

Climate Ready Hume



Update 15 – December 2020

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

The Victorian Government is committed to [being climate ready and resilient by 2050](#) and is helping our regional communities and organisations work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change by investing \$9.3 million in the [Supporting our Regions to Adapt program](#).



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Hume region is working with our communities to develop a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RAS) identifying our regional priorities, the necessary skills and knowledge required by communities, and to fund local adaptation and mitigation projects.

Climate Ready Hume project update

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2020. The Climate Ready Hume team wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who completed our community survey during September to November. We received 181 contributions from individuals and households, community groups, small to medium business and local government authorities. You identified your top priorities of concern as the health of our natural environment; preparing and recovering from fire and emergencies; and managing heat waves.



Your feedback has created a greater understanding and information for the strategy. We will be sharing a summary of 'What we heard' with you early next year.

Do you have photos for the Adaptation Strategy?

We will be completing the first draft of the Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy by the end of December and still need your help with images of our landscapes and people. Thank you to everyone who has already shared images with the Climate Ready Hume team.

We are seeking images for the Strategy that are:

- local landscapes;
- iconic parts of Hume region (our environment, towns, community, places and people);
- close up pictures of local people; and
- community members and activities relating to the environment and climate change.

Please get in touch with the team at climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au



Victoria's renewable energy targets

Victoria has passed the half-way mark to its legislated target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 with the announcement that the interim target of 25 per cent renewables by 2020 has been reached.

Victoria was the first Australian state to write its renewables target into law. The next milestone is to source 40 per cent electricity generation from renewable sources by 2025. For more information about the Victorian government renewable energy targets visit: <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-targets> .

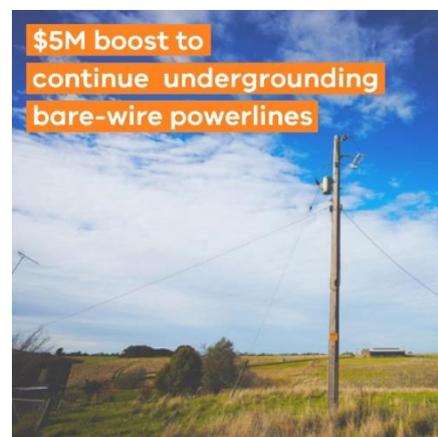
Funding powerlines to go underground

The Victorian Government is burying bare-wire powerlines across bushfire-affected properties in Alpine, Towong and East Gippsland shires.

Property owners with bare-wire electrical lines can apply now to have their **Private Overhead Electric Lines (POELs)** put underground. Applications close 30 April 2021.

The scheme will help build community resilience and safety by reducing the risk of electricity-started bushfires.

Applications can be made at <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/electricity/powerline-replacement> or calling the POEL Scheme Project Team on 03 9918 7315.



Project EDGE – calling for participants in a DER trial in Hume region



[Mondo](#) is seeking [expressions of interest](#) from homeowners and businesses in Hume region who wish to participate in a first of its kind distributed energy market place trial known as [Project EDGE \(Energy Demand & Generation Exchange\)](#).

Examples of distributed energy resources (DER) include rooftop solar, battery storage, thermal energy storage, electric vehicles (as an energy storage device), electric vehicle chargers, smart meters, and home energy management technologies.

Project Edge will initially involve around 50 residential customers, but then scale up to 1000 residential, commercial and industrial customers within Hume region. The ultimate goal being to aggregate 10 MW of power. The 3 year trial will start in early 2021.

The \$28 million trial will provide [AEMO](#), AusNet and Mondo visibility and active control of the DER, to create a simulated market and trading mechanisms to maximise the economic value of DER assets and contribute to the management of challenges associated with a decentralised grid. Other important benefits include minimising the costs of supply to all energy customers.



RACV donates \$1 million for solar for bushfire communities

Bushfire affected communities across Victoria are to receive [\\$1 million dollars of donated solar systems from the RACV](#). Local councils and community groups are helping the RACV identify the most strategic sites that would deliver the greatest benefit to each bushfire affected community. Many of the sites are in remote locations where electricity supply from the grid is unstable and where one road in and one road out leaves the community vulnerable to isolation, cut off from power or communications.

The first installation, is at the Rowen Park sporting precinct in Tallangatta (see image below). The facility, which includes sports grounds, function rooms and a kitchen, was used as the staging ground by SES and fire crews as they battled last summer's fires in our region.

Further projects planned for Hume region include Yea Showground, Biggara Hall, Cudgewa Hall Harrietville Hall, and Dederang Recreation Reserve.



Tallangatta's Rowen Park image courtesy of RACV

Wrapping your Christmas presents in a sustainable way

[Furoshiki](#) is a type of traditional Japanese wrapping cloth used to transport clothes, gifts, or other goods.

In preparation for the Christmas gift giving season the volunteers from Wangaratta Boomerang bags are making and distributing free Furoshiki kits around Wangaratta. Find out more at [Rural City of Wangaratta Face Book](#) (image courtesy of RCOW FB).



If you are unable to pick a free kit, make your own with some fabric remnants or use a square scarf.



To get you started check out the You Tube tutorial: [A day in the life of a furoshiki cloth.](#)

For a comprehensive one page guide to furoshiki folding and uses visit the [Japanese Government's Dept of the Environment webpage.](#)

Offering Furoshiki wrapped gifts for Christmas will help reduce the astonishing 150,000 km of Christmas wrapping paper Australians use and start some useful conversations about waste.

Tips on what and how you can recycle at Christmas time



Confused and bewildered in the aftermath of Christmas festivities of how to recycle the waste? To help you navigate the dos and don'ts, Choice has prepared some tips on recycling at Christmas time and they are [available at this link.](#)

Myrtleford Mosaic trail

On a hot January night in 2019, the first guerrilla mosaics were secretly installed under a bridge in Myrtleford by a clandestine artisan group called The Crackpots. This initial venture has grown into the [Myrtleford mosaics trail.](#)

Through their work, The Crackpots want to contribute to an important discussion about reducing, reusing and recycling - all the works are created from left over tiles or broken crockery.



The Crackpots are also dedicated to their local natural environment and their next mosaic challenge is making representations of 10 local vulnerable species, including birds, plants, reptiles and mammals, as part of a larger awareness campaign with the local Landcare group. The Turquoise Parrot pictured left is one of the first to be created. Installation will take place in the first half of 2021. To keep up with regular updates on this project: <https://www.facebook.com/myrtlefordmosaictrail/>

Images courtesy of Myrtleford Mosaic Trail website

Mini-grant helps with Earth Week at St Bernard's Wangaratta



Climate Ready Hume mini-grants have helped St Bernard's school in Wangaratta have a spectacular Earth week. Students participated in a variety of activities to learn more about sustainability and climate change. Student leaders undertook a series of climate change workshops, developed presentations and participated in a climate crisis committee. Other activities were around the themes of recycling, waste management, being waterwise, biodiversity and food production. Assembling insect hotels to increase biodiversity at the school was a very popular activity.

Solar Battery rebates now available across every Victorian postcode



The Solar Homes program is supporting eligible Victorian households to install a solar battery, by providing a point of sale discount up to a maximum of \$4,174.

Solar battery rebates are now available in every Victorian postcode. Solar battery rebates will maintain their current value of up to \$4,174 until 30 June 2021.

Click on these links for more information about the [solar battery rebate](#) and [how to apply](#).

Call 1300 376 393 or email enquiries@team.solar.vic.gov.au



Wondering how Victoria's regions are transitioning to renewable energy?

[Visit the link](#) to see how Hume and other regions are making the transition to renewable energy and access all the regional renewable energy roadmaps.

For a printed copy of the Hume roadmap email HumeRenewableEnergy.Roadmap@delwp.vic.gov.au

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Climate Ready Hume | Hume Region

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

