



THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



NEXT MEETING: 26th March @ TAYLOR RANGE CLUB – FACILITATED STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY – WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN THE GAP

As mentioned in our first newsletter, our focus this year will be divided between facilitated meetings, moving projects along and bimonthly seminars. The next event will therefore be a half-day strategic planning day on the **26th of March, 8.30am-12.15pm**, at Taylor Range Club. We have secured an expert facilitator guiding us through the day.

AGENDA:

8:30-8:45am	Welcome and overview to the day, introduction of the expert facilitator
8:45 -9:00am	Clarify the objectives of the day
9:00-10:00am	Our individual areas of interest / priorities
10:00-10:15pm	Coffee Break
10:15-10:45	Insights into community Energy Solutions, Carbon Challenges and other potential community projects
10:45-11:30	Shared priorities & values
11:30-11:45	Funding opportunities
11:45-12:15	Next Steps and Close

All are welcome to attend especially if representing one of the many groups interested in sustainability in and around The Gap. Please RSVP to thegapsustainability@gmail.com

Reflection on our February event:

On **Tuesday the 22nd February, we held our first community seminar for the year. Dr Mary Debrett from Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions (BREAZE)**, explained to us the history and three main pillars of BREAZE’s focus: 1) Social Solar and Community energy; 2) Advocacy; and 3) Education. Established in 2006, BREAZE has achieved the installation of many solar systems, mostly on public housing buildings or community venues or community retirement villages. These were mostly funded through Victorian government grants and community programs. Feasibility studies were key to BREAZE’s success as this enabled the organisation to have “shovel ready” projects available when the government was ready to invest. Advocacy activities are always bipartisan and include letters to parliamentarian, events, walks for climate, newspaper articles, and similar. Education events are funded by the local council and inform the community about a variety of topics from biodiversity to home gardening. Interestingly BREAZE is part of an alliance of organisations which have come together to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. The local Council is a member of this alliance and strongly supports the Alliance’s activities. We thank Dr Debrett very much for taking the time to talk to us, and we thank The Gap State School for us to use the resource centre which worked really well for the event.

Membership: Thank you to all our friends who have already expressed interest in the membership. You can now apply for membership by emailing your name, DOB, and address to thegapsustainability@gmail.com. The membership fee will be \$5 per annum to cover costs such as insurance, website hosting fee, room hire and facilitated meetings. Please use our Bank account Name: **The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186.**

Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website www.thegapsustainability.org . We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

We hope you can join us for our strategic meeting on the 26th March.

Yours sincerely The Gap Sustainability Initiative team

