

Media Release

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Kyogle Council leads the way on climate change

Kyogle Council will source all its electricity needs from renewables by 2030.

On its way to meeting that 10 year target, Council will generate 25% of its electricity demands through on-site solar energy production and source another 25% from renewables by 2025.

Council currently meets an estimated 6.1% of its electricity demand through rooftop solar panels.

Council set the ambitious targets at its June meeting when Councillors unanimously adopted an action plan for energy efficiency and renewable energy which was developed through the Sustainable Councils and Communities Program.

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland said the action plan adopted by Council would ultimately save Council money as well as help combat climate change.

“Climate change is a real concern for many of our residents,” Cr Mulholland said.

“And as a Council we are committed to doing whatever we can to protect the Council area from the devastating effects climate change is predicted to bring.

“The action plan we have adopted will ultimately also result in financial savings for Council.

“Kyogle Council is leading by example and we will be encouraging and supporting the use of renewable energy by the community, particularly in new developments.”

Council has already seen its electricity consumption fall over the past 11 years generating savings of around \$82,000 and 300MWh (23% of consumption) per year through actions including:

- Installation of 85kW of solar PV capacity on Council buildings
- Street lighting changeover to compact fluorescent lamps to 57% of the system
- Changeover of 250 lights in Council buildings to LED technology
- Solar hot water system installations at Councils pools
- Variable speed drives installed on water and sewerage pumping stations

Under the action plan, Council will advance its efficiency drive in order to meet its new targets.

In the short to medium term, Council also will continue to replace fluorescent lights with LEDs and install roof-top and ground mounted solar PV systems at most of its facilities and sites including water treatment plants, sewerage treatment works and Council buildings, and test the market for the purchase of energy from renewable sources.

All remaining high energy use street lighting will be upgraded to LED technology when it becomes available.

In the longer term, the action plan identifies the possibility of developing two micro-hydro electricity generation systems at Kyogle's off-stream storage dam and on a weir in the Richmond River near the dam.

Council also will establish a taskforce made up of Councillors, staff and community members to drive action on climate change for the future of our community.

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