

Haystacks

SOLAR GARDEN

Online Info Sessions – Aug - Oct 2020




Today's Info Session


1. Introductions & background
2. Solar Garden Overview
3. How does it work – financial & technical details
4. How to become a Haystacks Solar Gardener
5. Question and Answers

What are Solar Gardens?

1. A solution for those locked out of accessing rooftop solar
2. A new model of doing community energy – common in Germany & the US
3. Building on research with UTS Institute of Sustainable Futures & CPA



Get Solar!
No rooftop required!

 **Haystacks**
SOLAR GARDEN

Online Info Sessions - Monday nights

Why Solar Gardens?

1. Address the social equity issue of access to clean energy (social benefit)
2. Increase clean energy uptake by unlocking new sites for distributed renewable energy (environmental benefit)
3. Generate local investment, jobs and flow-on benefits to the local economy (financial benefit)

A true win-win-win

Haystacks Project Overview

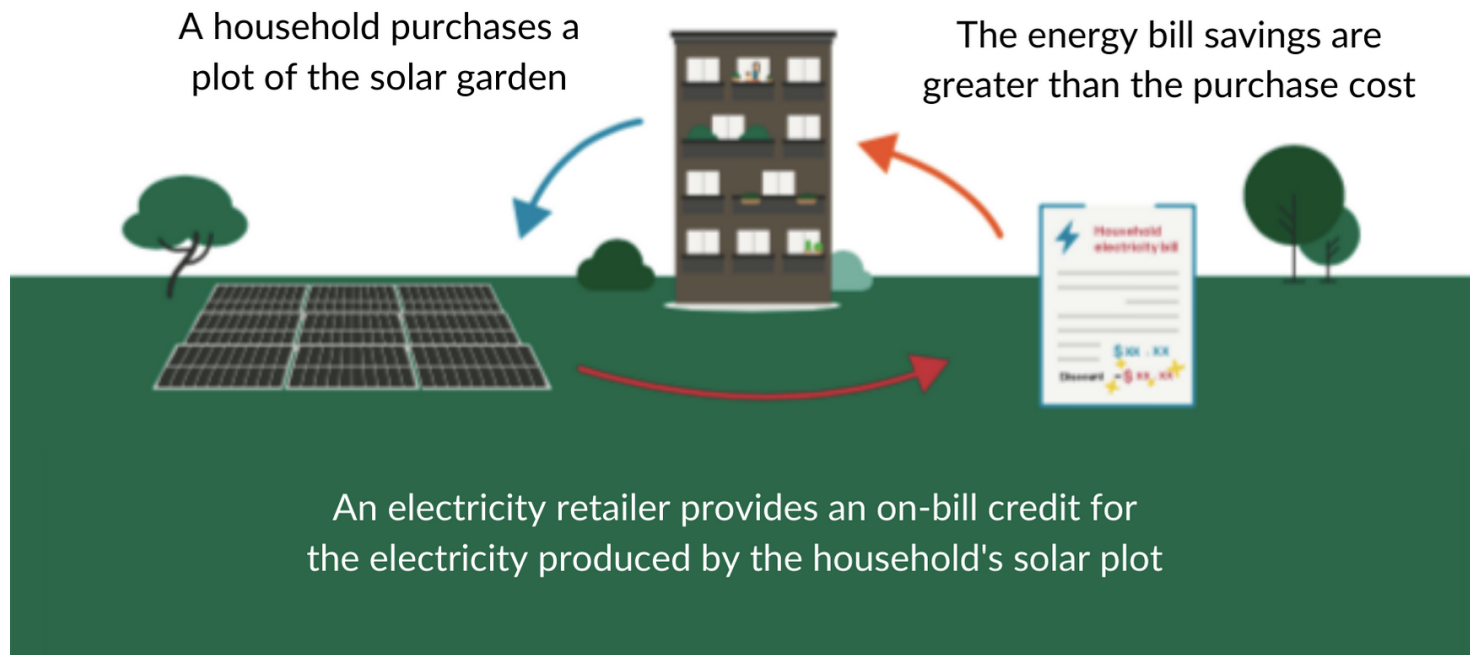
1. A proposed 1.5 MW solar farm near Grong Grong – on Gemma's farm
2. 1MW for the community-owned solar garden
3. Supported by the NSW Government's Regional Community Energy Fund
4. Co-op ownership model
5. Open to NSW residents

Project team



- Nigel Hancock – Project Manager
 - April Crawford-Smith – Indigenous Liaison & Socials Team Lead
 - Louise, Emma, Katie, Tracey
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- Kim Mallee – Project Manager
 - Kristy Walters – Community Engagement Manager
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- Jonathan Predergast – Solar Development Services
 - Gerald Arends - Solar Development Services

How does a Solar Garden work?



Technical Details

1. 3 x 500kW PV units with single axis tracking (Total = 1.5MW)
2. Located on a private property west of Grong Grong in the Riverina Region
3. Land area approx. 3-4 hectares
4. Batteries not included but design is 'battery ready'
5. Connects to the local distribution (11kVa) line
6. Utilises common solar components so can be serviced by local technicians

Financial Details

1. Estimated cost to build the Solar Garden: \$1,398 000
2. With plots of 3kW we need 333 solar gardeners for a 1 MW Solar Garden
3. Estimated cost of each plot is between \$4,000 - \$4,200
4. Returns received via on-bill credits for life of project

How is a Solar Garden different?

Most community energy projects

- Financial benefit returned as a dividend (taxable income) or reduced electricity bills on community buildings

Solar Gardens

- No host building required to use majority of electricity generated behind the meter
- Solar Gardeners receive the financial benefit from their plot as a credit on electricity bill rather than a dividend
- Requires participation of an electricity retailer, behind the meter community solar project does not.

Haystacks Cooperative

1. Owned, controlled and for benefit of the members
2. Of our 5 directors, majority regional, three in the Riverina
3. Operates democratically: one member = one share = one vote
4. Co-op membership joining fee - \$50 + \$1 share

Why join?

1. Pioneering - Australia's first large scale Solar Garden
2. Hassle free solar - Become an owner in a renewable energy project
3. Portable - You take the benefits if you move house
4. Decentralise & Democratiser – Building the resilience of our energy system and communities

We can only do this collectively.

How to Join?

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

Next Steps

1. 400 people become members of the Haystacks Solar Garden Co-op by 30th November
2. Review prospectus when available for members detailing:
 - a) Price of solar garden plots
 - b) Electricity retailer – Enova Community Energy
3. Tariff checker to compare your current bill to this offer



Questions?