

MY TOWN MICROGRID PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY

Community Street Survey

Definition of a microgrid: An electricity local network that can (but may not always) operate independently from the national grid, and generates and supplies electricity to multiple customers.

In the context of communities, it may also be referred to as a Community Energy Network, or a Local Energy System.

Introduction

In this survey we want to understand what you think about a microgrid for your community.

Between February and April this year, researchers from the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), at the University of Technology Sydney are working with the Heyfield Community Resource Centre to undertake a study as part of the first steps towards understand how practical or feasible it is for Heyfield to have a community energy network. The objectives of this research are to:

- Inform – ensure the community is informed about microgrids and how it could work in the context of Heyfield.
- Explore – explore what the community wants when it comes to its energy supply and how it wants to use and generate electricity over the coming years
- Listen – to the community and ensure it has its say and has a chance to ask questions and input to this process.
- Understand – how the community wishes to engage in a proposed project where the feasibility of a microgrid for the town of Heyfield is explored

This research project has been made possible with funding from the Latrobe Valley Authority and the contribution of volunteer time from the Heyfield Community Resource Centre,

Your participation

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You are free to withdraw or cancel the survey at any time. Completing the survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

The researcher will maintain the confidentiality of the research records or data.

What will we do with the data

Under the terms of the ethics policy within the University of Technology, the Institute for Sustainable Futures is required to maintain the confidentiality of data.

No data from individual respondents will be identified or released. If it is possible for an individual company to be identified because of a small sample size, the data will not be made public.

If you have any concerns or questions about the research you can contact Dr Scott Dwyer or Dr Franziska Mey at the Institute for Sustainable Futures on scott.dwyer@uts.edu.au or Franziska.mey@uts.edu.au.

1. What is her/his age group?

- 15-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 65+

2. What is his/her gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

3. Where do you live?

- Heyfield
- Tinamba
- Seaton
- Glenmaggie
- Cowwarr
- Winnindoo
- Nambrok
- Other, please specify

4. What best describes your affiliation with Heyfield? Please tick one or more.

- Local resident
- Local business owner
- Local government representative
- Landcare
- Heyfield Senior Citizens
- Heyfield Community Representatives Group
- Heyfield Traders and Tourism Association
- Sporting clubs
- RSL/Senior Citizens
- Men's Shed
- HCRC
- Health workers
- Heyfield Lions
- Rotary clubs
- Other, please specify

5. How important to you is using renewable energy that is produced in Heyfield and/or the local region?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not so important
- Not at all important

6. How often does your home or business experience electricity-grid supply issues (brownout or blackout)?

- Very rarely
- 1 or 2 times per year
- 2 to 5 times per year
- 5 to 10 times per year
- More than 10 times per year
- Please describe your experience (optional) _____

7. Assuming it is technically feasible and cost-effective, would you like Heyfield to be:

- 100% powered by renewable energy
- 75% powered by renewable energy
- 50% powered by renewable energy
- Other (please specify) _____

8. Why do you think should Heyfield be powered or not be powered by renewable energy?

Short answer _____

9. What renewable energy technologies would you like to see being used Heyfield and its local region? (please rank; 1 is highest preference)

- Rooftop solar PV for homes/ business
- Solar farms
- Wind energy
- Small-scale hydropower
- Pumped-hydro storage
- Bioenergy from waste (e.g. wood, food, sewage)
- Bioenergy from any source (e.g. forestry, crops)
- Small scale batteries (in homes and on business premises)
- Community batteries (larger batteries shared by multiple homes and business)
- Other _____

10. Microgrids often involve renewable energy for generating electricity. What are the first three words that come to mind when thinking about increasing renewable energy generation in Heyfield region?

11. Do you have concerns or think there would be any disadvantages with a microgrid in Heyfield?

- Yes
- No
- Please list or describe your top concerns _____

12. **Would you change your electricity provider to purchase local renewable electricity from a local community-owned retailer?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

13. **Are you interested in learning more about microgrids?**

- Yes *(please provide email below)*
- No
- Don't know

14. **If yes, how would you like to learn more about the project?**

Please tick one or more.

- Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Website
- Newsletter
- Visits at HCRC
- Townhall events
- Community workshops
- Webinars
- Other please specify _____

15. **Would you like to participate in planning a microgrid in Heyfield?**

- Yes *(please provide email below)*
- Yes, possibly, but I need more information *(please provide email below)*
- No
- Don't know

16. **If you would like to stay updated about a potential microgrid for Heyfield, please provide your email address below.**

Please provide email contact: _____

Many thanks!

We'll let you know what we've learned as soon as we can.

If you like, please provide any additional comments: _____