

Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) Action Group

Minutes

Monday 18th October 2021, 5pm at Uniting Church Meeting Room

1. Welcome

2. Present: John Lloyd, Bev Lee, Frank Dunin, Larissa Montgomery, Kevin Smith, Peter Maddock

3. Apologies: A notice of resignation has been received from Adrian Howden.

4. Review of minutes of 5th September, 2021 meeting

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

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting on 5th September 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Kevin Smith 2nd: Frank Dunin All in favour. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Future of REB

John distributed a discussion paper before the meeting and acknowledge the amount of time and thought Bev had put into this. The document and issues raised were discussed by the group with the following points made:

- Name should be changed to Community Energy Benalla to better reflect greater focus on the community and the aims and scope of the group.
- BZE Transition Strategy – still relevant document, but will need to do a lot more to achieve the vision.
- NECEN might have events coming up that we can use to promote / have an expo etc.
- Should consider some type of awards, BBN would support, but would also like it to be broader than just businesses.

All agreed to go away and think about the discussion and to have a meeting via Zoom on Friday to finalise proposals to be raised with BSFG.

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

6.1 Waste to Energy update

Adrian has resigned therefore no report. Discussed under Future of REB.

6.2 Community energy project

Initiating the second project at Bernard Briggs. Winton Solar Farm grants available again and BSFG has some funds also. Bernard Briggs are in the process of getting a quote.

6.3 Energy efficiency

No report. Discussed under Future of REB.

6.4 Community Engagement

Bev and Peter presented on the proposal to move the REB website to within the BSFG website. This wouldn't have the depth that the current REB website has, however it would reduce costs and man power required to manage two separate sites. All agreed that this approach would be okay.

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

Funding to do studies for 5 projects in the Hume region. Guidelines are out. Kevin has studied these and can't identify anything suitable for Benalla at the moment.

Sessions being organised for getting people off gas which will be run in each area.

8. North East Community Energy Network (NECEN)

8.1 Project EDGE

Need to get contact for Mt Bruno off Adrian.

9. General Business

9.4 Winton Solar Farm Tour

Has been put on hold, Sarah Stent will be in touch to let us know when a visit can be scheduled.

9.5 Storing of REB materials

Peter will organise to get the remaining REB leaflets off Adrian. John also has some materials someone will need to hold on to. Peter will talk to Peter Holmes about a central place where everything can be stored.

9.6 Climate Ready Hume

Climate Ready Hume currently have grants open until 17th December, up to \$10,000 per grant.

10. Next Meeting

Monday November 15th