



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Hi there,

We hope everyone is back on track after those floods in Queensland and northern NSW. We do need water, just not that much in one go! Well, you can't choose these things. But we can make a choice about how we live so that we can help our world to become more sustainable and perhaps better able to cope with situations like these floods. In this issue we have lots of useful information again about everything from energy-efficient keeping-warm tips, to a 'green' job board. Enjoy!

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

Office news

The scheduled meeting of HOPE went ahead on 16 May, despite there being more apologies than attendees. It is important that members take the opportunity to come along to meetings; show support for HOPE; and to contribute to the discussion of items which may present differing points of view.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 July, in conjunction with the first of the *Low Carbon Diet* public meetings. Mark this date on your calendar **now**.

Low Carbon Diet project and related news

LCD project update

- HOPE's information displays at the relatively small events of NRM Week (24 May) and World Environment Day (31 May) were well received.
- Stephen has done a good job updating our website and now all information pertaining to our *Low Carbon Diet* project can be found online at www.hopeaustralia.org.au .
- Thanks to Samantha and her team at Wombat Creative for producing an information booklet which will be available soon.

Related news

What you can do

A great example of how we can all make a difference:

http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=2278&eid=13428

Sustainable house profiles

Visit Sanctuary magazine's sustainable house profiles page, and click on the locations on the map to read articles about leading sustainable homes around Australia as featured in the highly regarded Sanctuary magazine: <http://www.sanctuarymagazine.org.au/find-articles/house-profiles>

Ergon Energy Envirofund

Ergon Energy is pleased to announce the launch of the Ergon Energy Envirofund - a grant program for not-for-profit community groups and organisations to undertake energy saving and environmental initiatives in their local communities. Ergon Energy has committed \$100,000 in funds to the program.

Grants from as little as \$200 up to \$20,000 or more will be made available to organisations in regional Queensland, depending on the size and merit of individual projects. Preference will be given to projects with an energy conservation focus, however other environmental benefits will also be considered. Applications for this first round of grants close on **Friday 31 July**. Full details are now available on the Ergon Energy website at

<http://evolve.ergon.com.au/WhatisErgonEnergydoing/Inthecommunity/ErgonEnergyEnviroFund.aspx>.

Federal Government's Solar Rebate to end on June 30th 2009

The Australian Government's Solar Homes and Communities Plan \$8,000 cash rebate for grid connect solar power will end on June 30th 2009. After June 2009, the Solar Credits Program will be launched. The Solar Credits Scheme was announced by the Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett on 17th December 2008 and is scheduled to commence on 1st July 2009. The 50% Renewable Remote Power Generations Program will still stay in place for off-grid installations. Unlike the current program, the new scheme will not be means tested, and will be available to businesses as well as households and community groups. For more information go to

<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/pv/index.html>

Queensland Solar Hot Water Program

The Office of Clean Energy is currently implementing the Queensland Government's commitment to deliver up to 200 000 affordable solar hot water systems to Queensland households over the next 3 years, beginning 1 July 2009. Through the Queensland Solar Hot Water Program, eligible participants will have access to a standard installed and warranted, solar or heat pump hot water system for a payment of \$100 for eligible pensioners and low income earners, and \$500 for other eligible participants. For more information check

http://www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/consumer_information.cfm

Green Loans (written by Oliver Kinder, HOPE supporter)

From 1 July 2009 the Australian Government will start a new initiative - the Green Loans Program.

This program consists of two components:

1. A free home sustainability assessment and report
2. Provision of subsidised loans to help implement the recommendations identified in the report, should you wish to do so.

Any eligible household can book an appointment to have their existing home assessed.

The building, energy and water services, lighting, waste management, cooking, heating and cooling etc. will be assessed by a Professional Household Sustainability Assessor.

The assessor will make suggestions as to how you can improve the comfort level of your home without increasing greenhouse gas emissions and/or reducing those emissions and at the same time reducing the running costs of your home. A sophisticated assessment software will be used to calculate environmental impact.

You will receive a tailored, expert written report from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, which will identify the most effective options to make your home more sustainable and/or cheaper to run. This report will be valid for six months. The Household Sustainability Assessment will enable you to access a Green Loan of up to \$10,000 through one of the participating financial institutions. This loan will not affect your eligibility for Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's).

You can book an assessment either through an online booking system or by approaching an assessor yourself. The assessment itself is free to households as it is funded by the Government. It is also obligation-free - you do not have to implement any of the suggestions at all or within any particular timeframe, it is your choice to do so. There is no requirement to apply for a Green Loan following the sustainability assessment if you have no need or wish to do so, so the two components can be accessed quite separately from each other. More information can be found here:

www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/index.html

Help Australia make a difference for climate change

A series of UN meetings will take place before a global agreement will be made. We need Australia to take a leading role in these meetings to make a positive impact for climate change. You can help make this happen by becoming a **climate change e-monitor**. By signing up to be a **climate change e-monitor** you can keep a close eye on the Australian Government's role in the negotiations and communicate directly with our negotiators during the key United Nations meetings. Find out more at <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/2009-Campaigns/Climate-Change/E-Monitors.aspx>

General

Survey reveals increase in green consumer behaviour world wide

National Geographic Society and the international polling firm GlobeScan have found an increase in environmentally friendly consumer behaviour in 13 of the 14 countries that were surveyed in both 2008 and 2009. Read the article at

http://www.sustainabilitymatters.net.au/articles/32202?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Email+marketing+software&utm_content=530965744&utm_campaign=sm_0905+_hdhuyu&utm_term=read+more

Emissions scheme will create tens of thousands of jobs

The Climate Institute has released a report showing the Federal Government's emissions trading scheme and other environmental policies will create tens of thousands of jobs. Find it at

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

Plant to recycle TV glass

The nation's first television glass recycling plant has opened in South Australia, ahead of an expected influx of hazardous old sets when the federal Government's switch-off of analog television begins next year. Full story at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25509824-5013404,00.html>

GreenPower users signal policy concern

Households that voluntarily pay extra for electricity to support renewable energy are likely to stop unless climate change policy is changed, community groups say. Full story at

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/greenpower-users-signal-policy-concern-20090519-be9x.html>

Recycling Scheme For Mercury-Containing Lamps

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/pubs/mr20090522b.pdf>

Resources

Web resources

Lots of Green Living ideas at <http://www.realestate.com.au/renovate/focus/green-living/index.htm?eid=13428>

Earth Charter International Website

The new Earth Charter International Website is ready. Besides general information about the Earth Charter, it offers a number of features such as the Virtual Library, numerous Country Pages and Focus Areas such as education. On this education page there is a 'Guide for Using the Earth Charter in Education' section, to help educators prepare programs for young people and adults to live sustainably. The Earth Charter Initiative endeavors to provide essential information in various languages in order to increase knowledge and awareness of the Earth Charter. Have a look at the website: www.earthcharter.org

'Green' job board - work for a better world

Ethicaljobs.com.au is a job board for people looking for an ethical job or career, and for employers who see their organisation as contributing to a more equitable, more just and more sustainable world. Check it out: www.ethicaljobs.com.au

Department of Infrastructure and Planning fact sheets

At the DIP website (www.dip.qld.gov.au) you can find answers to questions about:

- 5-star energy requirement for houses and townhouses in Queensland (127 KB)
- energy efficient lighting in houses, townhouses and units (111 KB)
- water efficiency requirements in houses and units (106 KB)
- Minimum energy rating for air-conditioners (108 KB)

Book review

The Clean Industrial Revolution, by Ben McNeil

The world is in the midst of a seismic shift in the way we generate energy and grow economic prosperity. Since the first industrial revolution we've been burning carbon to run our lives but climate change and dwindling supplies of oil are now forging a new clean industrial revolution which will end our reliance on carbon for good. So where does Australia's economic future lie in this rapidly changing world? In this compelling book, climate scientist and economist Ben McNeil demonstrates the immense opportunities that will open up if Australia leads the new clean industrial revolution. He shows how investing in, commercialising and exporting the new fuels, materials and technologies for the twenty-first century will boost economic prosperity as well as securing environmental sustainability. In a world craving clean energy, nations and businesses who are clever and courageous enough who embrace the change will thrive. Preview the book at <http://www.thecleanrevolution.com.au/the-clean-industrial-revolution/>.

Updates on upcoming events

National Climate Emergency Rally - Saturday 13 June 2009

We are facing a climate emergency. Climate change is already affecting people in Australia and across the world. We urgently need the Australian Government to invest in renewable energy, renew our economy, and help ensure a safe climate future for all. Instead, Prime Minister Rudd has announced a climate plan that will lock in weak emission reduction targets and hand out billions of dollars to polluters. The world's best chance to avoid catastrophic climate change lies in a new global climate change agreement that will be forged in Copenhagen in December this year. We need our government to support, not hinder, a strong outcome. Join with thousands of Australians on **Saturday 13th June** to stand up for urgent action and climate leadership. Come along, if you can, and be part of the climate solution! Together we can build a grassroots movement strong enough to win the safe, just, and prosperous future our children and grandchildren deserve. Organised by the Queensland Climate Network and supported by a broad alliance of organisations and networks. Rallies are happening in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Wollongong and Brisbane. See www.climaterally.org for more details. **Brisbane: 1pm, Queens Park, Cnr Elizabeth & George Sts, City Centre**

Breakfast Forum to address sustainable population in South East Queensland

Business Sustainability Breakfast Forum registrations are open for the next event on **Friday 17 July**, focusing on 'what constitutes a sustainable population for South East Queensland'. Key note speaker features the former Environment Minister, Andrew McNamara and a dynamic panel which includes: Urban Development Institute of Australia Chief Executive Officer Brian Stewart; Redland City Council Mayor Melva Hobson; Sustainable Population Australia Simon Baltais; and the Member for

Noosa and Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Glen Elmes. Everyone is invited to join Brisbane's business leaders, agency staff, local community groups and political representatives to discuss what a sustainable population for South East Queensland could look like and whose responsibility it is to make it a reality. Queensland Conservation is hosting the forum generously supported by SEQ Catchments. So don't delay! Register today, as registrations are essential. For further information contact the event manager on 07 5538 5109 or email Samantha Morris at sam@wombatcreative.com.au

A tip / helpful hint

Here are some tips for **keeping warm** this winter:

- **Wear warm clothes:** Limit how much you use the heater in winter. Use extra blankets and warm clothes where possible.
- **Switch off heaters:** Turn off all heaters and electric blankets before going to bed, to cut energy use and reduce fire danger.
- **Use your hot water bottle:** Use a hot water bottle and a blanket when watching TV instead of using a heater. Consider using a hot water bottle in bed instead of using an electric blanket. It cost less than 2 cents to boil a kettle of water and a hot water bottle will stay warmer for longer without using any electricity.
- **Draught-proof your home:** Seal gaps around doors and windows to stop hot air entering your home in summer and warm air escaping in winter. Unsealed draughts can account for up to 25 per cent of the heat lost from your home. 'Door snakes', towels and or rolled-up newspaper can be effective in stopping heat escaping under the door.
- **Heat your home efficiently:** A reverse-cycle air-conditioner in heating mode set to 18 or 19 degrees Celsius is the most efficient way to heat your home. You can save more energy by closing off the areas that don't require heating.
- **Close off rooms:** If you need to use the heater, close off rooms that you are not using before you switch it on. Heating rooms that you are not using is a waste of energy.

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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