

HEPBURN SHIRE CARBON FREE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Daylesford Community - 14 June, 2017,

Each of the four table groups at the workshop developed a number of ideas as key solutions for a carbon neutral Daylesford and district which included:

1. Hepburn Wind to become Hepburn Power and integrate local energy generation initiatives and options (solar/wind/organic waste) across the shire as a retailer
2. Energy to waste capacity established at municipal depots and battery farms on council land
3. Bio char offsets integrating green waste to create social industry including a tree register, carbon sequestering and reuse for gardens
4. Timely and non complex information for new builds, renters and households about energy savings
5. Household and building audits (including appliances) to reduce energy consumption at an individual and community level.
6. Solar power and energy efficient appliances bulk buy through Council.
7. Prefab and sustainable house builds which would also generate jobs
8. Solar power for local schools/kinder gardens through community grants – including education for children /parents on how to reduce carbon emissions to drive generational change
9. Planning department guidelines for retrofits including solar PV and heat water with council planning rates to pay for retrofits as well as more efficient appliances, worm farms and heat pumps to potentially be delivered through council schemes
10. Planning Department checklist of environmentally friendly requirements for all builds including a green stars rating
11. Community wide incentives for renewable energy adoption paid through rates and community investment
12. Community transport options – e.g. community bus using biofuel, better use of existing transport and electric car stations
13. Workshops on environmental efficiency measures and practical workshops around bio char, DIY double-glazing, sewing bags, and DIY electric cars.

The topics that received the most votes were:

1. Community owned renewable energy enterprises
2. Household efficiency plus building audits/planning
3. Education

Discussions were held at the table groups on how the top three ideas could be actioned and what success might look like in three years.

Topic 1. Renewable energy generation

Suggestions included:

- Discussions with Hepburn Wind about becoming a retailer and opportunities to integrate sources of local power generation across the Shire
- Talking to Powercor about solar possibilities for the community including a solar farm

- Looking at bio char and carbon offset outcomes as well as waste to energy options in consultation with council – e.g. setting up operations at municipal depots
- Discussion with Council around solar power, heat pumps and appliances bulk buy payback through rates
- Subsidisation through bulk buys for households through MASH

Topic 2: Planning and building

Suggestions included:

- Talking to Council's planning department and reviewing guidelines for retrofits including solar/thermal walls and heat banks, with council planning rates to pay for retrofits.
- Reassessment of building regulations for new houses
- Developing a check list of environmentally friendly requirements for new builds including green star rating using an existing framework
- Providing subsidised/free home inspections and assessments supported by advice by some who is reliable ('there's a lot of shonky people out there), bulk buying of products (appliances, solar panels, heat pumps, insulation) post audit through Council and incentives for remediation

Topic 3: Education

Suggestions:

- Solar power for local schools and kinder gardens through community grants to drive education for children and parents on how to reduce carbon emissions and generational change
- Educate the community through advertising, forums and schools
- Energy consumption and savings education/workshops for the local community
- Practical workshops around bio char
- Energy consumption/costs education for tourism accommodation owners and visitors
- Timely and non complex information for new builds
- Collaboration and resource sharing with regional energy groups/networks 'rather than reinventing the wheel'