



## Media Release

31 JANUARY 2018

### **Classrooms powered by renewable energy to be trialled in NSW schools**

School children across Australia could soon be taught in classrooms powered entirely by renewable energy as a result of the innovative 'Hivve' modular classroom, now being trialled in two New South Wales schools.

On behalf of the Australian Government, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is providing Hivve Technology Pty Ltd with \$368,115 in funding to pilot their modular classrooms in a school environment.

Known as the 'Hivve', the portable classroom incorporates solar PV generation, real time energy metering, CO<sub>2</sub> metering, data capture and communications to actively manage energy demands and control indoor environment quality.

Each Hivve classroom has the potential to generate enough electricity to power itself and two other classrooms in the school.

A regular classroom can consume on average 3,800 KWh per year, but when a HIVE classroom is in use, there is an estimated net energy generation of 7,600 KWh per year.

Ready for the start of 2018 school year this week, the two pilot classrooms are being trialled at St Christopher's Catholic Primary School in Holsworthy in Sydney's south western suburbs and at Dapto High School in Dapto where the performance of the Hivve classrooms will be monitored and evaluated over a 12 month period.

A prototype building built by Hivve Technology Pty Ltd has successfully demonstrated the functionality in a controlled environment and this will be the first time the Hivve classroom and technology has been trialled in a real school.

ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht said there was enormous potential for Australia's public schools to not only educate on renewables, but also reduce their reliance on the grid.

ARENA media contacts:  
**0410 724 227**  
**media@arena.gov.au**

**For more  
information**  
[arena.gov.au](http://arena.gov.au)

“This is a great way to get the next generation involved in renewables at an early age and educate them as to what the positive benefits will be as Australia continues its shift towards a renewable energy future,”

“The success of the Hive project could lead to a nation-wide adoption of the modular classrooms, reducing reliance on the grid and even providing a significant amount of electricity back to the NEM.” Mr Frischknecht said.

Hive Director David Wrench said the Hive Technology was conceived and designed to deliver sustainable solutions – both environmental and economic – to help meet Australia’s growing school infrastructure needs.

“We are very pleased to be partnering with ARENA on this exciting project. We have carefully designed every element of the Hive classroom to create the best possible learning environment for students”, Mr Wrench said.

**For further information on ARENA, visit [arena.gov.au](http://arena.gov.au)**

**For further information on Hive Technology, visit [hive.com.au](http://hive.com.au)**