

EARTH HOUR – STORIES FROM THE PAST 10 YEARS

1. Earth Hour is an Aussie movement that has grown into the world's biggest movement for climate change, which is now celebrated in 172 countries and 7000 cities around the world. We have seen a huge amount of positive change in the decade since Earth Hour started.



2. In 2006, there were just 900 Aussie rooftops generating solar power, now there are 2 million (Note: CER figures are 1.5 million). 1 in 7 Aussie households (16.5%) have solar panels installed on their rooftops. Australia has one of the world's highest proportions of households with PV systems on their roof (<10 kilowatts).

- The cost of solar PV has come down rapidly in recent years and battery storage technology is presenting an option which will allow us to run homes, businesses and transport 24 hours a day.
- With total capacity of 5.0 gigawatts, Australia is in the top 10 countries in the world for installed solar capacity, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

3. In the Southern Hemisphere, Australia is home to the largest wind farm (Macarthur, VIC at 420 MW), as well as the biggest solar electricity plant (Broken Hill 53 MW/Nyngan 102 MW in NSW). This solar power station will provide electricity to the entire city and power 17,000 homes.

4. The world came together to bridge our differences in the landmark Paris agreement in 2015 for climate change. Australia ratified the Paris Agreement on 10 Nov 2016, to show our commitment to the world that we want to change climate change. The agreement includes a review of emission reduction targets every 5 years from 2020. Australia played a constructive role in developing the Paris Agreement, which commits the world to limiting global warming to below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

5. Australia's cities and communities are turning away from coal. A number of community groups, organisations, and social enterprises are engaged in exciting work such as community-owned renewable energy projects, including indigenous communities, so as to make renewable energy accessible to all (e.g. Community Power Agency, Moreland Energy Foundation, AllGrid Energy).

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6. In 2015 there were 76 wind farms in Australia, with about 4187 megawatts of capacity, now accounting for one-third of renewable energy generation in Australia. In 2007-8, Australia's installed wind capacity was 1300 megawatts (Australian Renewable Energy Agency). This represents a 322% increase over the last ten years.



7. The Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) are part of Australia's Youth Climate Movement that have changed the way that Australia thinks about climate change. They have represented Australia at the United Nations Conferences on Climate Change to advocate on behalf of young people.

8. Climate change rallies across Sydney and Melbourne in 2015 had record-high numbers of people attending - 40,000 in Sydney and another 40,000 in Melbourne. Australians from every walk of life joined the movement to demand that world leaders meeting in Paris need to ensure a better, safer and brighter future for the world's communities. The result was the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015.