

# DCEP Annual Report 2023





# CONTENTS

**04** *From the Chair*

**05** *From the Co-Founder*

**06** *A bit about DCEP Inc*

**07** *Why is it called DCEP?*

**08** *DCEP Committee Members 2023*

**10** *Community Fund*

**12** *Treasurer's Report*

**13** *Plico Performance*



## We Acknowledge.

DCEP and Plico acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land and the continuing culture and contribution they make to the life of this region.

A photograph of two men standing on a wooden balcony. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with a 'Plico' logo and is looking at a tablet. The man on the left is wearing a blue sweater and is looking at the tablet. The balcony has a wooden railing. In the background, there is a wooden building with a corrugated metal roof and a large tree with green ferns. A semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Plico brings people together to build a better world one rooftop at a time. We're enabling everyone to **generate**, **access** and control their own sustainable energy and **be the future**.

We are a **community of change-makers** building the **sustainable energy grid of the future**.



# From the Chair

***Dear fellow Plico members,***

I am honoured to have continued serving as the Chairperson of your committee over the past year, representing our ever-growing membership and expanding presence in WA.

As Plico members, we not only personally contribute to the renewable energy movement but also play a vital role in achieving broader community sustainability goals through the virtual power plant (VPP) and our community outreach efforts.

I would like to extend my personal appreciation to my fellow committee members for their efforts and support over the last year.

This year saw the implementation of our first VPP involving our members in what I believe was an Australia-first. This came very unexpectedly for many members, however the grid challenges called for VPP support much sooner, with financial rewards for those members who participated. I look forward to VPPs contributing in a positive manner for both our membership and our community.

As you may be aware, our one-off membership fees are separated into two funds: the Community Fund and the Hardship (Utility Support) Fund, which are managed by your DCEP Committee. It has been a privilege to administer these funds to community groups, schools, research institutions and to individual Plico members. Projects funded must align with our Association's strategic objectives of benefiting members, the environment and the community. During this past year, in keeping



with our modified objectives, greater emphasis has been applied to environmental-related outcomes.

I would like to highlight two projects that I believe demonstrate the very real benefits of our membership model.

The first is the Dalyalleup Collective/Southwest Lighthouse Lego Group Briktopia Lego as Art event - the first Lego community event in the South West, which included themes for today and into the future. Prizes were awarded for various categories and the event proved very successful with many artworks featuring various environmental themes of solar power and electricity. I understand that future larger scope Briktopia events are in the works.

The second project enhanced cultural and environmental education, as well as protection of the Western Ringtail Possum and resident wildlife, in the Barnard East Conservation Area. We supported the Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre to include interpretive biodiversity and Indigenous signage in the project scope.

In conclusion, I look forward to working either as a committee member during the forthcoming year, should I be re-elected, or as a member assisting our organisation in whatever capacity I am able.

***Neil Shipley, Chair***

# From the Co-Founder

## Dear Plico Members

It has been incredible to see our Plico community go from strength to strength this past year. Our unwavering commitment to our values and the 'bigger picture' has solidified our position in the solar and battery market.

***The future of energy is here, and I am thrilled to be part of it with you.***

We launched WA's first privately owned Virtual Power Plant in December 2022 through a direct contract with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). We supported the grid with additional capacity on two occasions and helped bring the grid back into balance. This is an incredible achievement and one that every Plico member should be proud of. I know I am.

On the back of this successful deployment of the VPP, we will now provide minimum demand services to the grid over the next 12 months, further demonstrating the power of our VPP. Can you imagine if our community was 100,000 strong and what that would do for the grid and the future of energy in this state? Being a member of the VPP enables you to actively participate in the energy market and generate revenue from your Plico system – a valuable advantage of being a part of our community.

***We're at the forefront of the clean energy revolution.***

In 2022-2023, we more than doubled our membership and almost tripled our battery capacity. This has strengthened our community and grown our VPP capabilities. We are making a significant difference and it's all thanks to our forward-thinking Plico members who made the move to clean energy.

Five years ago, we saw the potential of solar batteries and we brought them into the mainstream. Now we can see the potential of electric vehicles (EVs) and how they can increase our VPP capacity. That's a focus for the future and will be another game-changer for our community.

It's inspiring to witness the progress of WA's clean energy future. The transition away from coal and integration of more renewables into the network is not without its challenges. Our VPP is demonstrating how managed, distributed solar, combined with battery storage can effectively and efficiently accelerate the energy transition at a lower cost than other alternatives.

Thank you for being on this clean energy journey with us and for helping our very special community grow.

***Brian Innes, Co-Founder  
of DCEP and Plico***



***We launched  
WA's first  
privately  
owned Virtual  
Power Plant in  
December 2022.***

# **DCEP Incorporated**

## **Building resilient and sustainable communities.**

### **A bit about DCEP Inc**

All Plico members are members of DCEP Inc under Plico's unique membership model. The DCEP Committee is a group of Plico members responsible for making decisions about where Plico membership fees are invested.

DCEP Inc was established as the not-for-profit association that provides representation for Plico members under the unique community ownership model. This community ownership model means that all Plico members are also members of DCEP.

The purpose of DCEP is to represent and support members, as well as support projects that build healthier, more resilient and greener futures for the wider community through the Community Fund. Plico members' \$250 Membership fee is invested in the Community Fund and a Hardship Fund to support members.

An aerial photograph of a beach. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a lighter, foamy white at the shoreline. A long, narrow pier made of dark grey stones extends from the right side of the frame into the water. A blue umbrella is visible on the pier. The beach is sandy and has several people scattered across it. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

## WHY IS IT CALLED DCEP?

Plico Energy was born from the Dunsborough Community Energy Project (DCEP). Since Plico expanded beyond the Dunsborough region, the Committee is now simply known as DCEP – a broader group not defined by a location.

# DCEP Committee Members

## 2023

### **Neil Shipley, Chair**

It has been a privilege to again hold the role of Chairperson of your Committee.

As an early adoptee of a Plico system, it has been a pleasure to watch our community grow and prosper and to be a part of such positive progress. As in past years, I have found it very rewarding and have thoroughly enjoyed reviewing and learning about the broad range of potential projects, each bringing their own unique identities to our committee.

I have enjoyed representing Plico and its members and look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in my capacity as Chair of DCEP Inc.



### **Jamie Ball, Deputy Chair**

I put my hand up to join the DCEP Committee as I think it provides great opportunities to support community groups with their projects and I wanted to be part of it and give back to the community.



### **Sarah Molloy, Secretary**

I have been privileged to work with such a passionate group of Plico members who are having a positive impact on our local communities through DCEP. Supporting individuals and communities to take action on climate change, protect our natural environment and build thriving, diverse and healthy communities has been very rewarding for me. I see so much opportunity for DCEP and Plico to grow and have an even greater impact.





### ***Nola Wright, Treasurer***

I have been Treasurer of DCEP for three years now and continue to be a passionate advocate for our community.

The community ownership model of Plico allows us to give back in more ways than reducing our personal carbon footprint – and this is what makes our Plico community so unique. Being Treasurer of DCEP has allowed me to practice my passion for accounting and I have enjoyed seeing how our Plico membership fees have a positive impact in the community. I wish the Committee all the very best for future.



### ***Alie Smith, Member***

I was one of the very first Plico members in Dunsborough and have been a passionate advocate for clean energy ever since. I recently moved to Cervantes and am enjoying bringing my passion to a new regional area and supporting this amazing community any way I can. I am the lucky mother of four beautiful children and passionate about sustainability, longevity and living a chemical free lifestyle.



### ***John Riordan, Member***

I have enjoyed my time as a DCEP Committee member over the past two years. It's helped me connect with other Plico members. We live in Hazelvale near Walpole, which is quite literally at the end of the power network, however, with modern

technology I have been able to participate on the DCEP Committee. I originally joined Plico to help deal with ongoing blackouts and make my home more sustainable – something that is very important to my family.



### ***Shahn Johnston, Member***

As a newbie to the DCEP Committee (and to Plico!), I have found it really rewarding to be able to give back to my local community. I joined Plico because I am passionate about sustainability and the environment. Now I can be sustainable with my energy at home and support projects that protect our natural environment and create resilient communities.



# COMMUNITY FUND

Every member who joins Plico contributes a \$250 Membership fee, of which 75% is invested into the Plico Community Fund. The fund is used to support local community projects that provide services or activities that align with DCEP objectives to benefit the environment, Plico members and the wider community.

## Community groups can apply for funding under three categories:

- Natural Environment
- Sustainable Future
- Community Enhancement & Wellbeing

The Community Fund supported the highest number of local projects in 2022-23, more than any year prior. Almost \$50,000 was provided to 10 organisations ranging from primary schools to environmental groups and sporting clubs.

## Here is a snapshot of some of these projects:

01

### Building Busselton Town Team – Country Dreaming Boodja Koondarminy

“It’s about sharing our culture and giving these local Aboriginal artists a chance to show their skills. It is a huge opportunity for them and a big challenge so Sam Allen who is a professional street artist, has been advising us. We want it to be a positive change in Busselton as there is no other Aboriginal led artwork in the town, and of course, it would be good to start seeing some more!”  
Thelma Harris, Aboriginal Administration Officer, Building Busselton.



02

### Dalyellup Collective – Briktopia Lego Tournament

“The community funding and support we received from Plico allowed us to source and supply lego brick mosaic kits and prizes to the three public schools who participated in our lego as art project. Newton Moore allowed us the honour of selecting a winner on Plico’s behalf based on their best alignment to future energy generation and artful representation. Bunbury Senior HS gave prizes to their small groups to build together. South Bunbury education support invited us to present all the prizes to their students (as the entire student body participated, which was unexpected but very welcome). On the day of the event we proudly presented the Plico banners and celebrated our amazing sponsors in a speech of thanks. We look forward to future lego based projects in the future with Plico as our supporter.”  
Jennifer Heart, Southwest Lighthouse Lego Group.



# COMMUNITY FUND

03

## Tenterden Tennis Club – Court Resurfacing

“Thank you Plico Community Fund for your generous donation towards our small but thriving Tenterden Tennis Club! Running for over 100 years we are excited and grateful to have your support. The money donated has assisted with the construction of our new courts (a year-long project) for the current and future members of our club. Tenterden Tennis Club is all about bringing communities together and we are very excited to have Plico’s partnership.” Chris Tomlinson, President Tenterden Tennis Club.



**plico**  
Be the future.

## Helping communities shine

When you connect with the largest community energy network in WA, good things happen.

Like funding the Club's new court surface. Plico's Community Fund helps support sustainable and resilient communities like yours achieve great things.

Plico is helping everyday West Australians make the switch to clean energy with solar + battery.

For more information call 1300 175 426 or visit [plicoenergy.com.au](http://plicoenergy.com.au)

Building Busselton Town Team  
Country Dreaming Boodja Koondarminy  
**\$3,000.00**

Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre  
Barnard East Conservation Area  
**\$12,000.00**

Cervantes Primary School  
Vegetable Garden Shed  
**\$1,917.98**

Dalyellup Collective  
Briktopia Lego Tournament  
**\$5,000.00**

Denmark Primary School  
Stem Table, fridge and energy education  
**\$5,058.39**

FAWNA  
New security system  
**\$4,989.09**

Izzy Samba School  
Brazilian Street Carnival  
**\$4,500.00**

Scarborough Surf Club  
Groundswell Festival  
**\$4,100.00**

Tenterden Tennis Club  
Tennis courts resurfacing  
**\$5,242.00**

Yallingup Boardriders  
Yallingup ShredFest  
**\$4,000.00**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## 2022-2023

# 75%

is allocated to the Community Fund and the remaining

# 25%

is allocated to the Hardship Fund.

### EXPENSES

\$52,940.10

### HARDSHIP FUND

\$740.40

### ADMINISTRATION

\$2,392.90

### REVENUE

\$148,750.00

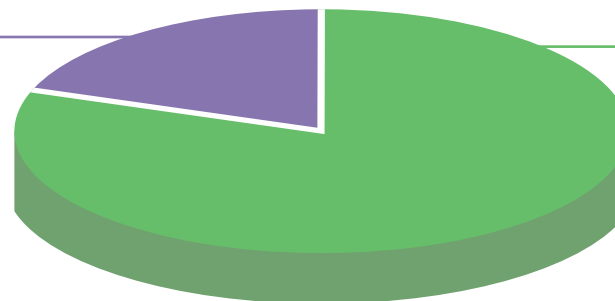
### TOTAL BALANCE

\$182,286.53

### COMMUNITY FUND

\$49,807.46

\$35,332.10  
HARDSHIP FUND



\$146,954.43  
COMMUNITY FUND

\$182,286.53  
TOTAL

Plico membership fees are having a positive impact on our local communities. Year on year, we are supporting more community groups, schools and clubs bring their projects to life through the Community Fund. We also look after our Plico members through the Hardship Fund. So, when Plico members find themselves in financial hardship, DCEP is there to lend a hand.

*The combined balance of the Community Fund and Hardship Fund accounts funds was \$182,286.53 as of 30 June 2023.*

A total of \$49,807.46 was allocated to community projects through the Plico Community Fund and \$730.40 was provided to a Plico member via CEPCO 2019 to cover their weekly Plico fee for a period of 16 weeks while they recovered from surgery.

DCEP receives membership payments from Starling Energy Group Pty Ltd. These payments are split between the Community Fund (75%) and the Hardship Fund (25%). In 2022/23, DCEP received \$148,750.00 in revenue, which was directly invested into these funds.

# PLICO PERFORMANCE

## KPI's

### Inverter

#### UNIT % Uptime

the percentage of time the inverter is operating to invert solar panel generated direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) in the form of electricity.

### Battery

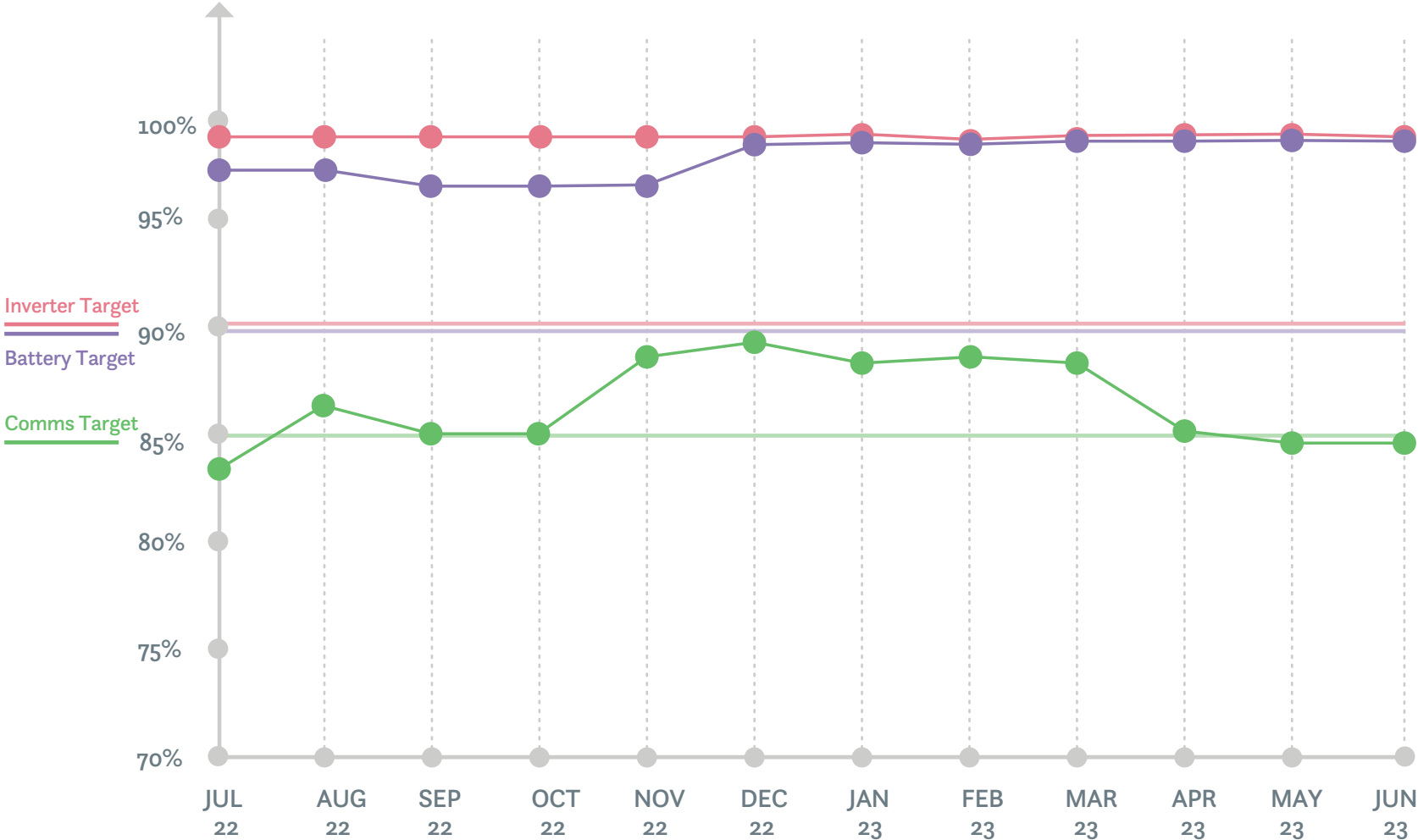
#### UNIT % Uptime

the percentage of time the battery is operational to store energy generated or feed into household or grid.

### Comms

#### UNIT % Online

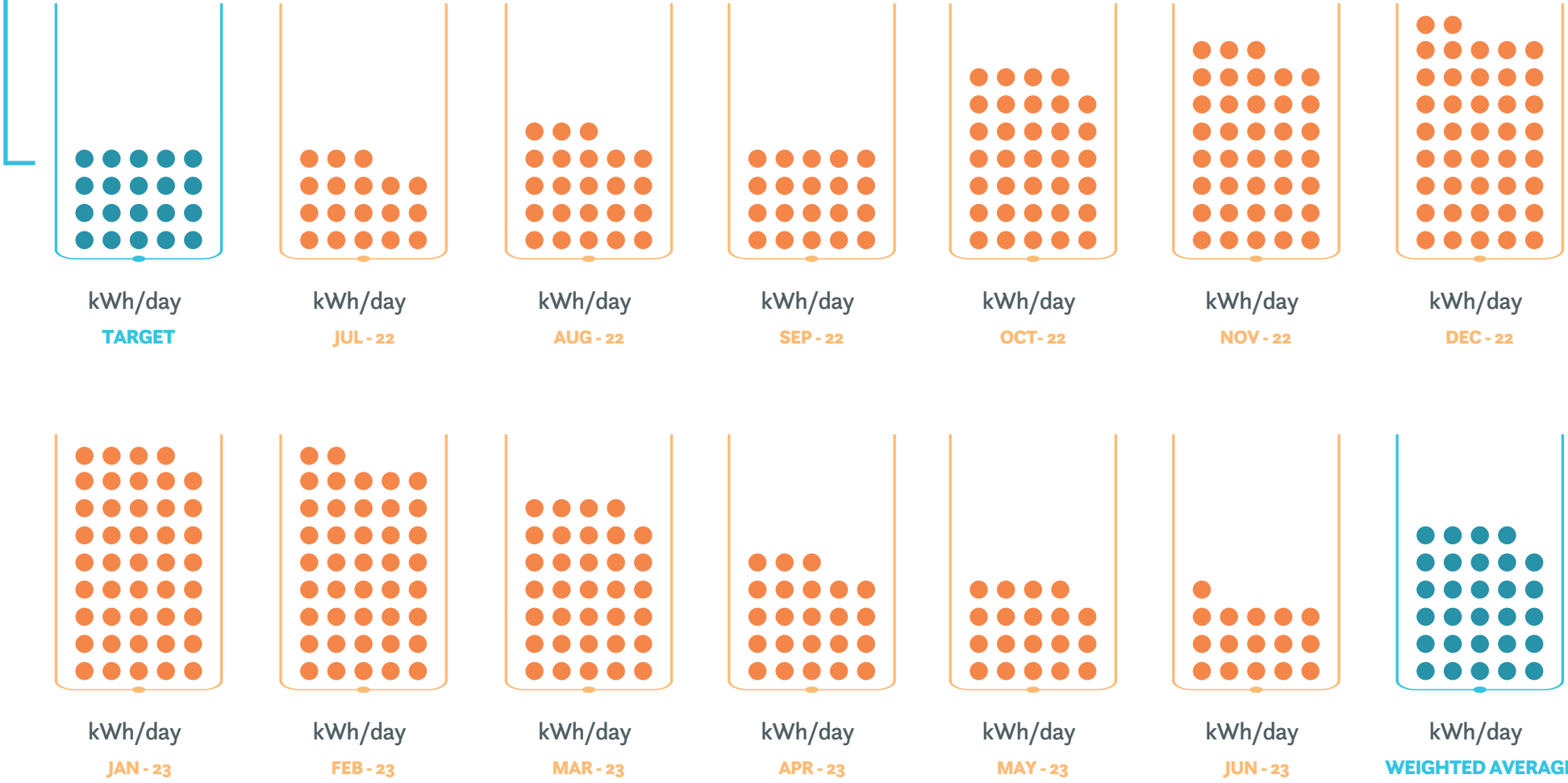
the percentage of time that systems are online and communicating back to Plico Energy, usually due to strength of internet connection.



# PLICO PERFORMANCE

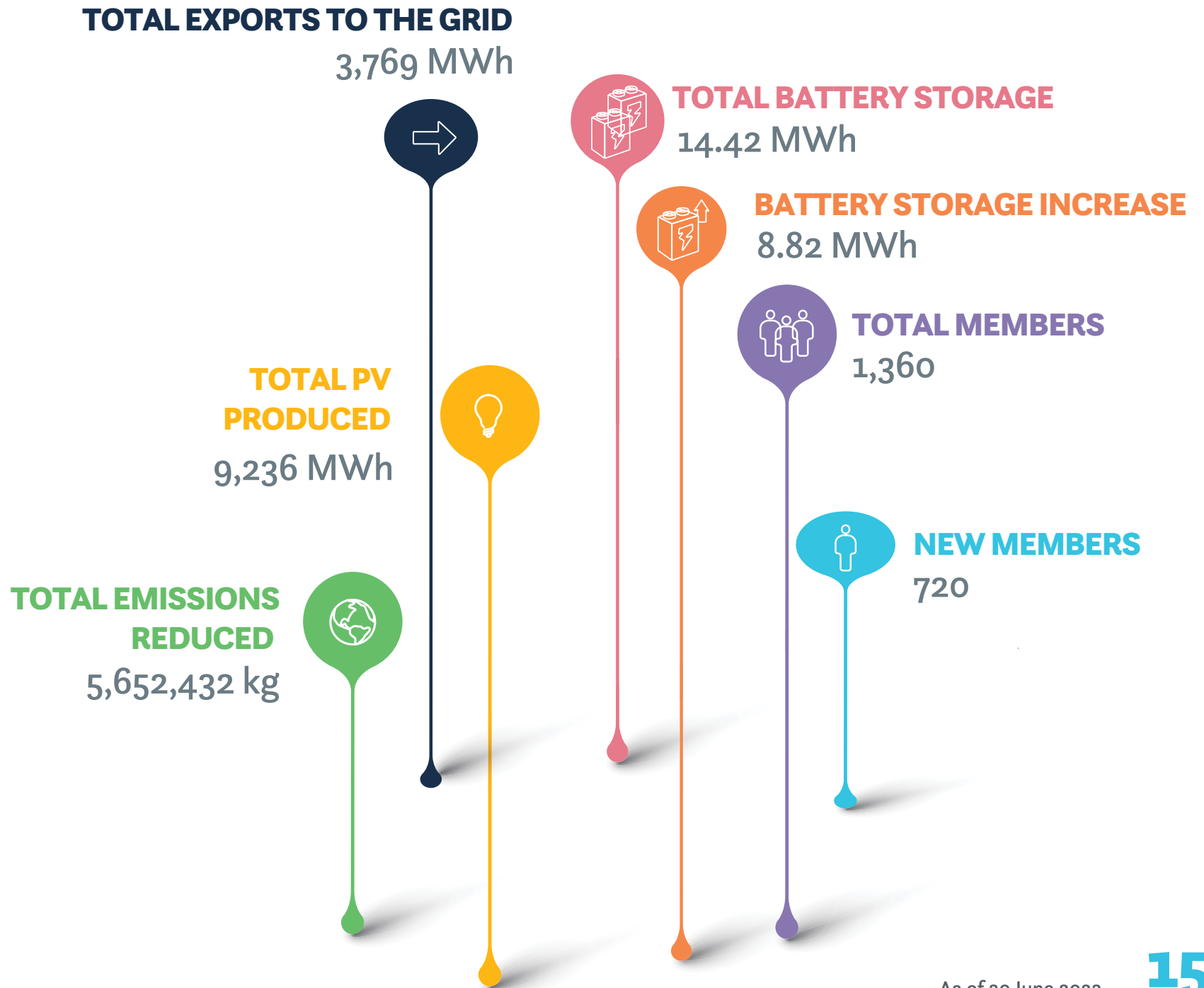
## SOLAR GENERATION

Target for Plico Fleet of systems is 20 kWh/day



In 2022-2023, the average production was 29.7 kWh/day

# PLICO PERFORMANCE



As of 30 June 2023



# Be the future.

✉ [dcep.committee@plicoenergy.com.au](mailto:dcep.committee@plicoenergy.com.au)  
1300 175 426 | [plicoenergy.com.au](http://plicoenergy.com.au)

