

Community Owned Renewable Energy

*Glen Innes Severn Council
General Manager & Mayor – 8/11/19*

Michael McNamara
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Glen Innes and District Community Centre

Community Owned Renewable Energy

What is it?

*Community Owned Renewable Energy (CORE for short) is an approach to renewable energy development that involves the community in **initiating**, **developing**, **operating**, **owning** and/or **benefiting** from the project.*

Community Owned Renewable Energy

Why do it?

Reduce electricity bills

Give people more control over power usage and costs

Local production and distribution

Local employment

Build community connectedness and capacity

Fund community projects

Community Owned Renewable Energy

What are we doing?

Survey community

Gauge interest & support

Recruit allies

Views about Council involvement

Build alliance

Community Groups, Council, Business, Residents

Investigate options

Consult, Clarify and Cost various possible models

Implement project

Roll out selected project option

Empowering Homes – NSW State Government

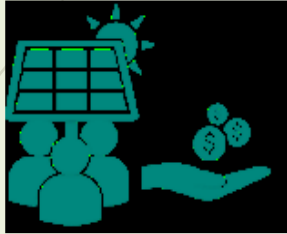
- ▶ **Zero interest loans (repaid over 8 years) to help owner-occupiers (own or purchasing their own home) with a combined family income of up to \$180,000 per year to install solar panels / battery systems.**
- ▶ **There will be limits on the number of loans available across the state each year.**
- ▶ **300,000 installations over 10 years – growing strongly in later years of program**
- ▶ **The money limits of the loans will be**
 - ▶ **Up to \$9,000 for battery only system**
(Repayments anticipated to be approx \$75 per month or \$225 per quarter)
 - ▶ **Up to \$14,000 for solar panels + battery system**
(Repayments anticipated to be approx \$150 per month or \$450 per quarter)

Community Owned Renewable Energy (CORE)

Examples:

- PV on a school roof or other community owned buildings
 - 4-turbine wind farm on the edge of town
 - small hydro system owned by two nearby villages
 - Community owned power supply scheme
 - Virtual power station using excess household capacity.
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- Projects vary by technology, size, structure, governance and funding options.
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- Even people's motivations for setting such a project up vary.

Models of Community Owned Renewable Energy



Donation/community organisation

A community raises funds through donations to install renewable energy or undertake energy efficiency measures. Typically, the host site and beneficiary of this model is a community organisation such as a school, surf-lifesaving club, fire station etc.



Community investment

An organisation develops a sustainable energy project and raise funds through opening up the project to community investors, on the expectation that these investors will receive a certain return on their investment.



Commercial-community partnership

A community group partners with a commercial energy developer (or similar organisation) to deliver a community energy project. This can result in dual ownership between the community and the developer or other structures.



Multi-household

Households are aggregated to deliver sustainable energy solutions. Examples of such models include solar bulk-buys and mini-grids.

Case Study 1



➤ Australia Energy Foundation

- Formerly Moreland Energy Foundation until July 2019
- Moreland Power – Pilot program - Partnership with Moreland City Council
- Community owned solar panels on Council buildings
- Energy produced sold at low cost to local families facing energy hardship
- Dividends paid to investors (eg renters) to offset their power bills

Case Study 2

- Tyalgum Energy Project
- Solar panels on community facilities, homes and businesses
- Local Mini Grid
- Solar farm
- Hydro



Case Study 3

- Farming the Sun - Lismore
- Local community investors
- Council operated
- Two 100kW solar farms
- Lismore –Solar panels installed
 - Sewage treatment works as a floating solar farm
 - Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre





Case Study 4

- Farming the Sun – Southern New England
- Bulk buy of solar panels in 2008 – 2011
- Aimed for 1MW of solar power across Tamworth, Armidale, Liverpool Plains, Gunnedah, Uralla & Walcha local government areas (LGAs)
- Surpassed 1MW goal – 2% increase in number of solar panels in the region
- Expanded to New England North West Bulk Buy program in 2018 (including Inverell, Moree, Glen Innes Severn, Narrabri, Coonabarabran, Tenterfield & Guyra regions)
- Can include batteries
- Up to 33% saving on prices



Community Owned Renewable Energy

What are the Options?

Increase installation of solar panels / batteries

Empowering Homes – NSW government program 2019

Community project – Local initiative

Local Community-owned power options

Virtual power station – pooling local excess power ?

Install stand alone solar garden(s) / farm(s) ?

Partnership with Council ?

Mini Grid ?

Community Owned Renewable Energy

Where to from here?

Community Centre sub-committee or Council 355
Committee to act as steering group

Research models and opportunities

Community consultation

- Surveys, market stalls, community meeting(s)

Identify funding / partnership opportunities (grants, investors)

Liaise with State & Fed MPs and government departments

Establish project

Apply for funding

Develop and implement project