

Australian Community Energy Congress

Sponsoring Local Community Energy Projects and Groups to attend the inaugural Australian Community Energy Congress

16-17 June 2014

National Library of Australia, Canberra



Photo courtesy of Hepburn Wind, from their turbine raising picnic in March 2011

Across Australia, the renewables industry is expanding quickly as the country transitions towards a clean energy future. In addition to new and improving technologies, new business models are emerging to support this transition.

Community renewable energy projects offer significant potential to catalyse and build popular understanding of and support for renewable energy. Activating support for renewable energy around local projects that deliver substantial economic, environmental, social, technological and political benefits will in turn help establish active support for a renewable powered future.

Community renewable projects help build community resilience, empowerment and pride, as well as supporting regional communities through fostering local economic development. Such projects will help strengthen and expand the renewable energy sector, and deliver jobs, education and training to regional Australia.

In Australia, there are currently two operating community-owned renewable energy projects – Hepburn Wind and Denmark Community Wind – and between 40 and 70 more projects in development across every state and territory. Coordination and support is needed to help these communities overcome the challenges currently associated with community-energy.

The Institute for Sustainable Futures, in partnership with a coalition of organisations supporting community energy, the Coalition for Community Energy, is proud to be coordinating Australia's first congress on community renewables. The Congress will be a two day event in Canberra at the National Library of Australia with side events such as a training day on Sunday 15 June.

The Australian Community Energy Congress: Catalysing Community Energy in Australia

Recognising the need to ensure Australian communities realise the opportunities presented by community energy, the Australian Community Energy Congress aims to bring together community members, NGOs, industry representatives and policy makers to identify challenges and opportunities for the sector.

The two-day Congress will:

- > Develop pathways for communities and local government to catalyse change;
- > Identify key opportunities and barriers facing the sector;
- > Facilitate sharing of information and strategies about overcoming the barriers and realising opportunities;
- > Develop skills and build capacity for communities wanting to develop and deliver a community energy project;
- > Contribute to the development of a Community Energy Strategy for the sector;
- > Consolidate and coordinate efforts across the nation in this emerging sector; and
- > Foster new networks and relationships.

WHY SPONSOR?

The Australian Community Energy Congress is the first event of its kind to be held in this country. It will bring together a broad range of stakeholders, from policy makers and influencers to community groups, companies interested in renewable energy and community development, researchers and NGOs.

Sponsoring your local Community Energy Group or Project will provide them with the opportunity to connect with a huge number of community leaders interested in establishing community energy projects, and to identify new opportunities for future business collaboration and creation of shared impact.

The event will also provide you with access to the policy and decision makers who will provide support for your local group as it grows and flourishes. The Congress will provide a valuable opportunity for your organisation to demonstrate its support for this emerging market sector and to raise the profile of your activities in renewable energy.

Sponsorship Required

Local Community Energy Groups and Projects are volunteer-based and not-for-profit.

They are seeking your financial support to assist a delegation of local volunteers to attend the Congress.

Specifically they need funds to cover:

- > - Conference registration fees ~ \$170pp (early bird) | \$260pp (standard)
- > - Return travel to Canberra
- > - Meals and accommodation

If you have any questions or alternative models for how your organisation might be interested to support the conference, do not hesitate to contact us.

For further information please contact: Nicola Ison, Senior Research Consultant at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney Nicola.Ison@uts.edu.au or (02) 9514 4839.

The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), a research and consulting organisation at the University of Technology, Sydney, is hosting this event.
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