

Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance
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GBGA 2019 - PROJECT UPDATE - AUGUST 2019

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE STATION NETWORK

The GBGA is collaborating with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance to examine the practicalities and business case for a Victorian regional charge station network for electric vehicles. The project includes 43 regional and rural councils, and 12 metropolitan councils, who have contributed \$60,000. CVGA and GBGA have been successful in an application to DELWP for a grant of \$40,000, to ensure a complete study for this statewide project.

NDEVR has been appointed as consultant for the project. NDEVR worked with GBGA to evaluate the use of electric vehicle for council fleets.

After examining the technical, economic and operational factors for a network, this exciting project is expected to show how councils and other partners can establish a network to make electric vehicle use practical for travellers and residents alike. The study will be finished in March 2020.



VICTORIAN LGA POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PPA)

Eight councils of the GBGA are partners in this statewide agreement. The development of the project has increased the knowledge of the Executive Officer and council officers about renewable energy purchasing and the energy market. This information will be available for all members of the GBGA as they consider future options for renewable power to reduce carbon.

All eight GBGA councils have committed to join Stage 2—the PPA tender. Purchase of renewable energy will significantly advance councils towards their carbon reduction objectives. Campaspe, Indigo, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Shepparton, Strathbogie and Wodonga councils have committed to purchase renewable energy for part or all of their energy use.

After remaining partner council finalise their commitment, the PPA is expected to move to the tender stage with around 45 Victorian councils in this project and a load commitment of over 200 MW. More than half of these councils will purchase renewable energy for 100% of their energy use. This is biggest local government PPA in Australia and a key expression to local communities of council commitment to renewable energy and reducing climate change impacts.



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ADVOCACY FOR INFLUENCE

In 2019-20, the GBGA will continue to increase its advocacy influence. Joint advocacy with other Victorian alliances in 2019-20 started with a submission to argue for Victorian state carbon reduction to maintain a safe future climate—with a desired target temperature increase of 1.5 degrees and well below 2 degrees. The Victorian government has a zero carbon target by 2050 but work by an independent study shows a strong interim carbon reduction target of 67% is needed for 2030 to maintain a safe future climate.

Ongoing collaboration with housing organisations will form strong advocacy for sustainable and safe housing, especially for vulnerable groups in our communities.

TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURE TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Mapping that allows us to understand how agriculture will be affected by climate change is a powerful tool in planning for a climate adapted future. Mapping and other tools now exist for the entire Alliance region. The GBGA Climate Smart Agricultural Development (CSAD) mapping tool for the Goulburn Broken is now complemented by the Embedding Climate Adaptation agriculture tool for north east Victoria. The North East Catchment Management Authority led this project that built on the learnings of the CSAD project to increase the relevance of the tool for producers. Users can extract local climate data and projected trends.

This data can also be used by local government to understand heatwave and rainfall conditions in the future, which can guide decisions in vegetation selection, urban planning and community health. The GBGA will explore this application with councils and agencies.



OTHER PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019/20 the GBGA will provide connection between several projects and GBGA members:

- ⇒ Mondo/Ausnet project investigating means to allow households and businesses to be paid commercial rates for feeding solar power into the local grid or reducing energy use in critical periods
- ⇒ Possibilities arising from the Hume Renewable Energy Roadmap and connection with community energy projects.
- ⇒ Planning improvements for environmentally sustainable subdivision by regional cities
- ⇒ Assisting to extend “How Well Are We Adapting” project to regional Victoria
- ⇒ Other partnerships to advance the goals of the GBGA Strategic Plan

