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NAGAMBIE CLUB BOWLS FOR SOLAR

NAGAMBIE'S BOWLERS ARE SET to be powered by solar, as a new solar system donated by Yarra Energy Foundation switches on at Nagambie Bowls Club.

The 5.4kW solar system will power operations at the popular local venue, saving the club around \$1500 in energy costs a year.

The system has been gifted to the club by Echo Group in conjunction with the Yarra Energy Foundation as part of Strathbogie Shire's wildly successful solar bulk buy program, affectionately known as the Bogie Bulk Buy.

As the partnering organisation in the bulk buy, Echo Group and the Yarra Energy Foundation pledged to donate a free system to a local community group, with Nagambie Bowls Club striking it lucky.

Nagambie Bowls Club president Rob Smith said that the new solar system was helping the club to beat rising power bills, while keeping bowlers cool in soaring temperatures.

"We're a small club, and power price hikes over the past few years have hit us hard," he said.

"With the recent heat we normally would have seen the club's air-conditioning bills go through the roof, but because of the new solar-power system, we're able to keep our bowlers cool without burning a hole in our hip pocket." he says.

"We're very grateful to Yarra Energy Energy Foundation and Strathbogie Shire Council for choosing Nagambie Bowls Club to receive a free solar system. For a rural club like ours, switching to solar has been a real boost."

It's not just local bowlers who are going wild for solar. The Bogie Bulk Buy, a partnership between Yarra Energy Foundation and Strathbogie Shire Council helps residents to purchase solar systems together at a significantly cheaper rate.

The program has seen over 119 solar systems installed in local homes and businesses since its launch in 2017, saving around \$240,000 in annual power costs and preventing 25,500 tCO²-e greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere over the next three decades.

It's been such a success that the seat of Euroa was recently announced to have the highest rate of solar installations per capita in Victoria.

Alix Pearce, director of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership, Australia's largest local government climate alliance, said that the Bogie Bulk Buy was a great example of how councils can drive Australia's switch to clean energy.

"Supporting communities to get on board with solar is one of the most valuable ways councils can help residents reduce their climate impact. Strathbogie Shire is a real clean energy leader - it's the little shire that could," she said.

Cr Amanda McClaren, Mayor of Strathbogie Shire Council, said that the success of the Bogie Bulk Buy is indicative of a profound energy shift taking place in rural Australia.

"Since we started the Bogie Bulk Buy with Yarra Energy Foundation and Echo Group, we have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our community for switching to solar power," she said.

"In a rural community where many people are struggling financially, saving money with solar is a no-brainer."

"We're also on the frontline for the impacts of climate change, as we've seen from the recent scorching heatwaves. As a community, it makes sense for us to work to reduce our climate impact by shifting to clean energy."

The success of the Bogie Bulk Buy has seen six other Victorian local councils - Murrindindi, Yarra, East Gippsland, Baw Baw, Latrobe and Wellington Shire Councils - replicate the program in their local area. And according to Cr McClaren, Strathbogie residents are not stopping with solar.

"A lot of people are seeking our advice on batteries after a 24 hour power blackout here in Nagambie right across to Avenel during a 46 degree heatwave," she says. "With Echo Group and Yarra Energy Foundation's help we ran a solar and battery trial last year, with great success."

"The appetite for clean energy in Strathbogie is huge. We're aiming to leave fossil fuels in the gutter and roll on towards a renewable-powered future."

Watch a video from the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership on the Bogie Bulk Buy: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/bbb/>

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For more information contact the Cities Power Partnership team on 0487 003 872 or cppmedia@climatecouncil.org.au

About the Cities Power Partnership

The Cities Power Partnership is a free national program created by the [Climate Council](https://www.climatecouncil.org.au) that celebrates and accelerates the pollution reduction and clean energy successes of Australia in towns and cities.

Local governments who join the partnership pledge to take 5 key actions across renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and working together.

Website: [Cities Power Partnership](#)

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