



Capability Statement

Stand Alone Power Systems (SAPS)

renew.

Capability Statement

Renew has been at the forefront of researching, designing, commissioning and operating stand alone power systems (SAPS) for 30 years.

Long viewed as niche energy supply systems, recent significant rises in electricity prices, projected rises in gas prices and the falling costs of both solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and to a lesser extent storage, has meant that SAPS are beginning to emerge as a viable energy alternative in some energy market contexts.

Indeed by 2020 and beyond, SAPS may be economically viable in many energy markets – both rural and urban. In 2013, Renew co-authored breakthrough research¹ which highlights the current and future financial viability of SAPS.

The research, jointly conducted with Energy for the People, places a timeframe on when it is likely to become cost-effective for Victorians to 'unplug' from the grid; or for local communities to buy back the grid, as happens across Europe.

The research found that isolated regional towns and new housing developments are likely to be excellent candidates to become self-sufficient precincts. It also points towards the need to ensure that stand alone power infrastructure is managed and installed in a way that does not risk leaving stranded network and generation assets.

Renew undertakes SAPS system design on behalf of Renew members, private sector clients and for government and energy industry trials.

Renew has also been involved with advocacy and policy analysis on the role of SAPS and their benefits for bushfire mitigation, network management and reliability.

With significant investment in electricity networks over the past five years, and in response to bushfire mitigation considerations by the Victorian Government, in 2011/12 Renew also undertook research² into the economics of SAPS as an alternative to network investment in fringe of grid areas.

Stand Alone Power Systems

Findings included network capex tipping points at which SAPS become more cost effective than network investment, potentially saving all electricity consumers significant expense through pass through costs.

Renew has a thorough understanding of the print and online publishing process and demonstrated ability to deliver quality products within set timeframes. We develop quality, independent content that is free from commercial interest.

¹ <http://www.renew.org.au/renew-research/towns-and-estates-could-unplug-from-the-grid-report>

² <http://www.renew.org.au/renew-research/the-economics-of-stand-alone-power-systems>

For more information contact:

Damien Moyse
Energy Projects & Policy Manager
Email: damien@renew.org.au
Ph. (03) 9631 5417

renew.

ABN 57 533 056 318
Reg No. A0017411T

-

L1, 39 Little Collins St.
Melbourne VIC 3000
61 (3) 9639 1500
renew.org.au