



EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



orbost solar bulk buy

ENERGY

In 2009, Margot Reeve organised a solar photovoltaic bulk buy for 60 homes in the Orbost community.

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'I wanted solar photovoltaics for my home, and wanted other people to do it too'

Why? Because of the probability of radical climate change - and wanting to do something about it; because of emissions from brown coal - and wanting to move towards renewable generation of energy; because it's a better way of doing things; because I see it as a transition from central to decentralized production of energy; and my desire to help create a resilient community.

How did I do it? Basically I researched what was available and decided what I wanted. I spread the idea by putting two articles in the local paper, waited for expressions of interest, collated a list of interested parties – then watched the installations happen.

Quality was important, as was the desire to go with an ethical and down to earth company who was able to handle the workload. I wanted our bulk buy to be good for the industry as well as good for us. Cost was also an important factor and we were able to get a good price for a quality system from an ethical company.

I was amazed by the response. 130 people expressed an interest and 60 people ended up going through. The bulk buy also evolved to include solar hot water as well.

I talked with intelligent, wonderful people in my community who I had no idea existed, I formed a connection with Harmonic Energy, and I felt that I achieved something meaningful.

It has changed my perception of the area and I feel more positive for the future. I would love to do something like this again and would recommend it to anyone considering it.

