Virtual Energy Networks

What is a VEN?

A **Virtual Energy Network** lets you share excess energy from your solar panels with other households. This is a community sharing arrangement.

If your house in Flinders is a holiday house, and you live elsewhere, then you can share energy with yourself!

How does it work?

It's really very simple:

- You sign up to a particular energy retailer
- Your buyer also signs up to the same retailer
- On a web site you can select the people you want to share with and decide what price you want to offer.

If there is insufficient power available at any time then you purchase energy from the energy retailer, *EnergyLocals,* at their standard rates (see below).

What does it cost?

EnergyLocals charge a monthly fee of $21.49 to manage the system.

You would typically offer your energy between 0 c/kWh and 12 c/kWh.

Currently, *EnergyLocals* standard rates are:

- Daily supply charge: 68 c/day
- All consumption usage per day: 29 c/kWh
- Current retailer feed-in tariff rates per kWh: Off-Peak 1.5 c, Peak 12 c, Shoulder 2.8 c,

They also have green power options :)

What is cool about a VEN?

A VEN is a very community-centred, social endeavour. You can sell your energy to a participating local business and maybe get a warm fuzzy feeling when you buy a coffee thinking 'I powered that!".

If you own a holiday house in Flinders, you can 'give' your solar generated energy to your Melbourne house and be charged only the network costs! And even better, if you also install a battery in Flinders, you can power your Melbourne house in the evenings when you would normally be paying peak rates!

Why should I want a VEN?

A few simple reasons:

- You'll be supporting and sharing with your local community
- You'll get better value from your excess solar
- If you have a second residence you can power it with your Flinders solar
- Both by having solar and a battery with a VEN you are reducing the load on Flinders electricity network and reducing the carbon outputs of our town.

Why FZCC and VENs?

We are following a research project in conjunction with Deakin University exploring the value of VENs. So we want to encourage the uptake in Flinders. We believe that there are financial savings to be made and great benefits from getting our little community working together with a common goal of reducing our carbon output.

How do I find out more?

READ MORE

Flinders Zero Carbon Community is running a campaign to encourage solar and battery uptake. We'll run a special forum to explain these ideas. We are happy to assist you in joining the VEN, just let us know at: flinderszcc@gmail.com

The energy retailer running the VEN is *EnergyLocals*. Info about their scheme is here: https://energylocals.com.au/enosi/

The Deakin Research project has the snappy title '*The Benefits of Hyper-utilisation of Consumer Energy Resources (CERs) through a Virtual Energy Network (VEN)*' and you can read about it here: https://www.deakin.edu.au/faculty-of-business-and-law/research/virtual-energy-network

You can download their very nice two-page flier about the project here: https://www.deakin.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/2920204/virtual-energy-network-research-study-brochure.pdf

FLINDERS ZERO CARBON COMMUNITY

flinderszero.org.au