

February 2010

NEWS

Contents

4 National Climate Change Forum

6 What's in this issue

6 Australia

8 Global

11 Innovation

14 Local News

16 Plan for Greater Adelaide

18 Local Training & Events

21 National Events

23 Content Record

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An artists impression of a mixed use development which includes apartments and a shopping centre in the Sydney suburb of Balgowlah.

(Image courtesy of Stockland)

A Vision for Sustainable Communities

Where are we heading as Australia's population grows?

Australia's population is expected to rise by 60 per cent by 2050, reaching 35 million people. Most of us – nearly 85 per cent – will choose to live in cities.

The challenges presented by such growth were acknowledged by the Rudd Government through its establishment of Infrastructure Australia and within it a Major Cities Unit. This move was a clear signal of the Australian Government's view that cities are essential to our national prosperity. This is also reinforced in the recent release of Infrastructure Australia's 'State of Australian Cities 2010' report, which will now provide a basis for a national urban strategy. At the report's launch, Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese made it clear that planning of Australia's cities is now core business for the Commonwealth.

In August last year industry leaders in the built environment went to Canberra for the BEMP (Built Environment Meets Parliament) summit, an annual conversation between Australia's peak property and sustainable built environment bodies and key parliamentarians. One of the many outcomes of the summit was the drafting of Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities. Prepared by the Allen Consulting Group, these principles provide a basis for some common ground on how urban planning frameworks may be established at a national level.

In December the Prime Minister and the Minister for Infrastructure announced a new capital cities planning system which requires all states and territories to have capital city strategic plans in place by 2012 that meet a set of nine national criteria that include transport, housing, urban development and sustainability.

Industry has also acknowledged the need for change, with recent research suggesting that without a radical shift in the way we plan, design and build cities, the future looks bleak. The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) released the Cities for the Future: Baseline Report and Key Issues at this year's Green Cities conference, which explores the issues facing Australia as we green our built environment. The report found that even with the consideration for recent improvements to planning policy, by 2041, transport-related greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) across Australian cities will increase by an average of around 50 per cent and travel times for commuters will increase by a quarter. The report reveals that, within thirty years, urban centres will become more transport intensive and less transport efficient. The result being that GHG in some regions, such as South East Queensland, are predicted to increase by 75 per cent.

Clearly, we need to take urgent steps to alter this trajectory.

Planning Sustainable Communities

Recognising these challenges, the Australian Government is establishing a clear urban cities agenda for the nation, which aims to ensure our cities grow efficiently with respect to major infrastructure networks (such as transport and communication networks), are affordable and liveable, and shape a sustainable legacy for future generations.

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) was established in 2002 with the mission to transform Australia's built environment, and by the following year launched its first Green Star tool for offices. Last year the GBCA began to broaden its focus beyond just individual buildings and is now investing in the full strategy spectrum – from policy through to practical tools – to help Australia transition to a low-carbon, sustainable built environment.

Initial stakeholder discussions held during last year's annual Green Cities conference in Brisbane identified potential opportunities to support the 'national cities agenda' through the development of a rating tool that could rate the sustainability of communities. As a result, the GBCA was asked by key government and industry stakeholders to lead the development of a national framework on which a rating tool for sustainable communities could be built.

Known as Green Star Communities, the project involves a two-staged process:

- Stage 1: The development of a national framework and consistent language for sustainable communities that establishes five national best practice principles to guide sustainable communities in Australia.
- Stage 2: The development of the Green Star Communities rating tool that assesses sustainable communities against best practice sustainable benchmarks.

A National Framework

Green Star Communities: a draft National Framework was developed by the Green Building Council of Australia and VicUrban and released at Green Cities 2010 in February. The objectives of the framework are to:

- Provide national consistency and a common language around the definition of best practice sustainable communities
- Encourage innovation and excellence in our approach to creating communities of the future
- Promote integration across the spectrum of sustainability issues relating to sustainable communities
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement during the evolution of sustainable communities
- Provide a basis for ongoing assessment and evaluation of sustainable community evolution

The framework has established five principles to influence the evolution of new and existing sustainable communities in Australia. The five pillars underpinning the principles are:

- Create liveable communities
- Provide opportunities for economic prosperity
- Enhance environmental quality
- Design great places
- Promote good urban governance

Sustainable Communities Vision

The Framework also contained a Sustainable Communities Vision for Australia:

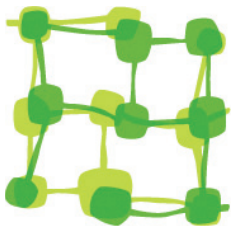
A sustainable community embodies the principles of sustainable development, respecting ecological limits and natural resource constraints, encouraging prosperity and happiness and optimising conditions for human development over time.

A sustainable community has aspirations for the future that acknowledge the challenges brought about by change. It is liveable, resilient and adaptable. It strives for a lower carbon and ecological footprint. It has environments designed for all.

A sustainable community evolves through policy and practice that respects and embraces the aspirations of existing and future community stakeholders.

A number of aspects can be influenced to achieve best practice sustainable community outcomes, including:

- Infrastructure: the systems and services which supply our energy and water, manage our waste, communications, technology and provide for mobility.
- Buildings: the built form that accommodates our activities associated with working, living and playing, both public and private.
- Open space: the areas accessible to the public.
- People: those who own, rent, occupy, visit, work, reside, recreate or interact in our communities.
- Ecology: the biological systems within the natural environment.
- Economy: the systems supporting the production, exchange, distribution and consumption of goods and services.
- Governance: the rules, behaviours and structures that shape and influence communities.



Create liveable communities



Provide opportunities for economic prosperity



Enhance environmental quality



Design great places



Promote good urban governance

Other Tools

In February 2009 the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts released a scoping study examining the need for a national sustainability assessment methodology for neighbourhood-scale urban development. The study included a detailed analysis of the range of sustainability tools and methodologies for neighbourhood-type developments that exist both nationally and internationally. A total of 16 tools were reviewed and included international tools from other green building organisations such as the US Green Building Council's LEED Neighbourhood Development tool and the UK's BREEAM Communities tool. Australian tools emerging in the market, such as NSW Government agency Landcom's Precinx tool and the EnviroDevelopment tool from the Urban Development Institute of Australia, each serve specific purposes for government and industry and, as the findings of the scoping study suggest, all of the tools have their own method for influencing sustainable community outcomes.

The Green Star Communities tool will not be built in isolation, but instead draw upon these existing tools and methodologies being used in Australia and internationally to guide sustainable development. Green Star Communities does not aim to replace any existing tools, but rather provide a broader context for their development and application.

Since the Green Star Communities draft framework was released, conversations with government and industry have now commenced in earnest. Stakeholder consultation sessions will help the GBCA to further develop the national principles of sustainable communities and the principal functions of the tool. By June 2010 the final framework will be launched and the tool development process will commence, which will be overseen by a technical working group of GBCA members.

The draft Green Star – Communities framework is currently open for public comment until the end of April, and copies of the framework can be downloaded from the website below.

So tell us – what is your vision for sustainable communities?


Adam Beck is the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star – Communities Project Manager and State Manager for GBCA's Queensland and Northern Territory divisions.

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Further Reading

Green Star Communities: A Draft National Frame Work

 www.gbca.org.au/green-star/green-star-communities/draft-framework

Precinx

Recently released by the NSW Government, this tool analyses and guides sustainability performance in the planning of neighbourhoods. The tool assesses environmental, economic and social performance of large-scale projects in terms of: onsite energy, embodied CO₂, potable water, stormwater, housing diversity and transport. Projects are rated by four key performance indicators: greenhouse gas emissions, potable water use, affordability, and vehicle hours travelled a week.

 www.landcom.com.au/whats-new/latest-news/new-planning-tool-to-drive-greener-suburbs.aspx

EnviroDevelopment

EnviroDevelopment is a certification system rewarding exemplary sustainable developments with environment marketing symbols relevant to their achievements. It is scientifically-based and is the first comprehensive branding system applicable to residential subdivisions, master planned communities, precincts, industrial and commercial developments and aims to encourage and assist developers in the uptake of greater sustainability. It is unique in offering rated projects advertising and branding icons for achievements under separate 'elements' such as 'water' or 'waste' rather than gaining an aggregate rating across all aspects.

 www.envirodevelopment.com.au

National Climate Change Forum

Contemplating the future for Australia's coasts

The Climate Change Minister Penny Wong opened a two day climate change forum in Adelaide in February. The National Climate Change Forum: Adaptation Priorities for Australia's Coasts was hosted by the federal government's Department of Climate Change. Attendees included scientists from a range of climate change projects, and stakeholders nationally, which included many representatives of local and state governments and industry. Additionally the House of Representatives' bipartisan Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts, was represented by its Chair, MP Ms Jennie George, and its Deputy Chair, Liberal MP Dr Mal Washer both of whom spoke at the event.

In opening the forum the Senator drew on positive outcomes from last December's COP 15 conference in Copenhagen saying :

"It saw, for the first time, leaders agree to hold any increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius.

For the first time, leaders of developed as well as developing countries agreed to take action, side by side, to deliver that objective.

For the first time, leaders agreed to a framework for a transparent system to track our progress, which is key to getting the environmental outcome the world needs.

And for the first time, leaders agreed on the finance necessary to support emissions reductions and adaptation in developing countries.

The world now has major emitters prepared to take action and to be accountable for it. The significance of this should not be overlooked or forgotten."

Senator Wong pointed out that these commitments were not things the Kyoto Protocol delivered. The draft Copenhagen Accord, the outcome of the summit, is strongly supported by both developed and developing countries, and covers around 80 per cent of global emissions and more than 85 per cent of the global economy.

The Senator drew parallels between the "debates about the impact carbon pollution is having on our planet, and earlier debates about the impact cigarette smoke has on our health." Reminding the audience of the facts of climate change, Senator Wong pointed out that 2009 was the second hottest year on record in Australia and the fifth hottest globally, and it also finished the hottest decade in recorded history.

Regarding the suggestions by some that the world might have been hoodwinked by climate scientists as part of a vast conspiracy, she said "those hoodwinked would have to include the Pentagon and Margaret Thatcher... Red herrings and arguments at the fringes of the debate cannot dismiss the fact that the world is warming, nor is it justification to ignore the range of scientific work on climate change."

What followed was two days of presentations, workshops and panel discussions which not only presented the facts on a changing climate, but also some of what the varied impacts would be for coastal areas from inundation due to sea-level rise and storm surges. The need for a national portal that brought together not only existing land contour databases, but also new surveys of land topography and the coastal bathymetry (elevation of the seabed) was made clear. The nature and frequency of inundation is linked to variations in bathymetry and thus the information is critical to predicting how coastal land will be impacted. The attendees were told that an online portal that combines this information is under development as part of the National Elevation Data Framework project. This project follows ANZLIC's (the Spatial Information Council advocate for common spatial data standards) call for mapping that was of sufficient resolution to be of use for relevant decision making.

With the scientists presenting a consistent call for action on the predicted range of changes ahead, the challenge was for local authorities to develop legally defensible standards on which they could make planning decisions. The resounding call from the participants was for a national framework for sea-level rise and inundation which local authorities could use to make informed decisions. Senator Wong said she wanted to work with COAG to form a national collaboration agenda, acknowledging that there was not enough engagement between COAG and local government.

**the single message
is start now!**



Minister for Climate Change, Senator Penny Wong addressing the Forum
 (Photo: Courtesy of the Department of Climate Change)

The Forum saw the release of an adaptation position paper, which sets out the Australian Government's vision for adapting to the impacts of climate change and proposes practical steps to realise this vision. Earlier in the year the Coast and Climate Change Council of which the notable Prof Tim Flannery is chair, issued its Preliminary Conclusions, which discuss not only preparing for climate change but engaging the nation. It was announced at the Forum that the term of the Council was being extended by another year.

If the public at large is to be successfully engaged with the importance of the issues of climate change it was clear by the end of the Forum that it may well be time for the scientists to take a step back from the lectern – and the public relations professions be invoked to effectively communicate the simple and clear messages on the evidence of climate change to the public. Recent media attention on the potential variance on the facts of climate science, it was pointed out, didn't indicate a lack of risk, or make the case for inaction. As Senator Wong suggested in her closing remarks for the Forum, the single message was "start now!"

Related:

Forum program:

- 🔗 <http://climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/national-coastal-risk-assessment/-/media/publications/coastline/National%20Climate%20Change%20Forum%202010%20Program.ashx>

Senator Wong's Opening Address of the Forum:

- 🔗 www.climatechange.gov.au/minister/wong/2010/major-speeches/February/sp20100218.aspx

Conference website:

- 🔗 www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/national-coastal-risk-assessment/national-climate-change-forum.aspx

Australian Government Position Paper:

- 🔗 <http://climatechange.gov.au/government/-/media/publications/adaptation/190210-dcc-positionpaper.ashx>

Coasts and Climate Change Council: Preliminary Conclusions:

- 🔗 <http://climatechange.gov.au/media/whats-new/coasts-cc-council.aspx>

National Elevation Data Framework project

- 🔗 www.anzlic.org.au/nedf.html

Of interest:

Projected Australian temperature change 2000-2100:

- 🔗 www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/documents/resources/temperature.avi

Projected Australian rainfall change 2000-2100:

- 🔗 www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/documents/resources/rainfall.avi

From the Editor...

This issue of EDG is the first for 2010, and the first online only edition of EDG. From this issue, rather than quarterly, EDG will be produced bi-monthly, with six issues per year. We look forward to providing you with more current news under this arrangement.

Scott Willey Managing Editor

In this issue of EDG...

GEN33: Users' Perceptions of Health and Productivity in Sustainable Buildings

Flowing from a worldwide study of green buildings for his upcoming book, Dr George Baird has been analysing the performance of buildings that are acknowledged as being 'green' by various awards and rating systems. In an age where the desire to produce greener buildings is being embraced by the mainstream commercial market, the measurable benefits of green buildings are being scrutinised more closely. In this paper Dr Baird and Hedda Oosterhoff of Wellington's Victoria University have compiled some of their results which document the correlation between these buildings and the perception of their occupants of how being in these buildings affects their productivity and health.

DES 75: Carbon Emissions from Domestic Local Energy Generation

In the last few editions of EDG we have published three papers of Dr.s Peter W Newton and Selwyn Tucker that discuss how Australia's existing residential sector might migrate from its current high carbon intensity to approach carbon neutrality. This paper is the final in a four part series, and it concerns itself with using local generation to augment energy efficient measures within a building's fabric and the appliances used within. The other papers in the series are:

Plug-in Appliances:

DES 73: Carbon Emissions from Domestic Appliances

Built-in Appliances:

DES 74: Carbon Emissions from Domestic Built-in Appliances

Hybrid dwellings:

DES 76: Carbon Emissions from Dwellings - Transitioning to Zero Carbon Housing

GEN 25: Permaculture Part A – Introduction and Urban Farming

An existing EDG paper that explains the basic principles of permaculture has been rewritten, extended and split into two papers. In this, the first part of the two papers, Jenny Donovan and Peter Cuming introduce the concept of permaculture and urban farming to built environment professionals. These papers seek to challenge the perception that permaculture principles are just for the 'veggie patch' and draw attention to their potential to be used to design places that are better equipped to meet peoples needs, now and in the future. This paper discusses the philosophical basis of permaculture and urban farming.

GEN 26: Permaculture Part B – Principles and Application

In the second paper the authors discuss the principles of permaculture and provide indicative examples of its potential applications in urban environments. The paper does not document the range of applications of permaculture or their respective technical merit, rather it provokes interest and invites professionals new to this philosophy to explore this matter further. This paper includes two useful appendices: the first is a list of Design Considerations that designers can use to explore how they might integrate new thinking into their designs, and the other lists not only projects where the principles of permaculture in the built environment can be seen, but also further reading and references.

Australia

Green Start program delayed

The Green Start program which is designed to help low-income and disadvantaged households improve their energy and water efficiency has been delayed and will commence from 1 January next year.

The original \$130 million program announced by Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, was to offer:

- free home energy and water assessments
- free supply and installation of energy and water efficiency products such as pipe insulation, efficient light bulbs, low-flow showerheads, draught proofing, seals for fridges, doors and windows, grey water hoses and compost bins
- personalised help to access energy and water efficiency rebates and programs from all levels of government

- advocacy and support to help householders deal with landlords, real estate agencies and tradespeople to implement energy and water efficiency measures.

The Minister said the program will work closely with the social welfare sector and existing state and territory government projects. Since the Government called for bids to deliver the scheme (which closed in January), it has received a mixed response from industry and has been welcomed by social groups.

☞ www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/pubs/mr20091125.pdf

☞ www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/solarhotwater/index.html

☞ www.smh.com.au/business/green-start-loses-its-spark-in-red-tape-20100201-n902.html

Office retrofit rollout

The Commonwealth Government will invest \$11.6 million in 30 projects that 'green' office buildings around Australia. The investment drawn from the Government's Green Building Fund, seeks to reduce carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency in the commercial office building sector through retro-fitting projects. According to Innovation Minister Kim Carr, projects already completed under the scheme are "projected to save more than 127,000 tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions each year." Visit www.ausindustry.gov.au for further information on the Green Building Fund program.

🔗 minister.innovation.gov.au/Carr/Pages/116Mtohelp30officebuildingsgogreen1.aspx

Green Loans program revamped

The Government has said it will help over an additional 600,000 Australian households tackle climate change through a redesigned and extended Green Loans program. This is further to the 360,000 assessments already available under the program, of which more than 270,000 have already been booked. The scheme will allow an extra 1200 trained assessors, up to a new cap of 5000. This will coincide with a weekly cap of 15,000 assessment bookings nationally with a daily cap of three and weekly cap of five assessments made per assessor to ensure greater quality and a more even distribution of work for assessors.

100 per cent renewable energy

Australia could meet all of its energy needs from renewable energy sources by 2020 according to a new analysis by advocacy group Beyond Zero Emissions. The group are developing a plan to do this over the next year called Zero Carbon Australia 2020 which will combine six separate reports for: stationary energy, transport, buildings, industrial processes, land use change, and replacing coal export revenue.

Part of their analysis being the Stationary Energy Sector Report – Executive Summary was released at the launch of the Transition Decade event in Melbourne. Beyond Zero Emissions recommend public investments in solar thermal plants, wind farms, and the construction of a renewable energy grid, estimated at \$40 billion per year for the next decade. Rather than promote efficient technologies such as gas fired cogeneration plants, the group see the provision of a national electrical grid supplied by renewable energy as the solution. Currently the groups work is based on the commercialised technologies of wind and solar, which can include energy storage technologies such as molten salt energy storage.

New schemes to replace the Home Insulation Program

In February the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Peter Garrett announced the establishment of a new household Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme to replace the Home Insulation Program and the Solar Hot Water Rebate. The new scheme will be externally assessed and monitored during its operation, and is expected to be in operation by 1 June this year. Rebates for the installation of ceiling insulation of \$1000, and for solar hot water systems or heat pumps, of \$600 will be offered, though the new scheme will require householders to claim the rebate rather than installers. Rebates will be claimed via the Medicare system.

A new registration scheme will require all insulation installers to reregister with the Government, pay a cash bond, show evidence of meeting the training and skills requirements and provide certified quality assurance and occupational health and safety plans.

The Government's objective remains to see insulation installed in up to 1.9 million homes by 2011, including those already installed under the discontinued program.



The Andasol plant is Spain's first commercial solar thermal plant with molten salt storage. The storage capacity allows it to supply power for 7.5 hours after sunset. (Photo: courtesy of Beyond Zero Emissions)

Beyond Zero Emissions was formed in 2006 to help facilitate a timely transition to a zero carbon future. They do this through research and education of existing technical solutions to climate change. They promote buildings that are energy efficient and have energy supplied by a combination of onsite solar and efficient electrical appliances.

Beyond Zero Emissions is part of the Transition Decade Alliance (see www.t10.net.au), which is an organisation aimed at mobilising the community to restore a safe climate, and includes among others:

Friends of the Earth Australia, the Climate Emergency Network and the Sustainable Living Foundation.

Stationary Energy Sector Report – Executive Summary

🔗 <http://media.beyondzeroemissions.org/preview-exec-sum14.pdf>

🔗 www.beyondzeroemissions.org/zero-carbon-australia-2020

🔗 www.beyondzeroemissions.org/zero-carbon-australia-2020

Earth Hour hits fourth year

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million homes and businesses turned their lights off for one hour to make their stand against climate change. Two years later over 4000 cities in 88 countries switched off, making the 2009 event the world's largest global climate change initiative. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has announced Saturday March 27, 8:30 pm as this year's Earth Hour. In addition to calling attention to the need to reduce carbon emissions, the WWF say that Earth Hour 2010 will emphasise sustainability. The official webpage for the event features an eco-footprint calculator to help individuals understand the environmental impacts of their lifestyle. WWF Chief Executive Greg Bourne encourages participants to use Earth Hour as an opportunity to make an 'environmental resolution' to reduce their eco-footprint.

🔗 www.earthhour.org.au



The Copenhagen Accord and COP16

Following last years much reported United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen 55 nations have signed on to an accord to limit climate change to 2° Celsius. Participating countries have submitted voluntary greenhouse gas reduction targets as part of the Copenhagen Accord, the non-binding agreement that was negotiated during the last day of the climate summit last December.

Nations that submitted voluntary targets for the post-Kyoto Protocol period which will run from 2012 to 2020, account for nearly 80 per cent of global emissions. The European Union has pledged to reduce emissions to 20 per cent below 1990 levels, the United States 17 per cent below 2005 levels, and Australia, 5 per cent below 2000 levels with a more ambitious target of 25 per cent contingent on other nations taking 'strong action'. Of the emerging nations, China has pledged to cut its emissions intensity by 40-45 per cent and India – 20-25 per cent of 2005 levels.

The Mexican city of Cancun will host the next round of international climate negotiations after the failure of the Copenhagen Conference to achieve a legally binding agreement on climate change. The UN summit will take place from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

🔗 www.ens-newswire.com/ens/feb2010/2010-02-08-01.html

🔗 www.theage.com.au/breaking-news-world/mexico-to-host-un-climate-summit-20100209-no44.html

NASA notes the last decade was the warmest

New analysis by the American space agency NASA has found the first decade of the 21 Century to be the warmest on record. NASA's analysis detected temperature rises of 0.2° Celsius per decade over the past 30 years, contributing to a 0.8 degree increase in average global temperatures since 1880.

🔗 www.theage.com.au/breaking-news-world/last-decade-warmest-ever-nasa-20100123-mr03.html

Push to reform IPCC

Australian climate scientist Barry Brooke has joined the growing chorus calling for reform of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change amid reports of flawed scientific analysis published in the Fourth Assessment Report. It was revealed that the IPCC used unreviewed research and made unsound predictions regarding the disappearance of the Himalayan glaciers. The ABC reported Prof. Brooke as saying "We are not talking about any attacks on the fundamental science, about whether carbon dioxide is rising or whether temperatures are going up or whether there is a link between those two."

At the National Climate Change Forum in Adelaide, the Minister for Climate Change and Water, Penny Wong referred to the IPCC work as "...probably the single most exhaustively reviewed scientific document ever produced. It has been intensely scrutinised and few errors found".

🔗 www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/08/2813722.htm?section=justin

🔗 www.climatechange.gov.au/~media/Files/minister/wong/2010/major-speeches/february/sp20100218.ashx

Asia

China to build renewable energy centre

China will build a renewable energy centre to help the nation consolidate its position as one of the global leaders in renewable energy. The centre, in the early stages of planning, indicates how seriously the Chinese take renewable energy. The initiative would develop a renewable energy policy, support key projects, and manage programs, among other functions.

www.enn.com/top_stories/article/41002

Chinese water pollution worse than thought

A new Chinese report investigating the state of the nation's water has found pollution levels more than twice the original Government estimates. The key measure of water pollution, 'Chemical Oxygen Demand', was recorded at 30.3 million metric tons in 2007, more than double the 13.8 million metric tons reported two years earlier. The increase is attributed to the inclusion of agricultural waste in official statistics.

www.enn.com/top_stories/article/40999

Americas

Bill Gates: the world needs energy miracles and zero emissions target

Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates has called on the world's high-tech community to develop 'energy miracles' to bring global carbon emissions to zero by 2050. Gates laid out the challenge at the TED conference in California, recommending the world spend the next 20 years developing innovative clean energy technologies, and the following 20 deploying them. Gates says that coal and gas should not be a part of the world's energy mix, but included next-generation nuclear power among the important renewable sources of wind, solar thermal and solar photovoltaic.

www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/02/12/bill.gates.clean.energy/?hpt=T2

Outlook for US climate legislation

President Obama announced that he remains committed to national climate change legislation despite resistance from the US Senate. The President reaffirmed his support for climate legislation while addressing the Democratic National Committee last month, but faces opposition from Republicans and resistance from Democrat Senators from coal dependant and heavy industry intensive states. It is possible that legislators will ditch the proposed cap-and-trade mechanism from the bill to increase the chances of implementing national climate legislation.

www.enn.com/top_stories/article/41015

Hydro electric dam approved for Amazon rainforest

The Brazilian Government has approved the construction of a massive hydro-electric dam in the Amazon rainforest. The \$17 billion Belo Monte dam will be built on the Xingu River in the northern state of Para to keep up with rising demand for electricity in what is a fast growing country. The project will be the world's third largest on completion, and will flood 250 square kilometres of forest.

www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6105MY20100201

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100208144846.htm

Middle East & Sub Continent

India-Australia cooperate on Concentrating Solar Power

The Government's of India and Australia will cooperate to increase the deployment of Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) which uses large arrays of reflectors to concentrate solar energy onto a small area for industrial purposes. Government officials and CSP experts will participate in workshops and technical exchanges to lay the groundwork for a report on the technology and planned demonstration projects in the in the Sub Continent.

www.anzsos.org

Masdar City update

The 2016 completion date for Masdar City, Abu Dhabi's planned carbon neutral zero-waste city has been abandoned and it is now expected to be completed by 2020. The design for the city, which on its completion is to be the home base for a newly established, 142 nation International Renewable Energy Association is yet to be decided, in addition to the specific renewable energy technologies that will power the city.

www.theaustralian.com.au/business/a-green-city-arises-from-the-desert-of-abu-dhabi/story-e6frg8zx-1225823057250

Saudi Arabia replaces oil with solar powered desalination

The National Science Agency of Saudi Arabia proposes to build solar-powered desalination plants in the future. The 28 existing desalination plants throughout the Saudi Kingdom are currently powered by oil. While the fossil fuel resource is abundant in Saudi Arabia, using oil to power desalination means the price of fresh water rises with the price of oil on the global market. The shift to solar-powered desalination will reduce carbon emissions and make the price of water more stable.

www.greenprophet.com/2010/02/01/16722/saudi-arabia-desalination-solar

Europe

Energy efficiency critical for energy security

'Energy security' will be the defining issue of the 21st Century according to BP's Group Chief Executive Tom Hayward. In a speech to the London School of Economics Mr Hayward argued that energy efficiency is the number one priority for ensuring national energy security for Britain. Mr Hayward recommends increasing the efficiency of vehicles, buildings, and appliances, alongside investment in technology and infrastructure.

🔗 www.abccarbon.com/energy-efficiency-plays-vital-role-for-energy-security

German region to pilot electric car infrastructure

The Harz region in Germany is the location of a pilot project for electric vehicles. A network of strategically located recharging stations will be built based on research assessing traffic flow and car parking practices. The Harz.EE project is supported by the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and will begin testing in late 2010. A fleet of electric vehicles will be on the road by mid 2011.

🔗 www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100208144846.htm

Africa

US-sponsored energy forum in Egypt

The United States Trade and Development Authority will hold an energy forum in Egypt to advance the development of clean and renewable sources of energy in the Middle East and North Africa region. The forum will seek to inform decision makers from the region about American technologies and funding options to help meet the region's growing energy needs.

🔗 bikyamasr.com/?p=8899

Strategic partnership to address energy poverty

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and Government of Finland will partner to address widespread energy poverty in southern and eastern Africa. The Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP) programme seeks to promote the use of Africa's abundant renewable energy resources to address the critical need to deliver zero carbon energy to Africa. The DBSA identifies hydro, wind and solar as the most promising sources of energy.

🔗 www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article317764.ece

Materials

Government scraps insulation scheme

The Rudd Government was forced to scrap its subsidised insulation scheme in response to the deaths of four tradespeople, and reports of property damage caused by inadequate installation practices. Subsidies in last year's economic stimulus initially increased demand for insulation, which led to the importation of potentially substandard insulation products as local manufacturers struggled to meet demand. Revelations of deaths, house fires, and electrified houses caused by the inadequate installation of foil insulation forced the Government to suspend the use of the product, before scrapping the scheme entirely. An existing electrical safety inspection program will continue to be rolled out to all homes that have had foil insulation installed under the program.

The booming insulation industry is now in a state of collapse, with predictions of up to 8000 job losses in the industry. The Government have announced a new Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme though this will not commence until June. Interim measures for both industry and related workers have been put in place with hotlines available for each. See the article under Australasia for details of the new scheme.

🔗 www.theage.com.au/national/hundreds-of-insulation-jobs-to-go-20100222-orug.html

🔗 www.environment.gov.au/eehp/insulation/index.html

First legal hemp plantation

The NSW department of Primary Industries has approved Australia's first legal hemp plantation. The farm is part of a pilot project to increase commercial production and demand for hemp products. According to licensed hemp farmer Richard Friar, hemp fibre can be used as textiles with the potential to use specific varieties in construction to reinforce concrete.

🔗 www.smh.com.au/environment/weed-is-good--hemp-comes-to-the-city-20100201-n8v2.html

Federal and State Govt's commit to Regional Forest Agreement

Federal and state ministers Tony Burke and David Llewellyn have reaffirmed their commitment to existing forestry policy in their Joint Government Response to the second five yearly review of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). The joint response addresses the 43 recommendations the report outlined for improving forestry management and monitoring practices. The ministers announced they would continue to cooperate to ensure Tasmanian forests are well managed and sustainable. The Joint Response can be viewed here: www.daff.gov.au/tas-rfa-jointresponse

🔗 www.media.tas.gov.au/print.php?id=29138



An example of a pilot solar pond, Pyramid Hill, Victoria
(Photo: courtesy of Enersalt Pty Ltd)

Solar Ponds Innovative Renewable Energy Pioneered in South Australia

South Australian clean energy start-up Enersalt hopes to harness the state's abundant salt water resources to generate clean energy. The innovative technology would use the sun to heat shallow pools of hypersaline water, which in turn evaporate refrigerant gasses to drive turbines. The technology does not qualify for subsidies given to rooftop solar photovoltaics, but the state government is considering relaxing the standards for the alternative technology.

www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/solar-industry-to-be-based-around-salt-water/story-e6frea83-1225825688989

Commonwealth Climate Ready grants

Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Kim Carr announced \$20.6 million in grants for climate change related projects. The Climate Ready Program offers matching grants for businesses to undertake research and development, demonstration and commercialisation of technologies that reduce energy waste and conserve water.

www.wintercomms.com.au/files/LATEST%20NEWS/November09/MR-724ClimateChangeGrants.pdf

Australian Sustainability Award Winners

Stockland property group and clean-tech supplier Dyesol picked up the top awards at the 2009 Australian Sustainability Awards. The awards recognise Stockland's stakeholder engagement practices and Dyesol's technology innovations which are expected to reduce the price of renewable energy.

www.ethicalinvestor.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3423&Itemid=373

Sustainable Cities

Melbourne CBD to restrict vehicles

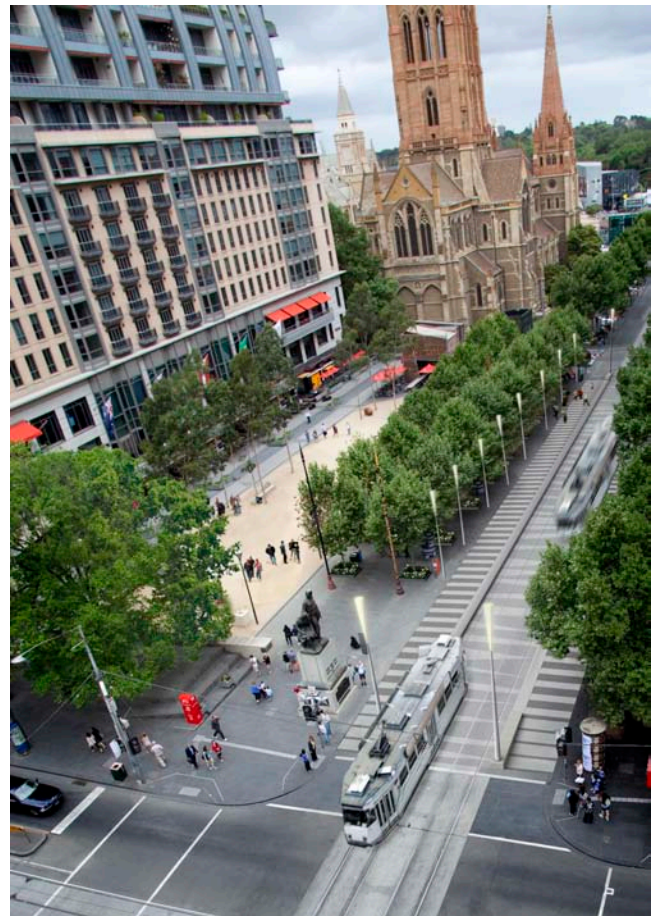
Public amenity and more sustainable transport are set to benefit from the City of Melbourne's proposed Swanston Street upgrade. The \$26 million redevelopment is the result of extensive community consultation, and will create four new 'civic squares' at tram stops along the street to better serve pedestrians, cyclists and tram passengers. Private cars, taxis and horse-drawn carriages will be banned from the street, with limited access for delivery vehicles in non-peak times in 2012.

www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutmelbourne/projectsandinitiatives/majorprojects/swanstonstreet/Pages/SwanstonStreet.aspxGBCA

GBCA Precinct Project

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) has announced the key corporate sponsor for its Precinct Project. Rock Development Group will sponsor the joint initiative of the GBCA and VicUrban, which seeks to develop a framework for the sustainable development of communities and precincts. The objective of the framework is to minimise environmental impacts of developments, and help them achieve positive community, social and cultural outcomes.

www.gbca.org.au/green-star/precinct-project-online-discussion



Development of 'civic squares' to remove vehicles from Melbourne's Swanston Street
(Photo: courtesy of Melbourne City Council)

Fuel & Energy

Australian and Chinese research leads to solar innovation

A two-year collaborative research project has resulted in technology that combines solar energy generation with water heating. The innovation which immerses solar cells in a mineral oil was pioneered by scientists from the Australian National University and Tianjin University. These cells only absorb 20 per cent of the reflected sunlight, however the other 80 per cent becomes heat energy which is captured by the oil. The ABC reports ANU Professor Andrew Blakers as saying the new technology has the potential to further reduce the carbon footprint of buildings.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/20/2661801.htm

Review of Renewable Energy Certificates urged

Energy companies want the Rudd Government to review the Renewable Energy Target Scheme in the wake of a dramatic decrease in the value of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The Australian cites a crash in the price of RECs, from \$50 to \$30 per unit, as the reason for several large renewable energy projects being put on hold including a planned \$800 million wind farm in Victoria. The current low price of RECs has been attributed to certificates generated from the installation of solar hot water systems that have 'flooded' the market.

www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/rudds-emissions-plan-in-crisis/story-e6frg6nf-1225821809644

Solar Meets Parliament

The Australian solar energy industry will showcase its technologies in the lead up to this year's federal election with an event at Parliament House. The Australian Solar Energy Society (AuSES) will coordinate the 'Solar Meets Parliament' event, bringing leaders of the solar industry and legislators together to discuss the benefits of the renewable energy technology for Australia.

www.anzsos.org



Less space for cars delivers more amenity to Swanston Street

(Photo: courtesy of Melbourne City Council)

Transport

US begins work on high speed rail network

US President Obama has announced an \$8 billion investment in the construction of high speed rail (HSR) projects. The funding from last year's economic stimulus package will kick start the construction of a national HSR network in the US. The move will allow America to join nations with existing high-speed rail networks, including China who recently became the nation with the largest HSR network with nearly 3000 km of track.

☞ www.usnews.com/news/articles/2010/02/05/us-makes-play-to-catch-up-on-high-speed-rail.html

Canberra rollout of electric car infrastructure

ACT Chief Minister John Stanhope says the plan is to roll out electric vehicle infrastructure throughout Canberra in on track as Better Place, the company spearheading the project, has raised \$400 million in venture capital. Better Place will install battery exchange stations and vehicle recharging points to enable 100 per cent electric vehicles to operate within the city limits from late 2011. Canberra will be the third city in the world to have an electric car network upon completion in 2012.

☞ www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/28/2803229.htm?site=canberra



The Shanghai magnetic levitation train is one of the fastest passenger trains in service

(Photo: iStockphoto)

Queensland

2010 Premier's ClimateSmart Sustainability Awards

Nominations for the 2010 Premier's ClimateSmart Sustainability Awards close on Friday 26 March. The Award recognises the sustainability achievements of Queensland businesses, industries, schools and community organisations. More information on the awards and application form can be found online.

www.derm.qld.gov.au/premiersawards

Mackay cogeneration plant to begin construction in 2010

Construction of a \$120 million cogeneration plant will begin in Mackay this year. The plant will use cane sugar waste to generate renewable electricity. Chief executive of Mackay Sugar, Quinton Hildebrand, cites the national Renewable Energy Target Policy as crucial for ensuring the viability of the project.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/09/2814286.htm

Pipeline to shore up Toowoomba's water supply

The town that gained national attention over its Council's proposals to treat sewage for drinking water has just been connected to Brisbane's water network. The joint initiative of the Government of Queensland and City of Toowoomba will provide water security for Australia's second-largest inland city whose dams are at only eight per cent capacity. Contrary to criticism from those opposed to the use of treated sewage in drinking water, the pipeline will pump purified waste water to the inland city's storages in times of severe drought conditions. In 2006, 62 per cent of residents voted against the introduction of recycled treated sewage into the water supply.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/28/2804248.htm

Victoria

Water flows through North-South Pipeline

Victorian Premier John Brumby and Water Minister Tim Holding have officially opened the North-South Pipeline. The project will transfer water from the Goulburn River to shore up Melbourne's drinking water supply. Melbourne Water has spent \$70 million upgrading infrastructure to handle the new water supply which is paid for by increases in water bills. The project required a \$20 million pumping station to move water 33 kilometres to uphill storage in the Dandenongs, and is one of the biggest changes

to Melbourne's water supply in decades. The Age reports that although Melbourne Water is a big energy user it has a 2018 'zero net' greenhouse gas target.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/10/2815265.htm

www.theage.com.au/national/waterbill-rise-quietly-pays-for-70m-upgrade-20100123-mrqw.html



Sugarloaf Pipeline pipe bridge over the Yea River
(Photo: courtesy Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance/The Heaven Group)

Building Commission issues statement on fire bunkers

The Building Commission has issued a statement on fire bunkers in the wake of Victoria's devastating 2009 bushfires and renewed community interest in bunkers. The Commission reminds Victorians that it is not compulsory to build a bunker and warns that they may not be a safe option in all cases. It says there are no technical standards in place for such projects and urge people considering fire bunkers to obtain professional advice. A fact sheet on fire bunkers is available at the following web address:

www.buildingcommission.com.au/resources/documents/Bushfire_bunkers_Fact_sheet.pdf

Changes for cooling tower management

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 entered into effect in 2010 and sets new standards for the risk management of cooling towers. The Act which replaces parts of the 1993 Building Act requires risk-management plans to demonstrate the steps taken to comply with maintenance and testing standards, in addition to annual auditing management plans. Mandatory testing for Legionella is required every three months. The new regulations can be viewed at www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/legionella/code_leg_reg.htm



Concrete fire bunker being prepared for burial
(Photo courtesy of Aussie Precast)

Mildura solar plant update

Australia's biggest solar power development has found a buyer after the collapse of the company originally spearheading the project. Silex Systems, a Sydney-based solar panel manufacturer, has paid \$20 million for the assets of Solar Systems who entered receivership late last year. The new owner has announced it will proceed with the planned solar power plant in Mildura but said that the project rests on federal and state government investment.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/09/2814186.htm

Tasmania

Climate impact on Tasmania's water availability

CSIRO has investigated the impact climate changes will have on water availability in Tasmania. The Tasmania Sustainable Yields report finds that the 'Apple Isle' is set for a median reduction in rainfall of three per cent by 2030, which is projected to lead to a five per cent reduction in water run off. The CSIRO says that the findings have implications for Tasmania's natural environments, with 71 of 150 'key ecological sites' adversely affected by reduced water flows. The full report is available at: www.csiro.gov.au/partnerships/TasSY.html

www.climatechange.gov.au/minister/wong/2010/media-releases/January/mr20101018-1410.aspx

Government to boost clean energy on islands

The Tasmanian Government plans to invest \$21 million to encourage increased renewable energy generation on Bass Strait islands. The Bartlett Government endorsed Hydro Tasmania's proposal for implementing clean energy projects on King and Flinders Islands including wind, solar, and biodiesel. The Government anticipates the clean energy investment will save taxpayers \$60 million over the life of the projects.

www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=29062

ACT

Draft Sustainable Energy Plan

At least 25 per cent of Canberra's energy will come from renewable sources by 2020 under plans outlined in the territory's draft sustainable energy plan. Proposed measures include increased efficiency, encouraging localised generation, and a commitment that government operations will be carbon neutral by 2020. The submissions were sought on a comprehensive draft outlining the territory's energy future with the final energy policy due in mid-2010.

www.environment.act.gov.au

South Australia

Plan for Greater Adelaide

SA Premier Mike Rann launched the final 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide in February. The launch follows the draft plan which was put to community consultation last July. The Premier said the Plan, which puts the building blocks in place for economic growth and prosperity for the next three decades, "... is the most comprehensive planning strategy ever adopted by a State Government." Mr Rann said his Government will act immediately on the objectives of the Plan with one of the first projects targeted to be the Northern Economic Corridor which with an area of approximately 100 km² has the capacity to accommodate an extra 28,000 jobs and up to 40,000 people. The Plan identifies new growth areas within this economic corridor for residential and industrial/employment land, which will now be subject to a comprehensive planning process led by the recently established Government Planning and Coordination Committee. The Committee is part of new governance mechanisms which aim to ensure the City makes the best use of its transit corridors and the record surge in spending on strategic infrastructure.

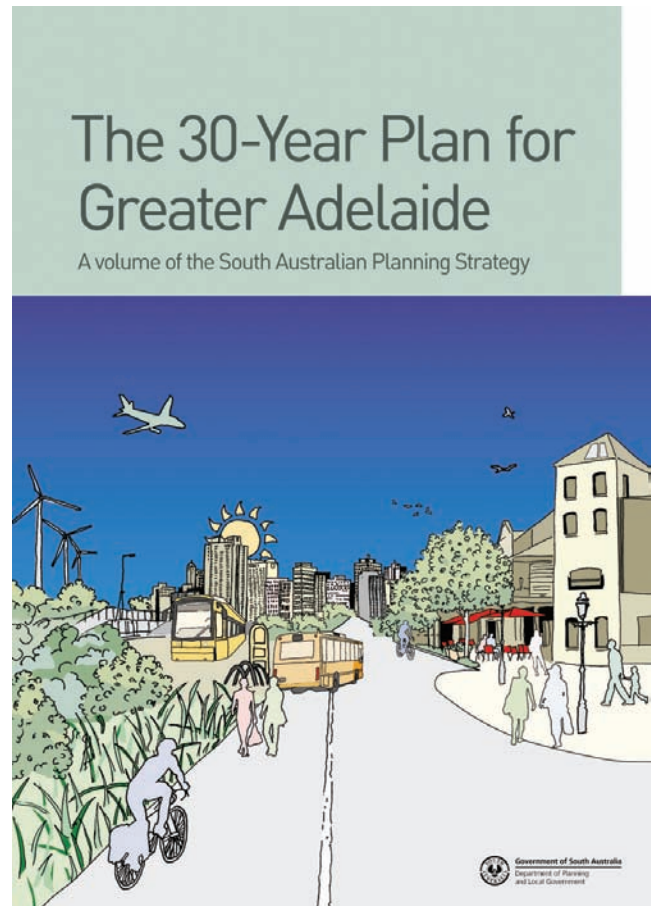
Minister for Urban Development and Planning Paul Holloway says public consultation showed strong support for the Plan, though revision of the document has seen the two additional principles added to emphasise the protection of natural resources and the stating of a commitment to community engagement. Other changes include strengthened climate change policies, the addition of a new section on emergency management and hazard avoidance, and new metropolitan and township growth areas polices have been clarified to address the impact of population growth on primary production near the urban fringe and close to townships.

Key changes to the population, jobs and housing targets include 11,000 people added to the Adelaide City Centre, a reduction of 7,000 people in the Western Region and 4,000 from the Eastern Region, a significant reduction in the population targets for the Barossa region, an increase in the Northern Region, an additional 4,500 people have also been allocated to Murray Bridge to allow for a reduction in the population target for the remainder of the Adelaide Hills region. The Plan allows for this population growth with 80 per cent of the City's existing urban character largely unchanged. "The key to achieving this objective is to concentrate on revitalising vacant and industrial areas around our major transport corridors, putting people near their jobs, shops and services and close to parks, ovals and cycling trails."

Copies of the final Plan are available on the Department of Planning and Local Government's website, and answers to frequently asked questions can be found at <http://www.dplg.sa.gov.au/plan4adelaide/html/faq.cfm>

📄 www.ministers.sa.gov.au/images/stories/mediareleases/FEB10/30-year%20plan%20release.pdf

📄 www.dplg.sa.gov.au/plan4adelaide/index.cfm



SA renewable energy investment incentives

The South Australian Government is seeking to encourage large-scale renewable energy projects with a new incentive scheme. The Rann Government will provide renewable energy developers with payroll tax rebates for labour associated with the construction phase of utility-scale solar and wind projects. The rebates are available for projects greater than 30 megawatts and take effect on 1 July this year.

📄 www.southaustralia.biz/Article/NewsDetail.aspx?id=777

New minimum standards for air-conditioners

Manufacturers and retailers have six months to clear stock as South Australia implements new energy efficiency standards for air-conditioners. The new regulations apply to split system, window-wall units and ducted refrigerative air-conditioners below 65 kilowatts in size. The new standards do not apply to portable air-conditioners. Fact sheets for consumers, manufacturers and retailers are available at the following link:

📄 www.dtei.sa.gov.au/energy/government_programs/energy_efficiency_requirements_for_air_conditioners

New South Wales

Home Saver Rebates extended

The NSW Government has announced a \$75 million expansion of the Home Saver Rebates program. The program allows all NSW households to apply for rebates for energy and water-saving devices including solar water heating, rainwater tanks, and dual-flush toilets. The Government expects the programs to boost the creation of green jobs and save four billion litres of water and 500 thousand tonnes of carbon.

🔗 www.nsw.gov.au/articles/75-million-extension-nsw-home-saver-rebates-program

\$190 million clean energy for the Hunter Valley

The Hunter Valley, the coal mining and wine region of NSW, is the site of an innovative \$190 million clean energy project. The NSW Government have approved the Kyoto Energy Park, which includes the construction of 34 wind turbines, a hydro-electric generator fuelled by recycled water, and 100 hectares of solar panels expected to power more than 47,000 homes.

🔗 www.nsw.gov.au/projects/190-million-wind-and-solar-farm-upper-hunter-valley

🔗 www.kyotoenergypark.com.au

Sydney desalination plant to cost households

Sydney's Kurnell desalination plant will cost households an estimated \$1.6 billion over the next decade, in addition to the \$2 billion construction costs. Sydney Water will operate the plant once dam levels fall below 70 per cent capacity, but will operate for the next two years regardless of dam levels while operators undertake engineering testing. The desalination plant will have 100 per cent of its energy use offset by wind power generated by the new 67-turbine farm at Bungendore.

🔗 www.smh.com.au/environment/cost-of-water-plant-to-hit-16b-say-greens-20100129-n496.html

🔗 www.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney%E2%80%99s-state-art-wind-powered-desalination-plant-now-operation

Northern Territory

Tidal power proposal for NT

Northern Territory-based renewable energy company Tenax has proposed a tidal power project with the potential to generate enough electricity for 194,000 homes. Tenax has applied for an environmental assessment of the project that would see the construction of 450 generators on the seabed at Glyde Point, north east of Darwin.

🔗 www.ntnews.com.au/article/2010/01/29/119431_ntnews.html

More teeth for the EPA

The Territory has passed amendments to the Environment Protection Authority Act which give the Environmental Protection Agency the power to audit the systems and procedures in place to protect the

Territory's environment with balanced, sustainable development. The EPA is a statutory body that provides independent environmental advice to the Northern Territory whose recommendations are made publicly and are not subject to Government direction. Dr Andrew Tupper, the Chair of the EPA said "The EPA is now able to become involved in the environmental assessment of major projects and to bridge the gap between assessment and approval across agencies." To assist this function, the EPA now has the ability to require information from industry and government agencies.

The EPA's independence has been further boosted by increased powers to investigate public complaints on the management of environmental incidents, and a greater ability to investigate public referrals and undertake projects.

🔗 www.epa.nt.gov.au/2010/02/stronger-epa-healthier-territory

Western Australia

Government developing energy strategy

The Office of Energy has released its issues paper 'Energy 2030' as part of the West Australian Government's Strategic Energy Initiative. The document identifies the needs, challenges and objectives of West Australian energy policy to 2030 and forms the basis of public consultation and stakeholder workshops.

🔗 www.energy.wa.gov.au/1/3281/64/strategic_energ.pm

General Information

NABERS Assessor Course

National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) training courses for commercial building professionals will be run in capital cities throughout the country. See state and territory listings below for dates.

🔗 www.nabers.com.au/page.aspx?cid=649&site=2

Ecospecifier - Introduction to Sustainability Course

Online learning modules have been developed by Ecospecifier to target professionals in building development, design, and construction. The first of four units has been released via an e-learning platform, and aims to provide a grounding in the basic sustainability issues through its seven units: Introduction to Integrated Design Process and Compliance Tools, Streamlining Sustainability Compliance, and Sourcing Leading Edge ESD Products. To assist universities and TAFE colleges to teach from these materials, learning outcomes and course objectives have also been developed to accompany each of the units.

🔗 education@ecospecifier.org

ABSA course in Building Thermal Performance Assessment

The Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA) has developed this course with support from the former Australian Greenhouse Office in consultation with national industry and government organisations. This qualification is required to be able to practice as an ABSA Accredited Assessor, using new 2nd generation assessment software such as First Rate 5, and to meet the requirements of the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme National Register of Accredited Assessors. The 32 hour training program is delivered in three modules: Design and Construction Theory, Generation Software Operation (Accurate or FirstRate 5) and Professional Practice. These and other ABSA courses are run in capital cities. See state and territory listings below for dates.

🔗 www.absa.net.au/training

Australian Institute of Architects Seminar: Grass Roots to Green Roofs

Renowned ESD architect, consultant and award winner Tone Wheeler examines new green roof initiatives from around the world, and the benefits and constraints for their implementation on all buildings in Australia. He will also review Green Design regulations and the good, and sometimes bad, buildings that can result. This information will assist attendees in gaining a better idea of where green design might lead them. See state and territory listings below for dates.

🔗 www.architecture.com.au/i-cms?page=1.23.7172

ABCB seminars on the Building Code of Australia (BCA) 2010

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is presenting a series of national seminars to outline changes to the Building Code of Australia, with significant changes that relate to Section J: Energy Efficiency. Seminars will be held in all state and territory capitals. See state and territory listings below for dates.

🔗 www.abcb.gov.au/index.cfm?objectid=8C4E6119-2946-11DE-9515001B2FB900AA

AIRAH workshops on Section J

Part of the Australian Government's policy for greenhouse gas emission reduction includes significant improved energy efficiency in buildings. From May this year the Building Code of Australia (Volume One) drastically improves energy efficiency measures in Section J, and is likely to include the following provisions:

- Offices – between 14 and 22 per cent energy reduction
- Department stores – between 22 and 27 per cent energy reduction
- Schools / Universities – between 18 and 31 per cent energy reduction
- Hospitals – between 14 and 40 per cent energy reduction
- Office buildings – heating plant improvements up to 12 per cent, cooling plant up to 26 per cent, fans and pumps a massive 52 per cent

In this half day seminar one of Australia's pre-eminent energy specialists will take attendees through the application of Part J5 – Air Conditioning and Ventilation and J8 Access for Maintenance and Facilities for Monitoring, in a way that is easy to understand and apply. The seminar series will be of interest to mechanical services professionals, architects and buildings surveyors, with dates listed under the state headings below.

ACT

25 March, AIRAH workshops on Section J, National Convention Centre, Canberra.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

25 March, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, National Convention Centre, Canberra.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

Tasmania

12-15 April, ASBA Building Thermal Performance Assessment FirstRate 5, Campbell Town.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

27 April, AIRAH workshops on Section J, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

27 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

20 April, Grass Roots to Green Roofs, Australian Institute of Architects Chapter, Red Hill.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

11-14 May, ASBA Building Thermal Performance Assessment FirstRate 5, Canberra.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

South Australia

30 March, Grass Roots to Green Roofs, Australian Institute of Architects Chapter, Adelaide.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

20 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, Stamford Plaza, Adelaide.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

20 April, AIRAH workshops on Section J, Stamford Plaza, Adelaide CBD.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

12-13 May, NABERS Assessor Course, Rydges South Park, Adelaide.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

Northern Territory

14 April, Grass Roots to Green Roofs, Australian Institute of Architects Chapter, Darwin.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

16 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, Novotel Atrium, Darwin.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

25-28 May, ASBA Building Thermal Performance Assessment FirstRate 5, Adelaide.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

31 October-4 November, South Australian Planning Conference, Adelaide Convention Centre

The Planning Institute of Australia's South Australian conference includes the Eastern Regional Organisation of Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) Golden Jubilee Congress.

www.planning.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=111

Western Australia

29 March, Grass Roots to Green Roofs, Australian Institute of Architects Chapter, Perth.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

22 April, AIRAH workshops on Section J, City West Function Centre, West Perth.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

22-3 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, City West Function Centre, West Perth.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

20-21 & 27-9 May, ASBA Building Thermal Performance Assessment FirstRate 5, Perth.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

9-10 September, Planning Institute of Australia's West Australian Planning Conference.

Details of the conference location are not yet announced.

www.planning.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=111

Queensland

13 April, Grass Roots to Green Roofs, Australian Institute of Architects Chapter, South Brisbane.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

13 April, AIRAH workshops on Section J, Royal on the Park, Brisbane CBD.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

13-14 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, Royal on the Park, Brisbane.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

29-30 April, NABERS Assessor Course, Holiday Inn, Brisbane.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

4-7 May, ASBA Building Thermal Performance Assessment FirstRate 5, Brisbane.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

10-12 November, Queensland Planning Conference, Hyatt, Coolom.

The Planning Institute of Australia's Queensland state conference will include the Planning for Excellence Awards dinner.

🔗 www.planning.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=111

Victoria

19 April, Green Procurement Training, Melbourne.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply offers a training course for building analysis skills for sustainable procurement. Attendees will learn how to assess an organisation's 'spend profile' and identify sustainability risks and opportunities.

🔗 www.cips.org/australasia/training/open/spm

20 April, Kingston Raingardens Tour, Kingston.

Clearwater is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to accelerate the uptake of sustainable urban water management. This half day tour gives you the opportunity to see operational raingardens within the Kingston municipality.

🔗 www.clearwater.asn.au/events/calendar/event_calendar.pdf

21-22 April, NABERS Assessor Course, Rydges Hotel, Melbourne.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

21-22 and 29-30 April, ASBA Building Thermal Performance Assessment FirstRate 5, Melbourne.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

22 April, Victorian Premier's 2010 Sustainability Awards, Melbourne.

The Victoria's annual Premier's Sustainability Awards recognises innovation and achievement in the sustainability of the built environment among other categories.

🔗 www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au

29 April, AIRAH workshops on Section J, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

29 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, State Library of Victoria Convention Centre, Melbourne.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

19-20 May, NABERS Assessor Course, Rydges Hotel, Melbourne.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

25-26 May, The 3rd Victorian Sustainable Development Conference, Federation Square, Melbourne.

The third annual Victorian Sustainable Development Conference brings together decision makers from the public, private and non-government sectors to discuss the key issues surrounding sustainability in Victoria.

🔗 www.halledit.com.au/vsd2010

15-17 September, Planning Institute of Australia's Victorian Planning Conference.

Details of the conference location are not yet announced.

🔗 www.planning.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=111

New South Wales

24–25 March, Assessor Course, Quay Grand Suites, Sydney.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

25–26 March, Wetland Education and Training Workshops, Sydney Olympic Park.

This two-day wetland training workshop will explore best practice preparation of wetland management plans. The workshops are based on first hand, experientially-based learning and include field inspections of the wetlands at Sydney's Olympic Park.

📄 www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0005/146327/WET-March2010.pdf

31 March, 1 April, BCA 2010 Information Seminar, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

31 March, AIRAH workshops on Section J, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this half-day seminar.

28 April, Grass Roots to Green Roofs, Australian Institute of Architects, Travelodge, Newcastle CBD.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this seminar.

6–7 May, Assessor Course, Marriott Hotel, Sydney.

Refer to the top of this section for details of this training seminar.

3 June, Green Procurement Training, Sydney.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply offers a training course for building analysis skills for sustainable procurement. Attendees will learn how to assess an organisation's 'spend profile' and identify sustainability risks and opportunities.

📄 www.cips.org/australasia/training/open/spm

National Events

March 2010

26 March, National Awards for Planning Excellence 2010, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.

The Planning Institute of Australia's Awards for Planning Excellence promote the important role the profession plays in shaping Australia's built environment. The awards recognise planning professionals for innovation and achievement.

📄 www.planning.org.au

April

12-14 April, ARBS 2010, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Air conditioning, Refrigeration and Building Services Trade Exhibition 2010 showcases heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) and refrigeration technologies and services.

📄 www.arbs.com.au

19-20 April, Industrial Energy Efficiency Forum, Marriot Hotel, Melbourne.

The Industrial Energy Forum will attract regional energy efficiency leaders to discuss and collaborate on energy efficiency. The forum will help delegates sharpen their knowledge for implementing strategic energy efficiency initiatives.

📄 www.ecovoice.com.au/eco-news/196-event-industrial-energy-efficiency

20-23 April, 2010 International Planning Conference, Christchurch Convention Centre.

The 2010 International planning Conference is jointly hosted by the New Zealand Planning Institute and Planning Institute of Australia. Planning Pathways to the Future' will explore future directions for planning and identify effective responses to global issues. The conference will be co-hosted with YPConnect10, which is an event specifically targeted at young planning professionals.

📄 www.planningpathways2010.com

28-30 April, Australian Council for New Urbanism Congress 2010, Adelaide Convention Centre.

ACNU Congress 2010, 'From Plans to Places' will explore the role of new urbanism for developing a high quality and sustainable urban environment in Australia.

📄 www.alloccasionsgroup.com/ACNU2010

April (continued)

29–30 April, Green Building Conference and Exhibition 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa.

South Africa's pre-eminent green building conference and exhibition will feature presentations from international design experts, as well as exhibits showcasing innovative sustainability technologies. Find out more about the conference by visiting the following website.

🌐 www.greenbuilding.co.za/conference-2010.html

May 2010

1 May–31 October, World Expo 2010, Shanghai, China.

The theme of next year's World Expo is 'Better Cities', and as part of this theme the goals are to elevate public awareness of challenges in the urban age, identify potential solutions, facilitate the heritage conservation of our cities; to raise public awareness of healthy urban development, disseminate concepts, successful practices and innovations in sustainable urban development; to seek models of sustainable urban development for developing countries and to enhance communication and understanding within human society. An Eco-City Forum is currently being planned as part of the Expo.

🌐 en.expo2010.cn

10–12 May, EE Global, Washington DC Convention Centre, USA.

The Alliance to Save Energy's (A2SA) international forum and exposition will attract leaders from across the global energy efficiency industry. Delegates will explore solutions for growing energy-efficient economies.

🌐 www.a2se.org.au

11–12 May, Façade Design and Delivery, Holiday Inn, Brisbane.

The Façade Design and Delivery Conference 2010 will present information about the sustainability of façade design and construction. Presentations will explain how to achieve high-performance façades and the use of technology to improve energy efficiency, among other topics.

🌐 www.facadedelivery.com.au/Event.aspx?id=253922

June 2010

3–5 June, China Eco Expo, China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing.

The International Green Building and Sustainable Cities Exposition will demonstrate the world's leading environmental technologies, products and services related to all aspects of the green building industry, from energy and water conservation through to pollution and waste management practices.

🌐 www.ecoexpo.com/EcoExpo2009/

29 June–1 July, Climate Adaptation Futures, Gold Coast Convention Centre.

Co-hosted by Australia's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, this conference will be one of the first international forums exploring climate impacts and adaptation. The event brings together scientists and decision makers from both developed and developing countries to share research approaches, methods and results.

🌐 www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010

July

5–7 July, 4th International Conference on Sustainable Tourism, Wessex Institute of Technology, UK.

The International Conference on Sustainable Tourism examines the environmental and cultural impacts associated with tourism. The multi-disciplinary event will cover a range of topics including the role of architecture, urban planning and landscape for sustainable tourism.

🌐 www.wessex.ac.uk/tourism2010rem3e.html

August

30 August–1 September, 3rd International Urban Design Conference, National Convention Centre, Canberra.

The 2010 International Urban Design Conference will explore the ways in which new cities are designed and existing ones are adapted to meet changing demands of urban living in the 21st Century. The conference will bring together policymakers and design practitioners, and feature keynote presentations, tours, workshops and networking events.

🌐 www.urbandesignaustralia.com.au

September 2010

5–8 September, EcoGen 2010, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

EcoGen 2010 will bring together the highest levels of the global clean energy industry to tackle the issues facing the industry. The conference will feature presentations from clean energy leaders, and exhibits showcasing the latest in clean energy technology.

🌐 www.ecogen2010.com.au

October 2010

6–7 October, All-Energy Australia 2010, Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre.

The All-Energy Australia conference and exhibition is the Asia-Pacific region's leading clean energy event. The event will feature presentations and exhibits showcasing a broad range of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. Admission is free of charge to those with a professional interest in clean energy.

www.all-energy.com.au/About_All-Energy.html

www.livablecities.org/conferences/forthcoming-conferences/18.html

17–21 October, 48th International Making Cities Liveable, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

The 2010 International Making Cities Liveable conference will focus on urban planning for healthy and child-friendly communities. The conference will bring together design practitioners from around the world to develop tools for encouraging the sustainable development of cities.

www.livablecities.org/conferences/forthcoming-conferences/18.html

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Note: Details of publications come from literature in the public domain and are not reviews or endorsements.

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Content record

Newsletter	New	February 2010 Newsletter
Index	Replaces November 2009 version	February 2010 Index
Author	Replaces November 2009 version	February 2010 Author list
CON	Replaces November 2009 version	February 2010 Table of Contents – Volume 1, 2 and 3
GEN 9	Removed	An Introduction to Permaculture
GEN 25	New	Permaculture Part A – Introduction to Urban Farming
GEN 26	New	Permaculture Part B – Principles and Application
GEN 33	New	Users' Perceptions of Health and Productivity in Sustainable Buildings
DES 75	New	Carbon Emissions from Domestic Local Energy Generation