

# WINTON SOLAR FARM PROJECT UPDATE

FRV, a global renewable energy solutions provider and leading solar developer, is currently constructing the 85 MW AC Winton Solar Farm, near Benalla in Victoria.

## December 2020 – What is happening on site?



Site personnel conduct inspections of plant equipment, cabling and each of the solar farm’s 253,000 photovoltaic panels.



Media visit our site to mark the launch of Winton Solar Farm’s Partnership with Goulburn Ovens TAFE.



Safety testing and tagging of equipment in the substation



Timber pallets are collected for recycling.



*Aerial photo – Winton Solar Farm View from the North East.*

<p><b>Health and Safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Safety is a priority for all workers.</i></li> <li>• Onsite teams continue to monitor strategies to maintain workplace safety and reduce risk of serious injury. Over Summer, this has included a particular focus on heat stress, snake bites and bushfire prevention.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="454 1153 869 1467" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An 'Asset Protection Zone' has been established to provide protection from bushfires that may be a risk to our onsite staff and electrical equipment.</li> <li>• Grass and vegetation within this zone will be maintained throughout the solar farm's operations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Major activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major construction works are now complete.</li> <li>• 99% of solar photovoltaic panels have been installed, with remaining panels due to be installed later this month.</li> <li>• Commissioning works are now underway. Commissioning is vital to ensure the solar farm operates as intended.</li> <li>• As a first step, cold commissioning involves physical panel inspections, verification of cabling and measurement of panel module current and voltages.</li> <li>• Once cold commissioning satisfies all requirements, <i>hot</i> commissioning works take place. This requires a temporary connection to the electrical network – and energisation of the plant - to check how the plant and specific components within it perform when energised.</li> <li>• During commissioning, the site is also inspected by external authorities, such as Energy Safe Victoria, to ensure all works are safe and compliant.</li> <li>• Commissioning works will continue at site for the next few months.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Resource Recovery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste materials such as cardboard, wooden pallets, scrap metal and general waste are a by-product of constructing a large-scale solar farm. Fortunately, much of this material can be recycled.</li> <li>• Over the past two months, an estimated 85 tonnes of materials have been sent out for recycling - with a bulk of recycling managed by local specialists.</li> <li>• Timber pallets have been provided to <i>D&amp;R Henderson</i> and cable drums sent to <i>Wangaratta Recycling</i>. Specialist scrap metal - including torque tubes, piles, strapping, copper and aluminium has also gone to <i>Future Recycling</i> in Shepparton and <i>Thomo's</i> in Wangaratta.</li> <li>• A small number of damaged solar panels will also be recycled by EcoCycle in Derrimut.</li> <li>• This process conserves the valuable and finite resources used to manufacture solar panels and reduces the volume of waste sent to landfill.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="943 353 1385 656" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="967 678 1366 745"><i>Cable drums like these have been recycled locally in Wangaratta.</i></p>
<p><b>Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applications are still open for the Winton Solar Farm GO TAFE Apprenticeship Program.</b></li> <li>• Local businesses have until Friday 19 February to express their interest in one fully funded Electrical Apprentice joining their team.</li> <li>• Winton Solar Farm will cover tuition fees for up to three new Apprentices. GO TAFE will then provide each of the selected candidates with full Electrical Apprenticeship training and certification, with a focus on solar and renewable energy.</li> <li>• <b>To apply, please visit <a href="https://www.gotafe.vic.edu.au/courses/scholarships">https://www.gotafe.vic.edu.au/courses/scholarships</a></b></li> </ul> <div data-bbox="903 999 1385 1323" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><b>Employment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested in a career in renewable energy? Winton Solar Farm is hiring!</li> <li>• We are currently seeking local workers to fill two permanent positions - Electrician and Labourer - that will be a part of our new onsite Operations and Maintenance team.</li> <li>• Visit the links below to see our job advertisements on the North East Victorian Jobs Hub and to see if you're a match for these exciting job opportunities.  <a href="https://www.northeastvictorianjobs.com.au/job/24621/labourer-operations-maintenance-team">https://www.northeastvictorianjobs.com.au/job/24621/labourer-operations-maintenance-team</a>  <a href="https://www.northeastvictorianjobs.com.au/job/24620/electrician-operations-maintenance-team">https://www.northeastvictorianjobs.com.au/job/24620/electrician-operations-maintenance-team</a> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact us</b></p>	<p>We welcome your questions and feedback! To contact the Project team, please email <a href="mailto:infoaustralia@frv.com">infoaustralia@frv.com</a> or call 0418 142 173.</p> <p>Please also visit our website at <a href="http://www.wintonsolarfarm.com">www.wintonsolarfarm.com</a></p>