

# COMMUNITY ENERGY RETAILER PROJECT

Clean energy. Local jobs. Community Power

## Community Energy Retailer

Community energy offers an alternative to traditional energy generation that delivers expensive power and concentrates profits in the major centres or investors overseas.

Right now a project to create a region wide community energy retailer (CER) is underway. The CER would source clean, renewable energy from across the region, investing in local energy initiatives and channeling profits back to the communities it comes from.

This model is the first of its type in Australia. Having originated in Yackandandah out of the Totally Renewable Yackandandah project, it is now expanding across the North East region. The aim of the CER is for North East Victoria to lead the country and the world in clean, local energy – where communities benefit.



## Why

The CER is owned by the local community, taking the power from the giant energy retailers and returning it to local communities. It supports local renewable energy projects, assisting communities to take the lead in tackling climate pollution and transitioning to a clean energy future. It also re-invests the profits back in the local community, creating local jobs and opportunities right here in the North East.

It also allows local communities to set up mini grids. A mini grid is created from a group of households equipped with electricity generation capacity – such as solar panels – and electricity storage capacity in the form of a battery. These households can generate, store and share electricity between households – thus operating as a mini grid. The CER is vital to the creation of mini grids.

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## The CER is driven by 5 core pillars

### + Transition to Renewables

To assist in the transition to the generation and use of renewable electricity in Australia, and especially North East Victoria.

### + A Working Mini Grid

The CER would allow for the sharing electricity between mini grid participants. This would be the first such mini-grid of its type – providing a model for the rest of Australia and the world to follow.

### + Local Renewable Generation

The retailer would prioritise the purchase of electricity generated from locally generated renewable sources, thereby helping to build a North East Victorian renewable energy economy.

### + Social and Economic Development

The CER would re-distribute these profits to community energy group partners: returning profits to the community and helping to fund a transition to a local renewable energy economy.

### + Empowering Local Communities

The retailer would seek to empower local communities through local ownership, the equitable distribution of benefits, and incorporating local control in decision making.

## Get involved

The CER is looking to work with local groups to achieve these goals. The CER will, where possible, assist community energy groups in a functional capacity, including purchasing electricity from community owned renewable generation capacity, and facilitate trading between households with solar and battery capacity.

Where possible, the CER will also support community energy groups with funding. As a part of a CER collaboration, the community energy group will, where possible, work in partnership with the CER to establish a local branch, and build a local customer base.

If you would like to know more and find out how your community can get involved, please get in touch.

## Contact

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