



Mycelia Energy Collective

Impact Report

A Catalyst for Community

Energy as a Vehicle for Change

*Just as mycelia weave
unseen beneath the forest
floor, so too do
communities quietly
generate energy — not
only electricity, but
belonging, resilience,
and shared purpose.*

MEC connects climate, care and community — unlocking renewable energy as a vehicle for equity, wellbeing, and resilience.

In 2023, Mycelia Renewables initiated the Mycelia Energy Collective (MEC) — a bold experiment in reclaiming energy as a commons. From kitchen table conversations to coordinated action, 175 members — households, small businesses, and community centres — joined forces to pilot a new model of locally owned, regenerative energy.

This was more than a project. It was proof of possibility.

The question we posed:

What if energy could be used to remove inequalities, not reinforce them?

Through the pilot, we:

Delivered **20** energy assessments and **13** retrofits for households experiencing vulnerability.

Facilitated **solar and battery installs** for SMEs and a household all facing barriers to participation, through innovative financing models.

Raised **\$6,500** in **member donations** for our Community Benefit Sharing Fund.

Hosted **5** energy literacy workshops, increasing confidence and participation across the region.

Delivered **custom renewable energy solutions** for **175** members (147 households, 24 businesses, 4 community organisations).

What We've Built

Individual Level

Changing Everyday Lives

- 89% of participating households reported improved comfort, control, and reduced energy anxiety.
- Low-income households shared they could redirect savings to essentials — food, medications, kids' expenses.
- Participants voiced increased agency and belonging:



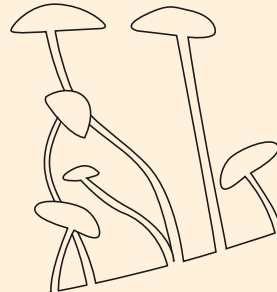
“MEC didn’t just reduce our bills — it made us feel like someone gave a damn.”

— MEC Energy Efficiency Program Participant

Community Level

Building Collective Wealth & Resilience

- Created a self-sustaining community energy model designed to circulate savings locally, rather than extract them.
- Co-designed solutions with place-based partners — including Venus Bay Community Centre and Taungurung Land and Waters Council.
- During climate-induced outages, solar-battery installs enabled continuity in critical community hubs.
- Enabled equity-based pricing, subsidised services, and co-owned governance models.



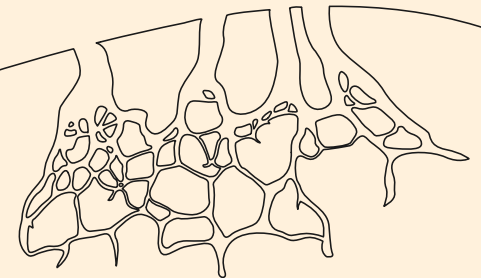
“With the guidance, generosity and expertise of Mycelia, our small community was able to imagine our energy future — and make it real.”

— Alyson Skinner, GM Venus Bay Community Centre

System Level

Transforming the Energy Landscape

- Our model revolutionises energy access, putting generation and value back into community hands.
- We tested and validated new finance pathways (e.g. PPAs, benefit sharing) with a roadmap to scale via concessional capital and strategic partnerships, e.g. leases, loans, and benefit-sharing.
- Developed partnerships with trusted technical and ethical energy providers, including Earthworker Co-operatives, Sunscape Solar, and other local businesses.



“The MEC pilot showed how the transition can include — and be led by — regional communities and First Nations partners.”

— Bridge Funding Brief, 2024

Our Approach

Deep Roots and New Mycelia Networks

We've seeded a powerful network of relationships, systems, and trust.

*This isn't about scaling tech
— it's about scaling trust.*

What enabled our success:

- Place-based governance, rooted in community values and local knowledge.
- Strategic alignment with local government, philanthropic funders, and emerging impact investors.
- Deep partnerships: e.g. Earthworker Co-op (retrofits), The People's Grid (retail trial).

Lessons Learned:

1.

Energy sharing, along with reciprocity and regeneration, are key principles for achieving 100% localised renewable energy and keeping prices low.

2.

Partnering with community centres and local organisations connects more people experiencing vulnerability with the benefits that MEC offers.

3.

Community-centred Benefit-sharing Funds can **match grants** to support inclusive energy efficiency assessments and upgrades.

4.

Commercial partners are valuable mutual referral partners, who together with MEC offer trusted sources of information and service.

5.

Strong partnerships are rooted in **shared purpose**, not transactions.

6.

Trust-building is essential infrastructure for long-term success.

7.

Simple, transparent models work best — especially when supported with care and resourcing.

The Invitation

Partner With Us for the Next 3-5 Years

We are seeking **industry and community sector partners and blended finance support** to grow and sustain impact with our First Nations and rural community partners. We are seeking long-term partners to walk with us as we strengthen and scale our model and work with our partners to adapt it to their contexts.

We're building something deeper than infrastructure. We're cultivating the conditions for communities to thrive — together.

First Nations and rural communities want reliable, long-term partnerships.

Throughout our journey we will capture impact data to evidence the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits through a community wealth-building lens. Building this evidence base will fill a critical gap in benefit-sharing and economic models - giving communities and their partners the feedback they need to stay engaged and grow momentum to shift the system at large.

- **Funding** the core team and community coordination infrastructure
- **De-risking** the transition toward self-sustaining income streams
- **Supporting** co-design with First Nations and rural communities
- **Maintaining** momentum while we secure and deploy catalytic investment finance to scale our impact and build community wealth.

We have validated our model and have been reviewed by impact and energy experts.

We are seeking **blended funding support**, combining grants and catalytic loans, to ensure we can build upon the momentum of the pilot to grow the Collective and scale the model.

Our **regenerative growth plan**, developed with **Horizon Business Plans, Regen Labs** and **Thompsonillai**, includes:

Over the Next 3-5 Years:

Reach **2,500+** members across **VIC and SE Australia** through community-led energy transition hubs.

Build **\$250k** **community energy fund** to underwrite energy equity for those most in need.

Deliver **solar + battery installs** for SMEs, renters, and **low-income homes** via trusted finance pathways.

Continue supporting **First Nations adaptation of the MEC model**.

Demonstrate the **replicability of the MEC** for other regions seeking to localise energy and reinvest in community