

After the Black Summer bushfires in Australia: How 'REConstruct' by REC Group helped recovery

Munich, Germany, December 17, 2021 – Following the devastating bushfires that tore through Australia in the 'Black Summer' of 2019-2020, [REC Group](#), an international pioneering solar energy company headquartered in Norway, teamed up with local partners in a powerful relief program: [REConstruct](#) gives communities hit by the catastrophe access to clean solar power, allowing them to help to protect the environment and save money on their electricity bills.

REConstruct: getting power generation facilities to impacted communities

Australia's Black Summer Bushfires in 2019-2020 took a terrible toll in terms of lives and livelihoods. 33 people were killed. The fires burned more than 3,000 houses and 17 million hectares of land, and also caused the death of over one billion animals. Many communities lost all power and communications.



Clifton Creek Primary School devastated in the Black Summer Bushfires, East Victoria



The new Clifton Creek Primary School, now completely rebuilt with a REC Alpha system

In response to the catastrophe, REC and partners launched the REConstruct initiative to get power generation facilities into impacted communities. Each installation was a complete package, including premium REC Alpha solar panels, inverters and racking, all fully installed by a local solar professional. There was no cost to the communities, and right from the start the initiative aimed to be 'low-touch', avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy. In total, REC and partners installed 15 solar power systems, each with 6.5 kW power output. Across the states of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, the program has made a real difference to schools, sports clubs and community hubs.



Corryong Community Opportunity Shop, North Victoria



Stanthorpe's Granite Belt Neighborhood Centre, Central Queensland

Beyond the impacted communities, the initiative also resonated with the entire country, and was widely covered on TV (such as on Prime7, watch at <https://fb.watch/9dWvYkHM5b/>) as well as on radio, print media and social media.

Action on climate change

Without action on climate change, extreme weather events such as the Black Summer bushfires are likely to become more common. The recent COP26 Conference in Glasgow made clear how urgent the situation is. Atmospheric CO₂ continues to rise fast. Even with the best-case scenario – with full implementation of all announced targets including net zero pledges – current data indicates that it will be extremely challenging to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

REC's responsibility as a corporate citizen

As Australia heads into a new summer season, we all hope the weather will be less severe and that the country can avoid a repeat of the 2019-2020 catastrophe. Paul Scerri, REC Director of Sales for Australia and New Zealand, speaks for the entire REC community, both in Australia and worldwide, when he says, "It is incredibly important for us all to step up our efforts to protect nature and our own habitat. REC is aware of the urgency. We take our own responsibility very seriously, and are doing whatever we can to address the climate challenge."

Every gram of CO₂ matters, and REC is committed to making a difference – for example through continued improvements to solar panel efficiency, innovative silicon kerf recycling processes, and effective programs to save energy, water and waste. REC also regularly supports communities in need. Apart from the REConstruct program in Australia, REC has also supported projects to electrify remote Himalayan communities, or to help recovery efforts following the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. In line with the ISO 26000 standard, REC understands Corporate Social Responsibility as a citizenship obligation even beyond its own business.

Explore the full REConstruct initiative at <https://reconstruct.net.au/>.

To find out more about REC's Corporate Social Responsibility activities, visit recgroup.com/csr.

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About REC Group:

REC Group is an international pioneering solar energy company dedicated to empowering consumers with clean, affordable solar power through high-quality solar panels with a leading power density. As Solar's Most Trusted, REC is known for its patented innovations and multiple award-winning products with reliable long-term performance. The cornerstone for REC's strong reliability is advanced and highly efficient manufacturing using Industry 4.0 practices. Founded in 1996 in Norway, REC has always been committed to a low carbon footprint in its solar materials and panels. REC is headquartered in Norway with operational headquarters in Singapore and regional hubs in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific.

Find out more at recgroup.com and on

