



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #06 - Sunday, 26 June 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.

Hi everyone,

Winter is really starting to take hold so you'll want to try to stay warm. Please consider the environment when you choose your method of heating. And why not put on a nice warm jumper instead of turning the heater to 25 degrees. Now that you're all comfy and cozy you can take your time to read this edition of the HOPE enews bulletin. Let us know if there is an article you would like to comment on, or any topic that you would like to know more about. Until next time!

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

"Action will remove the doubts that theory cannot solve."

Tehyi Hsieh

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.

Update on Upcoming Events

- 3-10 July [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 11 July [World Population Day](#)
- 28-29 July **Healthy Cities: 4th Making Cities Liveable Conference, Noosa** (*see article overleaf*)
- 29 July [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 31 July [National Tree Day](#)

- 9 Aug [International Day for World Indigenous People](#)
- 22 -28 Aug [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

- September [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 1 Sept [National Wattle Day](#)
- TBA [National Landcare Week](#)
- 7 Sept [National Threatened Species Day](#)
- 11 Sept [Sustainable House Day](#)
- 11 Sept [National Bilby Day](#)
- 16 Sept [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- 16-18 Sept [Clean Up the World Weekend](#)
- 18 Sept [World Water Monitoring Day](#)
- 22 Sept [World Car-Free Day](#)

Healthy Cities: 4th Making Cities Liveable Conference, Noosa, 28-29 July 2011

The 4th Healthy Cities Conference: Making Cities Liveable, is being held at the Outrigger, Little Hastings Street Resort & Spa, Noosa from the 28th - 29th July 2011. The Conference will be a platform for Government and Industry sector professionals to discuss causes, effects and solutions that relate to health, sustainability, natural resource management, climate change and urban design.

Conference topics include:

- ⤴ Climate Change - Community Engagement
- ⤴ Coastal Urbanisation - Rapid Development Affecting Sense of Place
- ⤴ Intensification of Regional Cities and Places
- ⤴ Impacts of Buying Local on Community Sustainability
- ⤴ Healthy People - Healthy Places
- ⤴ Technology and its Place in Healthy Cities
- ⤴ Child-friendly Cities - Physical Environments in our Cities and Neighbourhoods
- ⤴ Green Principles Green Design - The Future for Viable Healthy Cities
- ⤴ Links between Environmental Sustainability and Human Health: the Co-benefits Framework
- ⤴ Healthy Place Making: Impacts of Planning and Development Regulations
- ⤴ Waste Reuse Technologies and Renewable Energy
- ⤴ Disaster Management: The Impacts on Population Health

Keynote Speakers

Philip D. Allsopp, Founder/Principal, Transpolis Global, Arizona, USA

Dr. Edward J. Blakely, Professor of Urban Policy, United States Study Centre, University of Sydney

Andrew McNamara, General Manager, Strategic and International Policy, Energy Supply Association of Australia

Prof Darren Bilsborough, Managing Director of Cminus

A/Prof Helen Berry, Associate Professor and Deputy Director, Centre for Research and Action in Public Health, The University of Canberra

Karlson Hargroves, Co-Founder and Director, The Natural Edge Project.

Healthy Cities is a term used in the areas of public health and urban design to highlight the effects of government policy on public health. It derives from a World Health Organization (WHO) European Region initiative on Healthy Cities and Villages in 1986, but has a history dating back to the mid 19th century. Although developed originally in conjunction with the European Union, it has rapidly been accepted world-wide as a way of establishing healthy public policy at a local level. WHO defines the Healthy City as:

"one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments

Further information on conference registration and accommodation fees visit:

<http://www.healthycities.com.au/>

Office News

The office has been kept busy with organising information displays at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) on 18/5 and 25/5; and giving talks to local groups on 19th and 24th May.

We have also provided logistical support to the *Pathways to Sustainability Expo* Organising Committee and assisted the Management Committee in organising the General Meeting of 19 June.

HOPE will be mounting information displays at **Toowoomba TAFE's Open Day (9 Aug)** and the **Toowoomba Languages & Cultural Festival (14 Aug)**. Volunteers are required to staff these displays. Please phone the office on 4639 2135 to register your availability.

Report on Pathways to Sustainability Expo, 5 June

"A lot of effort for little return" was how the Expo Organising Committee summarised the *Pathways to Sustainability Expo* held on Sunday 5 June 2011.

The event was well organised with a variety of activities including speakers program, workshops, demonstrations and information displays.

There was good media coverage leading up to the Expo with regular radio announcements and interviews on 4GR, advertisements in The Chronicle newspaper and a feature article in special Sustainability supplement.

All this however, resulted in less than 500 visitors to the Expo at the University of Southern Queensland - quite a disappointment! Other events in Toowoomba on 5 June included Queensland Day celebrations at Picnic Point and World Environment Day activities at Lake Annand Park.

Leftover literature and showbags will be distributed at the upcoming *Toowoomba Languages & Cultural Festival* being held on 14 August.

A big thanks to our sponsors and in-kind contributors whose support enabled us to stage the event and to come in under budget.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and efforts to the Expo.

When the full report on the Expo is completed, it will be made available from our website.

Report on General Meeting of 19 June 2011

Main points of the general meeting are:

- Change to the treasurer's position with Victor Skowronski stepping down and Joy van der Wyk taking on the role (11 April).
- Debriefing of Pathways to Sustainability Expo
- Public Information Forums - decision to cancel the remaining dates due to poor attendances at previous events
- A list of projects requiring funding was prioritised; and assistance will be sought from Yarramine Environmental to prepare funding applications. Projects include:
 - Publish a national version of our successful *Low Carbon Living starts at home* booklet
 - Produce a *Helpful Hints* booklet from a series of HOPE generated information sheets
 - Produce *Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT)*
 - Upgrade our website
 - Undertake a local Transition Towns project using the *Green Street* program
- A recommendation to upgrade software to Windows 7 was adopted
- 2012 fund-raising activities
 - People & Planet Diary - Due to increases in cost of diaries and the order quantity, it was decided not to purchase the 2012 People & Planet Social Justice and Environment.

Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc.

Food for thought

The most powerful climate video you'll see all week (4m.11s) (Could easily be Queensland/ Australia)
<http://www.grist.org/climate-change/2011-06-11-the-most-powerful-climate-video-youll-see-all-week>

Stop Coal Seam Gas Now! (14m 32s)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93hRPRxXFg4&feature=player_embedded

(see *Lock the Gate* campaign - <http://lockthegateqld.group-action.com/>)

Lifeblood Petition:

Please sign the petition at www.lifeblood.org.au is now LIVE!

... for a MDB Plan that will save our greatest river!

Special Report from one of our members

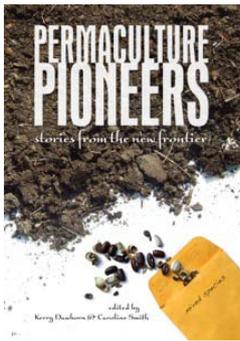
Summary of the UNEP FI 2011 online course on climate change: risks and opportunities for the finance sector By Adeyinka A A (Ade)

The course has eleven lessons delivered over a period of three weeks from 4th April to 25th of April 2011. It was asserted in the lessons that climate change is not the result of subtle variations in the Earth's orbit around the sun; rather it was due to manmade activities resulting from energy consumption and changes in land use. These activities produce large quantities of greenhouse gases as by-products. The link between the science of climate change and its effect on businesses was explored. The specific implications of climate change on banking, insurance and asset management were also highlighted. It is worth noting that while the course suggested that policy makers should promote mitigation through subsidies, taxes and greater reliance on flexible mechanisms, it also discussed adaptation unlike many discussions on climate change. The course presented mitigation and adaptation as two sides of the same coin but noted that adaptation has been under-funded. Participants were made to know that the impacts of current emission cuts will not be felt until after the year 2040. Consequently, vigorous adaptation measures were encouraged. Weather derivatives and catastrophic bonds were among the options considered and the participants discussed the use of weather derivatives extensively on the discussion forum.

Policies and regulations were reviewed. These policies include the Kyoto protocol and the various mechanisms put in place to mitigate climate change. In particular, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI) and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) were thoroughly explained. It was noted that carbon price in the EU is impacting stock prices thereby making climate change an issue that cannot be ignored by investors. Furthermore, financial risks posed by climate change were discussed under the following headings; regulatory, litigation, competitive, physical and reputational risks.

In order to capture these risks in the analysis of a firm's prospects, pressures are being mounted on organizations to disclose climate risks in their financial reports. Other related websites were given including the UN PRI (United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment). The UN PRI is particularly advocating that corporations should capture Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues in their reports. It was concluded that the uncertainties in terms of future framework to manage climate risks may not be resolved until the end of the first Kyoto commitment period in 2012 and therefore stakeholders should be cautious in making climate change related commitments.

Feature Articles



Permaculture Pioneers

Holmgren Design Services (HDS) is the business of David Holmgren, co-originator of the permaculture concept, and his partner in life and livelihood Su Dennett. It is a small family business based mostly around David's teaching and speaking and his publications, and some, generally local, consultation work.

HDS has been expanding the publication arm of the business (now under the Melliodora Publishing imprint). The first publication under the new imprint is to be *Permaculture Pioneers: Stories from the New Frontier*, edited by Kerry Dawborn and Caroline Smith, to be released July 2011.

This book is a very exciting project. The editors Kerry and Caroline have put together stories from 25 Australian permaculturists, including HDS's own David Holmgren who, in Caroline's words, have "in myriad ways pioneered the extraordinary design system for sustainability known as permaculture." The stories show that permaculture is much more than organic gardening. Arguably it is one of Australia's greatest intellectual exports, having helped people worldwide to design ecologically sustainable strategies for their communities. Exploring the changes needed for a sustainable future, and some of the work already done, the book charts a history of the first three decades of permaculture through the personal stories of these Australian permaculturists. From Terry White, the first editor of the *Permaculture International Journal*, to ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* presenter Josh Byrne, the authors span the generations and the continent.

The stories represent the scope, depth and diversity of Australian permaculture. They explore some of the influences on those who have embraced it, record milestones and highlight recurring themes. The editors' contributions and afterword by social ecologist Professor Stuart B Hill frame these stories in terms of transformation of the inner landscape, as the critical starting point for the outer change that is needed. As these stories show, being a pioneer is as much about the humility needed to transform the inner landscapes of our minds and hearts, as about the traditional permaculture focus on the outer landscape of our homes, gardens, farms and communities.

For Australians and others around the world whose lives have been changed by permaculture, this book provides a context for articulating and celebrating their own stories and experiences. Even more, it invites each of us, permaculturists or not, to embrace our power in designing our world out of the best in ourselves, for the benefit of the whole earth community. HDS, the editors and the authors of the book, along with others in the permaculture community, will be organising launches for this important work around the country. See the Holmgren Design Services website for more about Holmgren Design Services and more about *Permaculture Pioneers*, and the Events page for details of upcoming launches and other events. www.holmgren.com.au

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 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.

Queensland News

[Wild Backyards](#) is a partnership between Queensland Museum, the Atlas of Living Australia and Quest Newspapers to encourage the general public to become more aware about their very own wild backyards. Wild Backyards makes it easy for people to identify their backyard finds, with photographs and user-friendly information of common species. Then by uploading their photographs and sightings to the Wild Backyards website they can help scientists track the many species throughout Brisbane, providing an invaluable biodiversity record.

[Landcare volunteers needed in the bush](#)

Landcare Queensland are seeking details from local or regional groups about volunteer opportunities across the state under their Do it in the Bush campaign. Landcare volunteers can help indoors or out, being dirty or clean, being active or sedentary, and using brains or brawn. Whatever way volunteers help, they'll be having fun and working alongside mates knowing they're doing fantastic work helping to clean up the environment and keep Queensland beautiful.

If your group or region has a project or volunteer position vacant and are looking for new volunteers, email Landcare Queensland's Elli Webb at elli@landcare.org.au and Landcare Queensland will promote the opportunity for you. For further information and an event setup form for volunteering purposes, visit the [Landcare Queensland website](#) and view the 'resources for landcare groups' pages.

[Community Gardens](#)

Got some time mid-week, want to learn more about gardening, interested in renting a plot if you don't have space at home, or just want to volunteer to learn more? Then why not visit a community garden? Find out more about Community Gardens and their activities on the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane plus some useful resources.

Local Food

According to Queensland Conservation, "Queensland's population is growing at an unprecedented rate - in SEQ we are gaining between 1000 and 1500 new people every week." Professor Julian Cribb, author of the book 'The Coming Famine,' believes this population explosion will continue to put high demand on our food supplies and that unless things change dramatically our cities will "not produce enough food, leaving them almost entirely dependent on outside forces."

The good news is ... there are local food solutions. Read more about the issues and solutions in '[Local Food for Sustainable Communities](#)', an article that focuses on urban food systems from ECOS Magazine ... Tuck in! Want to find out where you can source fresh produce, locate organic farmers and connect with local producers and food directly? There are a number of options other than growing your own to connect you with local produce.

The Meter Man - Meters for Modern Farmers

Meters for Modern Farmers is an online store providing a wide range of agricultural measuring instruments, test kits, accessories, books and videos covering the areas of Plant/Crop Health, Soil Health, Climatic Conditions and Crop Quality. The store is run by David von Pein (The Meter Man) and his wife Elaine. David is a retired farmer and as a result of his practical experience in farming problems, is able to offer personal advice to customers on the products they sell, ensuring "they get the right meter for the job." The site also includes an Events Page listing Workshops & Training Events for the Agricultural Industry.

Address: PO Box 7964, Toowoomba South QLD 4350

Website: <http://www.themeterman.com.au/> ; Email: meters@themeterman.com.au

Phone: (07) 4635 7065 Fax: (07) 4635 7784 Mobile: 0428 987 117

Engaging the UQ community around Sustainability

The University of Queensland is focused on embedding sustainability in all its campuses and sites. The University has a duty to show leadership in sustainability and is committed to strengthening its environmental program. UQ adopted the *Tallories Declaration for sustainability in higher education* and is a signatory to the *Universitas 21 Sustainability Statement* as part of its commitment to sustainability. The University's Sustainability Steering Committee oversees the growth of its environmental program to embed sustainability into its teaching and research programs and operational activities.

The 8 key sustainability environmental themes are energy, water, waste, purchasing, transport, biodiversity, built environment and environmental risk. Promotional activities, communication and engagement activities are regular features of the sustainability program around each of these themes. Major events are held for significant milestones, such as the upcoming official opening in July 2011 of UQ's 1.22MW flat panel array at St Lucia campus, the largest of its kind in Australia.

Involvement of the wider UQ community is vitally important in promoting awareness and encouraging participation in sustainability initiatives. The Green Office program is an initiative where UQ staff promote good environmental practices in their work areas. The program is coordinated by the Sustainability Office and operates through a network of volunteer Green Office representatives located in schools, centres and administrative units. Annual audits are undertaken to monitor improvement and to support the setting of improvement goals for the coming year. Awards are presented annually to the best Green Offices at UQ's World Environment Day celebrations.

The Green Labs program is currently being developed as a sustainability initiative specifically for the lab environment. The program will pilot in the second semester of 2011 and is an extension of the existing Environmental Management System (EMS). The program will operate in a similar manner to the Green Office program with voluntary Green Labs Representatives, but with a strong emphasis on the environmental challenges in the running and operation of a laboratory.

The Sustainability Development Program provides courses open to all UQ staff in sustainability. In 2011 course topics include *Introducing a sustainable culture at work*, *Reducing energy at work*, *Sustainable purchasing at work* and *Recycling and minimising waste at work*. Training of *New Green Office reps* and regular *Green Office Update* sessions are run throughout the year. Also run throughout the year are training modules in the *EMS procedures* and on *Emergency procedures and spill kits* for environmental risk.

The University has a website dedicated to sustainability at www.uq.edu.au/sustainability. The site contains a wealth of information including the EMS procedures, resources for the Green Office program (and soon for the Green Labs program), updates on the latest news and events and links to many other sustainability sites of interest. The sustainability newsletter is issued quarterly to subscribers and feature articles on sustainability are regularly included in the *UQ News* magazine and *the UQ Graduate Contact* magazine. Feature articles and EcoTips are published weekly in the UQ Update. For further information on Sustainability at UQ, check out the website at www.uq.edu.au/sustainability or email sustainability@uq.edu.au

National News

The [Atlas of Living Australia](#) (ALA) project is building a biodiversity information platform to provide scientists and others with the information they need now and in decades to come. To achieve this, the ALA and its partners are making a wide range of biodiversity data and datasets more accessible and useable online through the ALA website, and developing new tools for research and analysis. Already, users of the ALA website can combine species distribution information with mapping tools, identification keys, photos, names lists, sensitive data service (coming) and published literature. They can create a list and/or map of the species living in a particular area, such as within 5 kms of their home. The Atlas project is a partnership between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian natural history collections community and the Australian Government.

[CERES - Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies](#), is an award winning, not-for-profit, environment and education centre and urban farm located by the Merri Creek in East Brunswick, Melbourne. Built on a decommissioned municipal tip that was once a landfill and wasteland, today CERES is a thriving, vibrant community visited by over 300,000 people each year.

Victoria's first ResourceSmart 5Star Certified schools

The first three Victorian schools to achieve a five-star sustainability certification in the ResourceSmart Schools program have been announced. Minister for Environment and Climate Change and Youth Affairs Ryan Smith congratulated Eltham North Primary School in the city's north-east, Balnarring Primary on Mornington Peninsula and Aitken College in Greenvale in Melbourne's north, for their efforts in reducing their ecological footprint.

"I am pleased to announce that Aitken College, Eltham North Primary School and Balnarring Primary are the first recipients of the ResourceSmart Schools program five-star sustainability certification awards," said Mr Smith. "The schools have worked their way through all the requirements for each star to achieve 5Stars," Mr Smith said. "By achieving this rating, the schools have demonstrated significant leadership in their communities."

"Each school has found creative and efficient ways to integrate waste, water, energy and biodiversity initiatives into their everyday actions".

Consumers, solar power and feed-in tariffs report

Over the past 12 months, the [Australian Photovoltaic Association](#) (APVA) has been working with numerous [Alternative Technology Association](#) members around the country who have installed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and taken advantage of a variety of feed-in tariff (FIT) schemes in each state. This has resulted in the *Impacts of photovoltaic systems and feed-in tariffs on Australian residential consumers* report from the APVA. The purpose of this report is to try to better understand the financial and other impacts on solar PV owners of various types of feed-in tariffs around the country. The project uses actual system data from existing solar households, as well as electricity bills, to quantitatively assess the financial impact of different FITs for the system owner. [Click here](#) to download the report.

[Sustainable Retrofit of Gosnells' Civic Centre - Case Study](#)

The City of Gosnells in Perth achieved a 5 Star Green Star rating for the retrofit of its Civic Centre. In doing so, the City has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability and shown that even buildings constructed during the 1970s can receive an environmental and economic overhaul.

[Building roads from recycled crushed glass is good for Shire bottom line](#)

The demonstration project is a partnership between the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (the Shire) and the Australian Food and Grocery Council's Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) and follows a detailed financial analysis of waste to landfill and the benefits of diverting glass containers into productive re-use.

[Growth at the source](#)

Sustainability is a broad buzz word but the success of a food co-op shows what can be achieved when you remain true to the concept down to the tiniest detail.

[Transition Towns](#)

Keep up with the latest news from local Transition Towns, find out where you can join a group or find some of the online resources available. Also check out the [article](#) on Transition Towns in a recent issue of *G Magazine*.

[The greenhouse effect is real: here's why](#)

Bureau of Meteorology scientist Karl Braganza explains why we know the climate is changing, and what's causing it.

Eddie Dowd – Eco Hero Series

Eddie Dowd is a writer with an unusual past who writes on the subjects of social justice and self development. He is also a writer of books for children and young adults. His **Eco Hero** series of stories, illustrated by Michaela Blassnig, is a series of 10 storybooks which help kids to discover a happy, healthy future through fun and engaging storytelling. These books are designed to inspire young minds over a wide range of topics, from Protecting Waterways to Green Energy and Transportation. The books are available from the Eco Hero Publishing website, whose motto is "Sustainability through Storytelling." In addition to providing details of the books and facilities for purchasing them online, the website includes children's games and access to the Eco Hero newsletter.

Eco Hero Website: <http://ecohero.com.au/>

Email: diddie@ecohero.com.au; Personal Website: <http://www.eddiedowd.com/>

World News

[Ganges' glacial basin one of the most unstable in India, as alarm bells ring for Himalayas](#)

Source of water in northern and central India, the western Himalayan glaciers, are retreating at the fastest rate in India, a new government study has revealed.

COMMEND (Community for Energy, Environment and Development) is an international initiative of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) designed to foster a community among energy analysts working on sustainable development, particularly in the southern hemisphere. It is built upon a set of transparent and user-friendly software tools for strategic analysis of energy and environmental policy issues. These tools include LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning) and WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning). LEAP has already been widely disseminated and applied in hundreds of organizations in the developing world. COMMEND provides technical support, training, and the exchange of knowledge needed by the worldwide community of energy analysts.

Membership of COMMEND is free and is available to private individuals and students as well as members of academic, government and non-profit organizations and private companies.

The web site provides news on environmental issues and COMMEND activities, access to software tools for sustainable development and environmental policy analysis, an online resource library, technical support and discussion forums designed to foster a community among its members. It also provides notifications about upcoming regional training workshops.

Further details are available at <http://www.energycommunity.org/>

Climate change and food security: Setting the track for the High Level Panel of Experts

Food security and climate change are, now, more than ever, two major global challenges that humanity is facing. These challenges are inextricably linked, and so should be the world's responses. For these reasons, in October 2010, the **UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** requested its **High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)** to conduct a study on **climate change**, and in particular to "*Review existing assessments and initiatives on the effects of climate change on food security and nutrition, with a focus on the most affected and vulnerable regions and populations and the interface between climate change and agricultural productivity, including the challenges and opportunities of adaptation and mitigation policies and actions for food security and nutrition.*" Final findings are to be presented at the CFS Plenary Session in October 2012.

The HLPE is now launching a **Public Electronic Consultation on the scope of the HLPE Study, 13 June - 1 July 2011**. Paper available at http://km.fao.org/fsn/discussions/climate_change

Feedback received will be used by the HLPE to finalise the terms of reference of the Project Team that will prepare the study and policy recommendations. The Project Team is yet to be selected and appointed by the HLPE StC. This will take place subsequent to this consultation. This electronic consultation for the HLPE is hosted by the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition. To contribute, just send your comments in English, French or Spanish by mail to fsn-moderator@fao.org.

[Norway Plans Billion-Dollar Clean Energy Initiative For Poor](#)

Norway wants to channel billions of dollars to renewable energies in developing nations, building on a scheme to protect tropical forests to which Oslo has been the biggest donor, officials said.

[Global Bioenergy Partnership Agrees on Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy](#)

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) has agreed on a set of 24 voluntary, science-based indicators for assessing the sustainable production and use of all forms of bioenergy. The agreement represents the first global and government-level consensus on such indicators.

The [Global Reports on Human Settlements](#) provide authoritative and up-to-date assessments of conditions and trends in the world's cities and other human settlements. Written in clear non-technical language and supported by informative graphics, case studies and extensive statistical data, these reports are essential tools and references for researchers, academics, planners, public authorities and civil society organizations around the world.

[Renewable energy can power the world, says landmark IPCC study](#)

UN's climate change science body says renewables supply, particularly solar power, can meet global demand

[China doubles solar power target by 2020: report](#)

China has more than doubled its target for solar power capacity to 50 gigawatts by 2020, state media said, as the world's largest polluter steps up efforts to boost clean energy sources.

[Human Activities Emit Way More Carbon Dioxide Than Do Volcanoes](#)

On average, human activities put out in just three to five days the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide that volcanoes produce globally each year.

[IEA Releases Report on Efficient Heating and Cooling Technologies](#)

16 May 2011: The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released the newest in its IEA Technology Roadmap series. "Energy-efficient Buildings: Heating and Cooling Equipment" discusses the current status of heating and cooling technologies and indicates that these technologies have the potential to reduce carbon emissions by up to two gigatons and to save 710 million tons of oil equivalent of energy by 2050.

The report includes a vision for heating and cooling technology deployment, milestones and actions for technology development, strategic goals and actions for heating and cooling technology policy, and near-term actions for stakeholders. It underscores that heating and cooling accounts for around one-third of total end-use energy consumption globally, and that choosing best available technologies and improving these technologies further makes economic and ecological sense. The report indicates that most of these technologies, including solar thermal, combined heat and power, heat pumps and thermal energy storage, are commercially available today.

The report calls for significant increases in research and development funding, and governments to lower barriers and create enabling economic conditions for the uptake of more efficient heating and cooling technologies. Key actions for the next decade include: establishing policy and stakeholder working groups to align energy efficiency and environmental policies with one another and with other policy areas; developing context-specific national roadmaps; collecting comprehensive energy consumption data; supplying decision makers with context-relevant information on technology alternatives; and supporting the further education of key professionals such as architects, engineers and designers on energy efficiency issues.

Resources

[School Gardens](#)

School garden coordinators, parents and teachers will find resources and events here that provide ideas for integrating the environment, sustainability, food and gardening into the curriculum. When available, you'll also see diary dates with links to online resources; school garden programs; ideas for school excursions; and professional development days.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations commissioned ARIES to develop a module in energy efficiency and renewable energy for students in the tertiary education sector, as part of the Skills for the Carbon Challenge initiative. It is designed to provide students with the understanding, skills and capabilities to incorporate concerns about energy efficiency, energy effectiveness and renewable energy into their personal and working lives. The modular construction of the unit allows teachers and lecturers to either utilise the content within existing courses, or to develop new short courses. **The module is available for free download from:** www.aries.mq.edu.au/projects/deewr_energy_efficiency/index.php



Environment Design Guide (EDG) – Download your copy today!

EDG is Australia's leading source of environmental design advice for building professionals. It is published by the Australian Institute of Architects. Passive design is a perennially popular topic with EDG users. For a limited time, **HOPE** readers can download a free copy of 'Residential Passive Design for Temperate

Climates' by Gareth Cole from [here](#).

Are you getting EDG News? It's free and full of news, reviews and events in the world of environmentally sustainable design. [Sign up today!](#)

Book reviews

[Climate Change Denial](#) :Heads in the Sand by *Haydn Washington, John Cook*

This book shows how we can break through denial, accept reality, and thus solve the climate crisis.

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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