



# CLEAN ENERGY CANBERRA

## Powering our city with clean energy.

Investing in affordable, clean energy for all Canberrans.

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The ACT Greens believe that Canberrans should have the opportunity to benefit and invest in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and be able to play an active role in reducing the ACT's greenhouse emissions.

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The ACT Greens believe that all Canberrans should be able to live in comfortable houses that are cool in summer, warm in winter, and healthy for the occupants using tried and tested energy efficiency measures.

The Greens want to improve access to energy efficiency and renewable technologies to ensure that those on low incomes and who are renting can reap the benefits of new energy technologies. All Canberrans should have the opportunity to benefit and invest in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and to play an active role in reducing the ACT's greenhouse emissions.

### > **Using our local electricity, efficiently**

The energy landscape is changing and we need to move with the times. Gone are the days where only big energy companies can participate in the generation and delivery of energy to our homes and workplaces.

With solar PV and batteries, small business and householders can generate and utilise their energy at times of the day that suit them best, feeding excess energy into the grid or storing it or trading it locally. Local electricity trading will add so much more flexibility to people's energy use when they are able to generate electricity at one site, and then use it at another.

Imagine if your PV produces energy during the day and you could sell it to your neighbour who is at home all day, rather than buy a battery? Or if you own a small business and you could facilitate your car fleet recharging overnight at employees houses, but off the work account? Or swiping your card at the electric car charging station and using credit from your home PV?

Local electricity trading will also allow apartment dwellers, renters, low-income families and those with poorly oriented houses to invest in solar on a nearby community array, and have the electricity credited to their home accounts. This removes the obstacles to participating in the clean energy future, and facilitates investment in the local generation of energy. It comes with the added benefit of effectively utilising our electricity grid, and providing additional encouragement to utilise large roof spaces across the city for solar projects.

Local electricity trading would require changes to the way energy retailers account for and bill energy users. At present, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) rules mean that local electricity traders are being charged networks costs that don't apply to them. The AEMC needs to change this rule to make local electricity trading financially viable for those who wish to participate.

The ACT Greens believe that the ACT should prepare for this exciting energy future now.

As such the ACT Greens will:

- » Undertake an investigation into local electricity trading in the ACT through virtual net metering and other mechanism to enable local electricity producers and consumers energy and be credited and debited on the one account.
- » Advocate strongly on behalf of the ACT Government for AEMC rules changes that will make local electricity trading viable in Canberra.

### **> Medium scale solar**

The ACT has regulatory requirements for the installation of solar that are higher than other jurisdictions, and placing a substantially higher financial burden on investors. Solar projects of 100kW are attracting astronomically higher fees for compliance and connection in the ACT than they do in NSW, and this is having a dampening effect on the rate of installation of medium-sized solar systems. Sign off costs from builders and building certifiers run into the thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of dollars, whereas in other jurisdictions like NSW and Victoria, those costs don't exist.

The ACT Greens believe we should review the process for approving solar installations in the ACT with a view to removing the red tape while ensuring that systems are installed safely and grid connections are undertaken properly.