**Zero Carbon Tatura Launch – April 22**

Zero Carbon Tatura welcomes you to its official launch event on Thursday April 22 at Tatura Central (Stuart Mock Place) near the murals at 1.00 pm.

Zero Carbon Tatura convener Terry Court says “The launch event will signal the official start of communications to invite both the Tatura and wider communities to join in the journey with us, with the aim of transitioning to zero emissions by 2030.”

The event will launch a new website for the group, and a draft plan that has been created by the group which outlines the vision, goals and actions Tatura can take to reach zero emissions.

Terry adds “We will have a number of guest speakers lined up, and will also have a couple of electric vehicles on site so you can see the opportunities we have right now to transition to zero emissions.”

The communications materials aim to provide the Tatura community with details on what they can do to reduce carbon emissions and costs while improving the comfort of their homes.

The Plan focuses on six key areas:

* Energy
* Buildings
* Transport
* Farming and Land Use
* Industry
* Waste

“Together as a community, we can share information on what works, what is challenging, and what other opportunities we may be able to take to reach zero emissions.” Terry says.

For more details, contact Terry on 5824 2642.

**Zero Carbon Tatura – Website and Plan launched**

Zero Carbon Tatura has officially launched its Plan to transition Tatura to zero carbon emissions by 2030.

A new website has been created at www.zerocarbontatura.org, which contains information on the group, and where you can view the Stage 1 Plan.

A new email address has also been created so that you can contact the group directly.

“We know that the goals of the plan will only be achieved through the engagement, support and actions of the community as a whole, which includes individuals, families, industry, organisations and government” ZCT convenor Terry Court says.

“ZCT encourages everyone to become involved and take action to make Tatura an even better place to live. Help us get to Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030.”

Terry Court welcomes the community to get in touch. “We hope that every resident and business can get on-board with reducing our carbon emissions in a cost-effective way”.

Terry is also keen to visit community groups to share the groups vision, now that covid restrictions have eased, so contact Zero Carbon Tatura via email if you want to book in a session.

For further information, visit [www.zerocarbontatura.org,](http://www.zerocarbontatura.org/) or email info@zerocarbontatura.org

 **Zero Carbon Tatura group forms**

A Zero Carbon Tatura (ZCT) group has been formed, to guide the town to transition to zero carbon emissions by 2030.

A Zero Carbon Transition Plan is a considered process to transition from polluting fossil fuels to a low carbon economy, with community benefit in mind. By actively transitioning our energy sources from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and using less energy overall, residents, businesses and industry can save money while mitigating the effects of climate change. Tatura’s Zero Carbon Tatura Transition Plan will guide the transition process, and incorporate the residents and businesses of the entire 3616 postcode.

ZCT recently received a Sustainability Grant from the Greater Shepparton City Council, which will be used to develop communications materials for the Plan development and implementation.

Convenor of Zero Carbon Tatura, Terry Court, describes the vision of the group:

“Our vision is that the community of Tatura in 2030 will have:

* Transitioned to a low carbon economy through low carbon emission industries and primary production;
* Adopted best management practise in energy efficiency;
* Universal access to low cost, equitable renewable energy;
* Embodied sustainable living practices in all facets of community activity and development that are fit for purpose for the remainder of the 21st century
* Developed a community model of harmony, cooperation and sharing”

Many cost-effective opportunities to transition are available to households, businesses, industry and farming. These opportunities include the sectors of Energy, Transport, Waste, Buildings, Agriculture and Land Use, and Industry.

“By planning a transition, Tatura can turn potential challenges into opportunities. These opportunities already exist, we just need to take them by being at the forefront of adopting research and technology and empowering all members of our community to act and prosper in a low carbon society” Terry adds.

The ZCT group is auspicised by GV Community Energy, a not-for-profit company, and includes representatives from community groups including Transition Tatura, Tatura Community House, and the Tatura Community Plan.

More information to come in next month’s Bulletin – contact Terry on 5824 2642 for further details in the

**Zero Carbon Tatura – Tatura’s community facilities to be powered by 100% renewable electricity**

The Zero Carbon Tatura team is very pleased to report that from July 1, all our Council-owned community facilities in Tatura will be powered by 100% renewable electricity, thanks to Council’s participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) project. Facilities including our library, senior citizens, basketball stadium, water pumps, streetlights and reserve lighting will all be supplied by renewable electricity, at a cheaper cost than fossil fuel electricity. This major project, as part of a 46 strong council partnership, highlights that we can remove gas and coal from generating electricity, and ensure a safer climate for our future at lower cost to customers.

Council’s announcement comes as an increasing number of organisations and businesses are signing renewable electricity ‘Power Purchase Agreements’ for their energy needs. These contracts are often for a 10-year period, with lower, more stable pricing which allows businesses to budget for their energy costs better than short term contracts, while eliminating their carbon emissions. Well known businesses and organisations that already use 100% renewable electricity include Unilever, Aldi, Coles, Saputo, Telstra and CUB, plus many who will be 100% renewable in the coming years including Bunnings and Officeworks. Also, the Victorian State Government has recently committed to all its electricity being renewable by 2025, including all state schools, hospitals and police stations.

The switching to renewables by these major electricity users is having a large impact on the financial viability of fossil fuel businesses that generate and sell coal and gas-fired electricity in Australia. Renewable facilities are cheaper to operate than fossil fuel facilities, don’t contribute to climate change, and will not become stranded assets.

Zero Carbon Tatura convenor Terry Court says “The transition to renewables is gathering pace. We need to be doing everything we can to ensure this happen as quickly as possible. We can support the businesses and organisations that are already using renewable energy, and ask that the ones that aren’t to do so.”

For further information on Zero Carbon Tatura, visit [www.zerocarbontatura.org,](http://www.zerocarbontatura.org/) or email info@zerocarbontatura.org

**Zero Carbon Tatura – A look at electric vehicles**

A brochure outlining Zero Carbon Tatura and the Plan should soon be arriving in your mailbox, to provide more detail on the group and what it is aiming to achieve.

The Plan, under the overarching theme of community, has a number of pillars to guide the transition to zero emissions by 2030.

Transport is a key source of carbon emissions, and is one of the pillars the group is working to address. Carbon emissions from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles are primarily through the use of fossil fuels (petrol, diesel and gas). Internal combustion engine vehicles also cause adverse health impacts, due to the chemicals that are emitted from the vehicle.

Worldwide, a transition is underway from ICE to electric vehicles (EVs) for passenger cars, as they are either low or zero emissions, and purchase costs are rapidly decreasing. Many countries have introduced dates to ban the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles, to both reduce emissions and cut pollution. Car manufacturers are also transitioning their production away from internal combustion engines to electric.

EVs are usually charged at the owners home (approximately 90% of the time), with public chargers required when travelling large distances away from home or if you live in a house/unit with no offstreet parking.

In Australia, EVs currently have a higher purchase price than internal combustion engine vehicles, but have lower running costs, and lower cost to recharge (electricity is cheaper than fuel, particularly when using your own solar). Even with the higher purchase cost, the total cost of ownership can be cheaper for EVs over internal combustion engine vehicles. The Victorian Government recently announced a subsidy for new electric vehicles to help assist with the higher purchase price, and has committed to funding for electric vehicle charge-points throughout the state, in an effort to reduce Victoria’s emissions.

At the recent Zero Carbon Tatura launch, two of Council’s fully electric vehicles were on display – a Nissan Leaf and Hyundai Kona. Council currently has four EVs, and has installed dedicated charge points powered by renewable energy. Council have also recently installed four AC chargers at the new Shepparton Art Museum, and are in the process of installing DC fast chargers in the Shepparton and Mooroopna CBDs to assist EV drivers visiting our region.

The use of EVs by Council demonstrates that they are a viable, zero emissions alternative to ICE vehicles. They will be a vital component of reducing transport emissions, and you can expect to see many more around town in the near future.

For further information, visit [www.zerocarbontatura.org,](http://www.zerocarbontatura.org/) or email info@zerocarbontatura.org