



GRANT RECIPIENT: ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA
GRANT TYPE: PROJECT PARTNERSHIP GRANT
FUNDING SECURED: \$14, 500
FUNDING ROUND: 2017-18

REPOWER NOOSA: INCREASING ROOF-TOP SOLAR INSTALLATION IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



Creating and supporting environmental behaviour change is no small feat, but with the help of a Noosa Council Economic Development Grant, local not for profit group Zero Emissions Noosa, is making headway in making it easier for local businesses to increase their roof-top solar use.

Also known as ZEN, the organisation was successfully awarded a Project Partnership Grant in June 2018 – a specific grant to support innovative one-off projects of merit that have a positive impact on the local business environment and will be completed in under 12 months.

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IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, ZEN (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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The grant funding was approved to help ZEN work towards supporting significantly increased business activity to solar installers that in turn will create flow-on effects such as training, talent attraction and investment attraction opportunities for the region - playing a part in creating the conditions required to develop an innovation ecosystem for renewable technologies in Noosa.

President of ZEN Vivien Griffin said the funding allowed the group to properly research the reasons why the take-up of roof-top solar was so low in the local business community.

“We thought we knew what the barriers were, but the research findings that were delivered to us were quite eye-opening and helped us to be really strategic in how we worked to encourage business owners to reap the benefits of solar,” Vivien said.

“The research conducted by local behaviour change specialists The Social Deck found that within the local trade and commercial industry, the take up of roof top solar was around 4 per cent, and the tourism sector only had a take up of around 2 per cent.

“From there we went out to different industrial sites and learned that the biggest barrier for them was that so many sheds or workshops are leased as opposed to owner operated.

“So that confirmed to us the need to encourage people to reap the benefits but also make the process easier.”

ZEN is now developing a Landlord Toolkit to make it easier for landlords to assess different options.

“We want to do the leg work for landlords and business owners because we know that while many are interested in roof top solar, they simply don’t have the time to make multiple phone calls and make comparisons on the best fit for their building,” Vivien Griffin said.

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"We are putting together fact sheets and a number of other resources so the local business sector can have quick access to budget considerations and installation costs, as well as a list of solar installers.

"We are also collating the stories around the successes in an effort to on-share those stories with the rest of the business community here in Noosa."

Viven said she would encourage any organisation with an idea to stimulate economic benefits in the region should consider applying for one of Noosa Council's Economic Development Grants.

"The requirements are reasonable, and the process isn't time consuming," Viven said.

"ZEN found the EcDev team to be incredibly helpful and always willing to engage with us and help us to answer any questions we had throughout the application process.

"It's a really good opportunity to gain additional funding to bring your ideas to life for the benefit of Noosa."

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