



Renewable energy keeping the jobs in the community.

The Goulburn Community Energy Co-op has announced the successful tenderers to build the community owned solar farm in Goulburn.

“It’s a consortium of contractors including local solar company Goulburn Solar, Sydney based Smart Commercial Solar, and Wagga based Solar Professionals,” said Peter Fraser, President of Community Energy for Goulburn who are co-ordinating the day to day running of the project.

“We have kept our focus local, so this means that a significant number of jobs will be supported in the local community, in addition to the revenue that will be generated and distributed to local investors once the solar farm is producing power,” said Mr Fraser.

The community owned solar farm will be built on the northern side of Goulburn between Sydney Road and the rail line and now includes a large battery so the energy can be sold into the grid at peak times during the afternoon.

Local people have raised close to \$2M to add to a grant of \$2.1M from the NSW Government to build the 1.4MW solar farm. Most of the profits from the sale of the electricity from the farm will be distributed to the local investors, keeping the money in the community.

Mr Fraser said the Co-op will also set up a special fund to help disadvantaged people in the region pay their energy bills. Fraser encouraged all those interested in learning more about the project or even investing to visit www.goulburnsolarfarm.com.au

“That way we not only build the local economy but also help those in this community that are struggling to pay their bills, keep warm in winter and comfortable in summer.”

Since the project was first launched by John Hewson more than 7 years ago there have been many changes to the technology that have significantly improved its potential.

“We have now sourced a pre wired inverter and transformer package that will make the project more cost effective and at the same time reduce the potential for construction errors,” Mr Fraser said.

“And provided we can raise additional funds we are looking to incorporate a much larger battery that will increase revenue substantially,” he said.

With the huge increase in household solar uptake and the drop in mid-day wholesale energy prices, the Co-op have identified the potential benefits of investing in a bigger battery that can be charged in the middle of the day when energy prices are low. The battery can then re-sell the power in the early evening and achieve a better return when wholesale prices are much higher.

“A bigger battery would cost us more so we are now opening up the project to new investors who want to take advantage of a good return on their investment and support local jobs and renewable energy at the same time,” said Mr Fraser.

Anyone interested in investing in the project can find out more information at www.goulburnsolarfarm.com.au

ENDS

Contact: Peter Fraser 0407 107 627
president@ce4g.org.au