

Title	Melbournians given unique opportunities to learn to live a low carbon life – July events
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This July, Melbournians have **two key opportunities** to learn and get involved with taking direct climate change action by living a low carbon life.

The initial opportunity is the first in a series of free workshops, scheduled for the first Thursday of each month as part of the [CRC for Low Carbon Living's \(CRCLCL\) Livewell Yarra Project](#) launched in March. The first is on **2 July at 7-9pm, the Mark St Hall, 1 Mark St North Fitzroy** entitled ***Reducing Your Home Energy Use*** and will be presented by Positive Charge – a social enterprise run by [Moreland Energy Foundation](#). This will suit people with different budgets, home owners and renters.

The second opportunity is a free event at the same venue on **Thursday, 9 July at 6.30-7.45 pm** where [Professor Peter Newman AO](#) will present ***Sustainable Cities – the Good News!*** Professor Newman is renowned for his sustainability work, is a project leader for the CRCLCL, which funds the Livewell Yarra Project, and was first Director of Curtin University's Sustainability Policy Institute. He has authored 17 books on sustainability, been a board member of Infrastructure Australia, a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and is considered the key person responsible for reviving Perth's rail system.

Livewell Yarra project leader and initiator, Dr Robert Salter of Curtin University and the CRCLCL, said Professor Newman was not to be missed as he will talk about developments in Australia and round the world that are leading to real carbon reductions.

"Professor Newman will talk of the shift from cars to 21st century public transport systems; cycling and walking; urban sprawl to more compact, biophilic cities planned for people; and from polluting fossil fuels to clean renewables," he said.

"There are many ways to live a low carbon life, such as draft-proofing your house, switching to energy-efficient lights or starting a food garden. You can walk, cycle or take public transport to work, install solar panels, switch to green power or share tools with your neighbour. There are many options, and they won't reduce your quality of life," Dr Salter said.

"We are keen to have more people involved in the Livewell Yarra Project so all Melburnians are encouraged to come along."

The 'Livewell Yarra' project is also supported by [Yarra City Council](#) and the [Yarra Energy Foundation](#).

To get involved contact Rob Salter at rob@livewell.net.au or his Project Researcher, Darren Sharp on darren@livewell.net.au

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About the CRC for Low Carbon Living Ltd

The CRC for Low Carbon Living (CRCLCL) is a national research and innovation hub that supports Australian industry to be globally competitive in the low carbon built environment sector.

It brings together property, planning, engineering and policy organisations with leading Australian researchers. CRCLCL develops new social, technological and policy tools for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment.

A key aim of the CRCLCL is to help cut Australia's residential and commercial carbon emissions by 10 mega tonnes by 2020, which is the environmental equivalent of taking 2.3 million cars off the road. This will be achieved through developing low carbon building construction materials and increasing the evidence base for government policy and planning, among other measures. Australia has set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050 compared with 2000 levels.

When the 2020 carbon reduction targets are met, the CRCLCL will have delivered a direct benefit of \$250 million per year to the economy, while reducing risk to the \$150 billion per year construction industry as it adjusts to a carbon-constrained economy.

Ultimately the CRCLCL will help unlock barriers to cost-effective carbon reduction opportunities, empower communities and facilitate the widespread adoption of integrated renewable energy. This will enable the sector to transition and contribute to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions targets while maintaining industry competitiveness and improving quality of life.

It is supported by the Cooperative Research Centres program, an Australian Government initiative.