

Community Batteries and Storage

Almost everything you wanted to know, and were too afraid to ask...



Energy Transition Group

Community batteries are just over the horizon

Community batteries will save excess solar and support the grid

Wouldn't it be good to sign up to a community battery that stores your excess and releases it back later saving you money and supporting the grid? Victorian trials are underway and the Victorian Government has a new [Neighbourhood Battery funding program](#). Community batteries will be a real option very soon.



Many of us would rather forgo the initial \$5-10,000 investment and associated installation required for behind-the-meter storage in favour of a simpler approach that offers a more efficient use of battery technology where power is shared at a local community level as well as providing solutions that will allow more customers to feed into the grid.

Community batteries, along with household and grid scale storage, will assist us in transitioning our energy system further towards 100% clean energy, supporting the extra demand needed for the upcoming rollout of electric vehicles and efficient and safe all-electric appliance homes.

Yarra Energy Foundation has partnered with Citipower/United Energy in their [YESS solar sponge battery project](#), working towards implementation through the Victorian Governments Neighbourhood Battery initiative.

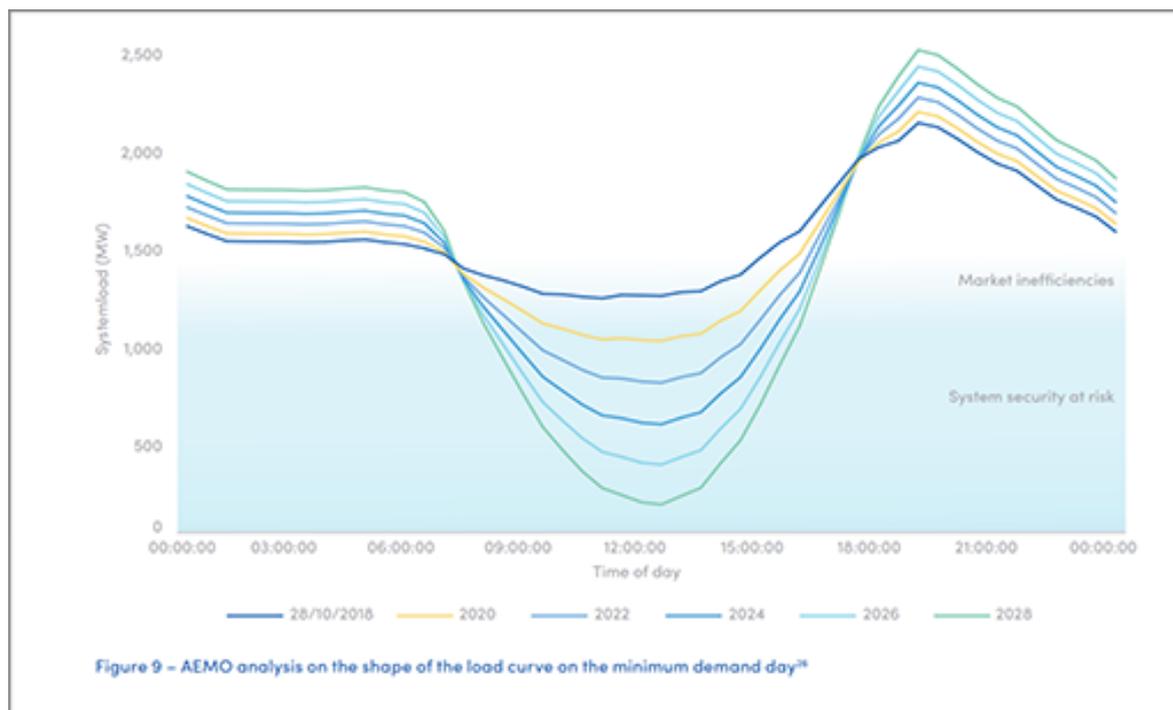
Community battery advantages

Community batteries will allow more customers more opportunity to export more solar more often. They will help the local grid meet network peaks, manage local voltage network issues and allow sharing of neighbourhood energy.

Household won't need to worry about the upfront cost, installation, maintenance issues, or the keeping the battery at full capacity over its lifetime.

Where would you place a battery and why?

A good spot for an initial placement of a solar battery is where a few household have solar on their roofs, and where there are 'network constraints' - in other words the households have difficulty in exporting all of the available solar from their roofs to the grid, and there is difficulty in meeting peak demand.



Another factor is when there is a lot of demand ramping up at the evening peak. This is known as the 'duck curve' - demand jumps as people return from work, just when the sun goes down and solar exports reduce. Community batteries can soak up excess solar from neighbourhood roofs, and release it back into the grid just when it is needed most.

Further information

Westernpower (WA) quick videos

- Announcing 9 Powerbanks for 2021 – [quick facts video](#)
- Port Kennedy community battery [quick video](#)
- Perenjori Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) [video](#)

Yarra Energy Foundation & Citipower/United Energy Collaboration

- [Yarra Energy Foundation post](#) on new collaboration (YESS)
- Comprehensive [Webinar on YESS Project](#)
- YEF webinar [slideset](#)

Victorian Government Neighbourhood Battery Initiative (NBI)

- NBI [Consultation Paper](#)
- [One Step off the Grid explainer](#)

Lighter Footprints Community Battery Initiative

- [Community Battery page](#) - you can sign up for quarterly updates
- Community battery [explainer](#)
- Energy Transition Group [page](#)