



Mount Alexander COMMUNITY WIND

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This is a project of the
Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

23rd January 2012

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to provide information about a project that the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group has recently launched to scope the feasibility of establishing a community-owned and community-sized wind farm in the Mount Alexander Shire. We also wanted to let you know about opportunities for you and your group to be involved.

Mount Alexander Community Wind is a community based project seeking to establish a locally owned and operated wind farm to supply the energy needs of Mount Alexander Shire. Clean renewable energy will be generated to replace energy derived from burning non-renewable brown coal.

We are currently at the stage of gathering community interest and input. We do not currently have a site.

The Vision

Community-owned clean, renewable energy that brings income and environmental benefit to our community.

We are a community based project working to establish a wind farm that creates green power and contributes back to the community in the form of community grants.

We expect that a viable community wind farm in our shire would consist of at least 2, 2 megawatt (MW) turbines. This would power over 2,000 local homes, meeting one third of the shire's household electricity needs. It would reduce our Shire's annual greenhouse emissions by 18,000 tonnes, reducing emissions from electricity generation for the shire by 15%.

Provided there is sufficient interest and support, installing 6 turbines could supply 100% of household electricity need in the shire.

Why Wind Power?

Wind is currently the most cost efficient form of renewable energy.

Wind power is a tried and tested technology. Investment in wind power is growing consistently at 30% per year worldwide as people turn towards clean and reliable forms of energy generation based on renewable resources. Last year nearly half of all new electricity energy generation installed globally was renewable. South Australia now produces over 20% of its electricity from wind power. In Denmark, community owned wind projects supply 3.5% of national electricity. In July this year Australia's first community owned wind farm, Hepburn Wind, commenced generating power in Daylesford. Hepburn Wind's two turbines generate enough electricity to power Daylesford's 2,000 homes.

For over eighteen months Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG) has been researching renewable energy options that will provide the most significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Wind is currently the most cost efficient form of renewable energy, which has resulted in a big increase in investment and growth in the wind power industry. Wind 'farms' are now a common sight in countries such as Germany, United States, Spain, China, India and in parts of Australia.

The Benefits

A community Owned wind park will:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- allow local people to own and be responsible for part of the energy supply in their local community
- allow local people to share in the financial benefits resulting from the generation of their own electricity – keeping profits within the community
- provide local jobs and business opportunities both during the construction phase and also with on-going maintenance.

Expressions of Interest

We are seeking expressions of interest from landholders interested in hosting wind turbines on their property.

At the moment there is no specific proposed site for the wind farm. Expressions of interest by landholders will not be binding. Any proposed site would need to be assessed for viability in terms of local neighborhood interest, ecology and technical issues to do with wind flow patterns and grid connection.

There would be financial remuneration for rental of the turbine site and access tracks.

Based on preliminary analysis by our team of professionals, we know there areas in our shire that will offer good wind speeds as well as meeting strong social, technical, legal and environmental standards.

Group Presentations

If you and your group would like more information and the opportunity to ask questions and provide input, we are very happy to come and give presentations about the project.

We will also be organising public information sessions and workshops across the shire early this year. More information will be forwarded when dates for these are confirmed, we hope to see you there!

Please get involved! we can't do this without you.

Over the coming weeks and months we will be holding forums, stalls, and information sessions and asking all of you to come along to voice your visions (and concerns) so that together we can create a project that is going to 'fit' our community and bring the most possible benefit to the Mount Alexander community.

You can also get involved in the project by:

- ▲ Hosting a group presentation
- ▲ Becoming a member of Mount Alexander Community Wind (at the office or online at www.masg.org.au/communitywind)
- ▲ Joining our email news (by emailing us at communitywind@masg.org.au)
- ▲ Coming on a tour to Hepburn Wind, Daylesford (dates to be confirmed via e-news and website)
- ▲ Coming to a workshop (dates to be confirmed via e-news, website and newspaper)

We look forward to your response to this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me to express interest or for further information or clarification.

Yours Sincerely,

Jarra Hicks

Project Coordinator
Mount Alexander Community Wind



In the interests of informing as many shire residents of the project as possible and giving them an opportunity to engage in the project, we are asking that you consider putting the following blurb in your next group newsletter.

Mount Alexander Community Wind

Mount Alexander Community Wind is a community based project with a vision to establish a locally owned and operated wind farm to supply the energy needs of Mount Alexander Shire. Clean, renewable energy will be generated to replace energy derived from burning non-renewable brown coal.

We are currently at the stage of gathering community interest and input.

The project is a vision for:

- ⤴ Clean, renewable energy
- ⤴ Supplying a significant portion of the electricity needs of our shire
- ⤴ Community ownership and control
- ⤴ Healthy returns on investment
- ⤴ New sources of community funding
- ⤴ community action on climate change
- ⤴ community scale: 1-6 turbines (depending on interest and support)

We do not currently have a site. Preliminary analysis by our team of professionals indicates that there several areas in our shire that will offer good wind speeds as well as meeting strong social, technical, legal and environmental standards.

We'd like to know what you think and invite you to help us in designing and guiding the project. We need your help so that together we can create a project that is going to 'fit' our community and bring the most possible benefit to the Mount Alexander community.

Stay in touch: join our email-newsletter by emailing communitywind@masg.org.au

Coming soon: workshops across the shire and an on-line survey, please join in!

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