



Solar Farm in Nillumbik



What is Council doing?

Nillumbik Shire Council is seeking market interest to develop a solar farm connecting to the national electricity distribution network.

Council is excited to see what proposals we might receive from the renewable energy development industry.



Where would the solar farm be located?

The former Plenty Landfill Site, at 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty, which is approximately 6.9 hectares in size next to Council's Operations Centre.



Why this site?

A feasibility study was commissioned by Council which identified the site as the most suitable location in the Shire for a solar farm due to the proximity to the electricity distribution network and the limited potential for alternative uses of the site.



What makes the solar farm exciting for the Nillumbik community?

The project is an innovative and productive use of the low value former landfill site for renewable energetic generation.

It has the potential to supply renewable energy to Council's facilities through the national electricity distribution network.



The solar farm will support Council's climate change actions and targets, including tangible support of the renewable energy economy.

Credit: Macrovector - www.freepik.com

Solar Farm overview

1. How much electricity will the solar farm produce?

This will depend on the proposals from the renewable energy industry we receive.

The solar farm could be capable of producing enough to power to meet Council's annual electricity requirements.

2. What does it mean for Council's Climate Plan?

A solar farm on a former landfill site is a great opportunity to contribute to Council's action against climate change. The solar farm aims to create enough renewable energy for Council to demonstrate that consumption of electricity during operations are carbon neutral.

3. How big would it be?

The feasibility studies indicate up to 5MW solar farm would fit on the 6.9ha site. This is roughly five to six times the size of Marngrook oval in Diamond Creek.

Council have not specified minimum or maximum size requirements. This is so the industry experts can determine what size is the most efficient. The solar farm developer will provide this information during a community engagement phase.

4. How does the solar farm produce electricity?

The solar panels generate direct current electricity which is converted into alternating current by the power inverters. The electricity is then supplied by a grid connection into the national electricity distribution network.

5. Is Council selling the land?

No. Council would retain ownership of the land and lease the site to the renewable energy generator. Council would purchase electricity from the site through a Power Purchase Agreement with the renewable energy generator.

6. How long will the solar farm take to develop?

At the moment Council is seeking proposals from the renewable energy market for Council to consider. Following a Council decision later in 2020, detailed design and planning process would commence, followed by construction sometime in 2022,



with generation of solar power commencing in mid 2023. Further details of the development program will be made available at a later date.

7. What about glare?

Solar farms are designed to absorb light and to reflect as little sunlight as possible.

The solar farm design will include sun glare modelling, landscaping, and visual amenity screening assessments to ensure that any perceived sun glare issues to road users and nearby residences are addressed.

8. What about noise?

Solar farms typically do not generate significant noise. The site is especially attractive as a former landfill site because a land buffer already exists.

9. What about visual impacts from the solar farm?

The design of the solar farm on top of the former landfill site will minimise any visual impact on nearby residences. It will be located within the boundaries of the site with setbacks and landscaping where necessary.

10. What opportunities are being considered for further community engagement?

Community engagement will occur as part of the development program and consideration of options for community investment opportunities in the solar farm.

Share your thoughts via Participate
participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/solarfarm
or email solar.farm@nillumbik.vic.gov.au