



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, 24 March 2009

Hello there,

The next few enews bulletins will focus primarily on our participation in the **Low Carbon Diet** project. To start us off we have outlined the project so that you have a good idea of what we will be doing this year. Of course we welcome any comments and ideas you might have regarding the program. We could do with some more members for the subcommittee. Also, if you could spare some time during the year you could help staffing a display for a few hours. The display dates are listed below. For those readers from outside Toowoomba, please visit the Climate Smart website to see how you can reduce your energy consumption and register your participation - <http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au>.

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

Office news

What is the Low Carbon Diet?

The Low Carbon Diet is a State Government program that provides information and resources to help Queenslanders to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the global climate change solution. With the Low Carbon Diet, you'll learn how to reduce your annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by at least 2000 kg a year. It is a 30-day program divided into three sections to make it easy for everyone to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions:

1. Reduce your household greenhouse gas emissions by making simple changes to your everyday actions;
2. Look at the energy efficiency of your household appliances - taking action will have a long-term impact and save you money;
3. Finally, and most importantly, encourage and help others to also live climate smart. Learn how to share the knowledge you have learned about climate change and help others become part of the solution.

Grab yourself a Home EnergyWise Kit. It is orange and square, so its easy to find at our displays. Or order one from the website http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/Energy/home_energywise_kit_1.cfm. For those of you who have already done so, please don't forget to fill out the feedback card in the back and return it. This will help us and the Government establish how much energy is being saved!

HOPE Inc's participation

The Low Carbon Diet program is in accord with HOPE's principal aim of 'raising awareness of, and encouraging active participation in, waste minimisation and the conservation of energy and resources'. HOPE will therefore promote the Low Carbon Diet program over a 12 month period in the Toowoomba Regional Council area through the following community engagement activities:

- A comprehensive media and promotional campaign including signs, posters and information sheets to support existing material on the Low Carbon Diet;
- Staging some 30 **information displays**, including:
 - Grand Central Shopping Centre Mondays **6 July, 10 August, and 7 September**

- K-Mart Plaza Tuesdays **7 July, 11 August, and 8 September**
- Clifford Gardens Shopping Centre Wednesdays **8 July, 12 August, and 9 September**
- **Public meetings** in regional centres, starting with a trial meeting at St James Community Hall, cnr Mort and Russell Sts Toowoomba Wednesday **10 July at 10am**
- **Workshops** promoting energy efficiency at home. These are scheduled for Wednesdays:
 - **15 July at 4pm**
 - **19 August at 2pm and 7pm**
 - **16 September at 2pm and 7pm**

(Venues to be announced soon)

With this project HOPE aims to increase public awareness of climate change and ways in which householders can modify their behaviour in relation to energy usage. HOPE will provide overall management of the project, source and provide volunteers to staff information displays, research other sources of information on energy efficiency, and develop helpful hints information sheets. A large portion of the program is possible with in-kind support from Queensland Conservation Council; Toowoomba Regional Council; Kerry Shine MP, Member for Toowoomba North; University of Queensland; local and regional community environment organisations, and all our generous volunteers.

General

Interesting websites *by Clare Davies*

www.stopglobalwarming.org - 'Stop Global Warming' is a movement about change, as individuals, as a country, and as a global community. It contains numerous topical articles about global warming and the issues associated with it.

www.knowledgehound.com - This is a 'how-to hunter' website, and includes 'how-to-do-its' on almost any topic, for example, renewable energy, solar cooking and eco transportation. The site offers advice on everything from how to improve your vocabulary to how to stop thumb sucking. This website was founded by a lady in USA (who still oversees it today), who was following on from the tradition of her grandmother (her grandmother offered advice on almost anything) by providing a 'how-to' service to the public.

Interesting websites *by Melissa Glen*

http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=193&c=251452 - The purpose of the Climate Project is to educate the public on the issues and consequences of climate change. Al Gore and the Australian Conservation Foundation are working together to train volunteer climate change presenters to spread the word on climate change, using the material in Al Gore's famous "An Inconvenient Truth" slide show. This website provides up to date news on climate change initiatives in Australia and around the world. It provides links on how you personally can get involved in The Climate Project and you can read about the 242 Australian & New Zealand volunteer presenters who have already been personally trained by Al Gore.

GreenHome http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=193&c=251452 -GreenHome is an Australian Conservation Foundation initiative, which strives to help people help the environment, by identifying simple changes to the way we live to save energy and, water and to cut down waste.

Updates on upcoming events

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, businesses and governments to switch off lights for one hour, thus sending a powerful global message that we care enough about climate change to take action. HOPE supports this initiative and encourages everyone to participate.

Warwick Peace Festival **24 April - 4 May 2009**

The Peace Festival aims to promote a culture of peace in our community. It provides and supports a program of events which celebrate peace and diversity and positive community involvement. The 11 day program is a blend of performance, art, music, community dialogue, drama, educational and sporting activities. On Saturday 2 May the activities will include a community showcase program where local groups are invited to exhibit and demonstrate their activities. HOPE will be part of this program. For more information on the festival check <http://www.peacefestival.org.au>.

Media items

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Most conventional light bulbs will disappear by 2010, to be replaced by energy-efficient CFL bulbs.

Read the entire article on

<http://www.choice.com.au/viewArticle.aspx?id=105895&catId=100285&tid=100008&p=1&title=Compact+fluorescent+lightbulbs>

Sustainable Housing

Toowoomba Regional Council has a great **Sustainable Home** at 308 Ramsay Street. You can visit it to see energy efficiency in practice. Opening hours Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 4pm or by appointment. For more information check

http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=240:sustainable-home-toowoomba&catid=33:sustainableliving&Itemid=55

There are 22 other sustainable homes around Queensland. For opening hours etc please visit

<http://www.sustainable-homes.org.au>.

A tip / helpful hint

As part of the Low Carbon Diet there is a great booklet with Top Tips. This can be downloaded shortly from http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/get_involved/low_carbon_diet_-_for_community_groups

The best website for the biggest range of environmentally friendly products, from recycled plastic wallets to solar powered camping lights to compost bin bags. Check

<http://www.todae.com.au/Home>.

=====

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

If you do not wish to receive this fortnightly bulletin please email 'unsubscribe e:news' to office@hopeaustralia.org.au