

# Totally Renewable Phillip Island 2020 Annual Report



# Abbreviations

<b>BCSC</b>	Bass Coast Shire Council	<b>DPI</b>	Destination Phillip Island	<b>PINP</b>	Phillip Island Nature Parks, including the Barb Martin Bush Bank
<b>BCCAN</b>	Bass Coast Climate Action Network	<b>EICo-op</b>	Energy Innovation Co-operative	<b>PFPISR</b>	Plastic-Free Phillip Island & San Remo
<b>BCLN</b>	Bass Coast Landcare Network	<b>JJD</b>	Jeni Jobe Design	<b>TRPI</b>	Totally Renewable Phillip Island
<b>BF</b>	Bimbadeen Farm	<b>LVA</b>	Latrobe Valley Authority	<b>SBA</b>	Smith's Beachcomber Association
<b>BB</b>	Boomerang Bags Phillip Island & San Remo	<b>NPS</b>	Newhaven Primary School	<b>VVM</b>	Vietnam Veterans Museum
<b>BZE</b>	Beyond Zero Emissions	<b>PICAL</b>	Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre	<b>WPW</b>	Westernport Water
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus pandemic	<b>PICS</b>	Phillip Island Conservation Society		
<b>CRG</b>	Climate reference Group	<b>PILG</b>	Phillip Island Landcare Group		

# Totally Renewable Phillip Island 2020 Annual Report

Prepared by Bhavani Rooks & Neroli Raff

## Executive Summary

A Community Energy public forum was held in June 2018 by the Energy Innovation Co-operative in partnership with Phillip Island groups who later became members. The public forum unanimously agreed to form Totally Renewable Phillip Island with a vision of zero emissions by 2030.

The momentum and enthusiasm from the public meeting were capitalised with three subsequent workshops to plan strategies to progress Totally Renewable Phillip Island. The workshop series was well attended and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The workshops created a framework that identified six focus areas and a core coordinating group representing each of the focus areas:

- ▶ Carbon accounting
- ▶ Carbon farming
- ▶ Clean energy
- ▶ Education and communication
- ▶ Food and waste
- ▶ Toward zero emissions transport

Today in 2020, Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) is a movement or a collective of 13 Phillip Island community groups that share the TRPI vision to build a sustainable environment. Each member organisation retains its independent identity and governance structure, while working towards their own and the TRPI shared goals as part of their core business. The original core group and working groups are still in place and working hard to achieve the TRPI vision. Following is a summary of each group's activities.

## The Core Group

- ▶ acts as a think tank and leads collaborative forward planning in all areas of the strategic plan
- ▶ supports the working groups and their projects
- ▶ reports back to funding bodies and the community on activities
- ▶ coordinated the TRPI Open Day in October 2019
- ▶ developed cloud information storage of TRPI resources and information for greater access and security
- ▶ made initial contact with waterline communities to support their sustainability actions (interrupted by COVID)
- ▶ coordinated Governance and Finance workshops to direct future community and partner involvement in projects.

### **In 2020-21 the core group plans to:**

- ▶ seek partners for the planned energy installation
- ▶ finalise future TRPI governance structure
- ▶ add new partner organisations
- ▶ begin to develop policies and operational procedures
- ▶ strengthen relationships with other communities in Bass Coast Shire and beyond to build sustainability networks.

In 2019-20 funding was secured from the LVA for a Pre-feasibility study. This will create a whole-of-Island energy emissions inventory to enable evidence-based actions towards appropriate Smartgrids, large scale and community owned renewable energy generation installations that will contribute to achieving our vision. See appendix 8 for Pre-feasibility study.

### Carbon Accounting Group

- ▶ works to build an initial whole island total emissions profile to be able to monitor our progress towards our vision
- ▶ encourages households and businesses to have emissions audits.

#### **In 2020-21 the group plans to:**

- ▶ seek funding for energy audits for households and businesses
- ▶ develop an online household audit tool
- ▶ update the island emissions profile to monitor our progress towards our vision
- ▶ Implement the recommendations of the Phillip Island 100% Renewable Pre-feasibility Study
- ▶ develop a prospectus to inform potential investors, partners and stakeholders.

### Carbon Farming Group

- ▶ finds and implements ways to reduce carbon emissions in our community through carbon farming and regenerative farming methods with Phillip Island Landcare Group (PILG)
- ▶ launched at the TRPI Open Day in September 2019 with Australia's first carbon in-setting auction. Together with continuing sales, approximately \$9000 has been raised for use with future TRPI carbon farming related projects
- ▶ carbon farming provides an alternative funding stream for farmers while also improving the quality of their soil. In-setting is when carbon is sequestered into the local landscape. People at the carbon auction were enthusiastic, knowing their money is going back into improving the local landscape. They know the farmer and can drive past the farm and see the improvements their money has supported.

In 2019-20 the Carbon Farming Trial began with 5 farmers. Baseline soil tests and farmer education were provided with quarterly monitoring of farmers and their actions.

- ▶ the group participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School through gardening activities.

**In 2020-21, the Carbon Farming group plans to:**

- ▶ complete follow up soil tests which are expected to show an increase in soil carbon. The results will determine our next step as to the effectiveness in increasing soil carbon
- ▶ five more farmers will begin the Carbon Farming trial with PILG
- ▶ develop an on-line soil health education program with BCLN
- ▶ establish an online carbon in-setting platform to enable direct carbon trading between farmers, local individuals and businesses.

## Clean Energy Group

Brings together major partners, to work towards switching energy use on Phillip Island to renewable generation methods.

- ▶ researched data, policy documents and strategic plans that may impact on achieving TRPI's vision,
- ▶ participated in the TRPI pilot education program at Newhaven Primary School by suggesting energy conservation strategies
- ▶ presented at TRPI Open Day 2019 with a plan to reduce use and increase renewable energy generation and storage
- ▶ participated in networking with island based sustainability groups internationally eg Guernsey (UK) and Samsø (Denmark).

**In 2020-21, this group plans to:**

- ▶ be informed by the TRPI Pre-feasibility study to rollout renewable energy across the island
- ▶ develop community strategies to reduce domestic and commercial energy usage and increase growth in renewable energy generation capability on Phillip Island including solar, bio-energy, tidal generation and waste to energy
- ▶ develop a project to increase the use of renewable energy by businesses on Phillip Island
- ▶ support the establishment of mid-scale solar farms combining community owned and co-investment
- ▶ hopes to participate in the Smith's Beach Masterplan funded by BCSC, which includes a feasibility study into a potential SmartGrid for the community.

# Totally Renewable Phillip Island 2020 Annual Report Executive Summary continued...

## Food & Waste Group

- ▶ works towards avoiding and reducing the use of plastics
- ▶ develops and implements strategies to reduce use and increase the reuse and recycling of a range of consumable items such as food, packaging and clothing.
- ▶ diverted a large quantity of textile waste and single use plastic from landfill by making reusable shopping bags and animal wraps for wildlife care
- ▶ encouraged all major local supermarkets to participate in Red-cycle for soft plastic
- ▶ worked with PFPISR on the annual clean up Australia day in March
- ▶ participated in the circular waste economy by monitoring the private and commercial uptake of biodigesters and dehydrators

- ▶ reinforced and supported BCSC's waste and recycling program through continued community education
- ▶ nominated for a Keep Victoria Beautiful - Sustainable Communities 2020 Awards
- ▶ participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School.

### **In 2020-21 the group plans to:**

- ▶ strengthen relationships with businesses that produce large amounts of organic waste beyond the capacity of the Shire kerbside bin collection
- ▶ work with WPW and BCSC towards a commercial Biodigester on the island for green and food waste to produce energy and agricultural fertiliser
- ▶ investigate waste to energy replacing bottled gas with biogas.

## Communication & Education Group

- ▶ build community knowledge of sustainability practices
- ▶ develops and delivers information at local events
- ▶ maximises use of social media and internet platforms to find and distribute information
- ▶ developed and maintained a TRPI dedicated web site and social media page to keep the community informed about TRPI's work and successes with energy sustainability
- ▶ provided frequent Facebook posts with small to large ideas toward zero emissions
- ▶ built and piloted a school sustainability education program at Newhaven Primary School to use with other schools in the Bass Coast communities.

### **In 2020-21 the group plans to:**

- ▶ expand the school education program to other schools in Bass Coast Shire
- ▶ continue to source educational forums for community participation
- ▶ increase website traffic and expand the website to include sustainability troubleshooting for community and businesses to provide independent, relevant and reliable information
- ▶ include a real time dashboard of island renewable energy generation on the website and in a prominent position in the community.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island  
2020 Annual Report  
Executive Summary continued...

### Clean Transport Group

- ▶ supports increased opportunities for Active Transport on Phillip Island
  - ▶ educates the community on alternative forms of transport
  - ▶ worked with Destination Phillip Island to update electric vehicle charging information and map
  - ▶ participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School by exploring current home to school transport and low emissions alternatives
  - ▶ worked with the two local bicycle user groups, and others to review the current state of cycling
  - ▶ produced the TRPI Active Transport Report to encourage government policy change to increase active transport and behavioural change
- ▶ critiqued Victorian and Bass Coast Transport reviews and plans
  - ▶ surveyed local bike hire companies regarding usage.

#### **In 2020-21 the group plans to:**

- ▶ provide community education about alternatives to fossil fuel-based transport
- ▶ encourage active transport to school, including walking school bus and safe cycle bus
- ▶ work with BCSC to expand and link existing bike path network to enhance safety of bike travel on Phillip Island.

In summary the future is very sustainable and bright thanks to the funding from Bass Coast Shire Council.

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# Section 1

## Background



A Community Energy public forum was organised in June 2018 by the Energy Innovation Co-operative in partnership with the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre, Phillip Island Landcare Group, Phillip Island Conservation Society, Boomerang Bags and Plastic-Free Phillip Island and San Remo.

Phillip Island already had high levels of activity around the environment and sustainability. Community enthusiasm was high after hearing from others leading their communities across Victoria such as Taryn Lane from Hepburn Shire Zero-Net Energy Towns and Matt Charles Jones from Totally Renewable Yackandandah. The meeting passed a motion committing to a vision of Phillip Island become a carbon neutral community by 2030

through our collective efforts to use clean, efficient energy, reduce pollution and offset emissions zero-emissions and powered by 100% renewables by 2030. Phillip Island became the first community in Bass Coast Shire to embrace the challenge of going 100% renewable.

In July 2018, a series of three workshops were held over two days built on the momentum and enthusiasm from the public meeting and to put place strategies in to progress Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI). The workshop series was well attended and received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many participants eager to progress to action. The workshops created a framework that identified six focus areas:

- ▶ Carbon accounting
- ▶ Carbon farming
- ▶ Clean energy
- ▶ Education and communication
- ▶ Food and waste
- ▶ Toward zero emissions transport

In addition, a core coordinating group was established with at least one member from each of the working groups

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) is a movement or a collective of many Phillip Island community groups that share the TRPI vision in relation to building a sustainable environment. Each member organisation retains its independent identity and governance structure, while working towards their own and the TRPI goals as part of their core business.

# TRPI Charter

## The following principles were developed at the original TRPI planning workshops in 2018:

- 1** Any new initiative needs a clear purpose statement and objectives that state how it relates to achieving the mission of TRPI
  - 2** We will get on with the doing and not get stuck on talking about doing
  - 3** We will empower people to be involved with TRPI and support their actions
  - 4** We commit to questioning with kindness and with purpose to check that our actions are fulfilling our mission (5 why's method)
  - 5** We have a commitment to co-operation, collaboration and co-design of solutions
  - 6** We will actively listen to feedback and issues raised and respond constructively
  - 7** We will review our initiatives and adapt to ensure they are effective and we are learning along the way
  - 8** We have a commitment to learning together
  - 9** We will conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity
  - 10** We will celebrate success
  - 11** We commit to having good meetings. This includes:
    - a** Respecting people's time
    - b** Having clear processes
    - c** Enabling everyone to contribute
  - d** Having fun, including where possible having meetings with food
  - e** Calling out unhelpful behaviour
  - f** No bullying of a sole group's agenda over TRPI's mission
  - 12** We will tap into what is already happening and amplify these efforts
  - 13** We will be open to new ideas and perspectives
  - 14** Paid roles will be filled from within the group's skill pool whenever possible.
- A framework of understanding has been developed to facilitate implementation of the Totally Renewable Phillip Island vision:
- ▶ Support, collaborate and co-design projects to realise our shared vision of energy sustainability
  - ▶ Strong trust and co-operative working relationships between all member groups
  - ▶ Maintain the independence of participating organisations and does not preclude the rights of either party to engage in other partnerships and alliances
  - ▶ Collaborate to share diverse skills to respond to the sustainability needs of the area and make best use of different and complementary resources
  - ▶ Build and sustain the capacity of TRPI to respond to climate change and energy needs of the local area
  - ▶ Recognise and collaborate on our shared commitment to community development
- ▶ Empower people to get involved with the movement and support their actions
  - ▶ Participating organisations will support TRPI within their appropriate field of expertise to:
    - ▶ Develop and grow as a movement towards a carbon neutral community by 2030
    - ▶ Plan and implement projects that support their mutual visions and goals
    - ▶ Participating organisations may meet mutual legal responsibilities by holding funds on behalf of joint projects. Act as a funding auspice for projects within the member organisation's field of expertise
    - ▶ Provide bookkeeping and financial management oversight and support with a separate line for the funds generated and spent by the TRPI group to enable acquittal of project funds
  - ▶ support and educate the public on the need to move towards energy sustainability
  - ▶ ensure the desired project outcome of zero emissions on Phillip Island by 2030
  - ▶ ensure that an auspice organisation is nominated for all events and activities organised as part of the project. For insurance purposes we adhere to their risk management and safety policies.

# Totally Renewable Phillip Island members/partners include



- Bass Coast Shire Council
- Bimbadeen Farm
- Boomerang Bags
- Energy Innovation Co-operative
- Jeni Jobe Design
- Phillip Island Landcare Group
- Phillip Island Nature Parks, including the Barb Martin Bush Bank
- Phillip Island Community & Learning
- Phillip Island Conservation Society
- Plastic Free Phillip Island
- Smith's Beachcomber Association
- Vietnam Veterans Museum
- Westernport Water

# Timeline Highlights

## 2018

- April** Conversation between two community leaders sparked an idea into action
- May** TRPI CORE groups formed
- June** Social and mainstream media campaigns led up to the public meeting. 150+ people attended a public meeting and 350 viewed it on Facebook Live – all endorse TRPI's goal of Zero net emissions target by 2030
- July** Series of 3 Strategy and Governance workshops were held to develop TRPI 10-year plan with more than 65 attendees. Formation of six working groups and a core governing group
- Sept** Commence designing projects, developing strategic partnerships, increasing energy literacy
- Dec** BCSC passed 1st resolution – Whole Shire Zero net emissions by 2030 and support for TRPI as a case study. BCSC approved \$50,000 a year for three year to fund TRPI model

## 2019

- July** 30kW PV Solar rooftop installed at Cowes Early Childhood Learning Centre. Planning began for pre-feasibility study of Phillip Island to manage renewable roll-out between the community, WW, BCSC & PINP
- Aug** BCSC passed Climate Emergency Resolution and funding for a Climate Change Strategy
- Sep** TRPI's first open day with more than 150 community members attending. TRPI Working Groups reported back to the community on progress with the strategic plan. A year of planning for a decade of action. Attendees endorsed the TRPI action plan for a carbon-free Phillip Island by 2030. Australia's and possibly world's first carbon in-setting auction was held with \$7000 raised to fund TRPI projects. With continued trading its now in excess of \$9000. TPRI Principles and Framework were developed
- Oct** TRPI coordinator engaged using funding from BCSC. Newhaven Primary School agreed to pilot a carbon neutral education program. BZE Radio interview
- Nov** Partnership began with PILG to use their community van during summer when they do not use it. Van commenced TRPI Summer Community Engagement Program of attending community events and markets to provide education and have conversations with community members about sustainability
- Dec** BCSC passed 1st resolution for the whole Shire to have zero net emissions by 2030. 5 farms were tested for baseline soil carbon levels. Agreements written between farms and PILG. TRPI begins preparation for prefeasibility study to investigate how to reach our vision of zero net emissions by 2030. Community Van attended Rhyll market

## 2020

- Jan** Community Van attended Coronet Bay market to begin a relationship with the community there
- Feb** Education pilot 6 week program began at Newhaven Primary School
- Mar** TRPI coordinator selected to participate in BCSC's Community Climate Reference Group. Planned talk at Coronet Bay Rate Payers Association meeting was postponed due to COVID-19
- April** Pre-Feasibility Study funded by LVA began. TRPI collected energy use data from the community for use in the study
- May** Planned Sustainability festival delayed due COVID-19. TRPI was to sponsor a tour of island sustainability projects, provide a talk and stall
- June** Nominated for Gippsland Agri-business Awards
- July** Active Transport report launched. Nominated for the Premier's Sustainability Awards. Prepared TRPI Annual Report to BCSC

# TRPI Report Card



## TRPI is a movement of like minded individuals & groups

committed to working together, supporting and collaborating on joint areas to achieve what is needed -

## change

Feb 2020  
Report Card

**TRPI has been very busy since our June 2018 beginning.** Our major goals through collective efforts have been transitioning to clean and efficient energy (renewables), reducing emissions, and sequestering carbon into the local landscape.

### Achievements

#### 2019

- June 1** Island wide emissions audit
- Aug 21** Bass Coast Council declares climate emergency
- Sept 8** Public open day: Carbon insetting auction set a world record \$800 for a tonne of Carbon
- Sept 19** Solar for Cowes Early Learning Centre
- Oct 17** Renewable Roadmap information day
- Nov 1** Community engagement van commences summer engagements at Newhaven Primary Fete
- Dec 2** Five farms to be carbon soil tested and begin regenerative farming practice
- Dec 7** TRPI begins Island feasibility study. Results will underpin future renewable activities for our community

#### Coming soon!

- TRPI joint sustainable living day 2020
- Community solar installation co-investment plan
- Local renewable power purchase platform
- Low carbon school workshop in 2020
- Additional four farms to begin regenerative carbon farming
- Bio digester for commercial food wastes
- Small scale solar farm on Phillip Island begins

Follow our social media page for updates  
[facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland](https://facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland)  
[totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com](https://totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com)

Updated May 2020

#### 2020

- Jan** Community engagement van attends four events
- Feb** Seven farms practicing Regenerative Carbon Farming
- Feb 10** Education program at Newhaven P.S. begins



# TRPI open day 2019

## Promotional campaign

Onsite signage, postcards, commemorative carbon insetting certificates and full colour press was part of our promotional strategy for promoting the Open Day events and attractions. The earth and Phillip Island's prominence is done to link our carbon neutral 2030 goal with other global organisations ambition. Part of the engagement strategy was to have Coffee Chats, where the public could come and talk to TRPI core members about carbon insetting, renewables and more.

**Totally reNewable Phillip Island** Open Day Sept 8, 10-4  
Join us at the Cowes Cultural Centre.

**Coffee Chats With TRPI**

In the lead up to the TRPI Open Day  
Come have a coffee on us and we'll answer your questions about Carbon Insetting, Solar and Battery SmartBuy and the TRPI Energy Challenge. Contribute your ideas on how we can achieve zero net emissions by 2030!

Nordic Kantine 2-4pm Saturday August 17th & 31st  
[www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland](http://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland)

nordic kantine philipp island

WORKING TOGETHER TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

energy innovation co-operative | BASS COAST | Phillip Island NATURE PARKS | WESTERNPORT WATER | PICS | Landcare | PLASTIC FREE PHILIP ISLAND AND SUR ROUND | BOOMERANG | PICAL | Bimbadeen

**Totally reNewable Phillip Island** Open Day Sept 8, 10-4  
at the Cowes Cultural Centre

A year of planning for a decade of action!

WORKING TOGETHER TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

- TRPI Energy Challenge - reduce electricity use by 20% and have a chance to **WIN A \$K Solar System!**
- Solar & Battery SmartBuy - quality advice for households & business
- Carbon Credit Auction - inset your excess CO2 emissions through locally farmed carbon
- Electric Vehicles, Community-owned energy, Waste to energy and more...
- Low carbon lunch Nordic Kantine - \$15/head

[eico-op.org.au/totally-renewable-phillip-island/](http://eico-op.org.au/totally-renewable-phillip-island/)  
\* watch our facebook page for more information and TRPI updates  
[f totallyrenewablephillipisland](https://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland)

Bimbadeen | PICS | PLASTIC FREE PHILIP ISLAND | BOOMERANG | PICAL | Bimbadeen

**Totally reNewable Phillip Island** Open Day Sept 8, 10-4  
at the Cowes Cultural Centre

- Solar & Battery SmartBuy quality advice
- Carbon Credit Auction
- Electric Vehicles, Community-owned energy...
- Local lunches Nordic Kantine - \$15 per head

[www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland/](http://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland/)

WORKING TOGETHER TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

Bimbadeen | PICS | PLASTIC FREE PHILIP ISLAND | BOOMERANG | PICAL | Bimbadeen

A Maze' N Things Carbon Insetting Cert.

**20 tonne inset TRPI Business**

This certificate guarantees the stated amount of GHG emissions are inset from carbon sequestration in the soils of Bimbadeen. Payments received fund ongoing carbon farming on Phillip Island & western region.

This certificate was generated at the 2019 Totally Renewable Phillip Island Open Day, Carbon event. From Insetting Carbon Credits donated by Bob and Anne Drake of Bimbadeen Phillip Island.

Bimbadeen | Landcare | Nordic Kantine

**OPEN DAY**

Sunday Sept 8 10-4PM Cowes Cultural Centre

- Solar & Battery SmartBuy - quality advice for households & business
- Carbon Credit Auction - inset your excess CO2 emissions through locally farmed carbon
- Electric Vehicles, Community-owned energy, Waste to energy and more...
- Low carbon lunch Nordic Kantine - \$15/head

[www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland/](http://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland/)

WORKING TOGETHER TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

Bimbadeen | PICS | PLASTIC FREE PHILIP ISLAND | BOOMERANG | PICAL | Bimbadeen

# Section 2 Governance

Working together to be carbon neutral by 2030



## TRPI Charter

During the 2019-20-year TRPI reviewed and strengthened its governance arrangements. This began as a view that TRPI needed to seek clarification of the relationship, role and responsibilities of partner organisation to TRPI. The document began as a draft Memorandum of Understanding and developed into a charter that all member organisations agree to. See Appendix 1. TRPI Charter page 25.

## Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan (2019-23) was developed to clarify the tasks and timeframe each Working Group will contribute on the path to achieving our vision. As the impact and duration of COVID-19 became clearer in April 2020, this strategic plan was reviewed and modified to maintain momentum and funding accountability by providing alternatives to face to face community meetings etc. See Appendix 2. TRPI Strategic Plan page 25.

### **Document the model to enable propagation in other communities**

One of the intentions of the funding from BCSC to TRPI was to propagate the TRPI model to other communities in Bass Coast Shire, specifically in the Waterline Communities.

To that end, the TRPI Coordinator and volunteers with the TRPI community van attended the Cornet Bay Community Market in January 2020 with a view to encouraging a similar model in Coronet Bay. There was significant interest from residents and visitors.

As follow up, TRPI was due to speak at the Cornet Bay Ratepayers Meeting in March 2020 but unfortunately this was cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19. Facebook pages related to these communities have been joined.

## Networking Groups

- ▶ Bass Coast Climate Action Network
- ▶ Bass Coast Community Climate Reference Group
- ▶ Geelong Sustainability Group
- ▶ Bass Coast Alliance
- ▶ LVA Innovation Groups
- ▶ Hayfield community to share info and resources
- ▶ Destination Phillip Island, working on visitor economy and transport needs

### **Contact with other energy & sustainability groups**

Plans had been made to travel to other communities such as Yackandandah and Hepburn Shire to see their models and strategies. Unfortunately, these visits have been delayed due to COVID-19.

TRPI has strengthened relationship with the Heyfield 'My Town' Project, that has similar goals and approaches to TRPI. The relationship aims to share methods, tools and approaches. Examples are survey questions and engagement methods.

The TRPI Coordinator presented to the Gippsland Smart Futures webinar with Indigo Power about Community Owned Power projects. Our Coordinator also presented to Geelong Sustainability about sustainable farming, in-setting and the benefit of strong local government support.

## Section 2 Governance continued...

### Subject Matter Expert Connections

- ▶ Latrobe Valley Authority Innovation Groups networking
- ▶ David Coote, Analytic Engines – Pre-Feasibility Study
- ▶ Scott Douglas, Lecturer, Business School, Federation University Australia TRPI Governance structure
- ▶ Søren Hermansen, Samso Island, Denmark challenges and benefits of building sustainable communities on islands
- ▶ The Soil Farm, Guernsey, Channel Islands, United Kingdom. About completing the circular economy with carbon farming.

### Seeding Projects

Seeding projects undertaken by TRPI during 2019-20 include:

The Phillip Island 100 percent Pre-Feasibility Study will map the path to 100% renewables. This study was funded by the LVA. Details are located at Section 3 Working Groups Clean Energy Group page 19.

Newhaven Primary School Education Program is detailed below in Section 3 Working Groups Communication & Education page 22.

Governance & Finance Workshops with Federation University to plan governance structure into the future.

Active Transport Report – launch of Safe Cycle Phillip Island. See Appendix 6. Active Transport Report page 25.

### Grant applications

Grant name	Project description	Application Status
Pick My Project	Actively promoting public support to vote for Pick My Project funding for Cowes Early Learning Center 30KW solar installation (installed July 19)	<b>Successful</b>
Community Climate Change Adaption Program	31/3/2019	Unsuccessful
Suez Community Grant		Unsuccessful
Latrobe Valley Authority	Phillip Island Pre-Feasibility Emissions Study March 2020	<b>Successful</b>
Sustainable Futures Tidy Towns Award Program	Entered April 2020. \$1,000 award prize	<b>Pending</b>

## Section 2

### Governance continued...

#### Workshops attended

Event participation	Brief Description	Date
Carbon Farmers	3-day conference. Learned more details about carbon farming, including community insetting is better for small farms	July 2019
Gippsland Renewable Energy Roadmaps Potential Projects Workshop	Information for a range of renewable energy possibilities. Local networks	October 2019
Indigo Power webinar	Foundation information about community owned energy projects	April 2020
Climate Works	Climate conversations webinar	April 2020
Farming secrets	Webinar series	April 2020
Gippsland Climate Change Network	Gippsland Smart Future webinar series	May – June 2020
Helen Haines- Unlocking community Power	Webinar	May 2020
Bass Coast Climate Reference Group	Live & webinar	March – June 2020
Zero emissions	Webinar	May 2020

#### Budget

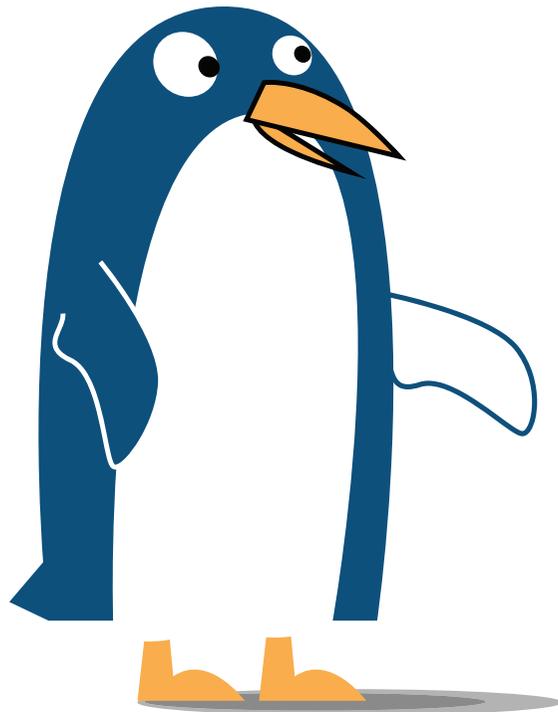
An annual budget was developed from the strategic plan to ensure that the Coordinator role and project activities would have the required funding throughout the year. This was reviewed due to activity changes resulting from COVID-19. See Appendix 3. TRPI Budget page 25.



# Section 3

## Working Groups

Below are summaries of Reports from Working Group's. Full Reports are available in Appendix 5. Working Group Complete Reports (2019-20) p25.



### Core Coordinating Group

#### The purpose of the Core Working Group is to:

- ▶ report back to funding bodies and the community on each of the working groups activities
- ▶ leads collaborative forward planning with the coordinating group

The Core Group acts as a think tank to create ideas for moving forward in all areas of the strategic plan. The meetings also provide support for working groups that have a project running. For example, it took all TRPI's Core Group volunteers to make the Newhaven Primary School Project happen.

The Core group meets 6 weekly or more often if needed and consists of the Coordinator, a representative of each of the working groups and representatives of partner organisations. From time to time we have visitors who are experts in the renewable field or are interested in learning more about TRPI.

#### Examples of 2019-20 actions:

- ▶ coordinated the TRPI Open Day October 2019. This event reported back to the community on the achievements of the first year of TRPI. There were guest speakers and stalls to inspire and inform participants
- ▶ developed cloud information storage of resources and information for greater access and security of TRPI information and resources

- ▶ made initial contact with waterline communities to support their sustainability actions (interrupted by COVID)
- ▶ coordinated Governance and Finance workshops to direct future community and future partner involvement in projects.

#### Plans for the Future:

- ▶ begin to develop governance, policies and operational procedures to support future community owned and partnered projects
- ▶ expand TRPI model to other waterline communities
- ▶ strengthen relationships with other communities in Bass Coast Shire and beyond to build sustainability networks for sharing resources and information
- ▶ add new partner groups eg strengthen relationships with businesses
- ▶ develop a prospectus to inform potential investors, partners and stakeholder.

# Carbon Accounting Group

## The purpose of the Carbon Accounting Working Group is to:

- ▶ works to build an initial whole island total emissions profile to be able to monitor our progress
- ▶ encourages households and businesses to have emissions audits.

## Examples of 2019-20 actions:

Funding was secured from the Latrobe Valley Authority for a Pre-feasibility study by expert consultant David Coote. This report is still in progress at time of writing, but once completed in August will create a whole-of-Island energy emissions inventory from households' and businesses' data. The data will enable evidence-based actions towards appropriate microgrids, large scale installations and community owned installations.

## Plans for the Future:

- ▶ seek funding for energy audits for 20 diverse households, 5 businesses
- ▶ develop an online household energy audit tool
- ▶ update the island emissions profile to monitor our progress towards our vision
- ▶ seek partners for an energy installation.

TRPI has started a project to identify how we can move to 100% renewable energy!

To make this happen local residents and businesses would need to allow access to smart meter electricity consumption data. Ideally this data would cover 2017, 2018 & 2019.

You may already have access to this data from your retailer portal. Otherwise we can work with you and your retailer to access the data. A copy of your latest bill is also very useful but no worries if you would prefer not to share that information.

As well as permission to access the interval data please also let us know if you or your business would be interested in a smart grid implementation at your home or business premises. As a first step this would involve some analysis of potential benefits from PV, battery, smart hot water heating and possible load management.

Email your info\* to [bhavanirooks@outlook.com](mailto:bhavanirooks@outlook.com)

Please share this on your personal page or tag people you feel will also want to be a part of this project.  
\*Info will only be used for research purposes.

Thank you for bringing us closer to a carbon neutral future.

**Totally reNewable Phillip Island** renewables pre-feasibility study

Hi everyone, yes its been a bit of a clusternuck of a year, social isolating and everything. Lots of us are stuck at home and have watched everything on netflix and need something else to do, or maybe that's just me... FEAR NOT! Fill some of that empty time by sharing your energy usage data with our man David Cootes and help him build a feasibility study on where to put community owned solar panels, it will fill up a good 15min and you will get a warm feeling in your belly that will never put calories on!

sba, Bimbadeen, FCS, Landcare, PLASTIC FREE PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO, PICA, BOOMERANG, Job Design, Energy Innovation EU-REACTIVE, BASS COAST, NATURE PARKS, WESTERNPORT WATER

# Carbon Farming Group



## The purpose of the Carbon Farming Working Group is to:

The Carbon Farming Working Group is backed by PILG.

Its purpose is to find and implement ways to reduce carbon emissions in our community by growing vegetation to capture carbon from the atmosphere. Some of this carbon is transferred through the roots into the soil. Some soil carbon also comes from decomposing carbon laden vegetation; the carbon is released into the soil. This is good for the atmosphere and good for the soil by increasing productivity such as better crop yield, higher water retention and better soil health.

The Carbon Farming Group launched itself at the TRPI Open Day in September 2019 with Australia's first carbon in-setting auction. This was enabled by a donation of 100 tonnes of carbon from Bob and Anne Davie of Bimbadeen Farm to trade as CO<sub>2</sub>e. This equals 367 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The first tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e was sold for a record \$800/tonne. It was followed by trading lifestyle packages such as car use, big lifestyle (2 houses, 2 cars, boat), frequent traveler. The auction and continuing sales have raised approximately \$9000. The money from the auction is held by PILG for use with carbon farming related projects. PILG works directly with the farmers to encourage a change in farming practices towards regenerative farming methods.

## The Carbon Farming Trial consists of:

- ▶ 5 farmers had initial baseline soil tests completed in December 2019 and signed contracts with PILG to begin carbon farming. The soil tests were funded from the proceeds of the carbon auction
- ▶ education of farmers is being provided by PILG over next 24 months to build the farmer's understanding the practice of carbon farming
- ▶ quarterly monitoring of farmers and their actions
- ▶ follow up testing in December 2021. PILG are paying for the follow up soil tests in 2 years' time. We anticipate the follow up tests will show an increase in soil carbon levels
- ▶ participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School through gardening activities.



## Plans for the Future:

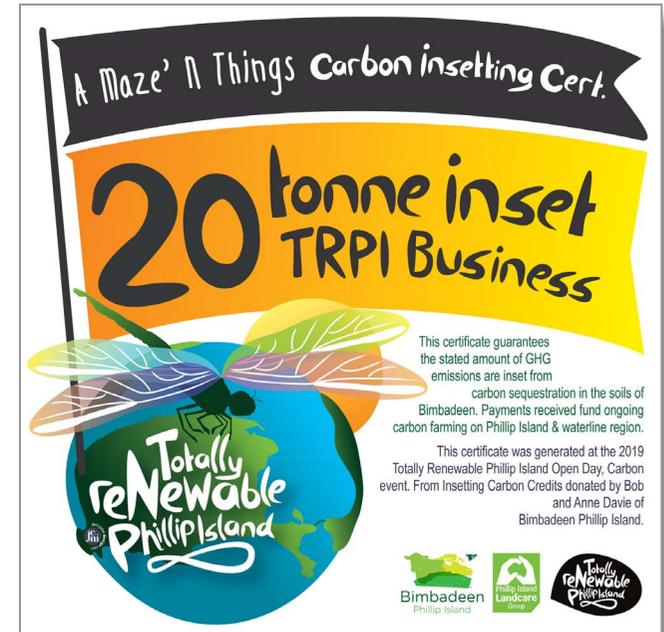
- ▶ a further five new farmers will be recruited in into Carbon Farming trial
- ▶ establish an online carbon in-setting platform in conjunction with Bass Coast Landcare Network to enable farmers to directly trade the stored soil carbon on their farms with local individuals and businesses who need to off-set their lifestyle emissions with local farmers. It also provides an alternative funding stream for farmers while also improving the quality of their soil. It is based on the premise that people will do this more willingly knowing its going into improving the local landscape
- ▶ develop on-line soil health education session with BCLN
- ▶ promote and market online carbon trading platform.

Carbon Farming  
Group continued...

**Examples of insetting certificates.**

The special first Tonne of Locally inset CO<sub>2</sub>e, certificate purchased at a auctioned price of \$800. At the open day carbon auction, with local community minded Greg Price as auctioneer.

TRPI Branded certificate for business owners to display and the Bimbadeen Branded certificate showing aligned organisations.



1st Tonne of Locally inset CO<sub>2</sub>e Sold at Auction on Phillip Island Victoria Australia, 8th September 2019. Facilitated by Totally Renewable Phillip Island.

**Carbon Insetting Certificate #0001A \$800**

Spirited bidding took the price for the first ever auctioned tonne of inset CO<sub>2</sub>e on Phillip Island, from a \$25 reserve climbing rapidly to an incredible knock out bid of \$800, followed by a room shaking applause of approval. This certificate guarantees the stated amount of GHG emissions are inset from carbon sequestration in the soils of Bimbadeen.

Period ending: 30th June 2020 Issue date: 20th May 2019 Bimbadeen has been carbon neutral since July 2014 & a partner with Totally reNewable Phillip Island since 2018. [www.bimbadeenphillipisland.com.au](http://www.bimbadeenphillipisland.com.au)

*Bob & Anne Davie*  
Bob & Anne Davie Bimbadeen Owners / Directors

Bimbadeen Phillip Island  
Phillip Island Landcare Group  
Totally reNewable Phillip Island

**Carbon Insetting Certificate**

This certificate guarantees the stated amount of GHG emissions are inset from carbon sequestration in the soils of Bimbadeen. Payments received fund ongoing carbon farming.

This is to certify that **Luminary Digital Pty Ltd.** has received **154** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e Insets from **Bimbadeen Phillip Island** ABN 57 829 638 169. Insetting Certificate No **00006** Carbon held in paddock B11. GPS. 38. 29.30 S. 145. 12.37 E. Google Earth. Thank you for improving our environment and helping our community make Phillip Island totally Renewable by 2030.

Bob & Anne Davie  
Owners / Directors *Bob Davie* *Anne Davie*  
Issue date: 20th May 2020  
Period ending: 20th May 2022

Bimbadeen has been carbon neutral since July 2014 & a partner with Totally reNewable Phillip Island since 2018. [www.bimbadeenphillipisland.com.au](http://www.bimbadeenphillipisland.com.au)

Bimbadeen Phillip Island  
working with  
BASS COAST  
NATURE PARKS  
WATERWISER  
ENERGY REDUCER CO-OPERATIVE  
Landcare Group  
Totally reNewable Phillip Island

# Clean Energy Group

## The purpose of the Clean Energy Working Group is to:

- ▶ work towards strategies to switch energy use on Phillip Island to a range of renewable generation methods.
- ▶ bringing together all partner organisations to work towards switching energy use on Phillip Island to a range of renewable generation methods.

## Examples of 2019-20 actions:

Researched various data, policy documents, strategic plans and planned or operating Global, National and State Energy Production Projects which may impact on achieving TRPI's vision. The impact of population growth, peak event and holiday population swell is expected to increase daily energy use and also impacts on emissions. TRPI continues to be cognisant of conservation and environmental protection concerns and pressures that may impact emissions or renewable projects.

Participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School. The Energy Group suggested energy conservation strategies, becoming familiar with the solar panels on their school's roof and understanding energy bills to recognise anomalies.

Presented at TRPI Open Day 2019 with a local energy auditor and several solar installers. The presentation included opportunities for energy use reduction and a suggested plan to increase solar energy generation and storage on Phillip Island.

Participated in an initial video call with totally renewable Samsø Island in Denmark's North Sea and Guernsey, Channel Islands UK to discuss similarities, strategies and explore future bilateral learning.

Supported significant growth of registered solar system installations and kW on Phillip Island.

## Plans for the Future:

- ▶ implement recommendations of the TRPI Pre-feasibility study to rollout renewable energy across the island
- ▶ develop community wide strategies to reduce domestic and commercial energy usage and increase growth in the renewable energy generation capability on Phillip Island
- ▶ continue to investigate alternate energy sources for Phillip Island including tidal generation and waste to energy
- ▶ strengthen relationships with businesses and develop a project to increase the use of renewable energy by businesses on Phillip Island

- ▶ support the establishment of mid-scale solar farms combining community owned and co-investment
- ▶ hopes to participate in the Smith's Beach Masterplan funded by BCSC, which includes a feasibility study into a potential SmartGrid for the community.



Newhaven College with 243 kW system



Penguin Visitor Centre with 200kW system

# Food & Waste Group



## The purpose of the Food & Waste Working Group is to:

- ▶ work towards avoiding and reducing use of plastics
- ▶ develop and implement strategies to reduce use and increase the reuse and recycling of a range of consumable items such as food, packaging, clothing.

## Examples of 2019-20 actions:

Since March 2017 group member (BB) has produced 15,267 Boomerang Bags (10,000 in 2019-20) by diverting fabric waste from land fill by converting it into fabric reusable shopping bags and animal wraps for native animal victims of the 2020 bush fires. This has diverted approximately 5365kg of plastic waste from landfill. This figure is based on replacing just one plastic bag, but BB bags can be used over and over for years. Since January 2020, over 1100 wildlife pouches and bedding have also been made. This has allowed us to upcycle different fabrics to those previously unusable for the bag making.

All the major local supermarkets have been encouraged to participate in Red-cycle that recycles soft plastic packaging into park bollards and furniture.

The Food and Waste Group worked with Plastic Free Phillip Island on the annual clean up Australia day in March.

Participated in Waste circular economy established on Phillip Island by monitoring the private and commercial uptake of biodigesters or dehydrators for redirecting organic wastes to produce bio-energy and fertiliser. At this stage there is one digester and one dehydrator on the island.

BCSC's waste and recycling program is reinforced and supported through continued education via our TRPI community van and the school education program.

We have been nominated for a Keep Victoria Beautiful - Sustainable Communities 2020 Awards.

Participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School by teaching students what rubbish goes in which bin, the dangers of producing excessive waste and how that can be reduced.

## Plans for the Future:

- ▶ strengthen our relationship with businesses that produce large amounts of organic waste beyond the capacity of the shire kerbside bin collection
- ▶ work with Westernport Water and BCSC towards installing a commercial Biodigester on the island for green and food waste to produce energy and agricultural fertiliser
- ▶ investigate waste to energy replacing bottled gas with biogas.

# Communication & Education Group



## The purpose of the Communication & Education Working Group is to:

- ▶ build community knowledge of sustainability
- ▶ include the renewable discussions at cultural events
- ▶ develop and deliver information at local events
- ▶ maximise use of social media and internet platforms to find and distribute information
- ▶ build a school education program

## Examples of 2019-20 actions:

A TRPI dedicated web site and social media page were developed and maintained to keep the community informed about TRPI's work and successes with energy sustainability.

Frequent Facebook posts give small to large ideas that the community can do to move toward zero emissions.

The Education Pilot was formulated in late 2019 and kicked off at Newhaven Primary School in February 2020, we plan to inform and spread to other schools in Bass Coast communities. Six sessions were planned but unfortunately the impact of COVID-19 allowed 5 sessions only. Similar ideas to establishing TRPI were followed and adapted to expand the education program to other schools on the island and to Bass Valley Primary School to help propagate the renewable towns idea into the rest of the shire. Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 established and named their working groups (WG) and how they defined pollution. Students selected their groups and decided on appropriate activities goals of the groups:

- ▶ **Energy WG** looked into different types of energy production and talked about local renewable energy generating opportunities
- ▶ **Gardening WG** covered carbon farming and food production
- ▶ **Waste WG** learned about home and school recycling and took community action by writing to Sam Remo IGA asking for them to participate in Red-cycling soft plastic packaging recycling, they developed a weekly nude food event and an ongoing awareness of the contents of the schools bins

- ▶ **Transport WG** surveyed how to travel to school and studied alternatives such as walking, cycling and car-pooling. They organised a regular "No Pollution" day where kids got themselves to school using those methods.

One of the great surprises was that a majority of the students changed from mild initial interest to fully engaged and wanting to talk about the steps they were developing to help with changing their school and home behaviors. A education pilot program booklet has been developed and is awaiting print (delayed due to COVID-19). See Appendix 3.

## Plans for the Future:

- ▶ expand the education program to other schools on island and to Bass Valley Primary School to help propagate the renewable towns idea into the rest of the shire
- ▶ continue to source educational forums online or live for the community to attend working towards 2030 zero emissions
- ▶ increase social media and website traffic by including troubleshooting for people moving towards renewable and a real time dashboard of renewable energy generation on the on the website and in a prominent community location
- ▶ develop and implement strategies for businesses to see TRPI as an independent, relevant and reliable source of information.

# Clean Transport Group

## The purpose of the Clean Transport Working Group is to:

- support increased opportunities for Active Transport on Phillip Island
- education on alternative forms of transport

## Examples of 2019-20 actions:

- worked with Bass Coast Shire Council to update electric vehicle charging information and map
- participated in the TRPI pilot school education program at Newhaven Primary School by looking at how students and staff get to school and discussing low emission alternatives such as walking, cycling and car pooling
- worked with the two user groups Bicycle User Groups (BUGS) & Phillip Island Cyclists and others to review the current state of cycling and

existing road/pathway infrastructure, and the existing plans for improvements

- reviewed documents about Bass Coast Active Transport, Sustainable Tourism, Aspirational Pathways Network Plan 2016, Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study, Cowes Activity Centre Plan & Visitor Economy Strategy. All 3 plans call for increased cycle and pedestrian infrastructure to make cycling safe and more popular. Also reviewed Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018 -2028
- surveyed the local electric bike hire companies regarding the extent of use. The main comment for low up take was the lack of safe roads or bike paths for users.
- launched TRPI Active Transport Report in July 2020 to encourage government to consider policy change to effect increased use and behavioural change to reduce car use.

## Plans for the Future:

- Community education about alternatives to fossil fuel-based transport
- Encourage active transport to school, including walking school bus and safe cycle bus
- Walking and cycling school bus are forms of student transport where walking or cycling students are met along a particular route and chaperoned by adults to school. A driver leads and a conductor follows

## Work with Bass Coast Shire Council to:

- Expand and link existing bike path network
- Enhance safe bike travel on Phillip Island.

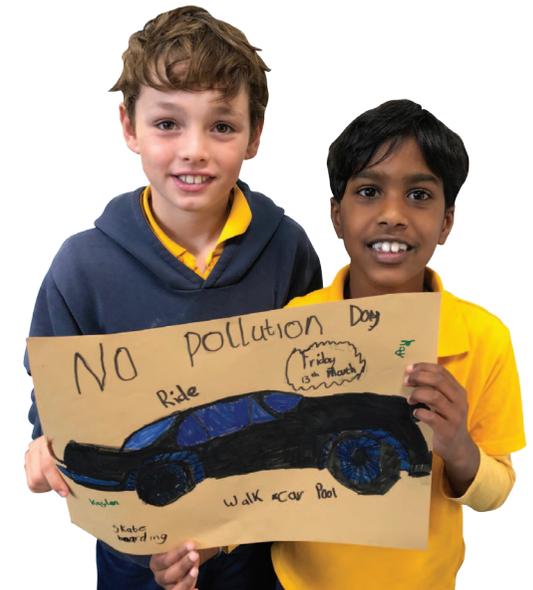
**Totally reNewable Phillip Island** Bike paths to a carbon neutral 2030

TRPI is calling for a "Cycle Safe Network"

- 1 Cycle Safe Cowes to the Nobbies
- 2 Cycle Safe to schools
- 3 Cycle Safe Thompson Ave & Settlement Rd
- 4 Cycle Safe Phillip Island by connecting our existing paths

Contact the council and let them know we need better paths

[totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com](http://totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com)



# List of Appendices referred to and separate from this document

Appendix 1. TRPI Original Principles and Framework

Appendix 2. TRPI Strategic Plan

Appendix 3. TRPI Budget

Appendix 4. Working Group Complete Reports (2019-20)

Appendix 5. Active Transport Report

Appendix 6. Education Program Booklet from Newhaven Primary School

Appendix 7. TRPI Coordinator's Recent Presentation

Appendix 8. Pre-feasibility study report

