



Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Sustainability Information and Support for Australian Households

❖ ClimateSmart Home Service

- An initiative of the Queensland Government. For \$50 an electrician will visit your home and conduct an energy audit, install a wireless energy monitor, supply and install a water efficient showerhead and up to 15 free energy efficient light globes.
- This service could save you up to \$250 each year on water and electricity bills.
- To register for the service, visit www.climatesmarthome.com or call 1320 40.

Water

❖ Water for the Future - National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative

- An initiative of the Australian Government. Rebates of up to \$500 are available to households for either:
 - The purchase and installation of a new **rainwater tank** which is connected for internal reuse of the water for toilet and/or laundry use,
 - The purchase and installation of a permanent **greywater treatment system**.
 - For more information, visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/nrgi/index.html#households>

Energy

❖ Residential Gas Installation Rebate Scheme

- Changing from electricity to gas for heating water and cooking will reduce a household's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately two tonnes a year.
- An initiative of the Queensland Government. Rebates of up to \$500 are available to Queensland homeowners for **installing gas appliances** e.g. gas hot water systems replacing electric, and some non-electric appliances, in existing homes.
- For more information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/Energy/gas_rebate.cfm, email gasrebate@dme.qld.gov.au or phone 07 3247 3254.
- You can also get application forms from gasfitters, participating gas retailers and some gas appliance stores.

❖ Energy Efficient Homes Package

- Water heating is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions from the average Australian home, accounting for around 28 per cent of home energy use (excluding the family car).
- An initiative of the Australian Government to improve the energy rating of Australian homes by cutting their energy waste.
- Households are eligible for either:
 - **ceiling insulation** worth up to \$1,600 (open to all Australian home owner-occupiers with limited or no ceiling insulation) or
 - \$1,600 rebate on the costs of installing a **solar hot water system**.



Funded by:



Australian Government



Queensland Government



- Landlords and tenants (with landlord permission) are eligible for a rebate of up to \$1,000 to install ceiling insulation in their rental properties under the Low Emissions Assistance Plan for Renters. Landlords may also be eligible for either the ceiling insulation or the rebate for solar hot water.
- The program doesn't officially commence until 1 July 2009 but from 3 February 2009 households can undertake insulation works and provided the works meet the eligibility criteria can claim a reimbursement. Solar hot water systems that were installed before 3 February 2009 are not eligible for the \$1,600 rebate, but they may be eligible for the previous Solar Hot Water Rebate. The previous rebate provided \$1,000 and was means-tested.
- The current rebate for solar panels offered under the Solar Homes and Communities Program (which will transition in mid 2009 to the new Solar Credits program announced by the Government in December 2008) is not affected by the new insulation or hot water programs.
- For further information regarding eligibility and how to apply visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/index.html> or call 1800 808 571.

❖ Solar Credits

- An initiative of the Australian Government to support households, small businesses and community groups installing **small scale solar, wind and hydro electricity systems**. Solar Credits replace the support previously provided under the Solar Homes and Communities Plan. This scheme will not use means testing to determine eligibility.
- The Australian Government has set a target to achieve a 20 per cent share of renewables in Australia's electricity mix by 2020. Solar Credits are part of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) bill, legislation which is currently being debated in Parliament.
- Solar Credits will be provided in the form of Renewable Energy Certificates, (RECs), for people who have installed a new solar PV system from 9 June 2009. Solar Credits will apply to the first 1.5 kilowatts (kW) of capacity of the system installed and will be based on how much renewable energy can be generated by the system over up to 15 years of operation.
- The level of support provided to households will be dependent on the price of RECs (which may vary over time), the location (influences the amount of sunshine and therefore the amount of renewable energy the system generates) and the size of the system. As an incentive one REC will be initially multiplied by five, therefore offering five times the dollar value. The credit multiplier rate will gradually drop over a period of a few years to be phased out by 2015-16.
- Households can choose to receive a discount on the price of the renewable energy system from their installer in return for the Solar Credits or they can choose to access the Solar Credits themselves by applying to the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) any time within 12 months following the date of installation.



- As the RET legislation has yet to be passed if you were to install a system now, while you will still be eligible for Solar Credits; you would have to pay the full price for a system and wouldn't be able to claim the credits until the legislation has passed.
- For more information and updates visit <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/renewabletarget/>

❖ Purchasing GreenPower

- 'Green power' is a term used to identify energy generated from renewable sources. Renewable energy is generated from sources like hydro, wind power and biomass which produce no net greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is bought by your energy provider on your behalf.
- There are a lot of green power products and retailers on the market, but not all offer the same environmental benefit. It is important to ensure that the green power you purchase is accredited.
- <http://www.greenpower.gov.au/home.aspx> provides a list of accredited providers and also has independent reports and surveys of green power providers.
- <http://www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au/> conducts an independent survey of green power products.

Green Loans

❖ Green Loans Program

- An initiative of the Australian government commencing on 1 July 2009. The Green Loans Program will assist Australian families to install solar, water saving, and energy efficient products.
- The Green Loans Program will provide:
 - a **Home Sustainability Assessment**; and
 - access to **interest free Green Loans** of up to \$10,000 each to make the changes recommended in the assessment.
- For more information or to register, visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/index.html>

❖ Green Home Loans or Green Product Loans

- A 'green loan' can offer between 0.5-1.0% reduced interest rate on a new sustainable house, home renovation or to purchase an environmentally-friendly household product.
- The following institutions offer green loans:
 - Bendigo Bank – www.bendigobank.com.au 1300 366 666
 - Mecu – www.mecu.com.au 132888
 - Maleny Credit Union – www.malenycu.com.au 07 5494 2144
 - Westpac - www.westpac.com.au 131900



Sustainable Building Design and Construction

❖ Ecodesign Smart Building Design

- A service offered through the Building Designers Association of Queensland (BDAQ), this service can be used to source designers experienced with sustainable design.
- For more information, call 07 3889 9119.

❖ Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA)

- Represents building and design professionals who specialise in assessing the environmental impact of buildings.
- For more information, call 1300 760 012.

❖ Ecospecifier

- A national on-line database of over 3000 environmentally-preferable building products, materials, technologies and resources. Each item is independently assessed for its features before being registered.
- For more information, call 1300 669 997 or visit <http://www.ecospecifier.org/>

❖ GreenSmart Builders

- A list of Queensland's builders who have gained accreditation for designing and constructing environmentally-friendly houses through the Housing Industry Association's (HIA) GreenSmart training program.
- For more information, call 07-3846 1298 or visit <http://hia.com.au/hia/channel/Builder/region/National/classification/Greensmart.aspx>

❖ GreenPlumbers

- A list of Queensland's plumbers who have gained accreditation in various courses for 'green' water related products and installation e.g. solar hot water, rainwater tanks and water conservation.
- For more information, call 1300 368 519 or visit <http://www.greenplumbers.com.au/>

Low Carbon Diet
A Queensland Government initiative