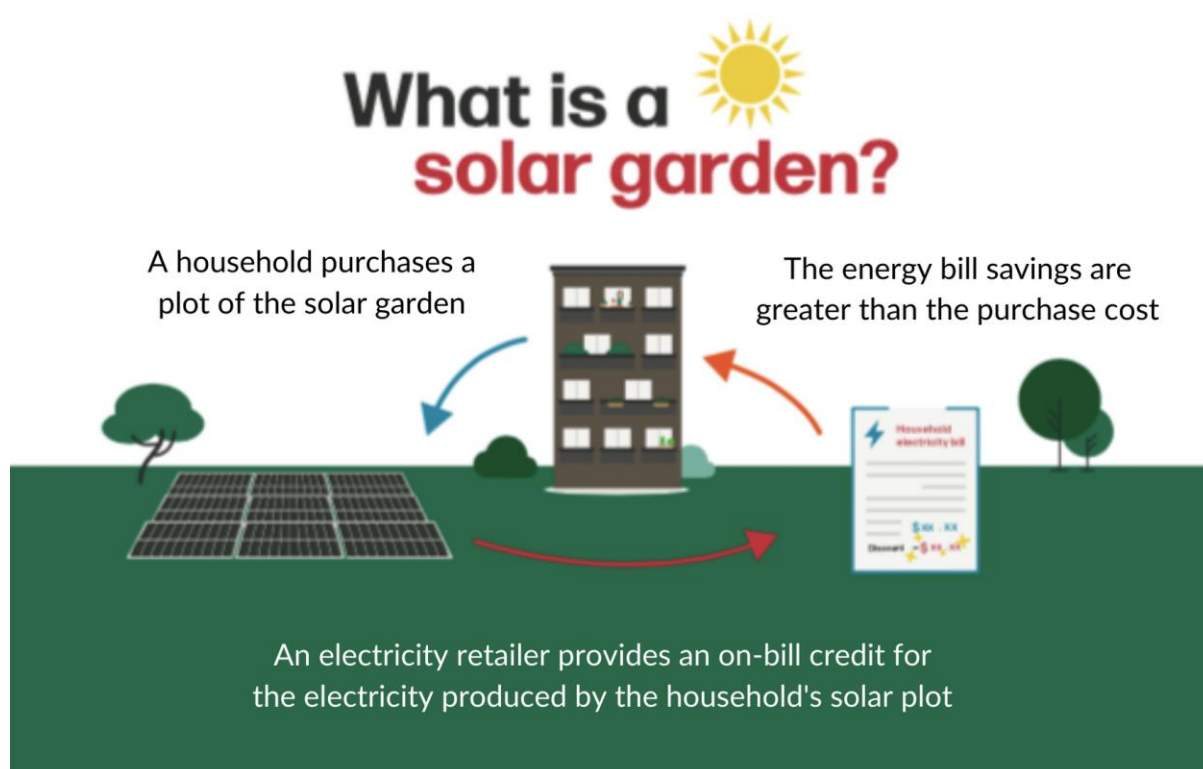


Haystacks Solar Garden Introduction Fact Sheet

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 recently 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
- A solar cooperative is formed with at least 360 members
- 1MW of the solar farm is purchased by the solar cooperative to become the Haystacks Solar Garden
- Haystacks Solar Garden then offers solar plots to its members so they can receive on-bill credits to reduce their electricity bill

Who is making this happen?

Pingala is a 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. They will be working on the community engagement piece including facilitating the co-design process.

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

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.

Let's Connect

In the coming weeks we are holding (online) information sessions throughout the Riverina Region to share the finer details of how this project will work and how you can get involved.

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

Kristy Walters

Community Engagement Lead

Community Power Agency

m: 0490 505 802

e: kristy@cpagency.org.au

w: www.cpagency.org.au

