# Community consultation

**A summary of the community battery community consultation journey and what we have heard so far.**

## Individual community voices

City of Melbourne conducts first online survey to understand community support for local community batteries, proposed battery locations and feedback on how we could make it easy to switch to energy bills to a Power Melbourne plan.

From this initial survey, we learnt that

* 77% of respondents were supportive of a community battery in their local area
* 89% agreed that community batteries are an important part of the solution to transitioning to more renewable energy
* Participants strongly endorsed Council properties as locations for our pilot network of batteries

Following this survey, Council approved the first three batteries to be installed at:

1. Library at Dock
2. Boyd Community Hub
3. Council House

[Read the findings.](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne/neighbourhood-batteries-individual-community-voices)

## Cross-council collaboration

City of Port Phillip and City of Yarra conduct the same survey as City of Melbourne to allow comparison between LGAs. Together, we heard from over 800 people across the three councils areas. City of Melbourne also conducted a series of focus groups to further explore community perceptions and attitudes towards community batteries.

The three Councils also launch a local neighbourhood battery Community Champions program with a group of 25 community members representing a diverse range of community.

The project team drew on the findings of the collated survey data, focus group insights and learnings from early activities with the Champions to inform the next stage of engagement.

[Read the findings.](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne/cross-council-collaboration-neighbourhood-batteries)

## Community Champions

A group of 25 Champions representing a diverse range of community across the three council areas participate in deeper conversations about the opportunities and challenges of community batteries over three workshops between April and August 2023.

Champions also host their own conversations with neighbours, networks and friends to help us better understand what a wider range of community members think about community batteries.

Over the course of the program, Champions identified a range of opportunities and challenges for Councils to consider and plan for.

Champions also identified opportunities to continue with conversation with the broader community including collaborating with schools and local groups, and making projects visible for awareness-raising about sustainability and energy issues.

[Read the Community Champions summary.](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne/neighbourhood-battery-community-champions)

## Neighbourhood conversations

City of Melbourne, City of Yarra and City of Port Phillip conduct a second online survey and host community pop ups to better understand how the community feel about a potential community battery in their specific area, benefits they would like to see and visual design preferences.

We heard from almost 550 people across the three council areas in the online survey and at local pop ups across 15 neighbourhoods.

We heard that many participants want community batteries to be visible, but most prefer them to be located on underutilised land rather than take up public green space.

These findings helped us understand community priorities around locations, benefits and visual design preferences for community batteries, as well as people future battery locations.

[Read the findings.](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne/power-melbourne-neighbourhood-level-conversations)

## Site-specific activations

City of Melbourne’s first three batteries will be installed at Library at the Dock, Boyd Community Hub, and Council House in 2024. We look forward to activating the design and installation of each site through a series of informational and engagement activities over the next year.

[Visit our news page for the latest on these developments.](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne/power-melbourne-news)