

Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone

Fact Sheet



A Sustainability Victoria led initiative, Smart Energy Zone demonstrate that by developing local energy opportunities, communities can dramatically and cost effectively reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, improve the resilience of the electricity network by reducing electricity demand during heatwaves and play an important role in meeting their own energy needs.

Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone Action Plan

The Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone Action Plan, adopted in August 2009, offers a sustainable energy road map that is applicable at all scales - sites, precincts, across precincts and whole of Doncaster Hill, in pursuit of three objectives:

- Reducing energy demand and greenhouse emissions
- Embracing local sustainable energy generation
- Innovation - establishing Doncaster Hill as a sustainability laboratory.

The Action Plan includes analysis of how different development sectors; residential, retail and commercial, can improve efficiencies in buildings and reduce occupant demand for energy.

Why Doncaster Hill?

Doncaster Hill has been chosen as a Smart Energy Zone because:

- Current forecasting predicts that more than 4,100 new dwellings will be built in Doncaster Hill by 2030
- It has a planning framework and policies in place
- It has opportunities for demonstration projects and innovation energy models
- It supports place making and has the ability to attract funding
- It links with public transport advocacy.

The vision for Doncaster Hill's Smart Energy Zone is to create an internationally recognised urban environment that embraces total sustainability in terms of energy, water, transport, built environment and landscape. Subsequently, people living and working in Doncaster Hill will have an improved quality of life.

Council's goal is to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated from the operation of buildings in Doncaster Hill, to foster growth of local energy generation and achieve zero net emissions by 2030.

Why a Smart Energy Zone approach?

Centralised energy infrastructures waste more than two-thirds of their energy. Local energy generation is one of the key principles of Smart Energy Zones and can include cogeneration, trigeneration solar hot water and electric panels.

The Doncaster Hill Civic Precinct is an example of a Smart Energy Zone at a small scale, as both the MC² community hub and the Council offices are supplied with heating, cooling and electricity through a trigeneration system.

In June 2009 Council was awarded \$500,000 grant funding from Sustainability Victoria and \$1.5 million from the Federal Government's Green Precincts initiative towards developing the Civic Precinct as a Smart Energy Zone. This project has now been successfully completed with the official opening of MC² in September 2012.

District Energy Services Study

In August 2011, Manningham Council and United Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding which has the following key objectives:
Significantly reduce greenhouse emissions
Increase the physical resilience of infrastructure
Reduce the environmental footprint of production and consumption.

Two feasibility studies are currently underway that expand on the Smart Energy Zone approach and have been funded through United Energy's Demand Management Incentive Scheme. The studies investigate the commercial viability of extending local energy generation, district cooling and heating grids and energy efficient building construction and operation across Doncaster Hill. Recommendations from the studies are expected to emerge in mid-2013. Find out more about the Doncaster Hill Smart Energy Zone at www.doncasterhill.com