



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #02 - 8 February 2011

The following items have been gleaned from various e:newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

*(compiled by Miriam Sharp, Victor Skowronski and Frank Ondrus, HOPE Australia)*

*Hi all,*

*So much information to share with you and so little space! This enews is full of national and international news, resources and great feature articles including one on public place recycling. Hope you enjoy the read.*

*Miriam Sharp, Editor - [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)*

## Update on Upcoming Events

**1 March 2011** - Clean Up Businesses Day - <http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-business>

**4 March 2011** - Clean Up Schools Day - <http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-schools>

**6 March 2011** - Clean Up Australia Day - <http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-australia-day>

**6-12 March 2011** - National Ground Water Awareness Week - <http://www.ngwa.org/>

**7 March 2011** - National Sea Week - <http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweek2011/>

**22 March 2011** - World Water Day - <http://www.worldwaterday.org/page/3206>

**23 March 2011** - World Meteorological Day - [http://www.wmo.int/pages/index\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/index_en.html)

**26 March 2011** - Birds Australia Southern Queensland *Conservation Conference* - enquiries phone 07 5445 7965 or email: [plainswanderer@powerup.com.au](mailto:plainswanderer@powerup.com.au)

### [International Year of Forests 2011 - Celebrating Forests for People](#)

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. Visit the [International Year of Forests 2011 website](#) to find information regarding events being organised throughout the International Year as well as interactive web tools and resources to promote dialogue on forests. You are also invited to provide information through the website about how you plan to celebrate "forests for people" during 2011, so that your stories and initiatives can be showcased.

## Office news

Hello there,

The last few weeks have been busy and productive with highlights being:

- holding of our annual strategic planning meeting (15 Jan)
- repositioning (and refreshing) of our *Environmental Information Displays* at Toowoomba TAFE and the University of Southern Queensland
- attendance at Friends of South-East Queensland's *10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations* in Brisbane (29 Jan)
- finalising our guest speakers for the March, April and May *public information forums* (see Date Claimers below)
- distribution of membership Survey

Please take of the HOPE activities scheduled over the next few months (as per Date Claimers) and turn your support in participation.

*Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc.*

### Date Claimers:

1 Mar - HOPE executive meeting ... all welcome; 7.30pm at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

6 March 2011 - Clean Up Australia Day - in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Toowoomba 32  
--- Assembly point: 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba, from 8am to 11.30am.

6 Mar - HOPE general meeting (& afternoon tea), 3pm at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

9 Mar - Public Information Forum - Nigel Kimball on *Sustainability - a turning point for your business!*  
7pm-9pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba

5 Apr - HOPE executive meeting ... all welcome; 7.30pm at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

13 Apr - Public Information Forum - Howard Nielsen on the *Green Street* program  
7pm-9pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba

21 Apr - Earth Day - [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

3 May - HOPE executive meeting ... all welcome; 7.30pm at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

11 May - Public Information Forum - Rob McCreath, Friends of Felton, on *the Future of the Toowoomba Region - quarry or clean energy centre*  
7pm-9pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba

### Volunteers needed

HOPE is looking for extra volunteers who can help in the following areas:

--- Admin assistance; literature review and follow-up internet research; promotion and marketing; planning and preparing for events and activities; preparing media releases; and developing publications such as information sheets, guides and booklets.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Note: If we can enlist a team of 3 or 4 media officers, then their individual contribution may be as little as one item every 3-4 months.

## Feature Articles

### Reverse Vending Machines (for public place recycling)

Australia is highly aware and active when it comes to recycling. The community has embraced recycling at numerous levels, as evidenced by curb side recycling of domestic waste. However, over 50% of beverage containers (PET, glass and aluminium) are currently purchased and consumed away-from-home, leading to significant litter and pollution problems in public areas. There is no comprehensive collection system for these containers. Although there are numerous recycling bins placed across the high traffic public areas, they are still highly contaminated and usually overflowing, causing all sorts of waste related problems.

Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) offers a system that automates the recycling of empty beverage containers specifically in away-from-home environments. It can involve a range of highly sophisticated systems of surveillance and analysis. The empty container goes through a series of anti-fraud systems that identifies, accepts and crushes the empty container, including being:

- Photographed by an ultrafast camera
- Weighed to make sure that it is empty
- Scanned by a laser system that reads barcode information

Only once the bottle makes it passed of these surveillance systems is the refund or voucher/coupon dispensed. There are a number of other safety measures that ensures the consumer is also not at risk of injury.

RVMs can be networked instantaneously to a central database and are an essential tool for measuring the quantity of recyclable beverage containers on the market, which has significant implications where the producer is responsible for the packaging. In many countries in Europe, the packaging is the responsibility of the manufacturer/producer, not the consumer or retailer.

Currently in Australia, RVMs have been installed in food halls, schools, universities and TAFEs, and are essentially a novelty in the market. The motivation for the consumer is generally linked to a non-monetary reward. They are, however, gaining greater acceptance. The exception is South Australia, who has had a successful CDL for some years and gives 10c per empty container. The NT will be introducing their CDL in 2011.

In many European countries, where CDLs have existed in some form for decades, RVMs of varying sizes and functionality are in supermarkets, petrol stations, food halls, and other public spaces. RVMs are the sole collection point for container deposit returns. Most RVMs print vouchers that are redeemable at the point of deposit.

The range of RVMs in Australia is limited. However, most offer recognition and sorting options, with a few offering compaction. Verde Australia has a range of German engineered Sielaff RVMs to suit any RVM need within the market including easy-to-program, low-maintenance and low-cost machines without compaction through to highly volume compaction machines suited to large scale operations. Verde Australia RVMs are of the highest energy efficiency and their components are also "recyclable".

The reason for the high take-up rate of recycling by consumers in Europe, US and Canada has to do with their CDLs, where the producer/beverage company is liable for product they put into the market. There is considerable resistance to a CDL in Australia from producers and intense lobbying on both sides of the CDL argument. Beverage companies seek to confuse and delay, whilst many local and state governments, as well as environmental groups cite numerous examples of where a properly implemented CDL leads to a range of economic and environmental benefits such as:

- Increased jobs associated with RVMs, as well as within the recycling process
- Increased circulation of cash into the economy
- Reduced litter in public spaces

- Reduced waste disposal costs to local governments and consumers
- Reduced landfill
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and pollution
- Reduced cost of production of containers using reusable glass systems (from Coke's own sustainability statement refillable bottles are used in developing countries to "provide a more affordable product for the consumer and to reduce waste" )

Verde Australia is optimistic that the Federal Government will recognise the benefit of a CDL and introduce it nationally. Over 80% of people surveyed stated that they would support a CDL.

Nonetheless, RVMs can still play a significant role in educating and motivating people about public recycling, reducing public space litter problems and reducing the cost associated with waste management. RVMs are ideal for workplaces or schools; it's a great way to excite children about recycling. Small and large companies, schools, shopping malls, train stations, entertainment venues and tourist attractions would benefit with RVMs. Furthermore, RVMs can raise brand and company image and lead to increased customer loyalty.

Verde Australia recognises the need for a more comprehensive public space waste collection system and our range of RVMs can be tailored to meet any used beverage recycling issue.

For more information visit <http://reversevendingmachines.com.au/>

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## **Bee Population Decline**

Silently, billions of bees are dying off and our entire food chain is in danger. Bees don't just make honey, they are vital to life on earth -- every year pollinating plants and crops with an estimated \$40bn value, over one third of the food supply in many countries. Without immediate action to save bees we could end up with no fruit, no vegetables, no nuts, no oils and no cotton.

Recent years have seen a steep and disturbing global decline in bee populations - some bee species are now extinct and others are at just 4% of previous numbers. Some scientific studies claim that the decline may be due to a combination of factors including disease, habitat loss and toxic chemicals. However leading independent research has produced strong evidence blaming one group of toxic pesticides known as neonicotinoids. Beekeepers and scientists in France, Italy, Slovenia and even Germany, where the main manufacturer Bayer is based, have already pushed successfully for bans on one of these pesticides. Bee populations have soared in the four European countries that have banned these chemicals.

This issue is now coming to the boil as major new studies have confirmed the scale of this problem. Meanwhile, Bayer and other powerful chemical companies are lobbying hard to keep manufacturing and selling neonicotinoid based pesticides.

Our best chance to save bees now is to push the US and EU to join the ban. If European and US decision-makers take action, others will follow. Their action is critical and will have a ripple effect on the rest of the world. We need to make our voices heard to counter Bayer's very strong influence on policy makers and scientists in both the US and the EU where they fund the studies and sit on policy bodies. The real experts, beekeepers and farmers, want these deadly pesticides prohibited until there are solid, independent studies showing them to be safe.

Avaaz.org is a 6.5-million-person global campaign network that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. Avaaz has an online petition addressed to EU and US decision-makers calling for an immediate ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides until and unless new independent scientific studies prove they are safe. The petition can be found at:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/save\\_the\\_bees/97.php?cl\\_tta\\_sign=e8fb3b76038b47818f60e954307b9b3c](http://www.avaaz.org/en/save_the_bees/97.php?cl_tta_sign=e8fb3b76038b47818f60e954307b9b3c)

For further information go to <http://www.avaaz.org>

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### **Ozharvest - Food Rescue**

OzHarvest is a charitable organisation that rescues excess food from restaurants, retailers, food outlets and corporate kitchens that would otherwise be discarded and delivers it to charities that feed the disadvantaged and homeless. OzHarvest is a simple, effective service and is provided free to both food donor and recipient. The food is picked up and delivered the same day using refrigerated vans with a changing daily schedule.

The work they do has a dual impact:

- By supplementing the nutritional wellbeing, dignity and health of at risk communities OzHarvest enables organisations to reduce their food budget and redirect their funding to education and rehabilitation.
- By ensuring that good food is being eaten rather than going to landfill OzHarvest is helping the environment by ensuring tons of carbon emissions do not pollute the atmosphere.

OzHarvest was established in November 2004 and with one van we delivered 4000 meals in their first month of operation. Now they deliver 180,000 meals a month. At the end of 2010 they had delivered **6,836,567** meals across Sydney. They have 7 vans on the road in Sydney, 11 Australia wide. OzHarvest collects 15 tonnes of excess food every week in Sydney alone, that otherwise would have gone to landfill. Over 300 charities Australia wide are recipients of rescued food. They operate in Sydney, Canberra, and Newcastle. The Adelaide office has just opened and they are planning to expand to other states very soon. Every \$1 donated to OzHarvest allows them to collect and deliver a meal to someone in need. Ronni Kahn, Founding Director of OzHarvest, was named Australian of the Year Local Hero for 2010. In May of 2010, Therese Rein (business woman and wife of ex Prime Minister Kevin Rudd) became a Patron of OzHarvest.

For further information contact the office on 03 9516 3877 or see [www.ozharvest.org](http://www.ozharvest.org)

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#### **THE WASTE HIERARCHY: priority of actions**

As part of HOPE's aims to reduce waste and conserve energy and resources, we offer the following suggestions to remind you that: underlying all our human activities, we should be mindful of things we can do every day to help the environment.

- \*\* Avoid - collecting or creating waste
- \*\* Reduce - waste and use of resources, especially water and electricity
- \*\* Reuse - what you can
- \*\* Repair - give an item a longer life
- \*\* Divert - send items to welfare stores, not to the tip
- \*\* Recycle - glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminium - support you Council recycling programs
- \*\* Disposal - to the appropriate facility - don't litter or illegally dump!

#### **Office Hours**

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time; or at other times by appointment.

## Queensland News

### **Institute of Climate Emergency (ICE) - Gold Coast, Queensland**

The aims of ICE are to promote public awareness of the global climate emergency, to support civil actions to bring about radical policy change by Government, and to engage in robust public debate to counter arguments aired by so-called climate 'sceptics' and 'deniers'.

ICE is also committed to challenging the values, beliefs and assumptions that underpin current systems of production and consumption and to promoting good governance, peaceful, equitable and sustainable ways of living.

There are many climate change groups but it is important that Gold Coast is part of the solution especially as our city is considered to be the most at risk in Australia.

ICE will complement the work of existing institutes (such as The Green Institute) and although much of our attention will relate to the Gold Coast region, we intend to network closely with other regional and national climate activist organizations.

In the short term it is our intention to engage in public work through workshops and seminars, and participate in activist debates on issues relating to climate change. And when the need arises, we will also issue press releases, undertake media interviews, present papers at relevant forums and, in the longer term, build links with other progressive climate emergency research institutes and centers.

In the first few months of its existence the ICE will take a lead role in countering the claims of climate change opponents. It will do so by drawing on scientific data and expert commentary, and by highlighting the sectional interests of the individuals and organisations concerned.

In terms of structure, ICE is auspiced by Gecko and is made up of:

**Management group:** Chair -Richard Hill; Members: Rod Weir, Lois Levy, Rose Adams

#### **Reference panel members**

RP members include leading academics, activists, and others with an interest in working to alleviate the threat posed by our climate emergency. Its role is to offer advice to the ICE on its aims and objectives; issue occasional press releases; undertake occasional media interviews; participate in a yearly board meeting.

#### **What can you do to help develop the work of ICE?**

There are a number of voluntary roles and activities that you can undertake:

- Nominate to become a member of Gecko's Board
- Offer ideas and suggestions about how ICE can most effectively contribute to public debate on the climate emergency
- Contribute to press releases
- Support ICE workshops and seminars
- Undertake research on climate emergency issues
- Assist in marketing and promotional work

If you have an interest in helping to promote and develop the work of ICE please get in touch with Richard Hill directly by email: [icemelt.ice000@gmail.com](mailto:icemelt.ice000@gmail.com)

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## Ecofund

Ecofund is a non-profit organisation set up by the Queensland Government in 2009 to assist Government, business and individuals meet regulatory environmental offset requirements or purchase voluntary carbon offsets.

It was established to expand protected areas in Queensland, meet demand for environmental and carbon offsets, facilitate re-vegetation of degraded land and develop the carbon industry in Queensland. Its vision includes inspiring environmental leadership, preparing for a low carbon future, and encouraging Queenslanders to value their environment. A key goal for Ecofund is to assist the Queensland Government to increase protected natural areas and national parks to 20 million hectares before 2020 by channelling investments into environmental projects.

Ecofund is committed to ethical investment in the carbon industry by ensuring its carbon offset investment products are accredited under the Australian Government Greenhouse Friendly initiative or equivalent standards. Ecofund's investment products are sourced from Queensland and include energy efficiency, renewable energy and biodiverse forestry projects.

Services offered by Ecofund include Carbon Footprinting, Emissions Management Planning, Energy Efficiency Assessments, Renewable Energy Advice, GreenPower Provision, Marginal Abatement Cost Curve Development, Carbon Offset Strategy Development, Brokerage Services (in Carbon Offsets, Renewal Energy Certificates and detached GreenPower) and Carbon Neutrality Verification.

Further information: <http://www.ecofund.net.au/>

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## Reverse Garbage Not J\*nk Mail

After a long wait Reverse Garbage will be opening at 20 Burke Street, Woolloongabba, on Monday the 21st of February and we're holding a **grand opening celebration** on Saturday the 26th February. We'd love to see you there!

We'll be open 9 - 5 Monday to Saturday from the 21st February!

On our first Saturday of trading at the new warehouse we invite you to celebrate with us! We'll be holding free eco-arts workshops for kids and tours of the new warehouse. Friends of the Earth, who are moving with us, will be holding a veggie sausage sizzle to raise funds to renovate their new office. It'll be a great chance to hang out and get to know the new warehouse.

Our mail-order and education program is up and running for 2011! Our workshop facilitators are receiving plenty of bookings for February and March already so teachers are advised to book their classes in soon.

Reverse Garbage workshops can be tailored to your classes theme and curriculum and caters for any age group. We can even run professional development workshops for a group of teachers or a fun team-building session in your workplace!

Mail-order is our service for busy teachers to get great materials for their classroom delivered to their door. We'll pack up a barrel of mixed materials according to one of our themes or to the teacher's own specifications. It's a great way to reduce schools' environmental impact and give your students an challenge.

Find information and order forms [here](#).

## National News

**Global warming will cause further extreme weather patterns, climate change chief says**

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/global-warming-will-cause-further-extreme-weather-patterns-climate-change-chief-says/story-e6frq6xf-1225985772600>

One of Julia Gillard's top climate change advisers has warned that global warming may cause more extreme rain events.

**ACF Flooding and climate change fact sheet**

[http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/Flooding\\_fact\\_sheet\\_12-1-11.pdf](http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/Flooding_fact_sheet_12-1-11.pdf)

**BoM Annual Australian Climate Statement 2010**

[http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media\\_releases/climate/change/20110105.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media_releases/climate/change/20110105.shtml)

### [A Guide to Private Conservation in NSW](#)

Australia's biodiversity cannot be conserved adequately in the public reserve system. Public reserves such as national parks account for a small fraction of all land in Australia. Without conservation on private land much of Australia's biodiversity may be lost. This is why government and non-government organisations are working towards encouraging landholders to take steps to conserve some or all of the natural features of their properties. A range of private conservation mechanisms have been developed in the hope that more of Australia's biodiversity can be preserved. This publication will help you understand the different private conservation options available and help you decide which option would be most suitable for your property and circumstances.

### [Climate change and the legal framework for biodiversity protection in Australia: a legal and scientific analysis](#)

Climate change has profound implications for biodiversity conservation in Australia. It will require us to re-evaluate our current approach to conservation, which will involve consideration of ethical questions such as what to protect and why. It will require dynamic and responsive tools, and overarching approaches. This paper analyses the current legal regime at a Federal level in Australia and its adequacy to protect biodiversity under climate change. The paper was prepared with the assistance of a number of legal and scientific experts who provided written feedback on a draft discussion paper, and attended a one-day roundtable. The first part of the paper outlines the predicted impacts of climate change on biodiversity and identifies general scientific principles for the protection of biodiversity under climate change. The second part of the paper describes and analyses a range of legislative tools in terms of their efficacy in protecting biodiversity currently, as well as how adaptive and applicable they will continue to be in the future, in light of climate change. The paper provides a set of recommendations for legislative and policy reform necessary for the conservation of biodiversity under climate change.

**Government reveals draft carbon farming plan**

The Federal Government has released draft legislation for its carbon farming

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/04/3106308.htm?site=news>

**Conference proceedings online - International Climate Change Adaptation June 2010**

Proceedings from this year's NCCARF-CSIRO International Climate Change Adaptation Conference in June, including audio, video and slides from selected sessions, are online at

[www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010](http://www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010)

**Important safety information for solar PV system owners**

The Clean Energy Council has released a safety bulletin for PV system owners in flood affected areas.

[Click here](#) to read the bulletin & please forward to family & friends.

### **Get the truth on power prices**

In many parts of Australia, electricity prices have gone up in the last five years, and are forecast to go up more. What's going on? The major reason prices are rising is that over the next five years, more than \$42 billion will be invested in new infrastructure, like poles and wires. We need new poles and wires because they're aging, and because there's a growing population and increased demand for power. Remember, this needs to be spent whether or not we have schemes to cut pollution and support clean energy. In this article we've answered as many questions as we can so you can understand what is affecting power prices, what impact a price tag on pollution would really have, and what you can do to cut your power bills at home. Get the FAQs and watch the Australian Conservation Foundation's video to get the real story on what's influencing power prices (features: Simon O'Connor our Economic Adviser and Claire Maries our Climate Change Campaigner)

[http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news\\_id=3210](http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=3210)

### **Drinking recycled water?**

The Australian Government National Water Commission funded a study to establish an approach to assess the quality of water treated using managed aquifer recharge. Researchers at Australia's CSIRO Land and Water set out to determine if the end product would meet standard drinking water guidelines.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-01/asoa-drw010611.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-01/asoa-drw010611.php)

### **Corporate responsibility tastes so sweet**

Over the last decade, Australian Ethical has been donating 10% of its profits to conservation and charity organisations. Recently it hit the \$1 million marker in total corporate giving, with major grants being donated to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. [Read more...](#)

### **100% Renewable Energy campaign**

A group of Aussie grassroots climate activists have decided to tackle the climate change problem head on by committing to the 100% Renewable Energy Campaign AND YOU CAN JOIN US! We have decided that the time for waiting for the government to take any sort of meaningful action is over. We are determined to actively grow the already significant grassroots climate movement into a national shout for meaningful action in 2011. You can read more at [www.100percent.org.au](http://www.100percent.org.au) or [email Tony](#).

### **Australian Carbon Trust**

The Australian Government is providing over \$100 million to establish the Australian Carbon Trust to further support energy efficiency action by businesses. The Australian Carbon Trust is a Commonwealth company limited by guarantee, with an independent Board of Directors.

Australian Carbon Trust manages two innovative programs:

- An Energy Efficiency Program to provide finance and advice to eligible businesses and the public sector for the retrofit of commercial properties.
- The Carbon Neutral Program which provides accreditation for organisations that have products or operations being certified as carbon neutral under the National Carbon Offset Standard.

They can be contacted with respect to both initiatives at: [info@carbontrustrustaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@carbontrustrustaustralia.com.au) or visit the [Australian Carbon Trust website](#).

## World News

### Denmark Boasts a 100% Renewable Energy Community

Denmark, like, Germany, her neighbor to the south, is a country that takes renewable energy seriously. The wind energy industry alone in Denmark is booming with companies like Vestas and Siemens Wind Power both having production facilities and bases of operation on Danish soil. Denmark's own wind based energy also grows exponentially each year leaving many optimistic that the nation might be one of the few who can achieve 100% renewable energy in the next several decades.

<http://www.enn.com/energy/article/42173>

### Indonesia moves ahead on climate action

Indonesia has chosen one of its largest and richest provinces to test efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by saving forest and peatlands, a key part of a \$1 billion climate deal with Norway. Central Kalimantan province on Borneo island is the second largest producer of greenhouse gases among Indonesia's 33 provinces because of deforestation, destruction of carbon-rich peat swamps, and land use change, the government says. "The assessment showed that Central Kalimantan is a province with large forest cover and peatland and faces a real threat of deforestation," top technocrat Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, head of a special presidential delivery unit charged with managing the Norway deal, said in a statement on Thursday.

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/42174>

### How does your green roof garden grow?

Growing plants on rooftops is an old concept that has evolved from simple sod roofing to lightweight "extensive green roofs". Researchers from The Pennsylvania State University published a study in HortTechnology that evaluated the influence of substrate type and depth on establishment of five common green roof plants. A standout performer was saxifrage pink, which had an attractive appearance and persistent flowering habit, making it an excellent choice as a green roof plant.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2010-12/asfh-hdy122810.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-12/asfh-hdy122810.php)

## Resources

### GreenHome website

The Australian Conservation Foundation's GreenHome sustainable living program now has a new home at [www.acfonline.org.au/greenhome](http://www.acfonline.org.au/greenhome). The new GreenHome website has been built with interactivity in mind, with the hope of creating an online community of likeminded individuals with an interest in sustainable living.

The new GreenHome website offers Q&As, polls, blog posts and tips. The aim is to inspire people to make sustainable changes to their life, visiting the GreenHome website regularly to share their experiences and contribute and build a wealth of community information on sustainability at GreenHome online. Key areas of the new website are: Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Waste, Clean Travel, Green Eating, Green Garden, Smart Shop and No Chemicals.

So, what are you waiting for?! Log onto [www.acfonline.org.au/greenhome](http://www.acfonline.org.au/greenhome) now to begin your journey toward a more sustainable lifestyle. Why not sign up for the monthly e-newsletter while you're there? The Australian Conservation Foundation's GreenHome program is a pioneering environmental education program that works with communities to find individual and collective solutions to environmental issues. There are now over 7000 GreenHome participants who have been involved in the program and online GreenHome Challenge. Together, GreenHome participants have now saved over 13,000 tonnes of greenhouse pollution which is equivalent to taking over 3000 cars off the road.

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### [Getting the Drift: a community guide to pesticide use in the NSW Northern Rivers](#)

Want to know what pesticides are being sprayed near where you live, and what you can do about it? If you live in the NSW Northern Rivers region, this booklet will help you find out.

First edition published in October 2010 by the EDO Northern Rivers with the National Toxics Network.

### **Video - global development**

Statistics come to life when Swedish academic superstar Hans Rosling graphically illustrates global development over the last 200 years. <http://www.flixxy.com/200-countries-200-years-4-minutes.htm>

### [New report on household attitudes to sustainability](#)

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute has published a new report [No. 152](#)

[Environmental Sustainability: understanding the attitudes and behaviour of Australian households.](#)

This report describes research that aimed to understand the water and energy use and waste reduction attitudes and practices of Australian households and how these have changed over time.

Although there is a growing body of research investigating the determinants of household sustainability practices and interventions that can positively impact on them, very little of this research has been conducted in the Australian context and there is no systematic examination of how the key socio-demographic variables of tenure, household composition and household income influence household sustainability practices.

### **Guide to air conditioners**

Exhausted all eco-cooling options and considering air-con this summer? Then make sure you buy right and use it in the greenest way you can. [More](#)

### **The Atlas of Living Australia**

A work in progress, this online resource intends to map the biodiversity of our country. [Read more...](#)

#### *Advertisement*

#### **2011 National Environmental Grants Guide Now Available**

This publication summarises over 180 Australia wide and state based grant and funding opportunities available throughout out 2011 and across various categories including nature conservation, energy conservation, renewable energy, heritage etc. It was put together with a wide audience in mind including schools, community, environment/landcare groups as well as councils, businesses and householders. Sources of grants/funding include the Australian and State/Territory Governments, corporate giving programs as well as the major Australian philanthropic funds and trusts. Designed to present grant information in an easy to access manner, it includes information on how much funding is available for each grant opportunity, how to apply and who is eligible. Website links are provided along with useful contact details, where available, to help readers obtain further information. A sample grant listing and order form can be downloaded from Yarramine Environmental's website - [www.yarramine.com.au](http://www.yarramine.com.au) - Cost is **\$39.95** plus **\$4.95** postage and handling Australia-wide.

*Remember, you CAN make a difference!*

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