



inner west
community
energy

Annual Report 2025

Inner West Community Energy Inc.
Operating in Sydney, Australia.
ABN: 34 236 517 710.

Annual report for the year ending 30 June 2025.
Content collated on 1 November 2025.

Pictured on cover: The Ferguson family - a client of Inner West Community Energy - with their new home battery.

Location photography: Gavin Gilchrist.
Drone photography: Phil Keenan.
Profile photography: Various.
Front cover design: Miriam Deacon.
Interior typesetting: Tony Yeoman.
Interior formatting: Amanda Deacon.

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Our People

Chairperson
Meloni Muir



Vice chairperson
Peter Lawson



Treasurer
Judith Gonzalez Bravo



Secretary
Imogen Biggins



Committee member
Penny Biggins



Committee member
Amanda Deacon



*Committee Member and
Project Manager*
Gavin Gilchrist



*Marketing Manager
(part-year)*
Gemma Aquilina



Project Support
Jasper Webster



And many further volunteers and collaborators, as acknowledged in the following reports.

Chairperson's Annual Report



In many ways it has been a productive year for Inner West Community Energy (IWCE). We have assisted in the installation of well over 400 rooftop solar systems working with five preferred installers. Promoting our community to electrify everything, we also have one preferred heat pump hot water installer.

Our membership has grown to 682. We will be initiating a membership renewal drive in the upcoming year. Thanks to the efforts of two volunteers, Imogen Biggins and Karin Aubrey, the IWCE newsletter has been recommenced. It is anticipated that members will receive an electronic copy quarterly.

For part of the year, we were fortunate to have a marketing manager, Gemma Aquilina. During her brief tenure, Gemma did a wonderful job of refurbishing the IWCE website as well as producing some very informative brochures to help homeowners move off gas and electrify everything.

The management committee has been liaising with the Inner West Council to help Council build a better understanding of IWCE and develop ties working towards a common goal of electrifying the Inner West. We have also had wonderful support from Canada Bay Council over the past year and are looking forward to continuing this productive relationship. IWCE has received great support from several state politicians including Kobi Shetty, Jason Yat-sen Li and Jo Haylen.

We have been actively involved in public engagement. We have held five Solar Information Nights across the Inner West and Canada Bay council areas. In addition, we held a special *Home Comfort for Winter* meeting to inform homeowners about ways of increasing their home's winter comfort through insulation and draft proofing. Volunteers also helped at our stalls at Eco Footprints in Annandale, Ferragosto in Five Dock and the Norton St Festa in Leichhardt. IWCE continues to have a strong working relationship with the Canada Bay Zero Carbon Community group.

All of IWCE's successes are due in large part to the ongoing support of volunteers who are the heart and soul of the organization.

First, a special thanks to our outgoing secretary, Imogen Biggins, and follow that with a big welcome to our new incoming committee member, Susan Dorney.

As well, we thank Pete Quayle of Grey & Co Tax Professionals, and David Legg of Burrridge and Legg lawyers. The committee also thanks the following volunteers for their ongoing support: Jasper Webster, Pam Hartgerink, Karin Aubrey and Shirley Chang.

I personally wish to thank the IWCE Management committee members for their time and support in making this a successful year for IWCE. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Program Manager, Gavin Gilchrist, who is both an employee and volunteer for giving so much of his time to IWCE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meloni M Muir', written in a cursive style.

Meloni M Muir
Chairperson
Inner West Community Energy

22 September 2025

Our Community in Photos



Community is at the heart of what we do. We thank our clients for their trust and enthusiasm, and our installers, volunteers, and part-time staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



Installers Neil and Tillman on a sunny Inner West rooftop.



IWCE client Sarah at her solar-powered Summer Hill home.



Installers Mick and Jess braving a rainy day.



A lively crowd at an IWCE Solar Information Night at Briars Sports Club in Concord.



IWCE Project Manager Gavin addressing the Briars Sports Club crowd.



IWCE clients John and Brook at their solar- and battery-powered home.



Volunteers at the annual Norton St Festa in Leichhardt.



Installer team Zac, Pablo, and Phil on a sunny terracotta roof.



The solar roof (center foreground) of IWCE client Josh in Balmain.

Project Manager's Report



The 2025 financial year has, from the project manager's perspective, been a year of many highs and a few lows.

First, the lows. The number of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems installed across the Inner West this financial year with our help was significantly down on the previous year: 60, compared with 103 the year before. The value of systems installed was down from \$1.1 million to \$615,000.

There did not appear to be any one reason for this but some reasons included a general slowdown in solar sales nationally, probably due to households focussing on cost of living issues; the slowdown in consumer spending before the May federal election, and a lot of rain in Sydney delaying site visits and installations.

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
PV systems	59	100	103	60
Value, \$m	0.584	1.119	1.137	0.615
Kilowatts capacity	435.1	744.7	782	458.4

Figure 1: PV systems installed in the past four financial years.

The size of systems installed through IWCE continued to increase, now at 8kW, and the price per watt installed continues to fall, to \$1.34 per watt.

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Average size, kW	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.0
Average cost	\$1.37	\$1.56	\$1.50	\$1.34

Figure 2: PV system size and average cost, in dollars per watt installed, after rebate.

The other low was our failure to win a tender for electrification services for Inner West Council. IWCE was one of only two groups to quote for the work; five groups had been invited. The tender scope required a huge amount of work - supporting all the Inner West

community (population over 190,000) with advice on solar, batteries, electric hot water, induction cooktops, air conditioning and EV chargers, with responsibility for marketing and data management and managing installers. We targeted our services to meet the scope, but our bid was considered too expensive.

While the lower solar PV sales figures this year could lead to questions about whether there was still a need for a local community energy group, my view is that the need remains. The surge in inquiries since June showed that, plus our members continue to be extremely grateful for our help.

IWCE's total solar figures in our nine years till the end of this financial year were 449 PV systems worth \$4.572 million.

Now, the highs of the year!

Battery sales took off! This was driven by two main developments: a NSW government rebate from November 1 and a reduction in the price of batteries. For example, one of the most popular batteries in the Inner West, Solaredge, dropped its wholesale price by \$2000 from May. As well, new cheaper brands entered the market. The NSW government rebate ended on June 30, replaced by the new federal rebate, which was more generous.

We facilitated 17 batteries, which is 30% of the total number of batteries installed since our inception. These were worth just over \$198,000.

	FY24/25	Total since 2018	FY24/25 as % of total
Number	17	56	30.36%
Storage	182.42	621.18	29.37%
Value	\$198,367.18	\$657,431.16	30.17%

Figure 3: battery sales this financial year versus previous six years.

We began the year with a part-time marketing manager, Gemma Aquilina, the first time we have had a paid employee in that role. Gemma left in February to focus on her other permanent role but in the time she was with IWCE she completely rebuilt our website, using the Squarespace package, and created a customer relationship management system using Hubspot, as well as supporting our marketing effort on Facebook, Instagram and the website. As an indication of the success of the new website, in April 2025, not long after the website went live, we had six inquiries; in June we had 31.

A significant development in the year was the expansion of the range of advice people were seeking. While the typical request was for help with solar and maybe a battery, increasingly going solar was not the end in itself; going all-electric was the end. This meant considering how we could best support households going all-electric. This is a work in progress.

The Inner West, from Glebe to Strathfield, continues to have much lower rates of rooftop solar uptake than most of the rest of Sydney and Australia, so there is still lots of opportunity.

Another highlight was the completion of four residential PV systems for the tenants of Metro Community Housing. IWCE contributed \$14,000 of the \$27,962 total project cost. These projects will dramatically reduce the power bills for the four tenants who now have solar panels on their roofs. This project was managed by volunteer solar engineer Jasper Webster and we thank him for his exemplary work.

We have now completed eight community solar projects, funded wholly or partly by IWCE, but all facilitated by our team.

System	Address	Size, kW	Cost
Camperdown Commons	Mallett St, Camperdown	36.0	\$30,000.00
Leichhardt Bowling and Recreation Club	Piper St, Leichhardt	63.0	\$54,810.00
Styles Street Community Childcare Centre	Styles St, Leichhardt	16.6	\$16,500.00
Asylum Seekers Centre	Bedford St, Newtown	5.4	\$3,905.00
Aboriginal Medical Centre	117A Redfern St, Redfern	26.16	\$37,325.00
Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre	55 Thornley St, Leichhardt	10.56	\$12,800.00
Guthrie House	Sebastopol St, Enmore	16.28	\$22,149.00
Metro Housing (four houses)	Newington Rd, Petersham; Thomas St, Lewisham; Lily Street, Croydon Park; Barden St, Tempe.	25.08	\$27,962.94
Total		199.08	\$205,451.94

Figure 4: IWCE community solar projects.

We applied for two grants from the federal Stronger Communities Program Round 9, one for Marrickville Women's Refuge and one for The Girls Refuge in Leichhardt. After the end of this financial year ended we received notice of success. Thanks especially to Tim Murray in the office of the Member for Grayndler, Mr Albanese, for his support.

There were two changes to our team of preferred solar installers: Roland Lawrence Electrical, Evolution Solar and Electrical, Lynton Electrical, and Tillman Electrical Services were with us from start to finish, while Brightside Solar and Electrical left and Guwing Green joined us. I'd like to thank all our installers for their work; we know we couldn't do this without you.

As I did last year, I'd like to thank Jasper for doing my job while I was overseas in June and July. Upon my return there were no dramas, everything had been done, and done well.

I'd also like to thank the management committee for their continued support for me and the group. Everyone made a contribution but I must single out Treasurer Judith Gonzalez Bravo for her work: her day job is extremely demanding, but she successfully runs our finances, runs our Quickbooks accounts, runs staff payroll, and rapidly fires off the invoices that keep us financially afloat. She's done an amazing job - again!

In conclusion, we end the financial year in good shape, with resumed interest from Inner Westies seeking help from a trusted advisor, an effective management committee, a good support network of volunteers, and robust financial management. Thank you.

Gavin Gilchrist

Project Manager

Inner West Community Energy

Hot Water Heat Pump Report



A hot water heat pump (HWHP) system is a highly efficient hot water system which has a storage tank, runs on electricity, and operates on the same efficient principles as an air conditioning heat pump.

We offer hot water heat pump (HWHP) systems through our installer Tye Clark of Same Day Hot Water. We have had a total of 100 leads turning into approximately 55 completed installations.

Tanks in order of popularity are:

Brand	
1. <i>Aquatech</i>	Plug-in for people with low energy bills.
2. <i>Apricus</i>	More powerful and larger modular unit.
3. <i>Reclaim Energy</i>	Premium split-system unit.
4. <i>Other</i>	Custom or one-offs, or brand not listed.

IWCE will soon be receiving a 2% finders' fee for each completed installation, following an agreement with our installer.

Some of our future ideas are to:

- Develop product options catering to the Inner West housing's tight access and small location areas for HWHP systems.
- Offer a "Get off gas" package i.e. replacing all home gas appliances at once.

Peter Lawson

Hot Water Heat Pump Manager
Inner West Community Energy

Treasurer's Report



Financial report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Inner West Community Energy Inc.
ABN: 34 236 517 710.

Corporate Information

Status

Inner West Community Energy Inc. is a not-for-profit entity registered as an incorporated association in NSW under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

- *Date of incorporation:* 22.12.2017.
- *Incorporation No.* INC 1701714.

It is also registered as a charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Principal Activities

To promote solar and other renewable energy systems and encourage energy efficiency in Sydney's Inner West.

To accomplish this, we maintain a website providing information on renewable energy systems (rooftop solar, batteries, heat pumps). This information helps households to understand their energy needs and to obtain free and independent advice on the entire installation process, including referrals to accredited solar installers.

As at 30 June 2025, Inner West Community Energy has facilitated the installation of 444 solar energy systems, to a value exceeding \$4.56 million, with potential generation of 3.19 Megawatts of energy.

IWCE installed its first commercial solar energy system in the 2021 financial year and this has to date generated an income of \$66,444. The sale of the power generated enables us to support our Association. We continue to look for opportunities to support community groups and other entities by way of attaining grant monies or service agreements to run renewable or sustainable energy projects.

From 8 May this year, IWCE has achieved registration as a charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and it is retrospective from 1 July 2023.

The association has one part-time permanent employee only and had a Marketing casual employee until 24 February 2025. All other committee members offer their services as volunteers and for no remuneration with the knowledge that they are helping in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Committee

Name	Role
Meloni Muir	Chairperson
Peter Lawson	Vice Chair
Imogen Biggins	Secretary
Judith Gonzalez Bravo	Treasurer
Gavin Gilchrist	Public Officer & Project Manager
Penny Biggins	Committee support
Amanda Deacon	Committee support

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
INCOME		
Membership & Members' Donations	2,939.29	2,147.58
Donations	-	100.00
Finder's fees from installers	26,697.36	48,085.08
Income from Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)	14,459.67	14,427.38
City of Canada Bay Service Agreement	14,720.00	9,790.00
Grants	-	16,000.00
Other income	2,300.00	-
TOTAL INCOME	61,116.32	90,550.04
EXPENSES		
Amortisation of PPA equipment	5,103.00	5,103.00
Project Officer honorarium	-	38,640.00
Other honorarium	720.00	495.00
Insurance	487.33	1,415.37
Bank charges	44.80	23.20
Memberships	-	169.54
Solar information nights	701.70	1,279.90
Rent of roof space	-	-
Power Purchase Agreement costs	125.00	-
Printing, marketing and website	8,447.37	5,493.35
Other	16,363.04	32,477.70
Superannuation expense	5,600.60	413.86
Wages Expenses	48,700.60	3,762.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	86,293.44	89,273.32
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(25,177.12)	1,276.72

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash at bank	25,397.23	42,500.80
Equipment- Power Purchase Agreement	30,620.00	30,620.00
Less Accumulated amortisation	(25,515.00)	(20,412.00)
	5,105.00	10,208.00
Outstanding Income	354.80	2,937.21
TOTAL ASSETS	30,857.03	55,646.01
LIABILITIES		
Unexpended grants	-	-
PAYG Liability	1,168.00	366.00
Superannuation Liability	-	413.86
NET ASSETS	29,689.03	54,866.15
RETAINED SURPLUS	29,689.03	54,866.15

Changes in Retained Surplus for Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2024	2024
Opening balance	54,866.15	53,589.43
Net income for the year	(25,177.12)	1,276.72
CLOSING BALANCE	29,689.03	54,866.15

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs. The accrual principle is the concept that you should record accounting transactions in the period in which they actually occur, rather than the period in which the cash flows related to them occur.

Income Tax

Inner West Community Energy Inc. (IWCE) is a not-for-profit community service organisation, incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. It is exempt from income tax.

GST

Inner West Community Energy Inc. (IWCE) is a not-for-profit community service organisation, incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. It is exempt from GST.

Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised in the period when the service is provided.

Power Purchase Agreement

During the 2021 year, IWCE entered into a power purchase agreement with an entity in the hospitality sector, whereby IWCE purchased and installed solar panels and related equipment to the entity's premises, and in return charges the entity for the amount of electricity generated.

The cost of purchasing and installing the panels and equipment is shown as an asset in the balance sheet. This cost has been amortised on a straight line basis over the term of the agreement which expires in June 2026.

Rent of \$1 p.a is payable to the entity, however, there was no rent paid for the 2024 financial year although IWCE requested the invoice to the entity but this has not been issued. Rent of \$2 is payable in the 2025 financial year which will account for both 2024 and 2025 accordingly.

Other Income

Other income includes \$300 from Erskinesville Resident presentation and \$2,000 from Rewiring Australia.

Other Expenses

Includes \$14,000 donation to Metro Community Housing for the installation of rooftop solar.

Declaration by the Committee

The Committee of Inner West Community Energy Inc. declare that the financial statements and notes as set out on pages 17 to 22, give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of the performance for the year ended on that date.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meloni Muir', written in a cursive style.

Meloni Muir
Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Gonzalez Bravo', written in a cursive style.

Judith Gonzalez Bravo
Treasurer