

Board Communique: October 2022

The Energy Consumers Australia Board met via video conference on 20 October 2022

Grants Meeting

The Board met to consider a range of funding applications from advocacy and research institutions under the Energy Consumers Australia Grants Program. There has never been a more critical time for building the evidence base and supporting advocacy on behalf of households and small businesses, given the affordability and security challenges that were reported by the Energy Security Board in its recently released 2022 [Health of the National Electricity Market Report](#).

The Board was pleased to receive a high standard of applications for funding and notes the strong alignment of successful applications with Energy Consumers Australia's strategic priorities.

These include working towards a system that is more inclusive, and responsive to the diversity of all energy consumers and their needs, taking steps to make communities more resilient in the face of future disaster events, and working to make Australian homes more energy efficient, so that they are healthier, more sustainable and more affordable to live in.

The following projects have been approved for funding:

Sydney Community Forum Ltd (Voices for Power)

CALD Community Empowerment Training

\$50,000

This project builds on a previous Energy Consumers Australia grant to Sydney Alliance, to support an energy literacy training rollout to culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in Sydney. It provides a training module on current and new technologies to assist CALD and linguistically diverse communities to access programs and products in the energy transition. The project provides engagement, support and opportunities for leadership training for those participants who self-identify as interested in advocacy opportunities.

The University of Queensland

Evaluating the benefits of price incentives for electric vehicle charging: evidence from a field experiment with telematics data

\$132,773

This project explores the practices of residential electric vehicle users, examining charging behaviours through an analysis of direct field data, combined with consumer surveys to test the benefits of incentives. This work will create a high-quality evidence base identifying the potential for flexible tariffs for EV charging in Australia and the benefits to EV owners and other market participants. It has potential to help support the uptake of electric vehicles and effective integration of renewables into the NEM for the benefit of consumers via lower prices and more stable electricity supply.

University of Technology, Sydney, Institute for Sustainable Futures

(Em)powering communities on the journey to energy resilience

\$200,480

This collaborative project with Energy Consumers Australia examines how to build consumer inclusion into resilience planning and community preparedness for communities experiencing or at risk of climate disaster events. It builds on international research and is adapted for the Australian context and will create resources that allow communities to have a clear understanding of what energy resilience is, why it is important to plan for and how to assess risks and vulnerabilities.

Climateworks Centre

Renovation Pathways determines cost effective ways to future-proof Australian homes for more comfort, health, energy efficiency, zero carbon and resilience

\$250,000

This collaborative project with Energy Consumers Australia will advance our understanding of the potential pathways for future-proofing Australian homes to deliver comfort, health, energy efficiency and zero-carbon emission benefits. It aims to assist consumers to access a range of financial products from public finance institutions and banks to undertake future-proofing renovations, informed by a better understanding of priority and impactful renovation measures. It will also provide consumers with evidence-based information on renovation strategies for their homes, resulting in increased expectations and desire for future-proofing renovations.

More information about the Grants Program, application dates, how to apply and eligibility criteria can be found on the Energy Consumers Australia website.