

Renewable Energy Benalla Reports – April 16, 2020

REDUCE 1/3

Energy Efficiency

Virtual tour of Energy Efficient House

Adrian Howden's son has worked on developing a 'virtual tour' of an energy efficient house.

The basic app is set up and he is now waiting to use material from the presentations last year to develop a 'walk through' highlighting problems and solutions.

John Lloyd has forwarded to Adrian the power point presentations on 'Draught Proofing & Insulation' and 'Lighting & Windows' that were presented during the 2019 Energy Efficiency sessions. Some slides from these presentations may be able to be used in the 'virtual tour'.

John will make suggestions for future action in relation to Energy Efficiency shortly.

REPLACE 1/3

Community Energy Project

Establishing a donation-based fund to install panels on community buildings

1. Participation in a Community Energy Project workshop webinar & consultations with CORENA

John Lloyd took part in a Community Energy workshop organised by Hume DELWP and the Community Power Agency. The purpose of the workshop was to provide critical feedback and advice about our project. We received a number of helpful suggestions about implementing this project.

As a result of participating in this workshop DELWP have made a \$3000 grant available to REB to help implement the project. We believe the best way to use this grant is to employ someone to undertake administrative tasks involved with setting up governance of the fund and to pay for professional development of communication messaging and materials.

In relation to obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, which means donations are tax deductible, we were advised that this could take a long time and it was suggested that we should talk to CORENA, who have been conducting a donation based revolving fund for a number of years. CORENA informed us that they did not have DGR status for the first three years of their operation and they suggested that we should not wait to obtain DGR status but should go ahead without it. CORENA also advised that obtaining DGR Status should become easier from July when applications will be handled by the Australian Charities & Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC).

As the Benalla Renewable Energy Fund is a BSFG bank account, BSFG will need to obtain DGR status. John discussed this with BSFG President, Peter Holmes, who agrees that BSFG will need to do this.

2. Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020

Grants of up to \$12,500 were available for energy generation and storage projects. There was a very short time frame for applications with only two projects per electorate to be funded and it was based on 'first come first served' principles. John suggested to the North East Regional Pre-school Association (NERPSA) that they would be eligible to apply in their own right. John offered to help them with their application if they decided to apply. NERPSA did not apply as the Indi electorate already had the maximum number of applications.

3. Community Energy Project implementation and Development of a Consultant's Brief

Community Energy Project working group members have been communicating by email and are working through the steps required to implement this project. A brief is currently being developed for a consultant to undertake the tasks mentioned above.

OTHER:**Request from Geoff Lodge, Goulbourn Valley Community Energy**

Geoff Lodge has requested/suggested that REB could be involved in helping GVCE install larger PV systems on factories in Benalla. Follow up with Geoff to be confirmed.

SWITCH 1/3**Waste to Energy**

Adrian Howden has stepped away from involvement with Plastic Energy and moved to a watching brief to see what they are doing in Australia and where. His suggestion of a plant in Albury/Wodonga seemed to have merit for them, but as to who will be the principal investor remains to be seen. The main project has hit a snag in that the amount to be processed is larger than the plant size they have at present.

Adrian is exploring another approach which requires specific data from EPA, looking at a local plus a specialized operation added to it and considering if it is the type of operation we want and need to achieve an economic outcome. *"All this is now a pipe dream in the current economic crisis, but if grasped, the opportunity could be feasible. Time will tell" Adrian.*

Preliminary work on Micro Grid Feasibility

Nothing reported this month.