

Repower Survey FAQs



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1. What and who is Repower?

#Repower, is a movement of Australians working together to power our country with energy from the sun and wind. Together we're taking on the big polluting companies and demanding our elected representatives step up and lead a fair transition from dirty fuels like coal and gas to clean, renewable energy.

This survey is being collected by volunteers from XXXXXXXXXXXX local group. We are a non-partisan organisation.

2. Why do we need to transition to 100% clean energy?

By digging, drilling and burning coal and gas, big polluting companies are damaging our climate and our lungs. Their reckless practices overwhelm our planet's systems, threaten our natural places and harm our communities.

- We have the technology to power our lives with clean energy from the wind and sun. In fact the transition is already underway.¹
- However we need the transition to be fast enough to avoid the worst of global warming, and to be delivered in a way that is fair for all Australians.
- This will require leadership and planning from governments and communities.

3. Why renewable energy is cheaper, safer and smarter than coal and gas?

Getting to 100% renewable energy by the year 2030 is 100% doable.

- In just six hours, the sun gives our deserts more energy than the entire world uses in a year. Harvesting a small portion of that energy just makes sense.
- The wind blows for nothing and the sun shines for free - so renewable energy is much cheaper than dinosaur fuels that have to be dug up from the earth.
- Study after study has found that achieving higher targets for renewable energy ultimately pushes prices down for households and businesses.²
- Technological improvements mean the cheapest source of new electricity is renewable energy. These projects create more investment across the economy and employ more people than the coal industry.³
- Coal and gas are bad for our health. When medical expenses and loss of life are taken into account, not to mention the uncalculated cost of filling our air with pollution - coal and gas come at an unacceptably high cost.⁴

4. Why renewable energy is better for your health?

- The World Health Organisation has found strong evidence linking the mining and burning of coal to higher instances of respiratory diseases including heart disease, lung cancer, bronchitis and asthma.⁵ Electricity generation from coal-fired power stations in Australia remains the single largest contributor of deadly fine particle pollution, which accounts for more than 3,000 premature deaths each year.⁶
- In 2015 the National Health and Medicine Research Council ruled that there was no evidence of a link between wind farms and mental or physical health problems. Wind turbines do emit infrasound and low frequency noise, but this has not been linked to any adverse health effects.⁷

5. What is the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET)?

The VRET is a commitment by the Victorian government to power the state with 25 percent renewable energy by the year 2020 and 40 percent by 2025. Through policy and legislation (due in Parliament soon) the VRET aims to facilitate unprecedented levels of investment in renewable energy in Victoria.

- The VRET could deliver 5400MW of wind and solar electricity capacity
- Drive around \$2.5 billion of direct investment in Victoria
- Create 11,000 construction jobs and deliver over 4000 renewable energy jobs⁸

6. Why is it important that Victorians push for political commitment to renewable energy?

Without clear policies that support renewable energy, there is a risk that clean energy investment will stall, costing Victoria jobs and investment, and leaving our climate and air pollution unacceptably high.

- In Victoria Matthew Guy's Coalition opposition has said they will repeal the VRET if they are elected.
- Federally, the climate and energy debates have been highly politicised. There is no federal renewable energy policy beyond the year 2020, and it's unlikely the Turnbull government will deliver sufficiently ambitious targets.
- Polling by Sustainability Victoria shows that 93% of people support government action on climate change and 84% support the VRET.⁹
- We need to keep the pressure on politicians of all stripes to deliver the clean renewable energy and safe climate that the community wants.

7. How does it help when households, businesses and community organisations go solar?

The community is already getting on with the job. By connecting up our efforts and telling the story of our clean energy future, we can make governments follow our lead.

- 1 in 5 Australians households already harvest sunshine on their rooftops.
- We have more than 23 million solar panels in Australia – that’s a panel for every person!
- 1 in 4 Australian businesses report having installed solar to reduce electricity costs and protect the environment.

The Victorian community is doing their part.

- But when 50% of Victorian’s climate pollution comes from coal power stations, we need governments to plan for a fast and fair clean energy transition.¹⁰
- Local MPs need to know how many people in their electorate support renewable energy.
- By telling #Repower stories in our communities we can keep leading by example and challenging our political representatives to do more and to do it faster.

8. What will we do with the survey results?

We will share the results of this survey with your state MP and the wider community in this electorate. We are collecting answers to Questions 4 and 5 to show the level of support for renewable energy across the state.

9. What will my personal information be used for?

If you leave us your email address we will send you the results of the survey and keep you up to date with information about the Repower campaign. If you leave your phone number we might call you about opportunities to be involved in local activities.

10. Where to go for more information

To learn more about the #repower campaign from Environment Victoria:
environmentvictoria.org.au/campaign/repower/

On moving to 100% clean energy:

Beyond Zero Emissions' Report on how Australia can be a clean energy superpower: bze.org.au/renewable-energy-superpower/

See the [Home Grown Power Plan](http://cpagency.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/1499-Homegrown_Power_Plan_-Full_Report2.pdf) from **GetUp!** and **Solar Citizens**:
cpagency.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/1499-Homegrown_Power_Plan_-Full_Report2.pdf

On the Victorian Renewable Energy Target:

From the Victorian government : energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-targets

¹ http://cpagency.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/1499-Homegrown_Power_Plan_-Full_Report2.pdf

² <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/myth-busting-does-more-renewable-energy-make-power-prices-go-up-or-down>

³ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-23/solar-power-cheaper-than-coal-climate-council-finds/8296232>

⁴ https://www.dea.org.au/images/general/How_coal_burns_Aust._-True_cost_of_burning_coal_04-13.pdf

⁵ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2014/air-pollution/en/>

⁶ <https://envirojustice.org.au/media/national-pollutant-inventory-lifts-the-lid-on-australia%E2%80%99s-toxic-burden>

⁷ <https://theconversation.com/no-evidence-wind-farms-directly-impact-health-nhmrc-37470>

⁸ <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-targets>

⁹ <https://environmentvictoria.org.au/2017/02/23/8-10-victorians-support-renewable-energy-target-poll-finds/>

¹⁰ <https://environmentvictoria.org.au/2015/07/01/six-steps-climate-leadership-path-cleaner-healthier-prosperous-victoria/>