



Update 12 – September 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](#) over the next three years.



DELWP Hume 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 very special edition of Climate Ready Hume launching our **online community survey!**



Completing the short survey will help to represent climate change adaptation priorities, visions and voices of our community within the Strategy and our programs.

To have your say visit the EngageVic website:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/hume-regional-climate-change-adaptation-strategy>

Survey closes **30 October 2020**.

Community Mini-grants – Climate Ready Hume

We are also excited to announce eight successful climate adaptation projects. The projects address a range of diverse topics, and include:

- an online renewable energy expo
- upskilling youth in the gardening cycle
- a website for local climate information and asking climate questions
- a puppet show for school children using local fauna to talk about climate change
- online videos showing practical ways to adapt to climate change and
- an education campaign about fashion and a circular economy.

We are looking forward to working with these community groups on these great projects.

Solar on public buildings program - EOIs CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER!!

The DELWP Solar on Public Buildings Program is open for expressions of interest until 30 September from volunteer committees managing Crown land reserves.

Don't miss this great opportunity to have an energy audit to identify potential energy savings and a solar system installed on your public building to help reduce power bills.

DELWP will appoint a panel of accredited installers, from the local area if possible, to ensure that regions further benefit from this state government program.



Hume regional co-ordinator, Emily Voogt, is the local contact for the program. **M:** 0418 391 006 and **E:** emily.voogt@delwp.vic.gov.au . For more information about the program visit the [DELWP website](#).

Local Power Plan virtual launch Wednesday 23 September

The [Local Power Plan](#) is a comprehensive blueprint to unlock the benefits of renewable energy for regional Australia.

At the launch of the Local Power Plan on **Wednesday 23 September** hear from everyday regional communities from the North East and across Australia, who are taking their energy future into their own hands. People who are developing their own solar and wind farms, installing batteries in their community, and helping local households to improve their energy efficiency.



[Register](#) for the virtual launch at 10 am on **Wed 23 September**

The Local Power Plan is the culmination of a 6-month process undertaken by the Federal member for Indi, [Helen Haines MP](#), who has worked closely with our local communities and other regional communities across Australia. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Winton Solar Farm Community Grants Program NOW OPEN

FRV, a leading solar developer, is currently constructing the 85 MW [Winton Solar Farm](#), near Benalla in Victoria. This is a successful project of the government's [Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme](#) supporting the achievement of the [Victorian Renewable Energy Targets \(VRET\)](#) of 50 percent by 2030.

As part of its commitment to support the community and make a positive contribution to the region, FRV have established the Winton Solar Farm Community Grants Program. Grants will support local initiatives and projects that benefit the community in a 20 km radius of the Winton solar farm in the key areas of:

- Environment and sustainability
- Skills and participation
- Health and safety

Up to \$20,000 funding is available for eligible local organisations that either work or are based in the Winton / Glenrowan area.



Artist's impression of Winton Solar Farm

Applications are now open and close 9 October. For further information and a copy of the application form, please visit: <http://wintonsolarfarm.com/community/>

Euroa Energy Microgrid Demonstration project

Keep an eye on the [Euroa Energy's facebook](#) page to follow the progress of their [DELWP Microgrid Demonstration Initiative](#) project.



Euroa Energy's microgrid demonstration project is enabling battery installations at several business sites - this one is at Euroa Timber Co.



Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge

Craig Reucassel's three-part documentary *Fight for Planet A* explores how we can all reduce our individual and collective carbon emissions.

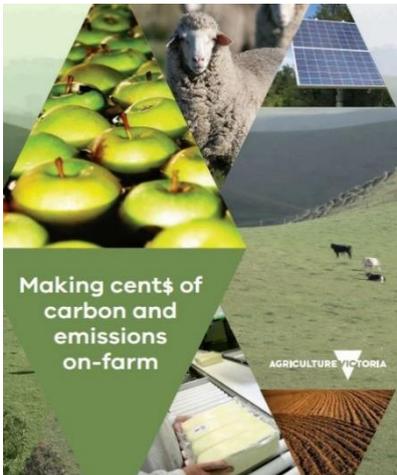
All three episodes are available on [iView](#).

If you want to do something about climate change but aren't sure where to start, the ABC Science Carbon Counter can identify simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint and help you see how much CO₂ you would save. [Click here](#) to start counting your carbon.

Take the climate challenge to your community using the handy tips and ideas in the [ABC Fight for Planet A toolkit](#)



Making Cent\$ of Carbon and Emission on Farms



Download at this [link](#) a new Agriculture Victoria booklet that outlines practical actions farm businesses can take to improve their emissions performance. Six areas for action are:

- energy
- nitrogen use efficiency and fertilisers
- healthy soils
- livestock
- trees
- supply chain.

In many cases, actions to reduce emissions or increase carbon on farms have multiple benefits for farm businesses, such as increasing farm health and profitability.

Apply NOW - Local Leaders needed for Regional Partnerships

Community leaders from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to help shape the future of their community, with positions across the Victorian Government's nine Regional Partnerships now open. In Hume region we have the [Goulburn](#) and [Ovens Murray](#) Regional Partnerships.

The term of appointment for new members will run until 31 December 2024.

Applications close Thursday, 1 October. For more information on each Regional Partnership and to apply for a position, visit www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships.

Bushfire Recovery Grants – Community Facilities STILL OPEN



[Bushfire Recovery Victoria](#) has a grants program for community facilities open **until 30 June 2022**.

Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded from a total pool of \$5 million dollars to support community groups in fire-affected areas who want help to build, upgrade or repair important local facilities. Fire-affected LGAs in Hume are **Alpine, Indigo, Mansfield, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga**, as well as alpine resorts

Falls Creek, Mount Buller, Mount Hotham and Mount Stirling.

To find out more: <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-community-facilities>

Webinars

Community Batteries

Congratulations to [Mitchell Community Energy](#) for running its first and very successful webinar on community batteries. Click this [link](#) to hear recorded presentations from Western Power, AusNet Services, Australian National University, and Indigo Power (duration 1 hour 20mins).



Smart Energy Conference 9 and 10 September - Recorded event

Have you caught up with the Virtual Smart Energy Conference? Ten conference sessions with more than 70 plus industry specialists attended by 3,994 unique registrations.



Hear the latest on the role of DER, EVs and VPPs* in our renewable energy future. (*Distributed Energy Resources, Electric Vehicles and Virtual Power Plants).

The conference and exhibition is **accessible for one month** via this [link](#) and to download the program click [here](#).

Podcasts

NEW!! AgVic Talk podcast series

This pilot [podcast series](#) covers contemporary problems and solutions to issues including bushfire recovery, drought and dry seasonal conditions, weather and climate, as well as inspiring stories from young farmers.



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

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

