VIRTUAL POWER

Sustainability Through Technology

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

This industry leading, large scale solar energy project will see the City of Hobsons Bay accelerate the uptake of renewable energy, create local jobs and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Imagine a council that within two years will be powering itself and its community with clean, green, renewable energy. A council where its residents and businesses will have access to affordable green electricity, while simultaneously contributing to the community vision of zero net emissions by 2030. Welcome to Hobsons Bay.

Hobsons Bay City Council is taking the lead in generating renewable energy and stimulating the local economy through the roll out of a Virtual Energy Network (VEN) and the installation of new solar panels on more than 40 Council buildings.

The project also introduces a community access model. This is a bold and innovative way to use cutting edge technology to generate real action in addressing the impacts of climate change.

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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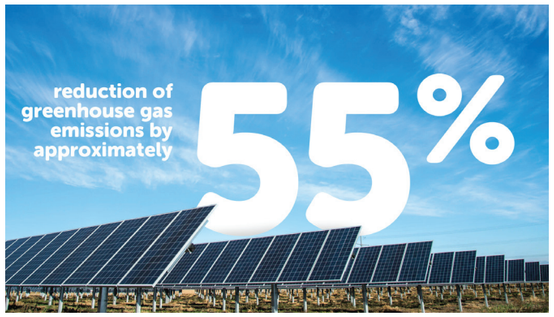
BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Virtual Power project provides substantial economic, environmental and community benefits. It will contribute significantly towards not only Council's, but also the Victorian Government's zero net emissions goals.

Importantly, it has the capacity to be expanded or replicated across the western region, Melbourne or Victoria, stimulating the same surge of benefits in communities across the state.

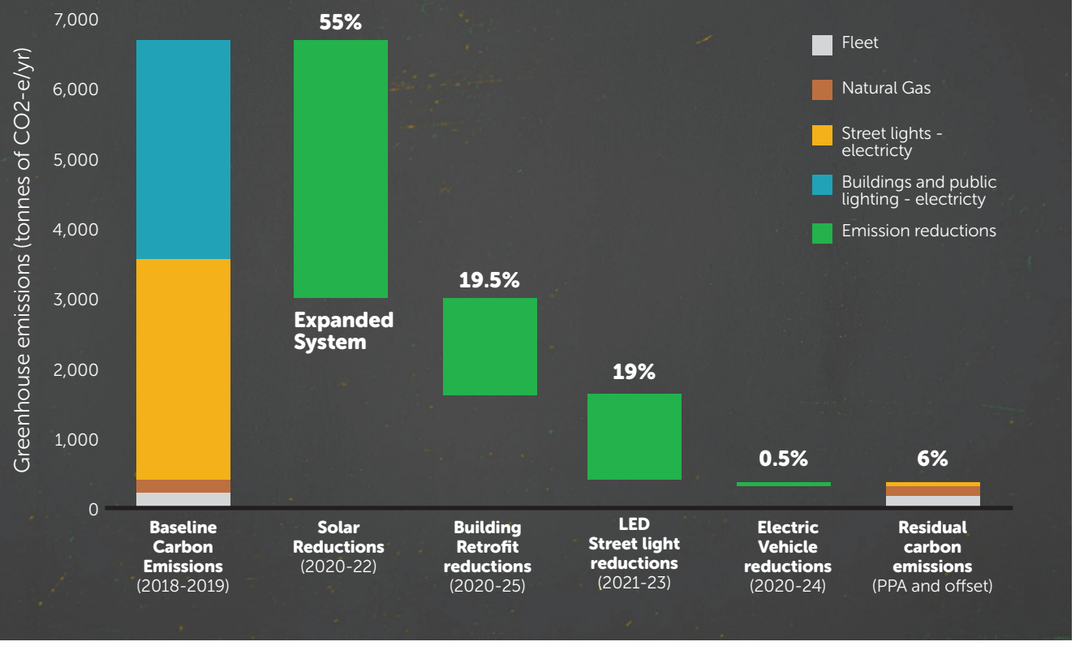
Environmental

- the generation of almost four megawatts of solar power in the first stage
- reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by almost 4,000 tonnes per annum, or up to 55 per cent of Council's total carbon emissions, within two years
- built in flexibility to expand and adapt to new technology
- substantial acceleration of zero net emissions targets for Council and for Hobsons Bay



Targeting Council's direct emissions

HBCC CARBON EMISSIONS AND INDICATIVE REDUCTIONS BY PROGRAM

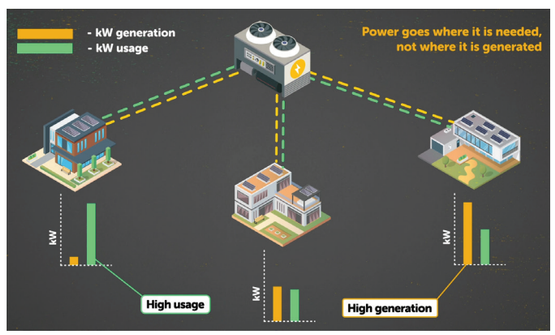


Community

- reduced barriers for community to access low cost, renewable energy
- opportunity for the community to participate in a Hobsons Bay Community Solar Network within the first two years
- community consultation to commence in late 2020 with the opportunity for Hobsons Bay community to have input into the design of the community access model

Economic

- stimulus of our local economy through the creation of 50 local jobs (direct and indirect jobs)
- year on year savings in energy costs, redirecting Council's funds back into community programs
- pay back within nine years



FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

The project has been designed to enable a further phase which will introduce onsite or on demand battery storage, enabling the VEN to manage demand within the network instead of relying on grid power. This places Hobsons Bay as an early adopter of this technology.

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Timelines

The project will be implemented rapidly, with the first package of solar already on track to commence in the coming months.

Within the first year, Council aims to offer opportunities for residents or businesses to participate as a producer of energy, a user of low cost green energy, or both.Storage capacity to be explored and implemented in 2021, subject to funding availability.

Aug 2020:
Council approves contract for 3.6 MW VEN

Nov 2020:
Implementation commences

Late 2021:
Implementation Complete

Virtual power available from early 2021

Community power model in place from late 2021

Work underway on expansion options

The Virtual Power project will set the standard for implementation of energy systems within local government across the state and country, while creating jobs in local communities.

Join us in our vision of a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

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