



## Sustainable Energy Development Office Government of Western Australia

### HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/2007

- Rebates and grants of more than \$12m were provided for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Western Australia in 2006/07. These projects deliver substantial reductions in the use of fossil fuels as well as supporting regional communities and the local sustainable energy industry.
- Rebates of \$1.1m were approved for Western Australian households to install 2,216 gas-boosted solar water heaters as part of the Government's Solar Water Heater Subsidy scheme. These solar water heaters are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3,880 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, which is the equivalent of taking 900 cars off the road.
- Energy used in commercial buildings in Australia costs more than \$4 billion each year and is responsible for more than 8% of national greenhouse gas emissions. Century City, Raine Square and the Bishops See Office project developers have all committed to design and construct these buildings to achieve a 4.5 star Australian Building Greenhouse Rating. These buildings will set new benchmarks for energy efficiency in the new commercial building sector.
- Rebates of \$6.4m were provided for renewable energy systems installed in regional areas of Western Australia through the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program. The rebates helped households, businesses and Aboriginal communities in remote areas to secure better quality power supplies as well reduce their consumption of diesel.
- Funding of more than \$8m was provided for sustainable energy projects through the Renewable Remote Power Generation and Photovoltaic Rebate Programs. These programs are funded by the Australian Government and administered by the State Government's Sustainable Energy Development Office in Western Australia.

- The Solar Schools Program provides rebates for solar (photovoltaic) power systems installed at Western Australian State Government schools. The program helps students to learn about sustainable energy and greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time enabling schools to generate some of their own electricity needs from renewable energy, reducing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The *Reach for the Stars* program, promoting energy efficient star-rated electrical and gas appliances, continued to build on the already high consumer recognition of the importance of choosing a high star-rated appliance. Information tools, such as brochures and calculators, assisted homeowners to make informed decisions with regards their energy consumption, including the selection of gas and electrical appliances.
- The State Government's Solar Water Heater Scheme provides rebates to householders who install gas-boosted solar water heaters. As these types of water heaters have the lowest greenhouse gas emissions and running costs of all common, residential water heaters, the scheme helps householders to reduce energy bills while delivering greenhouse gas reductions. It also serves to support the solar water heater manufacturing industry in Western Australia.
- During 2006/07, rebates were provided for 2,216 gas-boosted solar water heaters, most of which were installed in new homes. These systems are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3,880 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and have helped to increase the market share of gas-boosted solar water heaters in new homes to around 10%.
- House energy rating assessors have been trained in the use of the second generation *AccuRate* house energy rating software.
- The increased uptake of the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating tool reflects the property industry's growing acceptance of the tool. Nearly 50% of Perth's CBD office buildings have been rated under the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating program, which is a greater percentage than any other State capital.
- Use of the Energy Smart Directory website continued to reflect increased demand for information on sustainable energy products and services. Visits to the SEDO website grew strongly throughout the year.
- The Sustainable Energy Development Office continues to implement a communication and marketing strategy to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The strategy is aimed at encouraging and assisting households, government agencies, business and industry in Western Australia to operate in ways that are environmentally and socially sustainable.
- A suite of sustainable energy promotions, public relations and marketing initiatives were undertaken in 2006/07. Highlights included:
  - Approximately 10,000 people attending the Sustainable Energy Expo 2007. The expo, hosted by the Sustainable Energy Development Office and supported by the Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association and the Sustainable Transport Coalition of Western Australia, showcased sustainable energy products and technologies from 40 companies.
  - Bunbury ecoHOME announced as winner of the United Nations Association of Australia 2007 World Environment Day Awards for Green Building on June 1,

2007. The project is a collaborative partnership between the TAFEWA South-West Regional College, the Department of Education and Training, the Sustainable Energy Development Office, the Department of Housing and Works, Pindan Constructions, Edith Cowan University, the Master Builders Association, the South West Times and local industry. The partnership aimed to develop new approaches to sustainable building, eco-efficiency and sustainability training.

- Promotion of the State Government's Solar Schools Program. Solar Schools play an important role in educating the next generation about the need for, and role of, renewable energy.
- Western Australians are more aware of energy efficiency when buying an appliance than any other State in Australia, according to a recent national survey, coordinated by the Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage. The survey report showed that Western Australia stands out as the State with the highest proportion of people who consider the energy label important in making their purchase decision.