



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Hello,

We are all having a great time working on the Low Carbon Diet project. It is busy, but certainly rewarding. From all over Queensland we get reports from people that have used the *ClimateSmart Home Service* and the "energy savings" they are making. We hope to be able to showcase some climate smart energy saving solutions during our public meetings and workshops. Looking forward to meeting you at one of these events. In the meantime, please keep us informed on how you are going with saving energy (and money), so that we can pass those results onto the Queensland Government ClimateSmart Living officers. Thanks!

Miriam Sharp, Secretary - office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Office news

We continue to be quite busy at the office. Correspondence is coming in by the truck load - most of it related to the Low Carbon Diet project. We have also been busy with maintaining our information displays at the Toowoomba City Library and the University of Southern Queensland; as well as preparing for upcoming events.

Next HOPE meeting

The next general HOPE meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, 16 May**. It will be held at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba, and will commence at 10am. All invited. Morning tea provided. Please RSVP by 14 May.

Date claimers:

HOPE will be having *Low Carbon Diet* and *Sustainable Housing* information displays at the following events:

- Sunday, 24 May - Natural Resource management (NRM) Week, Queens Park - Toowoomba
- Sunday, 31 May - Toowoomba's *World Environment Day* celebrations, Lake Annand Park - Toowoomba

➔ Please come along and support these events!

Low Carbon Diet project and related news

Over the past few weeks we have sent out LCD promotional articles to a variety of organisations and institutions that may be able to help us disseminate information to their respective memberships and/or readerships. Also, we are working on a major mail-out to community groups as well.

We have received generous sponsorship from Officeworks (Toowoomba). They have provided us with the necessary office stationary and computer consumables. Thank you Joce and Jodie. Ergon Energy has offered us \$250 in sponsorship as well. Thank you Andrew.

The travelling LCD information display has already been to the Highfields and Crow's Nest libraries. Tomorrow, it will be taken to the Yarraman library where it will be for a few weeks.

Recently, we had a major LCD display at Warwick's *Peace Festival* (Saturday, 2 May) - with a good level of interest from on-lookers. Coming up, we will be at the NRM week event in Queens Park, Toowoomba (Sunday, 24 May) and the World Environment Day event at Lake Annand Park, Toowoomba (Sunday, 31 May). Come and say hi!

The program for the public meetings is progressing slowly. We are still searching for suitable venues and dates across the region.

ClimateSmart home service – Book NOW!

Have you signed up yet? This great service will help you conserve energy and save money. For only \$50 you get a service (normally \$450) that will help you improve the energy efficiency of your home and therefore help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A licensed electrician will visit your home and perform an energy efficiency service that includes the installation of a wireless energy monitor so that you can track exactly how much energy you use. You can save up to \$250 a year on your bills. Go to <http://www.climatesmarthome.com>, or call 13 20 40 to make an appointment.

Reduce your holiday's carbon impact

Concerned about the impact your holiday might have on the environment? You can lower the carbon emissions of your next holiday with this great new online tool. The Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre (STCRC) has launched a free online carbon calculator that estimates your emissions based on your transport, accommodation, and recreation choices. The site also provides tips on how to reduce your holiday's impact. Go to

<http://www.crctourism.com.au/Page/Tools+and+Products/Carbon+Calculator.aspx>

Web resources

Get the kids involved in reducing energy and protecting the environment. As part of the LCD project the Government has a **puzzle book** to introduce these concepts in a playful manner. Find it at http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/get_involved/puzzle_book

The **Sustainable Jamboree** has a list of web links on their website. There are various topics, such as 'carbon calculators', 'energy and electricity', and 'rebates'. Go to

http://sustainablejamboree.org/index.php?option=com_weblinks&catid=16&Itemid=39

Condamine Headwaters Landcare Group Carbon Challenge

The CHL Group has set up an 'Upper Condamine Landcare Carbon Challenge' as part of the Queensland Government's Low Carbon Diet Program.

The Carbon Challenge Competition has 3 divisions for entry:

* Schools * Industry * Business and Community Groups

There are cash prizes for each category:

* 1st prize is \$500 * 2nd prize is \$300 * 3rd prize is \$100

Form a team of 5-10 households. Teams can comprise neighbours, school P&C's, local business, social clubs etc. To participate in the Challenge, you must live in the Condamine Headwaters, Millmerran and Central Downs Landcare regions. For more information, registration and support go to

<http://www.chlgroup.org.au> .

Renters Guide to Sustainability - New ATA Publication

Even renters can make changes to their home to make it more comfortable, save money and reduce their environmental impact. The 'Renters Guide to Sustainable Living', published by the Alternative Technology Association (ATA), shows how it's done. The 16 page booklet is a free resource for anyone looking to lighten their carbon footprint as a tenant. The booklet also has handy information about how to negotiate changes with a landlord, rebates available as well as eligible tax deductions. There are tips for the whole house, showing room-by-room how to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Find the booklet on <http://www.ata.org.au/featured/renters-guide-to-sustainability-new-ata-publication> (From *Urban NRM news*, April 2009)

Street lamps stamp out emissions

The Clinton Climate Initiative is working with Los Angeles to retrofit 140,000 street lamps with energy-saving, long life LED lights.

"Over a seven year period, the city will save a total of US\$48million (\$74million) and reduce carbon emissions by 197,000 tonnes. After the loan is repaid in seven years, LA will continue to save \$10million annually," says ex-President Bill Clinton.

"If every city followed the example ... it would be equivalent to eliminating over 2.5 coal fired power plants per year and we would do that while saving tax payers money."

(Sourced from *WME magazine*, March 2009)

Communicating Climate Change: Discourses, Mediations and Perceptions

The scientific, political and economic complexity of climate change brings up a number of challenges for communication. What are the meanings associated with climate change in different parts of the world and how have those meanings been produced, reproduced and transformed? How have the media in different countries been representing this issue? How do people perceive climate change and to what extent are they integrating it into their actions? This e-book contributes to answering these questions by looking at three main aspects: the discourses of a variety of social actors on climate change, from scientists to religious leaders; the reconstruction of those discourses in the media and the multiple depictions of the issue in the press, television and the Internet; and citizens' perceptions, understandings and attitudes in relation to climate change. The scholars that write in this book analyse these issues in the context of Germany, USA, Mexico, Portugal, Poland and other countries, and help understand the circular relations between discourses, mediations and perceptions. The e-book is available from http://www.lasics.uminho.pt/ojs/index.php/climate_change

General

Creative Conservation

There is a lovely tranquil corner to visit in the Roma St Parklands in Brisbane - the beginnings of a sound garden with a Japanese water harp. The project 'Sound Garden' was designed by Kumis Kato (UQ) and received the Arts Queensland's public art funding art place. It is planned that this Sound Garden will be extended in the future to provide a diverse range of opportunities in environmental education, ceremonial place and other creative activities. The garden will provide a space for a multi-sensory experience that helps develop a stronger sense of connection with the natural world. There will be also "unwanted sound" and noises, which make you more aware about your environment. For more information please go to <http://www.ecco.org.au/soundgarden>



Youth Earth Leaders

The Youth Earth Project (YEP!) is an initiative of *Gecko*, supported by the Queensland Government, Gold Coast City Council and Gold Coast Youth Service. Planning for YEP! Is being undertaken by a committee of young people aged 15-25, coordinated by YEP! Coordinator Jodie Minton, and overseen by *Gecko* and other mentors. YEP! aims to provide our youth with an opportunity to reacquaint themselves with basic ecological principles, whilst fostering a deep appreciation for the earth and its life supporting capacities, and go on to develop a strong commitment to more sustainable lifestyles. If you are a young person interested in sustainability or an experienced sustainability advocate who would like to be part of this exciting project, or to find out more about YEP! please contact *Gecko*'s YEP! Coordinator, Jodie Minton. The details are on the website at <http://www.gecko.org.au/yep>

Resources

Web resources

The Department of Environment and Natural Resource Management (comprised of the former Department of Natural Resources and Water, and the Environmental Protection Agency) has several factsheets on *water conservation in and around the home*.

<http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/waterwise/home.html>

Landcare News

Learning about climate change in SE Australia

The South Eastern Australian Climate Initiative (SEACI) is a major program of about 40 research projects investigating the causes and impacts of climate change and climate variability across south eastern Australia - home of the Murray-Darling Basin.

SEACI is tackling key research questions through the following three linked research themes, each with a number of projects:

- characterisation and attribution of climate climate;
- high-resolution climate projections and impacts; and
- seasonal forecasts.

In addition to the results generated within the themes by each project against its own milestones, the program itself aims to deliver a more holistic and better understanding of climate change and climate variability across south eastern Australia.

The SEACI geographical study area incorporates the Murray-Darling Basin, the states of Victoria and southern South Australia, including the agricultural areas of Eyre Peninsula.

SEACI is a collaboration between:

- the Murray-Darling Basin Authority;
- the Department of Climate Change;
- the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment;
- Land and Water Australia;
- the Managing Climate Variability Program;
- CSIRO; and
- the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is the managing agency, with the research being carried out by research partners CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. *Find our more:* www.mdba.gov.au/seaci

(Sourced from Australian Landcare, March 2009)

Apply now for Junior Landcare Grants

Junior Landcare grants of up to \$1,000 are available now for schools and community youth organisations.

For more information visit www.landcareonline.com and click on Funding Opportunities.

A tip / helpful hint

This time we concentrate on saving energy in the **bathroom and laundry**:

- Use a clothes line: Hang your washing on a clothes line or airer instead of using a tumble dryer.
- Clean the lint filter: If you must use a clothes dryer, clean out the lint filter each time you use it. It will work more efficiently and reduce fire danger.
- Dry Ironing: Iron clothes in large batches to avoid having to re-heat the iron. The 'steam' setting uses more energy, so 'dry' iron wherever possible.
- Bathroom appliances: Ensure exhaust fans, heaters (including heated lights), shavers and hair straighteners are switched off when not in use.
- Wash clothes in cold water: Wash clothes in cold water to save energy. Water heating accounts for up to 90 percent of energy consumed by washing clothes. Use laundry powder suitable for washing in cold water to get the best results.
- Take short showers: Limit yourself to a four-minute shower. A shower timer can help you keep track of the time.
- Replace bathroom fittings: Install AAA or 3-star low-flow showerheads to save energy through reduced hot water use. Be WaterWise—fix leaky taps while you're at it.
- Greenhouse efficient hot water system: Install a greenhouse efficient hot water system. Solar hot water systems use up to four times less electricity than a regular electric storage hot water system. You might even be eligible for a [rebate](#) to help with the upfront cost.

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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