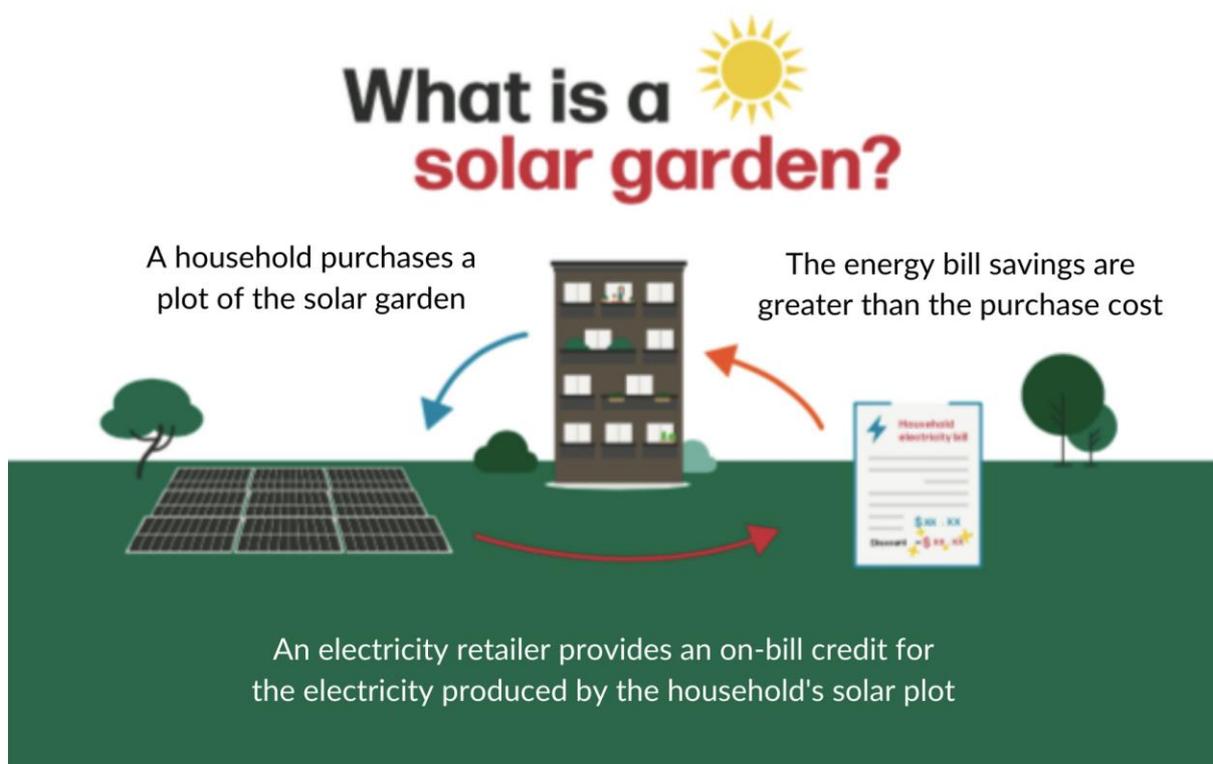


Haystacks Solar Garden Fact Sheet

The Haystacks Solar Garden will enable people without a sunny roof, access to the many benefits of rooftop solar - through purchasing a plot in the solar garden.

Solar gardens provide multiple economic and community benefits by making renewables accessible for everyone and enabling communities more control over their energy future, while keeping the returns in the local economy.

This joint project between Pingala, Community Power Agency and Komo Energy has secured a grant from the NSW Government's Regional Community Energy Fund to help create Australia's first large scale Solar Garden.



See here <https://www.facebook.com/HaystacksSolarGarden/videos/664912627677498/> a nifty video of how this works.

The Backstory

Back in 2016 Gemma, a farmer, Jonathan, a solar project manager, and Tom, a community energy expert met and found a shared passion of making renewables accessible for everyone and enabling communities more control of our energy future.

Gemma offered part of her farmland at Grong Grong in the Riverina for the solar farm, Jonathan helped figure out the technical details and Tom suggested starting a solar cooperative so lots of people could benefit through a solar garden. After 3 years of further conversations, lots of planning and now with the successful Regional Community Energy Funding, the Haystacks Solar Garden will come to fruition in 2021.

Project Overview

- A 1.5 megawatt solar farm proposed to be built in Grong Grong, 1 hour from Wagga Wagga
- A solar cooperative is formed with at least 400 members
- 1MW of the solar farm is purchased by the solar cooperative to become the Haystacks Solar Garden
- Haystacks Solar Garden offers 3kw solar plots to its members who then receive on-bill credits reducing their electricity bill

Who is making this happen?

Pingala are a Sydney-based community energy co-op working to build a fairer energy system. They help communities and businesses access the benefits of renewables through building and investing in their own renewable energy projects.

Community Power Agency are Australia's leading experts on supporting community groups to navigate the complex process of developing clean energy projects, driving a faster and fairer transition to the renewable future.

Komo Energy are a specialised consultancy firm at the forefront of innovation as Australia transitions its energy sector to distributed renewable technologies.

What happens next?

Throughout August, September and October we are holding online and where possible in-person information sessions to share the details of the project and how you can get involved.

We are aiming to have a prospectus with full financial information available from the start of October and will hold further sessions to help individuals decide if becoming a solar gardener suits them.

See steps to becoming a Haystacks Solar Gardener image ->

Step 1: Co-op Membership

- Join the Haystacks Co-op
 - \$50 one off fee
 - \$1 share to become part owner
- Participate in Co-op meetings & events

Step 2: Review Prospectus

- Exact financial details
- Consider your financial options

Step 3: Purchase a solar garden plot

- Riverina members first option
- Rest of NSW residents

For more information on the project:

- Visit the Haystacks project webpage <http://haystacks.solargarden.org.au>,
- Register for our mailing list here <http://haystacks.solargarden.org.au/#newsletter> , or
- Contact us

At this time of great change we need now more than ever solutions for a cleaner, fairer energy system that can stand resilient for the future.

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