

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 21.10.15

### WATCH updates

#### AlburyCity votes for fossil fuel free investments

<http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/news/2015/alburycity-votes-for-fossil-fuel-free-investments>

WATCH is delighted to report that AlburyCity has voted to preference investments with financial institutions that do not support the fossil fuel industry. It was thanks to much gentle nudging by WATCH over many months that this policy shift occurred. AlburyCity's draft document is open to public comment until 30 October. It would be really great if you could send AlburyCity a quick email or letter congratulating them on their decision! Send to [info@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@alburycity.nsw.gov.au) or PO Box 323, Albury before 30 October.

#### Movie night – 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 6.30pm, Regent Cinema Centre, Albury

**This Changes Everything** is an epic documentary, inspired by Naomi Klein's international bestseller, about everyday people responding to the impacts of climate change. In the lead up to the Climate March, WATCH will host a screening on 2 November at Cinema Centre in Albury. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through Tugg:

[www.tugg.com/events/58490](http://www.tugg.com/events/58490)

Enough tickets must be purchased by **26 October** for the movie screening to go ahead so please book yours now.

#### This week's Living Lightly article - This Changes Everything

<http://ecoportal.net.au/this-changes-everything>

By Diana Nicholson, member of Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health ([WATCH](#))

#### WSN Climate petition

The Wangaratta Sustainability Network Climate Action Group has a petition calling for strong action on climate change which is open until November 20<sup>th</sup> when it will be handed to Cathy McGowan to present to Parliament. Petitions should be posted to WSN. PO Box 772, Wangaratta 3676 by 18<sup>th</sup> November. [Click here to get the petition.](#)

### People's Climate March, 5.30pm, 27<sup>th</sup> November, Melbourne

As world leaders arrive in Paris for the UN climate summit, the People's Climate March in Melbourne will start at the State Library in Swanston St. Supporters from our region include WATCH, RAW Energy, Wangaratta Sustainability Network and NERSA – North East Regional Sustainability Alliance. For a full list of over 100 supporting organisations please click here:

<http://www.peoplesclimate.org.au/endorse>

#### Bus to Melbourne?

Are you considering going to the Climate March? Perhaps a bus could be booked for people from our region. If you are interested in this idea then please contact Rowan O'Hagan by the end of October: [rowanohagan@bigpond.com](mailto:rowanohagan@bigpond.com)

#### The Road to Paris – Strathbogie Voices

An inspirational video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lPhvitUomA&feature=share>

### Sustainable Living Week, 7-14 November

A week full of free educational and interactive community activities in Albury-Wodonga! Check all events here:

[http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/downloads/images/Sustainable\\_Living\\_program\\_2015.pdf](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/downloads/images/Sustainable_Living_program_2015.pdf)

**Sustainable Living Market, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 8am to 12pm, Lincoln Causeway** In conjunction with the Albury Wodonga Farmers' Market. Come and see us at the WATCH stall.

#### RAW Energy Community Conversation, 6pm, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, The Cube

Let's talk about community owned renewable energy in Albury Wodonga! Join the conversation at a community forum:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/607221589417223/>

#### Repair Café, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm- 4pm, Wodonga Senior Citizens Centre

Do you have a broken household item you'd like to fix but need a hand to do so? Then this is your big opportunity. Details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/repaircafeaw?ref=ts&fref=ts>

## Ecoportal

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au>

**Ecoportal** is your online directory, listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. New group listings added during September are [Conservation Volunteers Australia](#), [Burgoogee Landcare Group](#) and [Myrtleford and District Landcare and Sustainability Group](#). Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

## What else is on in October and November?

**October** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-10/>

**November** <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2015-11/>

## Living Lightly

**Living Lightly** is now being regularly published in Wednesday's Border Mail. Please send your 400 word article to Karen Bowley at [kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com). Thank you again to our regular contributors.

### Recent articles

[Cloth nappies](#) By Penelope Collis, [Halve Waste](#) Education and Assessment Officer

[Wind generators: a contentious issue](#) By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

[Lessons from the States](#) By Charlie Robinson, Beechworth

[The 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#) By Ali Barlow, age 10, Albury

## News from our local councils

### Shire of Corowa PVs

The Shire of Corowa is now powering a majority of its local government buildings and facilities with more than 700,000kWh a year of solar power, after successfully installing 416kW of solar PV across 14 council sites.

<http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/nsw-riverina-shire-installs-416kw-solar-across-14-council-sites/>

### City of Wodonga – Halve Waste

During July, August and September 2014, before the introduction of the 3 bin system, Wodonga sent 1950 tonnes to landfill from kerbside collections. This year, during July to September, 1020 tonnes of waste were sent to landfill. Literally Halve Waste! And now Wodonga Council has a collection point in the foyer of the council offices where residents can dispose of household batteries, light globes, used ink cartridges and mobile phones including cords and chargers.

### Indigo Shire Council - Switching to a brighter future

Council is replacing 651 mercury vapour street lamps with energy efficient LED alternatives and expects to see savings almost immediately, slashing \$60,000 from its electricity bill in the first year of operation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 281 tonnes. The new lamps will pay for themselves in less than six years, slicing up to 70% off the lighting bill as well as meeting all the latest safety and lighting standards.

[http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/Your\\_Council/Media\\_Releases/Switching\\_to\\_a\\_brighter\\_future](http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/Your_Council/Media_Releases/Switching_to_a_brighter_future)

## Renewable energy

### NSW town provides blueprint for 100% renewable energy communities

The NSW town of Uralla has outlined plans to go 100 per cent renewable energy, in a government-sponsored [blueprint](#) that could become the model of many other towns in NSW and other states to follow suite. The [Zero Net Energy Town – the Uralla Case study](#) describes a two-stage process that the town could adopt to go 100 per cent renewable, or “zero net energy”. <http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/nsw-town-provides-blueprint-for-100-renewable-energy-communities-2/>

### Construction begins on huge solar tower plant for Port Augusta farm

Danish renewables developer Aalborg has begun construction of a custom built concentrated solar power tower system to supply, heat power and desalinated water for Adelaide-based sustainable agriculture outfit Sundrop

Farms. <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/construction-begins-on-huge-solar-tower-plant-for-port-augusta-farm-14021>

## Coal!

### Hunt approves Carmichael mega-coal mine and rail project, again

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/hunt-approves-carmichael-mega-coal-mine-and-rail-project-again-66187>

### National Australia Bank rules out funding Adani's Carmichael coal mine

National Australia Bank has said it will not fund what would be the biggest coal mine in Australia, Adani's \$16 billion Carmichael coal project, and signalled that it wants to take a leading role in developing renewable energy. Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/mining-and-resources/national-australia-bank-rules-out-funding-adanis-carmichael-coal-mine-20150902-gjdsfl.html#ixzz3l26ulotj>

### A move away from new coal mines adds up – Ross Gittins

Coal's days are numbered and the sooner we face up to that the better. Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/comment/a-move-away-from-new-coal-mines-adds-up-20151013-gk7len.html#ixzz3oUWMFYAy>

### First State Super Divests Fossil Fuels from 'Socially Responsible' Option

\$51 billion super fund First State Super has shed virtually all fossil fuel companies and companies related to fossil fuel expansion, exploration and transportation from its socially responsible investment option. <http://350.org.au/news/first-state-super-divests-fossil-fuels-from-socially-responsible-option/>

## Climate news

### Lord Deben: Climate change isn't going to wait for Australia - The Drum

A terrific interview on the ABC's Drum: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-06/lord-deben-climate-change-isnt-going-to-wait-for/6832268>

### The inconvenient truth about direct action

Great article by Lenore Taylor about Malcolm Turnbull's previous position on direct action: <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/sep/25/the-inconvenient-truth-about-direct-action-comes-from-turnbull-himself>

### Collapse of Antarctic ice shelves would see thousands of years of sea-level rise

The world will be locked into thousands of years of unstoppable sea level rise from melting Antarctic ice if it doesn't cut emissions and prevent another two degrees of global warming, scientists have warned. Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/environment/collapse-of-antarctic-ice-shelves-would-see-thousands-of-years-of-sealevel-rise-20151014-gk8vqc.html#ixzz3oc7NIZnU>

## Wildlife Photo of Year

### Wildlife Photo of Year Tells Climate Change Tale

The image, titled "[A Tale of Two Foxes](#)," was taken by amateur photographer Dan Gutoski on the tundra of Wapusk National Park located in the far northeast corner of Manitoba. It shows a red fox with the carcass of an Arctic fox it had killed. Red foxes are invading the range of Arctic foxes as the temperature warms, putting the two foxes in direct competition for resources. Rising temperatures and shifting habitats mean it's likely that conflicts between the two mammals will become more common. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/wildlife-photo-of-year-climate-change-19544>

**Thanks again** to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Please send any items for inclusion by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to [jdjbdavies@gmail.com](mailto:jdjbdavies@gmail.com)

Warm regards, Jenny Davies

**WATCH website** <http://watch.id.au> **WATCH email address:** [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)

**Keep up to date by checking the WATCH Facebook page for daily news links:**

<https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>