**Attitudes to renewables and community energy – Individuals**   
    
  
Hello! This survey aims to find out what people think about renewable energy and community-based renewable energy initiatives.

We are seeking to collect as many responses as possible - whether you are already involved in a community energy project or not. The survey is part of a broader research project being done by the University of Technology Sydney, together with Community Power Agency.

The survey data will be used to better understand the drivers and barriers for individuals participating in community energy in Australia. None of the data we collect will be able to identify you individually, and all your responses will remain anonymous. You can withdraw from the survey at any point without giving a reason.  
    
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Thank you for participating in the survey, to go in the draw for a gift card please provide your email address at the end. It should take around 10 minutes of your time.

Thank you for your time and participation. If you have any issues with the survey please contact kristy@cpagency.org.au   
 

Q1 What is your preference for Australia’s future energy mix as a percentage? (either move the slider or write a number in the box on the right)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fully powered by gas and coal (no renewable energy target) | 0% ---- | 100% | Fully powered by renewable energy (100% renewable energy target) |

Q2 When would you like to see your future energy mix target met?

* 2025 or earlier
* Between 2026-2030
* Between 2031-2050
* I do not want a renewable target (use logic to skip to next section)
* Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q3 How do you think this renewable energy target should be achieved (you can select as many as you like):

* Retrofitting buildings to be energy efficient
* Installing solar PV and/or batteries at household & business scale
* Small & medium scale community-owned renewable projects
* Medium & large scale corporate-owned renewables projects
* Transition to electric vehicles
* Transition to renewable energy powered manufacturing
* Phasing out fossil fuel power generation
* Other:

Q4 How likely to do think the following categories or people, organisations or events could create obstacles in achieving your preferred RE target?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not Likely at all | Not very likely | Likely | Fairly Likely | Very Likely |
| Fossil fuel sector |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other large business |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grid transmission problems |  |  |  |  |  |
| Local Government policies, regulations or politics |  |  |  |  |  |
| State Government policies, regulations or politics |  |  |  |  |  |
| Federal Government policies, regulations or politics |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community opposition |  |  |  |  |  |
| Financial constraints and considerations |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other, please specify: |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part 2: Current energy use and intentions**

Q5 Please select which of the following situations apply to you (you can select more than one):

* I purchase renewable ‘Green’ energy through an energy retailer
* I have renewable energy installed (including solar PV, solar hot water, wind or bioenergy generators)
* I have a battery for electricity storage
* I have an electric vehicle
* I plan to install renewables (including solar PV, solar hot water, wind or bioenergy generators)
* I want to generate renewable energy but currently have barriers (for example renting, inappropriate roof, shading, unit complex etc)
* I think renewables cost too much at the moment
* Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q6 If you already have solar or batteries installed or an electric vehicle, how satisfied are you with them?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | I don’t have renewables |
| If you already have renewables installed, how satisfied are you with them? |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q7 Are brownouts or blackouts a problem for you?

* Never
* Rarely – once or twice per year
* Sometimes – between 3 and 12 times per year
* Often – a few times per month
* Frequent – at least once per week
* Not applicable to me

Q8 Do you face any other issues from the electricity grid? If yes please explain what they are.  
[Long from text box]

Q9 Do you currently participate or have invested in a community energy project?

* Yes
* No
* If yes, which community energy Group/project

Q10 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?

NB. There is skip logic if respondents selected Yes to Q9 – see Q10b

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't know |
| I intend to participate or invest in a community energy project within the next 1-2 years, if one was available. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I intend to install a solar PV system within the next 1-2 years. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| It is important for me to have a blackout protection |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q10b Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't know |
| I intend to install a solar PV system within the next 1-2 years. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I intend to install other renewable energy systems (wind, biofuel, battery etc) within the next 1-2 years. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| It is important for me to have a blackout protection |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q11 What factors would be or are important for you to participate in a community energy group or project?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not important at all | Not very important | Slightly Important | Fairly Important | Very Important |
| Community building / social connection |  |  |  |  |  |
| Support local economy |  |  |  |  |  |
| Personal financial benefit |  |  |  |  |  |
| People I knew were involved |  |  |  |  |  |
| Acting on climate change/ carbon reductions |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greater independence from commercial energy providers |  |  |  |  |  |
| Being involved in decision-making |  |  |  |  |  |
| Favourable government policies |  |  |  |  |  |

Q12 What role do you (or could you) play in a local Community Energy project? Please check all that apply.

* Investor
* Provide/lease land/space for a project
* Supply other inputs for a project (eg crop waste for bioenergy etc)
* Volunteer for project (from key organiser to helping set up for an event)
* Provide occasional expertise or on a community advisory group
* Traditional custodian advisor
* On decision-making group (board or committee)
* Talk to government and other decision makers (eg businesses)
* Talk to locals about the project
* Employed or contracted to the project (current or previously)
* No role
* Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**C: Personal attitudes and beliefs**   
  
 In this section we provide several statements about energy and environmental topics. There are no good or bad answers here, we are interested in your personal opinions about these issues.

Q16 What is your attitude toward the following:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree | Don't know |
| I like the idea of a community owning & being in control of its own energy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I think using renewable energy a sensible idea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Renewable energy gives me a good feeling |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Environmental problems are frequently exaggerated |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I consider myself well informed about renewables and energy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| My community is overlooked by policy makers and energy companies when upgrading grid infrastructure |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q17 How do you personally feel about climate change, energy & pollution?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't know |
| Personally, I feel responsible for climate change |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The way I personally use energy does not make a difference to the pollution of land, water, air and climate |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I trust the government to take positive action to address pollution and climate change. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q18 What is your community like?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Don't know |
| I feel strongly attached to the community I live in |  |  |  |  |
| I think of my community as being a great place to live |  |  |  |  |
| I volunteer in the community |  |  |  |  |
| There are some really big divisions in the community about coal or gas |  |  |  |  |
| I make charitable contributions to community |  |  |  |  |

Q19 Have any of your friends, neighbours or others you know already got household renewable energy?

* Yes, more than 7 households I know
* Yes, only 1-3 households I know
* None that I know of
* Many think renewables are not a good option.
* Don't know

**PART 4: Benefits and Barriers of renewable and community energy**

|  |
| --- |
| Q20 What do you see are the main benefits of switching to renewable energy (both at a community and large scale)? Select as many as you want.  Contribute well paid, long term jobs |
| Help maintain our existing way of life |
| Reduce the risk of destruction of land and water |
| Improve community spirit, cohesion and resilience |
| Improve community image in the outside world |
| Keep money in the region |
| Enable community sponsorship and grant opportunities |
| Enable local participation in energy decision making |
| Enable new businesses based on cheaper energy |
| Make local networks and more sharing and joint decisions |
| Deliver more independence from providers and more control over the system |

Q21 How much do you agree or disagree with the following as barriers for community energy?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't know |
| The financial costs of joining a community energy project are too high |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Joining a community energy project may demand too much effort from individuals |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Joining a community energy project is risky because the government may change the rules (taxes, subsidies) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q22 How likely are you to participate in a program that manages your household's energy consumption remotely to benefit the grid and reduce your household energy bill?  
  
[For example this could mean your air conditioner being turned off for a short period during peak energy demand times which may coincide with when it is hot]

Very Likely

Likely

Neither likely or unlikely

Unlikely

Very unlikely

Q23 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't know |
| Renewable energy is not available at night |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jobs in renewables are not local |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Profits from renewables go to external investors |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Renewables will help regional development. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Large scale renewable projects may hinder farming |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Renewables undermine the appearance of the landscape |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Renewables undermine our gas and coal businesses, or businesses which service those industries |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Don't know |

Q24 If your energy bill decreases significantly through using renewables or through participating in a community energy project, how do you think your energy usage might change?

* I’d probably use about the same amount of energy
* I’d probably use more energy
* I’d probably use less energy
* I don’t know
* Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q25 Where do you live?

Urban area

Regional area

Rural area

Q26 What is your postcode

Q27 What is your gender?

* Female
* Male
* Non-binary, trans or other
* Prefer not to answer

Q28 Which age range are you in?

Q29 Do you have any comments you would like to make about renewables and/or community energy?

Open text

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q30 Would you like to receive a summary or the survey results?

* Yes
* No

Q31 If you would like to receive a summary or go in the draw for the prize, please provide your email address. (Your answers will be anonymised and not connected to your email address)

 