

Subject:	Renewable Energy Advisory Committee – Draft Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 3
File No:	CLR/07/8/101/1/13	
Document Ref:	D21/1804	
Venue:	Meeting held via Microsoft Teams	
Date:	Wednesday, 9 th December 2020	
Time:	6.45pm	Started at: 6.45pm Closed at 8.30pm
Chair:	Councillor Penny Pedersen	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahan	
Circulation:		

Committee Role: To consider matters and inform Council and Council officers of community views and likely impact regarding opportunities for further uptake of renewable energy technologies, services and other energy efficient initiatives across the City of Ryde, and regionally.

Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor Penny Pedersen	Chairperson - Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor Christopher Gordon	Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor Edwina Clifton	Deputy Chairperson - Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
	x	Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
	x	Joanne Taranto	Community Representative	
	x	Graham Town	Community Representative	
x		Nicholas Tse	Community Representative	
	x	Hope Ashiabor	Community Representative	

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Kylie McMahan	Manager – Environment, Health and Building	City of Ryde
x		Katie Helm	Senior Coordinator - Environment	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
x		Diego Uzzun	Senior Sustainability Coordinator – Transport	City of Ryde

Details

Action

1. Welcome by the Chair and Apologies	
<p>Clr Pedersen opened the meeting by welcoming all present and by recognising the traditional owners of the land.</p> <p>The apologies were as noted above.</p>	Noted
2. Discussion and adoption of previous minutes – 11th March 2020	
<p>The minutes of the meeting dated 11th March 2020 were adopted.</p>	Adopted

Details	Action
<p>3. Actions Arising</p> <p>Macquarie University/ Rowan Best presentation: Staff had followed up with Mr Best to discuss his plans for a survey on solar uptake in Ryde. To date nothing had transpired but Mr Best was interested if Council had any ideas for future partnership. At the present time, there is no real scope for the research he is undertaking but it might be useful in the future.</p>	Noted
<p>4 General Business</p> <p>Clean Energy: <u>EV innovation project update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two electric vehicles have been delivered for use by the City of Ryde and 2 charging stations have been established at Council's Depot. - Two public charging stations will soon be installed in the Ryde LGA – one at Macquarie Park and one in Top Ryde. Community notification will occur in early 2021. - A charging station will also be included in the soon to be constructed Eastwood carpark. - Council is developing a policy and guidelines related to EV charging on public land in the City of Ryde. The policy will outline the principles for charging infrastructure on public land and will help support the selection of the correct type of infrastructure in these areas. - Collaboration between Council and the private sector is also being investigated under various models. This will help Council leverage and provide additional services for no cost. - Council has been recently commended by the Electric Vehicle Council due to our leadership in the EV education space. A community facing EV charging information sheet was included in the Local Government Resource Pack produced by the Electric Vehicle Council. <p><u>Clean Energy Event and renewables project update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The planned event to be held in Macquarie Park with major businesses has been postponed as currently businesses are facing uncertainty due to COVID restrictions with businesses (according to Mac Park source) looking to reduce financial commitments and employee attendance within the Park currently being extremely low. - A decision regarding the event will be reviewed next year when momentum returns in post recovery. - Excellent speakers have been lined up for the event. 	

Details

Action

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (PP): It was noted that Connect Mac Park had recently held a great event online and it was suggested that the clean energy event could be held in a similar format. <p><u>Solar my Schools program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (KH) A 37.5k watt system has been installed at Ryde Public School - The school was successful in receiving funding for the installation through the NSW Community Building Partnership Grant, the philanthropic PurryBurry Trust and the NSW Department of Education. - COVID meant that other schools who had received a Solar Feasibility report through the program did not proceed due to a shift in funding allocation and priorities - The solar system installed at Ryde Public will be used as a tool to provide education on renewable energy to their students <p><u>Hydrogen - Mayor and Clr. Pedersen's visit to Hyundai</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (PP) Installation of a green hydrogen refueller has been achieved through funding from Arena funded with assistance from a gas company. - Green Hydrogen gas is made from renewable energy and will be used mainly for heavy vehicles. There are three types of hydrogen with the one provided by Hyundai the cleanest and best. - It is possible to hire an electric vehicle from Hyundai and try the system. - The firm, "car next door" also offers this service - (DU) It was noted that electric taxis are being trialled on the northern beaches. - 50 electric buses have come online through Transport for NSW servicing Sydney routes in the inner west, south west and North. <p><u>Solar Gardens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A previous presentation to this group by Enova Energy mentioned solar gardens. - A solar garden is a centrally located, grid connected solar PV energy system to supply energy to those who may not be able to host a solar system themselves or those living in multiunit dwellings. People can buy into a solar garden and receive a credit on their electricity bill for the solar power generated. - Enova also have a social-benefit model where people in low income housing receive the solar credits from a solar garden owned by others. It was suggested that businesses in Macquarie Park could be involved in such a project by using their roofs for social housing benefit e.g. Link Housing 	
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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is already possible to buy into such a scheme in Wagga - There are still some issues that have yet to be resolved before a larger scale rollout of solar gardens such as third-party approvals. Council will continue to watch this space. <p>Addressing Emissions:</p> <p><u>Net Zero Emissions Pathway for Ryde</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (KM) Council is exploring what a Net Zero emissions pathway looks like in relation to waste, fleet and electricity. - There is currently a Have Your Say Consultation open which closes on 9th December 2020. - It is intended to have the report to Council by mid 2021. <p><u>Sydney Metro Carbon Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kylie gave a presentation on the Sydney Metro Carbon Project – a carbon emission reporting platform developed by Resilient Sydney which can be used by the 33 Councils across metropolitan Sydney. It provides a standard evidence base for decision making while enabling collaboration, action and advocacy. - Other areas being looked at by Resilient Sydney include urban heat island mapping, covid recovery and affordable housing. <p><u>Renewable energy update CoR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council adopted a target of 100% renewable energy use for Council operations by 2030. We are currently sitting at 38% of that target. - Gas is one form of energy which Council is still reliant on through the cogeneration plant at the RALC. It is the largest user of gas but Council works to minimise use anywhere else and switch to electricity usage over this source. - It is also used in some of Council’s community halls although to a far lesser extent. <p>Other matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (PP) City of Ryde Mayor Jerome Laxale was a finalist in the Climate Ambassador category of the City Power Partnership awards. The winner of this award was Mayor Greenhill from Blue Mountains Council. - Cllr Pedersen mentioned that she would like to see something along the lines of a mini bioreactor which runs on dog poo, developed for use in locations such as Blenheim Park. - (PP) Nicholas and the Engineering students from Mac Park could potentially partner to come up with a mini bioreactor that would produce light from pet waste. 	

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Details

Action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nicholas advised he has seen this done with food waste. - (PP) Maybe a grant from Council in the form of a prize could be offered. - (NT) mentioned that he has a machine workshop society which can produce things that need to be manufactured such as possum boxes after the fires. - (PR) advised that in the United States there is push for new homes to be all electric and no longer connected to gas. She asked if this was the sort of thing that Council could lobby for via BASIX. - (KM) explained the limitations councils have to enforce such a standing however Council is working behind the scenes to lobby to improve BASIX standards. - Clr Pedersen spoke about the Hunter jobs alliance – a group of environment groups and unions that are looking to create new employment opportunities in the Hunter to replace jobs which will be lost with reduced coal production. <p>Some of the fields being investigated include an offshore wind project, lots of green and sustainable items possibly waste recycling etc.</p>	
6.	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 10th March 2021 – (Covid-19 restrictions to confirm if online/ face to face) Committee Room - Level 1A Pope St, Top Ryde</p>	Noted