achievement?

BZE model, is it achievable? Transition Strategy was good but we haven't been able to progress.

After discussion throughout the meeting, the following actions were identified:

1. Grants – Larissa to investigate grants which might assist with videos, energy efficiency, case studies, energy audits.
2. CEP – identify next sites
3. Solar Garden – Once Haystacks project information is published, Kevin will take a proposal to Council
4. Mt Bruno battery – Adrian to contact Matt Charles-Jones to discuss whether this would potentially fall within the Edge Project
5. Energy Auditor – Adrian to investigate requirements to be an energy auditor

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

#### 6.1 Waste to Energy update

A waste to energy project would be at least a 2-3 year process. Adrian has spoken to Dom at Council who seemed to be supportive. Need to revisit with Council. Still an issue of how to get rid of the toxic waste at the end of the process. Adrian will set up a meeting with the Canadian company. Katunga also putting in a small scale system.

#### 6.2 Community energy project

Initiating the second project at Bernard Briggs. Winton Solar Farm grants available again and BSFG has some funds also. CEP can also include energy efficiency upgrades. CEP group working well and confident will continue after John steps away.

#### 6.3 Energy efficiency

A lot has changed since REB was established. Australian Energy Foundation has good online presentations available. There is a lot of resources available online that could be used.

#### 6.4 Community Engagement

Covid has limited the ability to have events and forums but it would be good for exposure. Consider the expo for future (in conjunction with BSFG or other event). Have had quite good support from the Ensign with quite a few articles being published. Perhaps look for grants that could assist with developing case studies, videos. Renewable Energy / Sustainability Awards would be a good way to gather case studies and community exposure.

#### **6.5 Solar Garden investigation**

Still waiting on information from the Haystacks solar garden project. Also a lot happening in the Community Energy Network. Would need Council support for this type of project, specifically land to develop a solar garden.

#### **7. Hume Community Power Hub**

Project Plan was distributed before the meeting. Covers 11-12 community groups. The funding is to set up the hubs and there is no funding to initiate projects yet. Looking at three hubs/projects within Hume – implementation ready projects in next 6 months.

#### **9. General Business**

##### **9.4 Winton Solar Farm Tour**

Has been put on hold but might be able to be scheduled for late October/November. Up to 20 people and would take about 1.5hrs. John will stay in touch with Sarah from Banksia Communications.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> October @ 5pm