

## Benefits of Renewable Energy for Individuals and Communities

There are many benefits of utilising renewable energy sources in place of traditional unsustainable energy provided on the energy grid. The environmental benefits of utilising renewable energy, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, are relatively widely known. It's the wider economic and social benefits that people may not be aware of. For example, the use of a photovoltaic solar system not only greatly eliminates the need to consume energy from the energy grid but it is also possible, where an oversupply of energy is produced, to sell the excess energy back to the energy grid and therefore reducing the consumption of unsustainable energy by others. Due to the decreased need to buy energy of the energy grid, the cost of installing renewable energy is usually offset very quickly by the savings being made. Where it is not possible to utilise renewable energy in your home, like for people in the rental market, benefits of renewable energy can still be found in a community based renewable energy project. With the dedication and support of a small group of volunteers, communities can experience many of the economic, environmental, social, political and technological benefits of running a community-based renewable energy project. One of the best benefits of introducing and encouraging the use of renewable energy through a community based project is that the project is owned, run and tailored to each community and their needs. This increases the community's feelings of ownership over the project and the decisions being made within their community and in turn, this supports and encourages community participation. Renewable energy is a great choice for both individual households and communities. If you would like to contribute to the sustainability of energy in your community, contact your local council to find out what renewable energy projects are running within your community.

### References

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- Department of Finance,
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- Love to Know, [http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Advantages\\_of\\_Renewable\\_Energy](http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Advantages_of_Renewable_Energy)
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