

# Renewable Energy Training Program

## Engaging Communities



There is increased outrage in rural and regional communities from proposals to develop new renewable energy infrastructure including solar and wind farms, pumped hydro, battery storage, hydrogen and high voltage transmission lines.

The 'Review of community engagement practices', by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner and other recent research by Essential in conjunction with RE-Alliance highlights the importance of effective community engagement. Entrenched opposition, delays or project failure can be avoided with early and effective engagement.

Proponents for energy projects need to explore the questions from the public perspective. They need to understand the issues for the community, the environment, agricultural land and the personal, social and economic situation of communities.

### Dates and locations

**Melbourne** – 4 and 5 February 2025

**Sydney** – 15 and 16 April 2025

#### BOOKING DETAILS:



<https://plancom.com.au/engaging-communities-renewable-energy-training-program/>

### Training options and costs

**Per person to attend the two-day course is \$1,300 + GST.** Discounts apply for 3 or more from one organisation.

The course is highly interactive and participation is capped at 25 people to maximise the interaction and experience.

**Tailored training for the team at your workplace** can be more convenient and cost effective and we can use your case examples.

Contact us on [info@plancom.com.au](mailto:info@plancom.com.au)

## The course in detail



### DAY ONE: EFFECTIVE PLANNING FOR ENGAGEMENT

Using the experience of the participants and a relevant case study we will explore:

- What is engagement and how to make it effective
- Who needs to be involved and ensuring our engagements are accessible
- Stakeholder involvement for all project stages
- Exploring requirements of AEMO, Clean Energy Council, The Energy Charter, State Government guidelines
- Application of the models referenced in documents, i.e., establishing level of engagement using the IAP2 Spectrum.
- Working with and involving indigenous people and their representatives
- Engagement resources that we might need
- Evaluating our success in engagement.



### DAY TWO: WORKING WITH EMOTIONAL OR OUTRAGED INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES

- Exploring application of the best engagement methods for the situation and through planning, construction and operation
- Exploring outrage and the components of outrage developed by Dr Peter Sandman
- Strategies to reduce outrage and encourage dialogue
- Listening skills, self awareness and empathy
- Effective responses to communication from the community
- Working with communities around maximising the benefits
- Social license, what does it mean and how do we know when we have it
- Working with stakeholder values
- Methods and approaches that may reduce outrage.

## About the trainer

Margaret has provided courses to the renewable energy industry for more than 10 years. She has delivered community engagement training to over 2,000 professionals in courses in New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, UK and the USA in addition to Australia.

As an active engagement practitioner she has worked across the eastern states of Australia on wind, solar and waste to energy projects. She has also assisted the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and the ACT government to develop and update guidelines for community engagement.

Margaret is a fellow of the International Association for Public Participation (FIAP2) and a trainer for the IAP2 Global Learning Pathway training course.

She is a member of the Panel of Chairpersons for NSW DPHI Community Consultative Committees (CCCs) and Chairs CCCs for wind, solar and transmission infrastructure.

Training has been provided to companies including Goldwind, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, Endeavour Energy, Acciona, Tilt Renewables, Ark Energy, Vestas, Energy Australia, Iberdrola, FRV, Spark Renewables and government including SA Office of Hydrogen Power.

