Dear reader,

As Australia begins to emerge from the COVID-19 lockdown, now is the opportunity for governments to invest in renewable energy infrastructure to ensure we hasten cuts to our emissions simultaneously with restarting the economy.

The ANU Energy Change Institute is at the forefront of Australia's energy transition, and we're leading by example through making representations to government, our ongoing research partnerships with government and industry, and sharing knowledge gained from our members' research.

For example, we've recently announced an exciting collaborative industry research project on electricity use and poorly-insulated homes that will be led by Dr Lee White. She's the 2020 winner of the Icon Water and ActewAGL Perpetual Endowment Fund.

Also adding to the public's understanding is a study co-authored by Dr Emma Aisbett that shows how governments adjust health, safety, and environmental standards to benefit industry when industry profits are suffering. She warns those standards are at risk of manipulation by governments during the global coronavirus crisis.
Like many of you, we in the Energy Change Institute and the Climate Change Institute are now thinking about how we transition back to our campus offices, having spent many weeks working from home. We’re continuing our program of online webinars, including information sessions about our Master of Energy Change, and professional short courses offered by both the Energy Change Institute and Climate Change Institute. Please see the section below for details.

The lockdown we’re experiencing amid COVID-19 may have slowed down or delayed some elements of our operations and research. But it hasn’t dented the gusto with which Climate Change Institute Director Professor Mark Howden and I, in partnership with other staff throughout ANU, are working on the ANU Below Zero Emissions initiative. We hope to announce more details in the coming weeks.

Finally, the Institute’s social media presence has expanded and we’re now on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com). Follow us for updates about the ECI and the ANU Grand Challenge: Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific.

Best wishes,

Professor Ken Baldwin
Director, Energy Change Institute

**Online events**
Governing cross-border clean technology dissemination

Tues 19 May, 12:30-1:30pm

More details

Master of Energy Change Student Experience webinar

Tues 26 May, 5pm

More details

Drought, bushfires and climate change: The Hot Topic

Thurs 21 May, 1pm

More details

Postgrad Australia Virtual Fair
ANU Master of Energy Change

Wed 3 June, 7-8pm

More details
ANU-ActewAGL project seeks to better understand electricity use in poorly insulated homes

Dr Lee White’s unique research project that will explore home insulation and electricity use has been named the 2020 winner of the Icon Water and ActewAGL Perpetual Endowment Fund.

Read more

Yes, carbon emissions fell during COVID-19. But it’s the shift away from coal that really matters

By Prof Frank Jotzo and Dr Mousami Prasad, The Conversation, 15 May

Much has been made of the COVID-19 lockdown cutting global carbon emissions. Energy use has fallen over recent months as the pandemic keeps millions of people confined to their homes, and businesses closed in many countries.

Read more

Why solar energy can help Indonesia attain 100% green electricity by 2050

By David Firmando Silalahi, PhD candidate, Energy Change Institute, The Conversation, 22 April

Indonesia is a tropical country with year-round sunshine. My research on how Indonesia can generate electricity entirely from renewable energy has calculated the country has the potential to generate about 640,000 Terrawatt-hours (TWh) per year from solar energy.
Health and environmental protections at risk during COVID-19

ANU media release, 15 April

Health and environmental standards are at risk of manipulation by governments during the global coronavirus crisis, new research co-authored by Dr Emma Aisbett and Dr Madgalene Silberberger warns.

Read more

There are 10 catastrophic threats facing humans right now, and coronavirus is only one of them

By Dr Arnagretta Hunter and Prof John Hewson,
The Conversation, 22 April

Four months in, this year has already been a remarkable showcase for existential and catastrophic risk. While these risks may seem like isolated threats, they are parts of a larger puzzle of which the pieces are all interconnected.

Read more

How can we support farmers in a changing climate?

featuring research by PhD Fellow Md Kamruzzaman, Climate Change Institute, 30 April

As our climate changes, changes in temperature and rainfall and the increased likelihood of extreme weather events threaten to disrupt agricultural productivity.

Read more
Short courses

Energy Essentials, 15-18 June
This tailored course is aimed at professionals across government and industry who are interested in the energy transition, and seek an overview of the latest trends in energy technology, economics, and policy.

Learn more

Climate Essentials, 15-17 June
This short course has been designed for professionals who want to gain an overview of the latest developments around climate change.

Learn more

Videos
Variable Generation, Flexible Demand: The California Experience
Dr Fereidoon Sioshansi, President of Menlo Energy Economics, on how California is moving to a future of predicting variable renewable generation, and determining how best to schedule demand to match it.

Watch here

ANU Science on location - One Tree Island
One Tree Island has evaded some of the worst recent impacts of climate change, with some of the best remaining coral reef in the world. This video shows stunning footage of researchers exploring the consequences of ocean acidification.

Watch here

Other news
Technology leaps driving cost of solar PV electricity in Australia to just A$30/MWh, by Prof Andrew Blakers and Dr Matt Stocks, 7 May
How green is China’s post-COVID-19 ‘new infrastructure’ stimulus spending? by Prof Frank Jotzo and Jorrit Gosens, 5 May
Coronavirus and climate: Australia’s chance to shift to green energy, featuring Prof Mark Howden, 28 April
Recent Australian wildfires made worse by logging, featuring Prof David Lindenmayer, 5 May
The future of oil, featuring Dr Christian Downie, 25 April
ANU researchers look to lift crop production through photosynthesis research, featuring Prof Robert Furbank and Prof John Evans, 24 April
Could Australia sit at the centre of a zero-carbon economy? featuring Dr Fiona Beck, 17 April
Energy transition, like coronavirus response, is a global scale problem, by Dr Lee White, 22 April
Social identity shapes debates, featuring research by Dr Bec Colvin, 20 April
The twin threats to food security: Pandemics and climate disruption, featuring Prof Mark Howden, 15 April

Other initiatives

Gen Z survey respondents wanted
PhD researcher Hannah Feldman is seeking to understand factors that influence School Strike 4 Climate participation. She asks readers please pass this survey link on to any young person you know who is at least 16 years of age, lives in Australia, and has not yet participated in a federal election. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and participants will contribute greatly to our understanding of how Generation Z engage with climate change and politics.