

Newsflow

YOUR WATER AND WASTEWATER UPDATE



Cutting greenhouse gas emissions

We have a target to reduce East Gippsland Water's net greenhouse gas emissions by 44 per cent by 1 July 2025 - which would take our annual emissions down to a maximum of 4,650 tonnes of CO₂-e equivalent (t CO₂-e).

Even more significant, we have a commitment to achieve zero net emissions by 2035.

The following projects form part of our 2022/23 mid-year progress report.



Sunsational!

We are finalising the installation of a 99kW solar system at our Paynesville Water Recycling Plant - which we expect will reduce our overall emissions by 130 tonnes of CO₂-e equivalents per year. The solar array will be used to run the facility's aerators and pumps with the excess electricity generated being fed back into the grid.

The new solar array is in addition to the 266kW of solar systems across 19 sites we have installed in recent years to assist us in achieving our zero emissions target by 2035.

Additionally, East Gippsland Water is in an energy partnership with 12 other Victorian water corporations to collectively purchase solar power from the Kiamal Solar Farm in northwest Victoria - under an umbrella organisation called Zero Emissions Water (ZEW).

This initiative went live in January 2021 and continues to be significant in our drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain affordable water bills for customers - by enabling us to purchase solar power at a cheaper rate.



Operating efficiently

We are currently implementing upgrades to our Bairnsdale Water Recycling Plant, including replacing our combined heat and power unit.

Our well-known white 'bubble' stores biogas, a by-product of the wastewater treatment process, which will be used by the new combined heat and power unit to generate energy to power the plant. The new heat and power unit is estimated to produce 500 megawatt hours of electricity a year - considerably reducing our reliance on grid-based energy.

Additionally, we have maintained our focus on a major ongoing program to reduce stormwater and groundwater infiltration into the sewer network. Caused by leaks and illegal stormwater pipe connections, this places unnecessary pressure on the operation of sewer pump stations and treatment plants - increasing electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Planning is underway to modify existing sewers in several sewerage systems in East Gippsland to reduce infiltration.

Talking Water

Tune into our monthly podcast broadcasts on REG FM (90.7 and 105.5FM) as well as on our website.



Need help with your household finances?

Anglicare Victoria visits our East Gippsland Water office at 133 Macleod St, Bairnsdale on the first Monday of each month to offer a free financial counselling service.

Drop in between 9am and 12pm for a confidential chat about how to manage your household expenses. You are welcome to bring any household bills with you, including (but not limited to) your East Gippsland Water account.

If you need more information, give us a call on 1800 671 841.

Public forum on our Price Submission

Each five years we submit our plan for the prices you will be charged, the level of service you can expect and the investments we will make in our next regulatory period. This plan is submitted to the water industry's independent regulator, the Essential Services Commission (ESC), who review and approve it. The ESC has released its draft determination on our price submission. Consultation on the draft decision is now open via Engage Victoria (engage.vic.gov.au), closing on 9 May 2023. The ESC will also hold an online public forum at 12pm on 1 May 2023 for stakeholders to find out more about their draft decision on our prices to apply from 1 July 2023. If you're interested in attending, please register via the Engage Victoria website.