



POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:		Energy Innovation Lead			
POSITION NO:		494968	CLASSIFICATION:		Band 7
DIVISION:		City Sustainability and Strategy			
BRANCH:		Sustainability Unit			
REPORTS TO:		Sustainable Energy Coordinator			
POLICE CHECK REQUIRED:	Yes	WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK REQUIRED:	Yes	PRE-EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL REQUIRED:	No

Yarra City Council is committed to being a [child safe organisation](#) and supports flexible and accessible working arrangements for all.

This includes people with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse people, young people, older people, women, and people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer.

We draw pride and strength from our diversity, remain open to new approaches and actively foster an inclusive workplace that celebrates the contribution made by all our people.

POSITION OBJECTIVES

The Energy Innovation Lead position objective is to ensure the organisation and the community are at the forefront of integrated knowledge, capability and innovation to transition Yarra to a 100% renewable energy system. This role will action Council's commitment to urgent action on the climate emergency, towards a zero net emissions municipality.

The key objectives of the role are to:

Lead the municipal-level strategic and technical oversight, research, and development of key activities which will accelerate renewable energy uptake and drive down greenhouse emissions towards a 100% renewable municipality. These include neighbourhood batteries, community solar, virtual power plants, peer-to-peer energy trading and other 'smart grid' initiatives

Develop and deliver innovative energy projects to ensure Yarra Council is at the forefront of energy innovation in our community and within our own operations.

Lead organisational-level strategic oversight, technical support, expertise, and organisational engagement for optimising Council's existing buildings and plant, to increase use of renewable energy, reduce energy use, and eliminate use of fossil fuels.

Provide high-level organisational technical support for new Council constructions, redevelopments and maintenance works to achieve best practice zero-carbon solutions and being appropriate for future climate and energy scenarios.

Develop and maintain strong working relationships and networks with key stakeholders to ensure Yarra is at the forefront of knowledge and opportunities to increase successful deployment of innovative energy initiatives.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Yarra City Council is committed to efficiently and effectively servicing the community to the highest standards which includes protecting, enhancing and developing the City's physical and social environment. A major imperative of the Organisation is an emphasis on customer service and continuous improvement.

The Sustainability Unit has the responsibility to provide organisational and community-wide leadership, vision, strategy, plans and engagement to ensure urgent action on climate change in line with Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, our endorsed Climate Emergency Plan and net zero emissions by 2030 target.

The incumbent will be required to develop strong working relationships with a range of internal and external parties to support leadership in the deployment of energy innovation and optimisation initiatives.

In addition to fulfilling the role as Energy Innovation Lead, the incumbent is required to pursue Branch, Divisional and Organisational goals through effective teamwork within the Branch and with colleagues in the wider Organisation by assisting, supporting, liaising and developing sound working relationships with a range of internal and external parties.

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Position reports to: Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Internal Relationships: The incumbent liaises with all Council employees, including senior managers, and provides relevant professional, policy and technical advice, problem resolution and support.
Key relationships of this role will be with teams most closely impacting Council energy use such as Buildings and Asset Management, Fleet and Leisure Services.

External Relationships: The position is required to liaise and maintain professional relationships with Government departments, other Councils, service providers, key industry and business groups and professional bodies. Developing strong networks within our community including businesses, residents and other key bodies will be required to successfully deliver the community energy objectives of this role.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS AND DUTIES

Reducing Council's organisational greenhouse gas emissions

Lead the strategic oversight and optimisation strategies of Council's existing buildings, plant and equipment to increase use of renewable energy, reduce energy use, and eliminate use of fossil fuels. This includes monitoring and optimisation at an asset and plant level and identification and rectification strategies to address building and plant efficiency issues via various mechanisms including Council's Building Management Control System (BMCS).

Provide high-level technical support for new Council constructions, redevelopments and maintenance works, achieving best practice zero-carbon solutions and being appropriate for future climate and energy scenarios, including support for capital works project budgeting and delivery planning.

Lead, oversee, update and support others to implement Council's *Sustainable Buildings Design Policy*.

Provide technical and strategic oversight and advice to support the phase out of gas across Council-owned facilities.

Lead investigations, development and, where relevant, implementation, of innovative energy actions and optimisation relating to Council's operations.

Embed and strengthen organisational engagement in Council's climate action commitments by providing expert support to all relevant areas of Council to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

Reducing community emissions

Lead the strategic direction and technical analysis to research and develop key activities which will accelerate renewable energy uptake and drive down greenhouse emissions towards a 100% renewable municipality. These include neighbourhood batteries, community solar, virtual power plants, peer-to-peer energy trading and other evolving 'smart grid' initiatives.

Develop and deliver innovative projects to ensure Yarra Council is at the forefront of sustainable energy innovation through facilitating and managing deployment of strategic projects in our community and within our own operations.

Develop strong relationships with other councils, State and Federal Government, peak bodies and key community groups including residents, business and electrical network authorities, to ensure Yarra leads the way in collaborative and innovative local energy initiatives and opportunities.

Support other initiatives which drive down community greenhouse gas emissions.

Other

Undertake projects/assignments as required in the unit, including associated research, analysis and project management and report writing.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND EXTENT OF AUTHORITY

The position is accountable for ensuring Yarra is at the leading edge of energy innovation in this fast-changing energy landscape. The role is accountable to lead the strategic direction and oversight to reduce energy use and emissions of Council and the wider community, through improved utilisation and uptake of existing technologies and implementing innovative solutions in a 'future ready' context. The position is also accountable for the ongoing implementation and review of the

Sustainable Buildings Design Policy relating to Council buildings. The position has the authority to progress agreed directions and actions subject to the objectives, goals and budgetary constraints for the Branch as determined by Management

The Energy Innovation Lead is required to:

- lead analysis, creative thinking and investigation to proactively identify and develop opportunities to deploy innovative energy solutions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- produce high quality reports for Executive Management team and other stakeholders.
- build strong networks and productive relationships within Council and with other Councils and external organisations and peak bodies, to facilitate opportunities for innovative and collaborative sustainable energy solutions.
- Within agreed parameters, use expertise to investigate, lead and act to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations.,
- lead the ongoing management and implementation of the Sustainable Buildings Design Policy (Council buildings) and provide input into relevant policy development.
- work with and report to the Sustainable Energy Coordinator to ensure achievement of branch goals and objectives.

SAFETY AND RISK

Ensure actions recommended or implemented include consideration of safety and risk impacts.

Minimise risk to self and others and support safe work practices through adherence to legislative requirements and Council policies and procedures.

Take prompt action to control or isolate hazards that are identified.

Report any matters which may impact on the safety of Council employees, community members, or Council assets and equipment.

Yarra City Council is committed to prioritising and promoting child safety. We adhere to the Victorian Child Safe Standards as legislated in the Child, Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 and have robust policies and procedures in order to meet this commitment.

Sustainability

- Embrace the following Sustaining Yarra principles through day-to-day work:
 - Protecting the Future
 - Protecting the Environment
 - Economic Viability
 - Continuous Improvement
 - Social Equity
 - Cultural Vitality
 - Community Development
 - Integrated Approach

Yarra Values

- Behave according to the following values which underpin our efforts to build a service-based culture based on positive relationships with colleagues and the community:
 - Accountability
 - Respect
 - Courage

JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING

The officer will work under the general supervision of the Sustainable Energy Coordinator. Judgement, originality, creativity and technical aptitude is required in making decisions which can be complex in nature and which may relate to problems on issues which are new or not previously encountered. The nature of the work is specialised with methods, procedures and processes generally developed from theory or precedent.

The problem-solving process comes from the application of these established techniques to new situations and the need to recognise when these established techniques are not appropriate. Guidance is not always available within the organisation. Decisions and analysis will often require and benefit from engagement with multiple stakeholders, internal and external.

The position requires decision making based on understanding and knowledge of Council's goals and objectives as they relate to the function and how these interplay with other macro level developments and trends in the energy landscape.

To support policy formulation and implementation, a primary challenge will be intellectual and will typically require the identification and analysis of an unspecified range of options before a recommendation can be made.

KEY COMPETENCIES

Specialist skills and knowledge:

Specialist knowledge and experience in analysing issues, strategies and opportunities to optimise Council buildings with a key focus on transitioning away from off gas.

Demonstrated knowledge of issues and optimisation strategies relating to onsite energy systems including photovoltaic and energy storage systems and emerging technologies.

Capability to monitor and identify energy optimisation opportunities of plant through Council's Building Management Control Systems (BMCS) and other energy management software and data sources.

Demonstrated experience and or capability, in innovative local energy initiatives such as neighbourhood batteries, community solar, virtual power plants, peer-to-peer energy trading and the wider energy transition trends and issues.

High level of knowledge of projected local impacts from climate change and how this will impact our design and usage of assets.

Analytical and investigative skills are required to enable the formulation of policy options from within a broad organisation-wide framework.

Demonstrated understanding of occupational health and safety outcomes related to sustainable energy initiatives.

Well-developed PC software skills, including advanced level of Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook.

Management Skills:

Ability to develop and maintain strong oversight of assets at a portfolio level and develop, or support the development of, strategies and plans to transition these to zero-carbon operation.

Demonstrated project management skills, with the ability to manage own time and prioritise work towards a set timetable and budget, within an environment of change and despite conflicting demands and pressures.

Self driven and managed to identify new and innovative opportunities, solve problems and show initiative in resourcing, supporting and proactively responding to organisational energy and carbon emissions concerns.

Ability to work positively and closely and productively with key stakeholders.

High level written communication skills including formal report writing.

Interpersonal Skills:

High level oral communication and engagement skills. This includes the understanding of working, and communicating appropriately, with internal and external stakeholders with varying levels of technical knowledge and literacy.

Ability to work autonomously yet collaboratively, display initiative, and solve problems through collaboration, consultation and teamwork in a multidisciplinary team.

Ability to motivate employees and gain the co-operation and assistance from a range of stakeholders in developing and implementing sustainable energy and carbon reduction initiatives.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

A tertiary qualification, or relevant experience in technical energy and emissions optimisation and innovation practices and strategies, or a related field, plus several years of relevant experience..

Proven passion and aptitude to work with a diverse range of buildings, plant and stakeholders to achieve sustainable and innovative energy outcomes.

Deep understanding of the local government context and the opportunities to develop innovative local energy initiatives such as neighbourhood batteries, peer-to-peer energy trading, virtual power plants and other emerging 'smart grid' solutions and partnerships

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Demonstrated capability to lead and drive energy innovation and optimisation across Council's operations. This includes oversight of monitoring, identification of optimisation/innovation opportunities and onsite energy storage and generation systems relevant to Yarra City Council's local government context.
2. Demonstrated capability to lead strategic direction to progress innovative local energy initiatives such as (and not limited to) neighbourhood batteries, community solar, virtual power plants and peer to peer energy trading.
3. Demonstrated experience leading and undertaking complex individual *innovative-energy* investigatory tasks and implementing projects and using an evidence-based approach, writing strong justification reports to support implementation of best practice technology, processes or designs.
4. Proven ability to plan, prioritise and organise work to a set timetable and within an environment of change and conflicting demands.
5. Demonstrated skills in building relationships, collaboration and consultation, and the ability to communicate with networks and partnerships to develop partnership and funding opportunities and navigate effectively through technical and political complexities with multiple stakeholders to achieve the objectives of this position.