

The Benefits of Renewable Energy

The leaders of some of the largest economies have urged Prime Minister Tony Abbott to take a stance on reducing carbon emissions. However, Australia continues to display a lack of commitment towards tackling major environmental issues such as global climate change (Lewis 2014). Despite the reluctance to shift towards more sustainable ways of living, renewable energy presents a significant potential to benefit the community on both a local and global scale. As well as its value for the natural environment, renewable energy has been linked with improved public health. This is because air and water pollution is significantly reduced, and accordingly, there is a positive economic impact associated with the overall well-being of individuals within the community (Rizk 2013). Long-term economic benefits such as gradual cost reductions are also anticipated, along with greater opportunities to meet carbon cap and trade systems (Clean Energy Council 2012). Solar, wind, wave, and tidal energy are just some of Australia's abundant sources of renewable energy (Effendi & Courvisanos 2012). It's time to make use of such great potential in order to contribute to a clean environment, stable economy and better general health and well-being.

References

- Clean Energy Council 2012, Benefit of Renewable Energy Target to Australia's Energy Markets and Economy, viewed 4 July 2015, <https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/dam/cec/policy-and-advocacy/reports/2012/Benefit-of-the-Renewable-Energy-Target-to-Australias-Energy-Markets-and-Economy/Benefit%20of%20the%20Renewable%20Energy%20Target%20to%20Australia%26%23039%3Bs%20Energy%20Markets%20and%20Economy-1.pdf>
- Effendi, P & Courvisanos, J 2012, 'Political aspects of innovation: Examining renewable energy in Australia', *Renewable Energy*, vol. 38, no. 1, pp. 245-252.
- Lewis, R 2014, 'Shorten: Barack Obama shirt fronted Tony Abbott on climate',
- The Australian, Machol, R, 2 July 2013, 'Economic value of U.S. fossil fuel electricity health impacts', *Environment International*, vol. 52, pp. 75-80.

Farema Yazdi, RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia