



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118, Toowoomba West QLD 4350
Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au
Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>
ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin, 6 March 2009

Hi all,
Big news this time! We have received funding from Qld State Government to undertake the Low Carbon Diet program in the Toowoomba regional Council area. This project focuses on helping our community to reduce its carbon emissions and save energy. We will be having displays, workshops and community meetings. Keep an eye out for Diary Dates and come along to learn what you can do for the environment and your wallet.



Official launch of HOPE's Low Carbon Diet (LCD) project at Toowoomba City Hall, Friday 6 March 2009. Present are Hon Kerry Shine MP, Member for Toowoomba North; Cr. Peter Taylor, Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council, Frank Ondrus, President- HOPE Inc.; and Cr Bill Cahill, Toowoomba Regional Council)

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

Office news

LOW CARBON DIET (LCD) PROJECT LAUNCH

We have received a letter from Hon Andrew McNamara MP, Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation, advising us of our "success in obtaining \$10,000 funding for our Low Carbon Diet project". The Low Carbon Diet grant provides support to run a series of workshops, forums and information displays which will be focused on helping people reduce their carbon footprint by making energy savings and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The project was launched this morning (**Friday 6 March**) at Toowoomba City Hall, Ruthven St. Hon **Kerry Shine** MP, Member for Toowoomba North and Cr. **Peter Taylor**, Mayor Toowoomba Regional Council will be special guests at the launch.

A subcommittee has been formed to carry out this project. If you would like to be part of this team to help our community help itself to lower household energy usage and carbon emissions, let us know. No experience is required, just a few hours of your time. Further information about HOPE's LCD Project is available at the HOPE office by phoning 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au . More general information can be found on <http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au> or on the HOPE website at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au> .

Local enquiry: Egg Cartons

If anyone has any need for egg cartons, or has great ideas for what to do with them, please drop me an email or ring the office.

Library resources

Creating Your Eco-Friendly Garden, by Mary Horsfall

This book shows you how to develop an environmentally friendly garden for little cost and offers advice on planning your garden, choosing plants, planting times, watering options and pest management following organic principles. It explains how to assess the soil and microclimatic effects of surrounding buildings and vegetation so that you can determine the style of garden that best suits your property.

(Sourced from The Natural Selection no.23, Sept 08 - Dec 08, CSIRO Publishing)

General

News from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts

Rudd Government Fast-tracks Free Ceiling Insulation

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced a new fast track process so that homeowners can start applying for free ceiling insulation immediately. Through the Government's \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Packages, households can now apply for on of the following upgrades from today:

- The Homeowner Insulation Program: free ceiling insulation up to \$1600
- The Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters: free ceiling insulation up to \$1000
- The Solar Hot Water Rebate: up to \$1600 for installation of solar hot water systems.

By visiting the website people can check immediately whether they are eligible, arrange for a skilled tradesperson to do the work and send in their receipts for the rebate.

Check http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2009/media_release_0838.cfm

Wetlands Australia: National Wetlands Update 2009

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/wa17.html>

Pills, plants and animals

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/publications/pills-plants-animals.html>

Interesting websites - By Melissa Glen

Boomerang Alliance

<http://www.boomerangalliance.org/index.php> - The Boomerang Alliance is made up of Australia's leading environmental groups, who have joined forces to strive towards zero waste in Australia. The website provides links to current and past campaigns, as well as useful resource links.

<http://www.urbannrm.net> : Environment, sustainability and natural resource management news for Australia's urban and peri-urban areas.

Interesting websites - By Clare Davies

Women and the Environment

www.womenandenvironment.org - This is a website for 'Women's Voices for the Earth' (WVE), which is a group of woman that have been promoting ecological sustainability and social justice since 1995. WVE is a national, women-centred environmental health and justice organization that works to, eliminate or substantially reduce environmental toxics impacting human health, and to increase women's participation in environmental decision-making. WVE (pronounced "weave") believes that citizens have a right to live and work in a healthy environment, and that a truly democratic society should protect us from exposure to hazardous chemicals. Unfortunately, there are some 85,000 chemicals in the consumer marketplace and only a fraction of them have ever been tested for their impact on human health. Many of these chemicals are now known or suspected to contribute to a long list of diseases including cancer, developmental disabilities, heart disease, infertility, and reproductive harm. The good news is that women are convincing major corporations and political decision-makers that we can and should do better. Support 'weave' and join other women in becoming part of this historic event.

www.thegreenguide.com . This website is part of National Geographic and deals with environmental articles, products, subscriptions to their magazines and other related issues.

Updates on upcoming events

International women's day 8 March

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com>

Rainforest Weeds Workshop Saturday 14 March

This is a FREE workshop on best practices concerning weeds in the rainforest. It starts at 8.30am, registration to 2pm, and it takes place at the MaMa Community Centre at Gatton, Clifton Rd. Numbers are limited, so bookings are essential. Phone 07 3816 9700. Please RSVP by Wednesday 11 March. For information regarding the program contact Ben Barton, Community Support Officer, SEQ Catchments on 07 3816 9721 or email bbarton@seqcatchments.com.au

World Water Day 22 March 2009

<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

Earth Hour Saturday 28 March 2009 at 8.30pm

Earth Hour 2009 aims to reach more than one billion people in 1000 cities around the world, inviting communities, business and governments to switch of lights for one hour sending a powerful global message that we care enough about climate change to take action. HOPE is doing its bit by promoting the **Low Carbon Diet** program with funding from Queensland State Government. All our Queensland readers will find lots of information on reducing energy consumption at home on <http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au> . Start your **Low Carbon Diet** today!

Media items

SA calls for recycling refund to go nationwide

Find the article on <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/01/2504356.htm>

World's fisheries face climate change threat

A new international study has warned that millions of people dependent on fisheries in Africa, Asia and South America could face unprecedented hardship as a consequence of climate change. Researchers examined the fisheries of 132 nations to determine which were the most vulnerable, based on the potential environmental impact of climate change, how dependent their economy and diet were on fisheries, and the capacity of the country to adapt: <http://www.enn.com/ecosystems/article/39359> 23 Feb 2009

Alternative energy in Australia

Solar Petition

Solar is the key to a greener Australia. Help Rudd choose a solar future. Sign the petition today at <http://www.feedintariff.com.au/>.

Main Renewables Being Developed in Australia

Australia is blessed with abundant sunshine, strong winds and unceasing waves in the south from stormy weather whipped up near Antarctica. The government is looking to tap these resources and others to generate 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2020 and has drafted legislation to enshrine this target. Following are the main types of renewable energy technology under development by companies in Australia.

WIND

Australia already generates nearly 1,000 megawatts (MW) from wind and an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 MW of additional wind power capacity is expected to be added over the coming decade, providing there is enough investment in transmission lines. The vast majority of windfarm sites are in the south along the coasts of southwestern Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania states.

SOLAR PANELS

An increasing number of Australian homes are installing small capacity solar panel systems on their roofs. Government subsidies and payments for feeding excess power into the grid will continue to drive investment but the solar industry is calling for the subsidies to be expanded to 5,000 watt systems, instead of 1,500 watts, because that is much closer to the real electricity consumption of most Australian homes. Australian firm Solar Systems is developing a 154 MW photovoltaic power station in north-east Victoria.

SOLAR STORAGE

Some firms are developing 24-hour solar power. Lloyd Energy Systems in Sydney is developing solar towers that capture and retain the sun's heat in graphite blocks on top. The sun's energy is directed at the blocks by arrays of mirrors. Water is run through the blocks, generating steam that drives a turbine. The heat is retained by the blocks at night, allowing the turbines to keep spinning.

GEOHERMAL

Numerous companies are looking to tap large areas of heated rocks about 3 to 5 kilometers below the surface to generate power. Near the center of the country in

particular, there are large areas of high-heat producing granites that contain radioactive elements that produce heat as they decay. South Australia has been a focus of firms looking to explore and invest in geothermal power, using the heat extracted from rocks between 200 and 300 degrees Celsius (392 to 572 Fahrenheit) to generate power. One of the main companies, Geodynamics Ltd, plans to have a 50 MW power plant operating by 2012, and eventually aims to produce 10,000 MW, or about 10-15 coal-fired power plants.

WAVE

Carnegie Corp of Western Australia is refining a method of using energy captured from passing waves to generate high-pressure sea water. This is piped onshore to drive a turbine and to create desalinated water. A series of large buoys is tethered to piston pumps anchored in waters 15 to 50 meters deep (49 to 131 feet). The rise and fall of passing waves drives the pumps, generating water pressures of up to 1,000 pounds per square inch (psi).

The company is looking to have a 50 MW demonstration project finished within the next four years. A second firm, BioPower Systems, is developing its bioWAVE system that is anchored to the seabed and generates electricity through the movement of buoyant blades as waves pass, in a swaying motion similar to the way sea plants, such as kelp, move. It expects to complete pilot wave and tidal projects off northern Tasmania this year.

(Sourced from Reuters, 6 February 2009)

MSP News

Update from the National Climate Summit

Six Degrees (Friends Of The Earth Brisbane)

You may have heard by now that about the National Grassroots Climate Summit held in Canberra in the first weekend of February. More than 500 participants, representing well over 150 different Climate Action Groups (now known as CAGs) and other organisations from across the country gathered for three days of workshops, skillshares, discussions, forums and plenaries for progressing action on climate change in Australia. Out of the Summit, the national network adopted a set of political objectives for campaigning in 2009. For more information go to the Climate Summit website at <http://www.climatesummit.org.au>

Information for Action

Information for Action has just produced some YouTube videos which you may find interesting. Most of them look at climate change policy and economic policy of political leaders in Australia, Europe and the US through the perspective of three characters - Dr Eco Freako, The Grim Reaper, and The Green Sower. The characters are very funny, but the information is correct. Find more about these characters on <http://www.informaction.org>, and have a look at some of the videos, such as <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRO0jxt6HQA>

A tip / helpful hint

Find it!

Find all your environmentally friendly products and services, and other green business around the country through <http://www.thegreenpages.com.au> , <http://www.ecodirectory.com.au> , or <http://www.enviro-friendly.com/environmentally-friendly-products-resources.shtml>

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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