

Inner West Community Energy

Annual Report 2025-26



www.innerwestcommunityenergy.org.au

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

Annual report for the year ending 30 June 2026.
Content collated on 6 August 2026.

Drone photography: Various.
Profile photography: Various.
Location photography: Gavin Gilchrist.
Interior typesetting: Tony Yeoman.
Interior formatting: Amanda Deacon.

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Management Committee



Chairperson
Amanda Deacon



Vice chairperson
Peter Lawson



Treasurer
Judith Gonzalez Bravo



Secretary
Helen Barnes



*Committee Member,
Project Manager*
Gavin Gilchrist



Committee member
Meloni Muir



Committee member
Susan Dorney



Committee member
Penny Biggins



Note: Penny and Helen served on the committee for the first and second halves of the year, respectively.

Acknowledgements



IWCE serves a vibrant and diverse community of residents motivated to make positive changes in their homes and lives. We lean on a base of passionate, dedicated installers, volunteers and other contributors, as well as numerous local organisations and venues.

We thank everyone who has been involved in our work this year.

We have endeavored to capture as many people and groups as possible here, and we sincerely apologise for anyone we have accidentally missed out.

Community

We thank the many Inner West residents who have engaged our services and attended our events this year. We would also like to thank the individuals and families who have kindly agreed for their stories to be featured on our social media channels.

Installer teams

- Shaun Catlin, and the team at ACE Catlin Electrical
- Tye Clarke, and the team at Same Day Hot Water
- Jeff Egerton, Michael Lynch, and the team at Lynton Electrical
- Phil Keenan, and the team at Evolution Solar
- Tillman Kiesow, and the team at Tillman Electrical Services
- Roland Lawrence, and the team at Roland Lawrence Electrical
- Davy Zhou, and the team at Solterra Electrical

Volunteers and further individuals

- The Management Committee as above
- Karin Aubrey
 - Newsletter and member database manager
- Lee Booy
 - IT and technical support
- Richard Cattan
- Shirley Chang
- Ken Enderby
- Benjamin Goh

- Service expansion manager
- Pam Hartgerink
- Isaac Jackson
- Bettina Kaiser
 - Graphic design
- Ain Kalmus
- David Legg
 - Lawyer with Burrridge and Legg
- Kel Lupis
- Peter Quayle
 - Accountant with Grey & Co Tax Professionals
- Josh Stephens
 - Events manager
- Alex Varley
- Jasper Webster
 - Project support
- Tony Yeoman

Local and national groups

- Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay
- Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle
- Electrify 2515
- Haberfield Association
- Pingala Community Energy
- Rewiring Australia
- Solar Citizens

Local councils

- Burwood Council
- City of Canada Bay Council
- City of Sydney Council
- Inner West Council

Offices

- The Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Member for Grayndler

- The Office of Jo Haylen MP, Member for Summer Hill
- The Office of Jerome Laxale MP, Member for Bennelong
- The Office of Kobi Shetty MP, Member for Balmain
- The Office of Jason Yat-sen Li MP, Member for Strathfield

Venues

- HP Bowlo, Hurlstone Park
- The Gasoline Pony, Marrickville
- Leichhardt Bowling & Recreation Club, Leichhardt
- Marrickville Library and Pavilion, Marrickville
- The Royal Hotel, Leichhardt
- Southern Cross Hotel, St Peters

Community Photographs



Newtown residents John and Elizabeth Kenyon outside their home - the site of IWCE's 500th rooftop solar system!



A drone photograph over Concord and surrounds on a clear and sunny day, with an IWCE-facilitated solar system pictured bottom center.



Installers Tillman Kiesow and Nafneel Prasad partway through installing a new solar system on a sunny Inner West rooftop.



Leichhardt resident Carmen Jarrett with her new hot water heat pump system.



A panel session and Q&A at our Home Battery and Hot Water Expo at Marrickville Pavilion in August 2025.



One of our lively Solar and Battery Info Nights at The Royal Hotel Leichhardt in June 2026. Event speakers pictured from left to right: Jeff Lynton of Lynton Electrical, Kel Lupis of CSIRO, and Gavin Gilchrist of IWCE.



One (of the many!) IWCE-facilitated solar systems in Marrickville.



Balmain resident Josh Cinner in the dappled sunlight with his new home battery system.



Marrickville resident Joe Wickert with his new battery. Inner West homes tend to have narrow side passages, but often space can be found for a wall-mounted battery.



Leichhardt resident Sue Storrier with one of IWCE's fence signs, next to her new home battery.

Chairperson's Report



Amanda Deacon



What a whirlwind year it has been for Inner West Community Energy! We continue in our mission of providing trusted, independent advice on rooftop solar and home electrification to the vibrant Inner West community. We've had a busy year of facilitating installations, running educational events, and planning how best to respond to shifting community interests and needs. Let's take a look back at the year, starting with a global view, then shifting towards our local operations and impact, and then finally to an acknowledgement of the individual and community efforts powering IWCE's impact.

Firstly, to the wider world. The climate crisis continues, against the backdrop of a severe global energy crisis due to ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Closer to home, Australians face increasing cost-of-living pressures, rising energy bills, and concerns about their energy autonomy.

In optimistic news, Australia - long a world leader in residential rooftop solar - is now also installing more home battery storage capacity than any other country, thanks to the federal Cheaper Home Batteries Program introduced on 1 July 2025.

We've made big strides this year in IWCE. We're very happy to have achieved registered charity status with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Internally, we've been organizing our growing volunteer base into sub-teams across our core areas - projects, events, communications, and fiscal health. We're investing more time into planning our project capacity, events, and communications, for the ongoing health of our operations, engagement of our volunteers, and with the aim of understanding and serving the shifting needs and interests of our community.

We hosted a raft of free community events: numerous Solar and Battery Info Nights across the Inner West, our first Cozy Homes for Winter info night, and a large Home Battery and Hot Water Expo at Marrickville Pavillion. Our newsletter, website and social media channels are bubbling with community news and educational content. We

continue to see strong interest in our services via word-of-mouth referral, and a growing interest via our online presence.

In project news, earlier this year we surpassed a wonderful series of milestones: over 500 solar systems, 100 home batteries, and 50 hot water heat pump installations facilitated since the founding of our organisation! Home battery installations in particular have surged, thanks in large part to the federal battery rebate mentioned above. We facilitated community solar and battery installations at two vital community services - The Girls Refuge and (just after the close of the 2026 financial year) Marrickville Women's Refuge - supported by the NSW Stronger Communities Programme. Our Project Manager Gavin Gilchrist and Hot Water Manager Peter Lawson share more project details in their respective reports below.

There is a large network of individuals and teams behind IWCE's operations: our local community, our trusted installers, a plethora of community groups and organizations, our volunteer base, and further contributors.

I want to express my gratitude to the Inner West community. Your energy and enthusiasm fills the team with joy, and we thank you for the trust you place in us. Thank you to everyone who has joined IWCE as a member, consulted us for help with home electrification, made a donation, attended an event, or spread the word to a family member or friend.

None of this work would be possible without the skills, dedication, and hard work of our incredible trusted installer teams, as listed in the Acknowledgements above. These teams are operating in a challenging industry which often cycles between chaos and quiet. It takes a holistic set of capabilities - across technical skills, team management, and business acumen - to thrive in this industry and to continue to serve the community, year after year.

Also as listed in the Acknowledgements section, a huge thank you to the numerous community groups, local councils, offices of our elected representatives, and local venue hosts for your support, and for your enthusiasm in serving the renewable energy transition.

Last but not least, thank you to the staff, management committee, further volunteers and contributors to IWCE's operations.

It has been a privilege to work closely with our Project Manager Gavin Gilchrist this year, whose dedication to the role has seen IWCE achieve a bumper year of solar and battery installations. Our Vice Chairperson Peter Lawson has been a steady hand at the wheel, managing all of our hot water system installations as well as leading the organization of our Home Battery and Hot Water Expo last August. Our Treasurer Judith Gonzalez Bravo has been ceaselessly shepherding our finances for three years now, and completed our process of application for registered charity status - a significant milestone. Our Secretary Helen Barnes (part-year) has provided a solid and dependable administrative backbone to our meetings and team communications. Our general committee members - Penny Biggins (part-year), Susan Dorney, and Meloni Muir - have flexibly pitched into numerous aspects of our operations, coordinating events, volunteers, venues, and communications.

It has been exciting to welcome several new regular volunteers into our team. Karin Aubrey has taken charge of our newsletter and member management system. Ben Goh is working on an expansion of our service capabilities. Ain Kalmus has contributed to our fiscal health team and has been investigating ways for us to multiply our impact via our community projects. Josh Stephens is our new Events Manager, and is busy planning an exciting raft of events for the year. Alex Varley has provided key strategic and structural insights, and I would also like to thank him for his mentorship and guidance throughout the year.

The climate crisis remains as urgent as ever, and the responding community transformation continues on in the Inner West. This transformation is alive and vibrant in the ordinary, small moments of trust and connection between people, and these small moments accumulate into something vast.

It has been a privilege to serve the Inner West community as Chairperson of IWCE this year, as well as one of the highlights of my professional career. Thank you for your continued trust in our work.

Amanda Deacon

Chairperson

Inner West Community Energy

Treasurer's Report



Judith Gonzalez Bravo



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 2026, Inner West Community Energy has facilitated the installation of **533** solar energy systems, to a value exceeding **\$5.5 million**, with potential generation of **3.89** Megawatts of energy. IWCE installed its first commercial solar energy system in the 2021 financial year and this year the **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** we had in place **has come to an end**. This system generated a total income of **\$58,243.06**.

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. This year we have **supported the installation of Solar Energy** at the **Marrickville Women's Refuge** in two different ways, by providing a direct **donation** for the installation of the system of **\$7,000** and by supporting the Refuge to obtain a \$12,000 'Stronger Communities grant'.

The association has one part time permanent employee only. 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
Amanda Deacon	Chairperson
Peter Lawson	Vice Chair
Helen Barnes	Secretary
Judith Gonzalez Bravo	Treasurer
Gavin Gilchrist	Public Officer & Project Manager
Penny Biggins	Committee support
Meloni Muir	Committee support

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	2026	2025
INCOME		
Membership & Members' Donations	6,161.40	2,939.29
Gifts and Donations Fund	536	-
Finder's fees from installers	75,044.78	26,697.36
Income from Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)	15,602.60	14,459.67
City of Canada Bay Service Agreement	-	14,720.00
Other income	-	2,300.00
TOTAL INCOME	97,344.78	61,116.32

EXPENSES		
Amortisation of PPA equipment	5,105.00	5,103.0
Other honorarium	1,800.00	720.00
Insurance	800.65	487.33
Bank charges	30.00	44.80
Online payment charges	416.46	-
Memberships	200.00	-
Solar information nights	1,524.85	701.70
Rent of roof space	-	-
Power Purchase Agreement costs	125.00	125.00
Printing, marketing and website	3,497.98	8,447.37
Other	7,498.77	16,363.04
Superannuation expense	4,803.37	5,600.60
Wages Expenses	40,028.64	48,700.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	65,830.72	86,293.44
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	31,514.06	(25,177.12)

BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2026

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Cash at bank	52,173.39	25,397.23
Equipment- Power Purchase Agreement	30,620.00	30,620.00
Less Accumulated amortisation	(30,620.00)	(25,515.00)
	0.00	5,105.00

Outstanding Income	10,527.70	354.80
TOTAL ASSETS	62,701.09	30,857.03
LIABILITIES		
Unexpended grants	-	-
PAYG Liability	1,498	1,168.00
NET ASSETS	61,203.09	29,689.03
RETAINED SURPLUS	61,203.09	29,689.03

CHANGES IN RETAINED SURPLUS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	2026	2025
Opening balance	29,689.03	54,866.15
Net income for the year	31,514.06	(25,177.12)
CLOSING BALANCE	61,203.09	29,689.03

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

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 has expired in June 2026.

OTHER EXPENSES

Includes \$7,000 donation to the Marrickville Women's Refuge 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 2 to 6, give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of the performance for the year ended on that date.

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

Project Manager's Report



Gavin Gilchrist



The financial year 2025-26 was the year of the home battery! With the start of the Cheaper Home Battery program on July 1, residents of the Inner West flooded to IWCE for support in buying a home battery. IWCE facilitated 110 batteries in the financial year, an incredible increase on previous years, when it was rare for households to show interest in a battery to add to their solar PV system. Not only did the large federal rebate dramatically cut the price of batteries, but the new products coming on to the market were significantly cheaper, so there was a double benefit. The battery rebate also ignited the solar PV market.

How battery prices have changed. The first battery we facilitated, in July 2005, cost the owner \$10,020 per kilowatt-hour of storage while the 150th battery we facilitated, in June 2026, cost \$687 per kilowatt-hour.

This financial year, we facilitated 88 solar PV systems across the Inner West, and sometimes beyond, with 699.4 kilowatts of solar energy capacity and worth \$952,000. The average cost of these systems per watt of capacity was \$1.43. The total value of systems installed through our group to June 30, 2026 since our inception rose to \$5,529,000.

Our 500th solar PV system was installed this financial year for John and Elizabeth Kenyon of Newtown. Their system was completed on April 20, a 9kW solar PV system with a 20kWh battery. The installation for the Kenyons came at the end of a major renovation of their home, which included abolishing gas use. They also installed a heat pump hot water system through IWCE.

It's interesting to compare their PV system and its cost with that of our first system, installed in December 2017. That system was only 2.62kW and cost \$2.45/watt installed, compared with the Kenyon's 9kW system costing \$1.18/W installed.

The energy transition from gas to solar for the Kenyons reflected a growing trend amongst Inner West households. When our group started work, going solar was the goal

of most households we supported. Now, it is rare for households to install solar without a battery, and often the goal is full electrification and abolishment of gas use. Our community understands better than many the need to stop using fossil fuels.

Our support services began to reflect this change over the financial year, and we started planning for an expansion of services beyond the existing solar, battery and heat pump water systems. This will be launched next financial year.

Our major community solar project this year was an 11.875 kilowatt solar system with 20kWh of battery storage for the Girls Refuge in Leichhardt, the only refuge in NSW for teenage girls seeking refuge from dysfunctional home lives. We won the project \$11,000 from the Stronger Communities Program, supported by the office of the Member for Grayndler, Mr Albanese. This takes to nine the number of community solar projects IWCE has supported and partially or totally funded.

Finally, my role could not be done without the support of the management committee and other volunteers. I'd like to thank all members for their support in what was a challenging year. As well, IWCE could not do its work without its solar and battery installers so a very big thank you to Roland Lawrence Electrical, Evolution Solar and Electrical, Guwing Green, Tillman Electrical Services, Lynton Electrical, and the installers who joined us this year, Ace Catlin Electrical and Solterra Electrical.

Gavin Gilchrist 5/8/26

Project Manager

Inner West Community Energy

Hot Water Manager's Report



Peter Lawson



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 principles as an air conditioning heat pump.

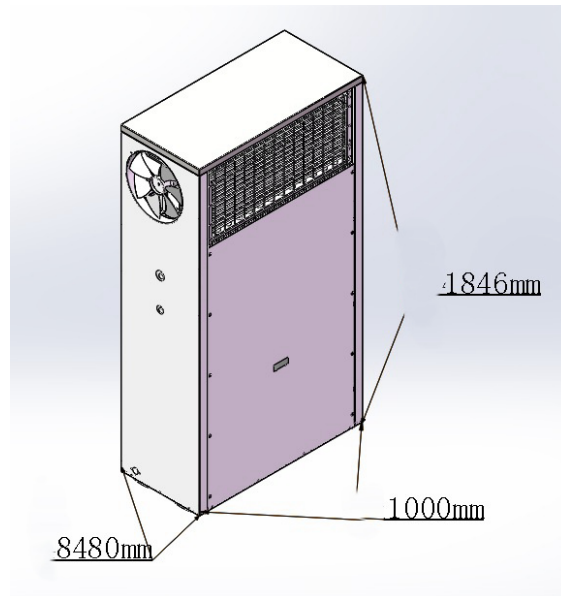
We offer HWHP systems through our installer Tye Clark of *Same Day Hot Water*.

One of frequent issues that stymies the installation of HWHPs in the Inner West is a lack of space, particularly the lack of a side passage, or a side passage which is too narrow.



A typical narrow side passage in the Inner West.

Our installer has come up with a solution: Tye has designed, commissioned and built a new narrow hot water heat pump designed for narrow passageways and tight spaces. It will soon be available for Inner West residents.



A mock-up of Tye's new design.

We have also been working on a “getting off the gas and creating an electric house” package of information, advice, and installers for Inner West households.

For HWHPs in the last financial year, we had 50 leads and 24 installations. That gives us a total of 135 leads turning into 79 completed installations since the scheme's inception in November 2023.

Peter Lawson

Hot Water Heat Pump Manager

Inner West Community Energy