

CASE STUDY

Nambucca Valley Council Renewable Energy Action Plan



In 2018, Nambucca Valley Council engaged 100% Renewables to prepare a Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) to set out how Council can transition to renewable stationary energy. The REAP was presented to Council and was adopted on the 24th of April 2019.

Based on efficiency and renewable energy opportunities identified, the following goals were recommended:

- Reduce Council's annual corporate emissions from 2017/18 levels by 60% by 2025
- Reach 60% renewable energy by 2030

These goals are underpinned by a range of energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, including:

- A total of 263 kW of solar PV opportunities across buildings, water and sewer sites
- Street lighting LED upgrades of local and main roads which are expected to generate energy savings of 560 MWh (or 19% of Council's electricity use)
- Building LED lighting upgrades which are expected to generate energy savings of 48 MWh
- Where equipment is being replaced, or new equipment installed, Council should ensure sustainable purchasing processes are used, aligned to local gov. guidelines

- Renewable energy power purchase agreement of 25% in the medium term, increasing in the long term

Council has already implemented some major initiatives since adopting the REAP. One of these opportunities is the upgrade of its local road streetlights to LED technology. This will help reduce Council's electricity use by 12% per year.

With further support from the Sustainable Councils and Communities Program led by the NSW Government, we were able to develop technical specifications and evaluate quotations for the implementation of a 50 kW rooftop solar PV system on the Macksville Administration Office.

The images below showcase this installation. Similarly, we developed technical specifications and evaluated quotations for solar PV at four additional sites as recommended in the short term action plan of the REAP, which Council will soon be implementing.

Council was also successful in securing a grant that will enable it to install energy-efficient heat pumps and thermal blankets at the Macksville Memorial Aquatic Centre. As part of this work, Council is assessing the scope for solar panels to be installed that would offset the additional energy that will be consumed by the heat pumps.

50 kW Solar PV system on the Macksville Administration Office

