



Sunshine Coast Solar Farm

Sunshine Coast Council is Australia's first mainland government at any level to offset its entire electricity consumption across all its facilities and operations from renewable energy generated at the 15MW Solar Farm.

The Solar Farm has been delivering savings and offsetting more than 109% of council's electricity use since it began generating power in July 2017.

From commissioning through to March 2020, the Solar Farm has generated more than 75,000 megawatt hours of energy and avoided a massive 60,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Council is successfully combating the impacts to its operational costs from rising electricity costs by taking a proactive approach to renewable energy.

Importantly, this initiative will strengthen the region's emerging clean energy hub, complement the 52,750 solar rooftops installed on the Sunshine Coast and attract other clean energy business investment.

Building on this work, council has moved into the detailed design stage of an education centre at the solar farm site to inspire and educate not only the local community, but the broader Australian community which has demonstrated interest in learning from our Sunshine Coast approach.

Our region works towards lessening our environmental footprint for our community and future generations by boosting productivity through infrastructure, sustainability and planning. Council is proud to deliver on its vision to be Australia's most sustainable region and in doing so creating awareness around renewable energy.

The solar farm has received multiple prestigious environmental and sustainability awards.

THE SMART PLACE FOR ENVIRONMENT INNOVATORS

1. **Cleantech Industries Sunshine Coast is Australia's only dedicated and active clean technologies business association and ecohub for supporting cleantech businesses.**
2. **One of Queensland's highest concentrations of clean businesses and home to the second highest concentration of residential rooftop solar panels in Australia.**
3. **Australia's first local government owned utility scale solar farm supports the growth and innovation of the region's clean industry.**

The future is here

As one of Australia's leading regions for **ideas**, **creativity** and **entrepreneurialism**, the Sunshine Coast provides an outstanding mix of **opportunities** for new investment and business expansion.

Why invest in the Sunshine Coast?

Population growth One of the largest local government areas in Australia with population expected to grow to 518,000 people by 2041 (QGSO, 2018; ABS, 2018).

Educated workforce A highly educated workforce supported by a quality education sector with award-winning universities.

Lower operating costs Affordable industrial land prices and almost 50% lower prices for commercial office space than Brisbane CBD, plus the lowest basic flat payroll tax rate in Australia.

Prime location Just over one hour by road, north of Brisbane with excellent access to national and international air and sea ports.

Export opportunities Sunshine Coast International Business Development program provides collaboration and market opportunities.

Fast data The Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network will be in service from 2020, providing the fastest data connection to Asia from Australia's east coast.



The future Maroochydore City Centre. Image is indicative only.

Sunshine Coast Council welcomes and supports the growth of local businesses and the establishment of new ones on the Sunshine Coast. Talk to a specialist to find out how we can help.

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