

## COMMUNITY BATTERY SERVICES

As we transition to renewable energy, we're going to need energy storage in all its forms. This is because of the need to store renewable energy when it is abundant, like solar energy in the middle of the day, to be used when electricity demand is highest in the late afternoon and evening.

On our networks, neighbourhood or community batteries are important to ensure the smooth integration of renewables while also maintaining a reliable power supply for customers. These batteries may be owned and operated by our networks depending on our regulatory conditions. But more often, we are working with local governments, community organisations and other energy market participants to support the installation of community batteries on our networks.

There are two main roles we play to support the installation of energy storage on our networks:

1. **Project lead:** Under current regulatory conditions, distribution networks are only able to own and manage neighbourhood batteries where they offer a direct network benefit. That means, either alleviating current network constraints or improving network performance at a cost that is less than traditional investments in network upgrades. This solution is delivered under our Electric Avenue program.
2. **Delivery partner:** For community or third party owned batteries in areas where there are no direct network needs but which may still deliver community benefits, our role is to connect the battery to our network so that electricity can be safely imported and shared.

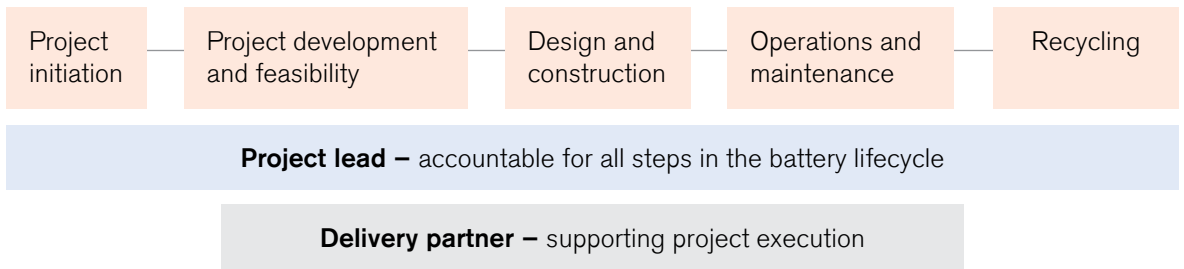
### Benefits of community batteries

- Share locally generated rooftop solar
- Store renewable energy distributed via our networks
- Contribute to carbon emissions reduction objectives
- Ensure reliable power at peak demand times
- Generate revenue when power is traded on the wholesale electricity market
- Support energy resilience when part of a microgrid.



---

## Our role in the battery lifecycle



## Electric Avenue – our model for neighbourhood batteries

Electric Avenue is our name for neighbourhood batteries owned and operated by our networks.

It signifies our approach to designing and delivering community batteries in a way which prioritises community engagement, site selection considerations, and network benefits.

When selecting sites, we consider technical considerations such as distribution substation capacity, solar hosting capacity, accessibility to network infrastructure and consumption trends.

As the project lead, we take full responsibility of the battery lifecycle. This includes the capital investment for the battery and all operations and maintenance costs. Often, we collaborate with community stakeholders and energy market participants to deliver these projects.



*Powercor developed this 120kW (360kWh) battery in Tarneit to improve the network's capacity in a community with high rooftop solar penetration. This project was delivered with funding support from the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Battery Initiative.*

---

---

## Delivery partner services

We've established a range of new energy services and a dedicated team to support community batteries owned and operated by other parties. Under this model, the project proponent is responsible for the capital costs, construction, operations, and maintenance while also benefitting from any revenue generated.

### Data services

A selection of resources and data is made freely available via our website to support the feasibility stages of battery projects. This information is constantly being refined, expanded, and updated. It includes:

- **Network Visualisation Portal** – a geographical map containing multiple layers of information about the location of our distribution network assets and opportunities to support the network.
- **Consumption data** – 6 monthly reports on electricity consumed at a postcode and Local Government Area basis for residential, commercial and solar customers.
- **Distribution Annual Planning Report** – providing an overview of current and future changes proposed to the network.
- **Zone Substation data** – raw, historical load data on a Zone Substation level.

If you can't find what you're looking for among this data, you can lodge a request with our New Energy team at: [Network Data Request \(tinyurl.com/mr3dvv4r\)](https://www.tinyurl.com/mr3dvv4r)

Most requests can be answered free of charge. But for complex or detailed requests that take time to supply, we'll provide a quote and will require payment before the data is provided.

### Connection services

Once you have developed a project scope and chosen a location supported by communities, we can provide further technical design and a connection agreement. More detailed data requests will then be managed as part of this process.

To begin, visit our [mySupply](#) online service and apply.

Your New Energy Services contact will guide your application through network planning, design, connection, and commissioning of the battery.



### Tariff services

A community battery trial network tariff introduced in July 2022 is available for all new community batteries until June 2026. The structure was specifically developed for batteries owned by third parties rather than our networks and applies to batteries with a capacity of no more than 240kVA connected to the low voltage network.

Community battery network tariffs			
Time band	Fixed (cents/day)	Import rate (cents/kWh)	Export rate (cents/kWh)
10am – 3pm	45	-1.5	0
4pm – 9pm		25	-1.0
All other times		0	0

Based on these rates, a typical sized community battery would be expected to earn an annual net rebate of \$1,500 to \$2,000 if the battery avoids importing electricity between 4pm and 9pm.

### Revenue opportunities

We often seek innovative solutions from third parties to help us manage the networks in ways that can help lower costs for our customers. Network connected battery services are one of the solutions that we sometimes contract on a temporary or permanent basis to manage electricity supply or demand.

We maintain a register of third parties who express interest in providing the types of services we're seeking. We then seek proposals for solutions to the needs identified in our Non-Network Solutions tender every year.

For more information on the types of opportunities this may create for community batteries, see our [Demand Side Engagement Strategy](#) online.

---



The 284kWh battery developed by Yarra Energy Foundation in Fitzroy North was supported by CitiPower who acted as a delivery partner. The battery is now servicing an estimated 200 homes and was designed to deliver both environmental outcomes and financial sustainability by participating in the wholesale electricity market.

---

## For more information

### Contacts:

New Energy Services

Phone: 1300 771 434

Email: [newenergyservices@powercor.com.au](mailto:newenergyservices@powercor.com.au)

### Partnership opportunities:

Email: [electricavenue@powercor.com.au](mailto:electricavenue@powercor.com.au)

### References:

Powerful Neighbours Report [tinyurl.com/eh5v8bpd](https://tinyurl.com/eh5v8bpd)

Neighbourhood Battery Site Selection Criteria [tinyurl.com/j3ytdt8f](https://tinyurl.com/j3ytdt8f)

Factsheet: Community Battery Trial Tariffs [tinyurl.com/23uzu2wp](https://tinyurl.com/23uzu2wp)

Demand Side Engagement Strategy [tinyurl.com/2s38h353](https://tinyurl.com/2s38h353)

The Neighbourhood Battery Knowledge Hub [tinyurl.com/mryaa9mp](https://tinyurl.com/mryaa9mp)

mySupply [tinyurl.com/2af75pza](https://tinyurl.com/2af75pza)

Network Data Portal [tinyurl.com/mr3dvv4r](https://tinyurl.com/mr3dvv4r)



### For more information

Call: General inquiries 13 22 06

Web: [powercor.com.au](https://powercor.com.au)

Produced October 2023