



Update 22 – August 2021

Welcome to our newsletter combining news and information on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in north east Victoria and beyond.

The Victorian Government is committed to being climate ready and resilient by 2050 and is helping regional communities and organisations across Victoria to work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change.



The **Victorian Climate Change Strategy** and supporting resources are available online [here](#).

Climate Ready Hume project update

With the Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy now complete, following a positive community consultation process the CRH team has developed this year's Yearly Delivery Plan. The plan outlines some of the key adaptation action activities for the next year with some of your favourite and most successful activities from previous years hopefully making a return!

Highlights include a second round of Community Mini and Youth Grants, Screening Events, Climate Change Festivals and Forums, and many more. So get your innovative adaptation minds ready and we hope to see you at one of our CRH events.

Draft North East Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27

The Regional Catchment Strategy reflects what those who live, work, visit and connect with north east Victoria are striving to achieve for natural resources within the region. To view and make comment on the strategy by **31st August 2021** please visit [EngageVic](#).



Impact of the 2019-20 bushfires on Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements



The 2019-20 bushfires had significant impacts on the Victorian community and natural environment. The bushfires burnt approximately 1.5 million hectares across Victoria and impacted important environmental, cultural, social and economic values provided for by our forests. The Australian and Victorian Governments have agreed to undertake a Major Event Review of Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) to assess the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires and identify if future remedial actions need to be taken. Please visit [EngageVic](#) to have your say by **11 June 2021**.

Understanding Citizen Science in the North East



If you are involved in citizen science the North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) have developed [this survey](#) to collect information on citizen science activities within north east Victoria. The findings from this survey will be used to better support groups and connect their work with current and future projects.

News

Hume's Renewable Energy Engagement and Partnerships Officer commences

We are excited to announce that a new role supporting Hume region's transition to renewable energy has started. Fiona Roberts from our local team has recently commenced as Hume's Renewable Energy Engagement and Partnerships Officer. Fiona was in the team who delivered the Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap and has also produced and edited the Roadmap and Climate Ready Hume newsletters and has worked extensively with the region's community energy groups.



A key focus of the new role is to build acceptance and social licence across the region to ensure our communities are best placed to maximise the social, environmental and economic benefits from the transition to renewable energy. Fiona will be leading local engagement on the development of the two Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in Hume region: [Central North Victoria and Ovens Murray](#). [Development of REZs across Victoria](#) will allow increased large scale renewable energy generation and connection into the grid. Please reach out to Fiona for more information: fiona.roberts@delwp.vic.gov.au or 0436 691 476.

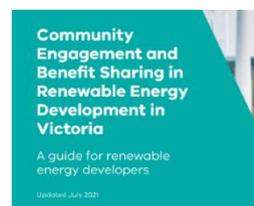
Australia's first zero emissions aquatic centre

On behalf of the Australian Government, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has announced up to \$1.53 million in funding to Brimbank City Council to help build an integrated energy system for Australia's first zero emissions indoor leisure and aquatic centre in Melbourne's west. Shifting away from traditional gas boilers used at other aquatic centres, the centre will also install a 88 kilolitre above ground thermal energy storage system, 500 kW of solar PV, a heat recovery system and direct digital control systems. For more information about this exciting project please click [here](#).

To read about the work the Mitchell Shire in Seymour have undertaken to understand opportunities for rooftop solar on leisure centre buildings please click [here](#).

Updated Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria: A guide for renewable energy developers

The Guide sets out the Victorian Government's expectations for [community engagement and benefit sharing practices](#) for renewable energy development in Victoria. The Guide can also be used to inform submissions to the upcoming Second Victorian Renewable Energy Target Auction (VRET2).



New projects to accelerate Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones (REZ's)



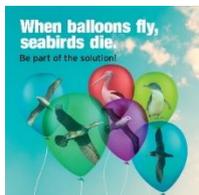
The next step in [Victoria's \\$540 million Renewable Energy Zones](#) (REZs) investment is underway, with the progression of Stage One network investment projects set to strengthen and modernise Victoria's electricity grid. The Victorian Government has worked with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to identify potential network investments to support the timely and efficient development of REZs in an initial Renewable Energy Zones Development Plan.

Microgrid Electricity Market Operator (MEMO) toolbox

The Victorian Government is supporting the development and implementation of a series of commercial-ready, smart microgrid projects across the state to address key challenges and contribute to the unlocking of the microgrid sector in Victoria. [The MEMO Toolbox](#), is an online resource about Microgrids by Monash University's Net Zero Initiative.



Releasing balloons is now illegal in Victoria



Releasing balloons into the environment is littering and is now illegal in Victoria. The EPA recommends that you don't use balloons outdoors. If using balloons is unavoidable ensure they are secured well. Additionally make sure you correctly dispose of accessories like clips and ribbons. With so many alternatives on offer, it's easy to stop using balloons at home and in the workplace, whether inside or outside. For more information about balloon alternatives please visit [here](#).

Grants

Shade Grants Program

The aim of the [shade grants program](#) is to reduce Victorians' exposure to UV radiation by increasing shade in public places across the state and by promoting uptake of sun protective practices. The Department of Health invites Victorian government schools and eligible community groups to apply for a shade grant.

School Shade Grant applications close at **11:59 pm, 27 August 2021**.

Community Shade Grant applications close at **11:59 pm, 10 September 2021**.

Community Climate Change and Energy Action Program



The [Community Climate Change and Energy Action Program](#) supports Victorian community groups by funding upgrades to community facilities. These upgrades aim to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions through a range of supported measures including energy-efficient and renewable energy technology. **Applications close 11:59 pm, Friday 20 August 2021.**

Bush for Birds grants now open

North east Victorian landholders can apply for funding to create and improve habitat for Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots, two nationally endangered birds. The North East CMA is delivering this project in partnership with Trust for Nature. Expressions of Interest for funding under Round 3 of the [Bush for Birds](#) project are **now open until 10 September 2021**.

Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) grant program



TTTT aims to assist communities to access resources needed to support each other through the effects of drought. Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Applications for round 22 are open and close at **5pm on Tuesday 24th August 2021**. For more information please click [here](#).

Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program targets small rural, regional and remote communities across Australia to access funding to support broad community needs. Applications for round 10 are being invited and close at **5pm on Tuesday 24th August 2021**. For further information please follow this [link](#).

Events

Fodder for the Future project



The Fodder for the Future project, is designed to help local dairy farmers, as well as hay, silage and grain producers, optimise both the quality and yield of a range of fodder species. Project partners include Riverine Plains, Agriculture Victoria, Birchip Cropping Group, Irrigated Cropping Council, University of Melbourne and Southern Growers. Riverine Plains will host [a Field Day](#) as part of the project on **31 August, 2021, COVID permitting**.

Bush for Birds revegetation workshop

[This event](#) is designed for Bush for Birds program participants - Landcare and community members are welcome to attend and will still get a lot out of this great workshop event. Participants will gain a solid understanding of how to establish, develop and maintain their revegetation block or site over time. The workshop will be held on **Saturday 28th of August in Rutherglen, COVID permitting**.



Webinars

Victoria Nature Festival 11-26 September

The Victoria Nature Festival has something for people of all ages, abilities, and interests. This September, get ready to explore and learn all about Victoria's rich natural environment and wildlife at the Victoria Nature Festival. Go for a bushwalk, learn from Traditional Owners about caring for Country, join exciting panel events and take part in citizen science. All events will be hosted [here](#) on the Victoria Together platform.



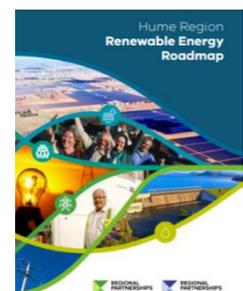
Podcasts

First Fuel podcast: Technology and Possibility with Heidi Lee

In Episode 47 of First Fuel, Energy Efficiency Council CEO Luke Menzel is joined by Heidi Lee, CEO of Beyond Zero Emissions, an independent think tank focused on creating solutions for a prosperous net zero Australia. Luke and Heidi discuss BZE's history, the huge energy efficiency jobs opportunity highlighted by The Million Jobs Plan, and their latest research on Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts. To listen to this episode please click [here](#).

Victoria's regional renewable energy roadmaps

[Visit the link](#) to access all the regional renewable energy roadmaps that show the way for the Victorian transition to renewable energy. This Roadmap provides a [region specific strategy for Hume](#). It articulates our renewable energy past, present and potential future, and captures how our region's leadership, drive and ingenuity is creating jobs and economic benefits, and helping address broader climate challenges.



Do you have any item to share for the next month's newsletter?

[Please click here](#) to let Climate Ready Hume know before 7 September for the September newsletter.

Do you know someone else who would appreciate this newsletter?

Please forward this update to a friend and invite them to [subscribe to this monthly update](#).

For further information about Climate Ready Hume contact:

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Climate Ready Hume | Hume Region

Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

