

# Smart Energy Schools Pilot project

Project update | March 2023

An additional 18 NSW public schools will receive solar and battery energy storage systems and join the Virtual Power Plant trial as part of the Smart Energy Schools Pilot project.

The tender process to select an appropriate installer for the new work will begin immediately, followed by scope and design work, installation, and commissioning.

A total of 79 schools are now part of the project which is testing the use of solar and battery energy storage systems, demand response controls in air conditioning and the operation of a schools based Virtual Power Plant (VPP). See a full list of participating schools on the [project webpage](#).

## Stage 1 installations complete

Solar and battery energy storage systems and air conditioning units with smart controls have now been installed at 25 schools taking part in the first stage of the project.

The systems have been operating since August 2022, generating more than 464 megawatt hours of solar energy over the remaining months of 2022. They have also helped to cut \$84,000 in electricity costs and reduced the carbon intensity of electricity consumption at the schools by an average 54% - approximately 385 Tonnes of CO2.

## Stage 2 schools and VPP update

Work has also been taking place on solar and battery installations at 29 schools as part of the second stage of the project. Systems have been installed at a number of schools including Lindfield Learning Village, Southern Cross Public School, Leichhardt campus of Sydney Secondary College, and Galston High School.

The installation and commissioning will continue at the remaining stage two schools over the coming months. VPP hardware installation and the selection of a VPP operator is now being completed, with the VPP due to begin by June this year.

## Additional Smart Energy Schools

Thirteen of the extra schools will receive solar and battery systems and five schools will only receive battery energy storage systems. All the schools will participate in the VPP. The schools were selected from the existing prioritised list based on energy consumption, cost, and suitability to participate in a VPP.

Extra Stage 2 Schools: Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems	
Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus	Mudgee High School
Gorokan High School	Murray High School
Inner Sydney High School	Oxley High School
Karabar High School	Peel High School
Lambton High School	Tomaree High School
Macintyre High School	Yanco Agricultural High School
Mosman High School	
Extra Stage 2 Schools: Battery Energy Storage Systems only	

Ballina High School	Hurstville Public School
Callaghan College Jesmond Campus	Cherrybrook Tech High School
Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus	

## Expression of Interest to operate renewable energy across NSW public schools

An Expression of Interest (EOI) calling for proposals to finance, deliver and operate renewable energy solutions across all NSW public schools is due to close on March 7, 2023.

The EOI was asking for proposals from suitably qualified businesses. It could include the installation of solar and battery systems on some or all schools, as well as other behind the meter energy solutions like management of electric vehicle charging and the operation of a VPP.

Proponents are being asked to submit non-binding proposals, which will then be shortlisted and considered for a final selection process, subject to a decision from the NSW Government.

More information about the project including case studies, fact sheets and a full list of participating schools can be found on the [project webpage](#).

