

McCain Foods Australia to build renewable energy system

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McCain Foods Australia has announced it has commenced construction on a renewable energy system that will reduce emissions from its Ballarat food processing facility by more than 27,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.



McCain's Ballarat plant will reduce CO₂ emissions by 27,100 tonnes per year

McCain Foods Australia has announced it has commenced construction on a renewable energy system that will reduce emissions from its Ballarat food processing facility by more than 27,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

The project, which will house Australia's largest "behind-the-meter" renewable energy system, will subsidise McCain's energy consumption in Ballarat by 39 per cent.

The 8.2 megawatt (MW) system plans to utilise a combination of solar and co-generation technology, with the solar system funded through a partnership with Smart Commercial Solar Pty LTD under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), funded by renewable investment fund, Solar Bay.

The new system comprises a 17,000 panel ground mount and carpark solar array, and a co-generation anaerobic digester that utilises biogas produced by food waste to generate energy. Together, the two systems will reduce the site's reliance on natural gas by 16 per cent, and energy consumed from the grid by 39 per cent.