

Community Energy (CE) is where a community comes together to develop, deliver and benefit from a clean energy project.

The Community Energy Funding Toolkit has been developed as a centralised, simplified and accessible repository of information to assist CE project proponents in the development and delivery of community renewable energy projects.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Guidebook is indicative and is a guide only and the information does not constitute advice.

**FRONTIER
IMPACT
GROUP**

To download toolkit, please refer to:
www.frontierimpact.com.au
www.embark.com.au

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**Behind the Meter Solar PV
Funding Guidebook
Quickstart Guide**



Project Steering Committee



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE CORP



Australian Government
Australian Renewable
Energy Agency



How to use this guidebook

Before you Start

The Community Energy Funding Toolkit has been developed by Frontier Impact Group with project partners Coalition For Clean Energy (C4CE, represented by Embark and Community Power Agency) and funded by ARENA to provide you with information on how to develop a community renewable energy project more quickly and increase the likelihood of securing funding and delivering a successful project for your community.

The Funding Toolkit is set up on a modular basis and includes a series of guidebooks. The core Funding Basics Guidebook supports project-based guidebooks with the first project module being this Behind the Meter Solar PV Guidebook.

This guidebook is expected to be followed by a Grid-Connected Solar PV, Wind, Solar PV Storage, Bioenergy and other future Guidebooks in response to demand and subject to funding.

This guidebook focuses on Behind the Meter Solar PV projects and provides guidance on actions and factors that need to be considered as part of the process of achieving funding to develop these projects. It sets out the information needed to give confidence to funders that the project is financially viable and worthy of investing in and/or financing.

We are fortunate that the CE community have provided various items of collateral such as legal templates, case study information and shared lessons learnt that may provide guidance on how to reduce the time and effort needed for your project. We hope that this toolkit empowers you to get on with building your own community energy enterprises for the benefit of your community.

Getting Started

Read through this guide to understand the structure of the guidebook.

There is a lot of material, so don't be overwhelmed if you do not understand it all to start with.

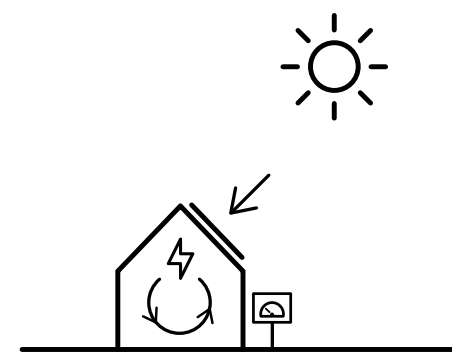
If you are already well into a project and have run into a few hurdles then we suggest that you go the Section C project elements and look at the areas of interest only and either the explanations in the guidebook or the external references provided should assist you in a targeted fashion.

We also offer train the trainer workshops on the toolkit so if you are interested in participating please speak to Frontier Impact Group.

An outcome of the toolkit is to be able to complete a financial template that will determine whether there is sufficient revenue to meet its costs and pay a return to its investors. The place to start is the financial model template!

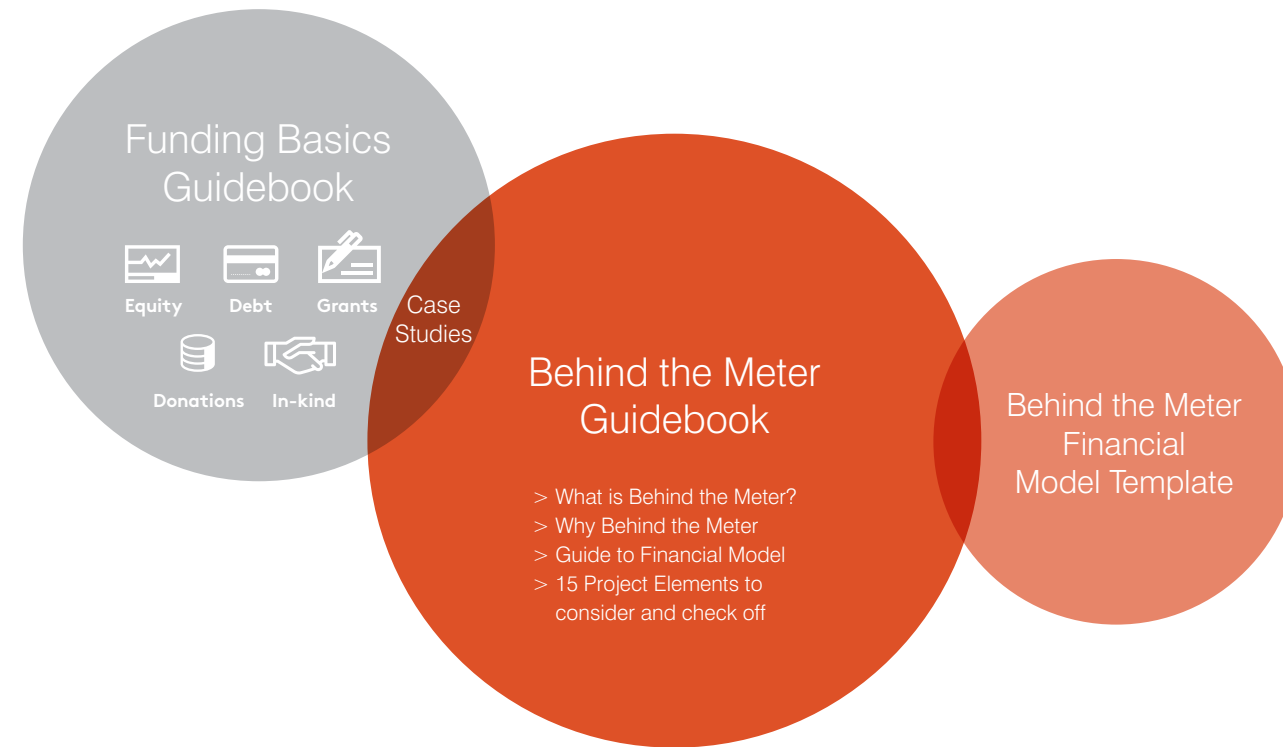


The financial model template asks a number of questions and also requires a range of input values relevant to your project to be entered. The model template has references to the relevant part of Section C of the guidebook so you can go straight to the part where there is a more detailed explanation on a particular item with links to further reference material if needed.



Behind the Meter Solar PV installation

Project Areas and Focus



KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

The key project elements are shown below and while the guidebook explains that each of these cannot be considered in isolation of the other, they provide a logical checklist of things that you need to address in your project:

1. Technology	2. Project Scale	3. Community Engagement	4. Business Structure	5. Project Development / Resourcing
6. Site Selection & Acquisition	7. Resource Assessment	8. Construction	9. Network Connection	10. Permitting
11. Operational Resources	12. Project Funding	13. Power Sales Agreements	14. Financial Modelling	15. Risk Management

About the Guidebook

Once you have completed the necessary inputs in the financial model template you can then look at the output results in the Investor Return section of the financial model template to see if the project is going to be viable. Section B of the guidebook explains the Investor Return metrics used in the guidebook.

Projects can be assessed in many ways and the investor return metrics are only one set of factors to consider particularly for projects funded by community members. Other motivations such as energy independence, environmental benefits and local resilience can also be strong drivers of community energy initiatives.

Section A
Provides a background to the overall CE Funding Toolkit, the reasons we have created a separate BTM Solar PV module and introduces key concepts in the overall module. It also describes the interaction with the Funding Basics Guidebook.

Section B
Explains the structure of the financial template and a detailed description of each of the investment return metrics. It also sets out how to run sensitivity analysis in the template.

Section C
Goes through each of the key project elements in detail providing links to additional resources if you require further detail and examples to complement the information included in the guidebook itself. The Project Funding element of Section C also references the Funding Basics Guidebook so you can assess what types of funding options may best suit your project as it is developed from a concept right through to construction.

Section D
Incorporates a glossary that explains terminology used in the guidebook together with practical case studies that show how some successful projects have addressed each of the project elements set out in section C.