



## ZeroSE is leading South East NSW to a green economy

South East New South Wales has developed an economic blueprint to grow secure jobs and big power and fuel savings with a local plan that is already proving successful.

The group behind this major initiative is ZeroSE, a citizen's alliance dedicated to reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon drawdown in all sectors of the economy to reach net zero in south east NSW. Using evidence-based research to show how to reach our emissions targets, the aim is to create local jobs and a healthy environment for the future. As in other regions, it's a response to the policy vacuum in Australia: act now to decarbonise the economy in a way that brings big benefits to the community.

Projects include the \$5M [Shoalhaven Solar Farm](#) in Nowra which features 40 local construction jobs, generating 6000 MWh pa and the bulk of the renewable power will go to local customers – a FIRST in Australia! The Shoalhaven community has already received a big dividend from the project with Council receiving an upfront payment of \$210,000 for a long term lease.

ZeroSE spokesman, John Clark, said that by implementing the blueprint for 'Electrifying Everything' and retrofitting homes, as many as 560 secure jobs could be created. By 2030, local investment could reach \$655 million plus a 50% reduction in electricity and household emissions of 1,480,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e.

The benefits, opportunities and how to achieve them have been prepared for each major sector including agriculture, forest protection, wetland ecosystem rejuvenation, farmland tree planting and soil carbon retention, electricity, transport and solar installation for all buildings. Find detailed information at [www.zerose.space](http://www.zerose.space).

Some of the green-shoot projects attracting attention include:

- a [battery storage facility in Kiama Downs](#) that will be built and run by Endeavour Energy
- the [Department of Defence is building a solar farm on the Beecroft Peninsula](#) at Jervis Bay
- The partnership between Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA), the Australian National University and Essential Energy in a \$3.1m Federal Government funded [feasibility study into setting up Microgrids across the Eurobodalla](#)
- a [Biogas project](#) to power dairy farms in Shoalhaven that recently received another \$3 million worth of federal funding
- An [Upper Snowy Landcare Network](#) to plant trees on farms across the Snowy Monaro to restore land, biodiversity and draw down carbon

ZeroSE's members include SHASA, Climate Action Monaro, Repower Shoalhaven, 350 Eurobodalla, Coastwatchers and CANSign with links to other groups such as Renew Illawarra and Upper Snowy Landcare Network.

The work of ZeroSE builds on existing major partnerships with business organisations, service providers, Councils, Universities, power/energy companies and other community groups which have developed joint projects and advocate for policy change. For instance, in the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla, Repower and SHASA are already working with power retailers Mondo, Flow Power and local solar installers to boost solar uptake and energy efficiency in the commercial and industrial sector.

These initiatives demonstrate the appetite for change and for the government - at all levels - to get more involved.

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