

# CLIMATE CHANGE MEDIA ARCHIVE: 2001-12

## Latest News

### Federal Treasurer called on to stop carbon price rorting of power bills



Created on Monday, 14 May 2012 14:38

As the ACCC ramps up action against the private sector about carbon tax rip-offs, Total Environment Centre today called on Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan to use his federal consumer law powers to prevent state governments from forcing electricity retailers to include misleading information about the carbon price impact on electricity bills.

The NSW and Queensland governments have announced that from 1 July, the average cost of the carbon price and related green schemes will be included on all householders' bills. But according to TEC Executive Director Jeff Angel, the statement that will go on the bills of NSW consumers could be misleading and the federal government has the power to enforce an 'information standard' instead.

"State government moves which will be in red text like a warning sign, have several problems. The average carbon price will be inaccurate as people's bills are very specific about kwh use and cost. And they won't mention that most households will be compensated for the carbon price impacts through the Household Assistance Package. Importantly it will appear that the main reason for increasing power prices is the carbon cost – but this is absolutely wrong."

After receiving legal advice from the NSW Environmental Defenders Office, the TEC has written to Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan requesting that he use his powers under the *Australian Consumer Law* to make an 'information standard' for electricity bills, which all retailers would have to include on bills. It would create more transparency by breaking down bills into different components, including generation, network charges, and retailer margins as well as the carbon price and related 'green schemes'.

"The states are clearly in political campaigning mode with an exercise in greensmearing. It's also about blame-shifting by state governments which profit from higher electricity prices."

"Consumers see their power bills continuing to skyrocket and will now blame it on the federal government. But the carbon price and other green schemes will contribute much less to rising prices than new (and unnecessary) investment in the 'poles and wires' networks which are owned by the government in NSW and Queensland. This is currently running at \$15 billion per year, the largest proportion of it in NSW, and it will continue to increase for years after the one-off small impact of the carbon price."

# Latest News

## Support for NSW legislation to stop new fossil fuel power stations



*Created on Friday, 04 May 2012 11:21*

Two of the State's major conservation groups today expressed support for a Bill to be introduced into the NSW Parliament which would prevent the building of two new coal or gas fired power stations.

The Total Environment and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW said that without John Kaye, MLC's No New Coal Power Bill 2012, preventing the construction of the new Bayswater B and Mt Piper Extension power stations, and the Cobbora Coal Mine to feed them - the state's greenhouse gas emissions will increase by 43 per cent and crowd out energy efficiency and renewables.

"Bayswater is one of the dirtiest power stations in the world", said TEC Executive Director Jeff Angel. "If the NSW Government was smart it would, as its owner, negotiate with the federal government to take advantage of the \$2 billion allocated for the early retirement of dirty power stations under the Clean Energy Future package, rather than expand it."

"Why do we need these massively polluting new power stations anyway? Governments often say it's about 'keeping the lights on', but baseload electricity demand in NSW has fallen for the last two years, and only last week Origin Energy CEO Grant King said that there would be no need for new baseload power stations in NSW until 2020 at least. So let's focus on containing power price impacts by a big program of energy efficiency."

Pepe Clarke, CEO of the Nature Conservation Council said: "There is now more investment around the world and even in Australia going into renewables, yet NSW remains addicted to coal-fired power. NSW is still committed in theory to generating 20 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. If NSW doesn't generate its own renewable energy to meet this shared target, it will have to pay to import it from other states, forgoing revenue and jobs in the process."

"We are still waiting for the release of the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan, which the government has been talking about since last year. If Bayswater B, the Mt Piper Extension and Cobbora Coal Mine are built, it won't matter what's in the plan now gathering dust in Renewable Energy Secretary, Rob Stokes's bottom drawer."

## Latest News

### Are conservative governments aiming for a climate policy-free zone?



*Created on Wednesday, 11 April 2012 12:53*

The NSW government should commit to reinstating the state's greenhouse gas abatement scheme (GGAS) if its legal action or Tony Abbott succeeds in terminating the carbon price – and other state governments who are ditching climate change policies under the guise of the same excuse should also come clean, Total Environment Centre said today.

“NSW Energy Minister Chris Hartcher has announced the successful GGAS scheme will end when the carbon price comes into force on July 1. But at the same time the state government hopes to end the carbon impost through legal action or by a Tony Abbot government. We simply ask – if carbon pricing ends, will the NSW government reinstate GGAS? GGAS was a type of carbon pricing mechanism and such policies are the most effective in influencing business decisions and raising funds for action compared to any other current alternative,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

“This really is a question about whether the O’Farrell government has any commitment to do anything about climate change or is it pandering to the skeptics and fossil fuel power industry who just want carbon business and profits as usual? It’s noticeable that other conservative state governments who want to challenge the federal carbon price are also throwing climate change policies overboard because there is going to be a carbon price!”

“GGAS worked. It reduced and stabilised per capita greenhouse emissions in a least cost way funding energy efficiency and renewables. However the suspicion remains that the NSW and other conservative governments that are ditching their climate change policies are really aiming for a climate policy-free zone,” said Mr Angel.

“The NSW government did come to power promising a 20% renewable energy target – which could be a climate change policy - but it’s hard to see it being other than empty platitudes in the current political situation of minimal solar feed-in tariffs and crippling wind power policies.”

# Latest News

## Clean Coal Spin Hits The Dustbin



*Created on Wednesday, 10 August 2011 16:38*

TEC applauds the historic step taken by the NSW Government yesterday, which has introduced a bill categorically recognising “there is no such thing as clean coal.”

TEC director Jeff Angel said, “to date governments and the coal industry have used 'clean coal' to con the taxpayer (to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars) into thinking that the future will always be coal, but this move by the O'Farrell government throws the spin into the dustbin.”

The bill, which was introduced to the Legislative Assembly by Resources and Energy Minister Christ Hartcher, will rebadge the state's \$100 million Clean Coal Fund as the Coal Innovation NSW Fund and rename the Clean Coal Council as Coal Innovation NSW.

“The federal and other state governments should follow the lead of NSW and dump clean coal spin,” said Mr Angel. “And members of the Liberal, Labor and Green parties should take this opportunity to unite across party lines for the best interests of the Australian people. Then we can then get serious about a low carbon future.”

TEC welcomes the commitment by renewable energy parliamentary secretary, Rob Stokes that Australians must “break our reliance on coal” and that it is imperative that we “expand our energy mix to encourage the exploitation of renewable resources as quickly as possible.”

The bill was passed with no opposition from Labor or the Greens.

# Latest News

## Anti-carbon price ads 'morally repugnant'



*Created on Thursday, 21 July 2011 14:09*

The new round of adverts by an anti-carbon price industry lobby group are morally repugnant, Total Environment Centre said today.

"Australians produce 27 tonnes per person every year while the Chinese are at just 6 tonnes. The adverts are tantamount to individual Australians telling impoverished Chinese peasants that they have to stay at their carbon level, while we continue to enjoy our rich lifestyle. If we don't act what right do we have to ask the Chinese government to act?" said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

"What's even more repugnant is that the backers of these adverts don't acknowledge the Chinese are doing a lot to reduce the growth in their carbon emissions while trying to pull tens of millions of poor people out of poverty. The greed and unethical behaviour of these Australian companies is stunning."

"The Gillard government is right to ignore these adverts, as should the rest of the community. Our actions as a rich country that can afford to take effective carbon pricing action, will contribute to improved international efforts on climate change because we will have a stronger and more credible voice."

"The industry group wants Australians to be unethical hypocrites but we are a better country than that", said Mr Angel.

# Latest News

## PM Gillard's Low Carb Breakfast Challenge



*Created on Sunday, 17 July 2011 15:47*

**The Prime Minister will today face a packed house of key Australian businesses at Green Capital's historic Carbon Breakfast event. Representatives from the NAB, LendLease, Coca-Cola, Cannon Australia, Fuji Xerox, Goodman Fielder, Inghams Enterprises, Landcom, News LTD, Roche, Meat and Livestock Australia, GPT Group, and dozens more will convene to hear the Honourable Julia Gillard explain her Clean Energy Future Package.**

"This is the first opportunity for the PM to answer questions from business directly from the floor," says TEC director, Mr Jeff Angel. "It's clear that the business community wants to know more about how Australia will move to a green economy, wherein our environment and our society are considered alongside economic indices."

"In our recent Green Capital survey of sustainability professionals 6 out of every 10 of the 300-plus respondents agreed that a price on carbon pollution is of national importance. They also want a major domestic industry driven by materials recovery, recycling and reuse, supported by product stewardship for all major product categories; all subsidies for fossil fuel production and use removed; and a national energy efficiency target adopted," Mr Angel said.

An expert panel will interrogate the policy package to establish 'what's next for a sustainable Australia?'

"We have one of the world's most carbon-polluting economies and also one of those most exposed to climate impacts," says event panelist John Connor (CEO, The Climate Institute). "This package of measures is a very good start to getting out of a dangerous position."

"We are finally on the escalator to address climate change, but we are only on the first step," agrees Robert Purves (Chairman, Sustainable Business Australia). "The challenge remains to educate and bring many in the community along the road to a clean energy world. For business the Clean Energy Future Package brings a level of certainty and exciting new market opportunities."

Purves and Connor will be joined on the panel by Miriam Lyons (CEO, Centre for Policy Development), with an audience Q&A to follow.

"We'll have to speed up if we want Australia to seize the opportunities and manage the risks of the coming global economic transition," Lyons says.

# Latest News

## Climate Change Package a 'game changer'



*Created on Sunday, 10 July 2011 13:53*

The climate change package announced by the Prime Minister and developed in concert with The Greens and independents is a game change, Total Environment Centre said today.

"The plan contains sufficient dynamic and interrelated components to change the way energy and business decisions are made. Investors thinking of a new power station will think about the future costs imposed by carbon pricing and an ETS; energy efficiency will be more front of mind for business and residential consumers; and landholders will begin to manage their land better to attract carbon storage benefits," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

"Today's announcement is not about the short term impacts of compensation and whether they mute the economic message of higher prices - these are transitional issues. It's about a new architecture for medium and long term decision making. It is these decisions made today and in the next few years that govern the type of pollution Australia emits in coming decades."

"There's a lot of work to do in coming months but the fact that the plan has the support of a majority in parliament must make most in business think carefully about whether they continue the lost battle in the hope a future Abbot government would change everything and cause great uncertainty - or they, the community and the government begin to work on a new low carbon future," Mr Angel said.

Total Environment Centre will be hosting the Prime Minister for a Q & A on 18 July in Sydney at a Green Capital event followed by an expert panel that will look to the future; and the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer on 4 August in Melbourne.

# Latest News

## Sydney Sprawls, Global Warming Worsens



*Created on Monday, 14 February 2011 11:17*

Endorsement of more urban sprawl in Sydney by the O'Farrell Opposition will worsen global warming on multiple fronts, Total Environment Centre said today.

"The Opposition's plan to put tens of thousands more houses on the fringes of Sydney is an environmental and planning disaster. It will:

- increase transport emissions with more car use compared to a more compact Sydney;
- inevitably involve bigger houses and therefore more energy used in materials;
- lead to more energy used in air conditioning due to the hotter temperatures in the west;
- destroy good agricultural land and increase food miles for food imports,"

said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre.

"Sydney already has one of the highest per person greenhouse gas emissions in the world - surely Barry O'Farrell doesn't want it to become global warming central?"

"The impacts on biodiversity are also of great concern with only a small amount of good quality endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland left in the region. It harbours a range of endangered flora and fauna which would be exterminated as the concrete and roads spread."

"By encouraging urban sprawl the Opposition would also be pre-empting its new approach to the state's planning system by dealing one of the key goals - environmental sustainability - a serious blow," he said.



## Latest News

### CLIMATE ACTION POLICY BUNGLE MUST BE FIXED



*Created on Wednesday, 08 December 2010 12:30*

The Keneally Government can't afford to go to the state election with a bungled Climate Action Plan and a gutted Climate Change Fund, Total Environment Centre said today.

"The Opposition has discovered the fossil fuel dinosaurs in the government want to raid the Fund to pay for the solar feed-in tariff and kill-off important climate action programs. On top of the recent excessive lowering of the feed-in tariff – this is a real political and policy disaster for the Labor Government," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the TEC.

"The tariff arrangement for development of the solar power industry is rightly part of the electricity generation and consumption budget. The Climate Change Fund must be kept intact for a variety of other policies so that a range of related problems and low carbon solutions can be supported."

"Where are the political and policy brains in this government?"

"If NSW is to have any hope of being a leader in climate policy and not a laggard with increasing levels of emissions – then the Premier should step in and sort this out. A crippled climate policy and depleted fund is not in anyone's interest," said Mr Angel.

# Federal Climate Change Policy Scrutiny



*Created on Thursday, 19 August 2010 00:05*

*Part 1:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaSS-FQC0o8&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaSS-FQC0o8&feature=player_embedded)

*Part 2:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=TLz7xG-S3gU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=TLz7xG-S3gU)

# Latest News

## Top 10 Policies for Building a Green Economy



*Created on Friday, 23 July 2010 15:21*

The policies we want political parties to adopt and implement - setting the scene for the 2010 Election and beyond

## Latest News

### Gillard Climate Announcement: that's not a climate change policy



*Created on Friday, 23 July 2010 11:54*

The Gillard Government will have to do much more to convince voters it has a climate change policy, Total Environment Centre said after the PM's statement today.

"There are three key elements to a modern and responsible climate change policy – a carbon price, mainstreaming renewables into energy supply and energy efficiency. Today we have had meaningless platitudes about a carbon price and energy efficiency. Renewables are barely adequate only because of the existing 20% target legislation that has already been passed and the reference to better grid connection today," said Jeff Angel.

"If you were looking for action that will help curb the explosive growth in pollution in the next two terms of government, you won't find anything in the policy today. We need more than a hint that energy efficiency could be the subject of an announcement 'later'."

"The ALP government needs to understand that at best it has a flimsy hold on those voters who want it to show leadership and progress constructive policies on climate change. Nothing announced today will lock those voters in," Mr Angel said.

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# Latest News

## SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL GREEN FILMS



*Created on Wednesday, 02 June 2010 13:05*

This year TEC is delighted to announce a new relationship with the Sydney Film Festival, which is part of our communications strategy moving forward. We urge our supporters and anyone interested in the great challenges facing the environment today, to attend the festival screenings of these six inspiring and highly entertaining films. Read on for our communication director, Ruth Hessey's reviews of *Cane Toads: The Conquest*, *Waste Land*, *Colony*, *Gasland*, *The Rainbow Warriors of Waiheke Island*, and *Turtle: The Incredible Journey*.

*Cane Toads: The Conquest*: no one knows more about cane toads than Mark Lewis. His original 1988 documentary *Cane Toads: An Unnatural History* started a national craze for squashing the beastly creatures and even spawned a line in cane toad hide accessories (including wallets and filofaxes). The story at that point was of an introduced species which had proved so sexually profligate, and physically resilient that it would even hump the foot of someone trying to kill it (the most effective dispatch after a car tyre being the freezer). Lewis has a knack for affectionate black comedy and the film was a world wide hit. He followed up with the hilarious *Animalicious* (a review of unnatural relationships between humans and a variety of creatures, including a boa constrictor and a feral squirrel), and *The Natural History of Chickens* (which looks at how Americans relate to their favourite bird). *Cane Toads: the Conquest* sees Lewis' comic genius for human eccentricity wedded to the latest in 3D technology. This is one environmental horror movie you won't leave feeling glum or desperate.

*Colony*: if bees are the canary in the mine, then this cautionary tale about the collapse of the American Beekeeping industry is a must-see for anyone interested in addressing ecological collapse. Even God, represented here by the devout Seppi family, provides no answers as the beekeeping business started by their eldest son experiences a financial implosion which could be a prequel to widespread agricultural collapse. As the bees start to simply disappear across America, bee keepers meet to try to target someone or thing that is responsible for the mysterious 'colony collapse disorder': is it the use of pesticides, a deadly virus, or something even more sinister? Beautifully photographed, *Colony* highlights the interconnectedness of all things mirrored in the productive harmony of a healthy hive. The gentle yet insistent tone of the film leaves a chill even as it leavens its basically frightening message with the hope that if we humans work together, we can save the bees, and if we save them, perhaps we can save ourselves....

*Gasland*: already scheduled for an Australian release this feisty, charming film also won the Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film festival. Josh Fox plays the banjo and never expected to become an environmentalist, but when a gas company tries to buy the rights to drill for natural gas on his family's rural retreat in upstate New York, he starts to ask questions which eventually propel him into a nationwide odyssey. Hydraulic fracturing, which is also scheduled to take place across a third of NSW farming land, is a destructive underground process which shatters water aquifers and contaminates water supplies. Yet the more Fox learns about the ill-effects the more he realizes that "fracking" is a multi-million dollar business, and because gas is currently seen as the better transition fuel compared to coal, almost no-one is trying to stop it. If you want a heads up on this debate, which is only in its early stages in Australia, *Gasland* is the best place you could start.

*The Rainbow Warriors of Waiheke Island*: It was like something out of a bad thriller: in 1985 French secret service spies bombed the Greenpeace flagship *Rainbow Warrior*, killing one crewman and creating an international scandal that has never been properly resolved. Thirty years later the survivors of the bombing talk about the impact the incident had on their lives, as environment activists, and as friends. The happy ending is the life of organic back-to-nature bliss six of the original team have made for themselves on Waiheke Island, but as they discuss the personal toll, and reflect on the current state of the environment movement, it's clear that each individual's personal recovery is bitter sweet.

*Waste Land*: the really creative potential of a recycling society is not getting through to most Australians, so this film about people who live on the world's largest land fill, Jardim Gramacho, outside Rio de Janeiro, could transform your attitude to waste forever. This is recycling in action amongst some of the world's poorest people.

In Brazil the garbage pickers are called Catadores. Originally artist Vik Muniz was going to document the catadores with photographs and artworks made from scraps, but as he got to know them he realized that their stories were too complex, potent and brave to be reduced to stills. What these people do with the detritus of modern life is extraordinary and director Lucy walker employs fantastic time lapse imagery which is as inventive as the catadore themselves. Despite the stinky subject this is transcendent, inspirational filmmaking about the interplay between art and human relationships.

Turtle: the Incredible Journey: this lovely film is kid friendly and perfect for anyone who wants to refresh their cinema-going with some joyful news from nature about resilience and survival. The film follows a tiny loggerhead turtle from her birthplace in the caribbean sand to the arctic via the Atlantic ocean and the coast of Africa. How something so fragile could survive this epic journey through a perilous sea littered with plastic bags, super tankers and oil slicks, let alone hungry penguins and sharks, is as extraordinary as the feat of filming it.

# Latest News

## Business Snatches Initiative on Climate Change



*Created on Tuesday, 30 March 2010 14:34*

Business and environment group leaders met today to review the collapse of the CPRS and how to manage risk in the face of climate change and a policy void, at Total Environment Centre's Doing Nothing Is Not An Option event.

Run by Green Capital, TEC's business engagement program, the event also launched a Carbon & Energy Quick Check tool for business, CARB-EN.

The panel was chaired by the ABC's Quentin Dempster, and speakers included Blair Palese, CEO, 350.org; Jon Jutsen, Executive Director, Energetics; Sean Macken, Director (NSW), Hawker Britton; Andrew Petersen, Partner, Climate Change Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Freddie Sharpe, CEO of Climate Friendly; Dr Tony Wilkins, News Limited's Manager of Environment and Climate Change; and Matthew Wright, Executive Director, Beyond Zero Emissions.

"The clear message is that doing nothing is costing business money," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of TEC.

Jon Jutsen said, "Energy efficiency, which is highly underrated, could deliver 53% of savings to every business and household. We can't press the rewind button on the planet. Once the resources are gone they're gone forever."

Blair Palese called on business to "stop being nice and get ugly!"

"Politicians are not listening to the public," she said, "and business is not telling government what it wants. We have the solutions and we need to get in the face of the people who are not acting to break this policy vacuum."

CARBEN sets out five areas ranging from greening the supply chain to staff green teams, where business can act now. TEC called on company's to rank themselves from inaction/basic to excellent/inspirational as a way to help guide improvements in their performance.

"Companies that do take action now will be far better prepared for when a carbon priced does come in. It's not a matter of if, but when," said Mr Angel.

# Latest News

## The Killing of GreenPower?



*Created on Wednesday, 18 November 2009 12:15*

Today's revelation that Australians are the largest greenhouse gas polluters per person on the planet, proves that the federal government must rethink those climate policies which currently threaten to kill off the GreenPower industry, Total Environment Centre (TEC) said this morning.

The Killing? of GreenPower

"Consumers will lose the incentive to pay extra to reduce their own emissions under the impending Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)" said Jeff Angel, director of TEC, "because the Scheme does not recognise their contribution as additional to the nation's pollution reduction effort."

Total Environment Centre released a report today which reveals that there are almost one million GreenPower customers spending \$80m a year, whose future GreenPower purchases will not result in any reduction in emissions, if the CPRS is passed as it currently stands. This will result in many GreenPower customers cancelling their purchases.

"Australians want to play their part, and hundreds of thousands of Australians are already buying GreenPower to reduce their own emissions," said Mr Angel. "Millions of dollars spent on reducing emissions will go to waste if the government doesn't fix this mess."

"The CPRS will blunt the growth in GreenPower, hurting the renewable energy industry and disempowering Australian businesses and consumers," said Mr Angel.

"Kevin Rudd and Penny Wong need to act now to ensure the CPRS doesn't cause serious damage to this program."



# Latest News

## BEACH SMART OR BEACH STUPID?



*Created on Tuesday, 22 September 2009 16:38*

Last Updated on Sunday, 17 February 2013 06:40

Byron Shire has had an excellent policy in place to protect the coastline from climate change, which the NSW government should support instead of bagging it, said Total Environment Centre today

The state government has told Byron Shire Council to change policies that stop homeowners building seawalls to protect their properties, a position at odds with sensible planning for climate change.

“The government should be investing in sensible adaptation on the part of the human population, which is the key to an effective climate change plan, instead of dumping a good policy at the first opportunity,” said TEC director Jeff Angel.

“Sandbagging individual properties and building seawalls does not constitute effective or long term planning,” Mr Angel added. “It is short sighted, temporary practice which interferes with the natural inter-tidal activity of the coastline, and ruins the rhythm of erosion and deposition which create beaches in the first place.”

Yet the deputy director-general of the NSW government's Department of Environment and Climate Change, Simon Smith, has written to Byron council urging it to “set out potential arrangements that would permit appropriate landowner-funded coastal protection works.”

“For twenty years Byron Shire has had the best “planned retreat” adaptation policy you could wish for, so why does the state government want to kill it off?” Mr Angel asked. “In the long term relocation is the only practical answer to changing sea levels which residents can and should bank on.”

# Latest News

## RUDD DIRTIES GREEN POWER



*Created on Wednesday, 05 August 2009 22:27*

Greenhouse emission reductions, energy use reductions and GreenPower purchases by Australian households, businesses, local councils and state governments are not being translated into real emissions reductions.

“Under Rudd government policies household action is helping the big polluters to pollute more at a lower cost, instead of helping reduce the threat of climate change. It’s more of the same that we’ve seen with the CPRS deals – subsidy upon subsidy,” said Jeff Angel, Director of TEC.

“A major national campaign will be launched in coming weeks by the Total Environment Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation, WWF Australia, CHOICE and the Alternative Technology Association to combat this perverse policy,” Mr Angel said.

“The Rudd Government is sending a message to Australian families and businesses that their efforts are wasted. This is disgraceful when Australians have shown they are unequivocally committed to reducing their greenhouse emissions.”

The purchase of GreenPower, carbon offsets, and the installation of small-scale renewable energy (such as rooftop solar and solar hot-water systems), save households 6 million tonnes p.a. in greenhouse gas emissions and support economic activity of around \$150 million each year. Local and state government energy efficiency schemes, GreenPower purchases, carbon offsetting and other programs enlarge this effort to many hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

“The federal government must rectify this problem by retiring Kyoto and CPRS permits where there are verifiable complementary abatement measures, so the polluters can’t use them.”

## Latest News

### TEC'S EBP WINS CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP AWARD



*Created on Thursday, 30 July 2009 00:23*

The Existing Buildings Project (EBP), a partnership between TEC and leading members of Australia's commercial property sector has won a Green Globe Award for Climate Change Leadership. EBP is the largest existing building upgrade program of its kind in the world.

It has already reached its initial target of encouraging 10 per cent of Australia's investment grade office buildings to reduce their carbon footprint by up to 40 per cent below the market average by 2012. Some of the world's biggest names in business are participating including GPT Group, Macquarie Office Trust, the Australian Prime Property Fund and Brookfield Multiplex, accounting for around 100 office towers throughout Australia's major CBDs.

Once these emissions targets are achieved Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by over 100,000 tonnes.

# Latest News

## POLLUTERS PROFIT, PUBLIC PAYS



*Created on Tuesday, 24 February 2009 03:26*

"The government was warned about this problem four months ago by 19 environment and business groups but has done nothing – it has spent all its resources on helping the polluters. Under the current design rules for the CPRS, households trying to do their bit to reduce carbon emissions will only be making emissions permits cheaper for aluminium smelters and coal fired power stations," said Jeff Angel, Director of the Total Environment Centre.

"If that is what the government wants households and businesses aiming to be carbon neutral to do, then they should be clear about that, and just tell households to send a cheque to their local polluter. It'd be much faster and a lot more transparent," continued Angel.

"We'll be asking the Senate's proposed Emissions Trading Inquiry to look into this issue – the government has failed to respond to important and genuine concerns by hundreds and thousand of people who want to support green business, not polluting business as usual.

"Households should be allowed to make a difference to Australia's emissions. All this requires is making the simplest of changes to the CPRS accounting rules whereby Australian emissions permits are retired at no cost, for each tonne of emissions reductions that households deliver."

# Latest News

## Climate White Paper- Rudd Lets Polluters Off the Hook



*Created on Tuesday, 16 December 2008 01:19*

“It means Australia will remain a high greenhouse polluting nation spiking international negotiations and our environmental reputation. The design features announced today make polluting coal-fired electricity and the landfilling of waste economically attractive – that’s how perverse today’s announcement is,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

“The 2020 target of only 5-15% can mean only one of two things- Australia has either given up on avoiding dangerous climate change, or, Australia is looking to the international community to pick up its emissions reduction shortfall - effectively demanding that the international community subsidise its polluting industry,” said Mr Angel.

“This will undoubtedly complicate negotiations within the developed nation bloc and give major developing nations like India and China an excuse to avoid action. A meaningful international climate agreement is in Australia’s interests - this is the negotiation’s equivalent of an own goal,” continued Mr Angel.

The benefits of Green Power purchases made by households is not recognised, creating household funded subsidies to industry.

“In addition to the disgraceful allocation of \$3.9billion of taxpayer’s funds to coal fired generators, the hundred of thousands of households that continue to purchase Green Power will achieve nothing but free up emissions permits for dirty industry. By lowering the cost of emissions permits for polluters, households will be indirectly subsidising industry - for no environmental benefit. This could have been avoided with a simple accounting revision by retiring emission permits equivalent to GreenPower purchases,” said Mr Angel.

“Grandfathering emissions from waste landfilled to date for 60% of their emissions means the Rudd government will enhance the competitive position of landfill for waste disposal in Australia. This means the true cost of dangerous ongoing methane emissions from this waste is ignored giving landfill an unfair advantage over opportunities for resource recovery and recycling, with its energy, water, and materials savings.”

## Latest News

# Report: Australian 2020 Target Announcement Could Scuttle International Climate Negotiations



*Created on Tuesday, 09 December 2008 21:13*

“While modest in and of itself, only a 25-40% reduction target on 1990 levels by 2020 will keep open the prospect of a meaningful international agreement,” said Jeff Angel, director of the Total Environment Centre.

“Anything less will greatly complicate negotiations between the developed nation bloc and could give major developing nations like India, China, Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia a ‘get out of jail free’ card.”

The claim came as Total Environment Centre released a new paper, *The International Climate negotiations: Structures, Issues, and Competing Positions*, which explores the major issues and stumbling blocks in the negotiations, the competing positions of individual nations, and their current domestic climate policies.

The international community is currently negotiating the terms of a new international climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol once it expires in 2012. The two year negotiations began last year in Bali and are scheduled to conclude by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen. The talks are currently entering the High-Level segment (for Ministers) of the ‘midpoint’ meeting in Poznan, Poland.

The focal point of the negotiations has so far been 25-40% reductions below 1990 levels by 2020 for industrialised nations and a parallel 15-30% reductions below business as usual emissions growth for developing nations.

The Australian government had previously committed to announce its 2020 target before the Poznan talks but has since deferred the announcement to Monday, December 15 - the first business day after the Poznan talks. This has led to speculation that Australia is preparing to announce a watered down target of only 5-15%.

The new paper reveals that the proportionate response from developing countries to such a target range would scuttle the prospect of a meaningful climate agreement and result in warming of at least 3.2 degrees by the end of the century- a level of warming well past the 2 degree threshold for runaway climate change.

Further information:

Jeff Angel- (02) 9261 3437 or Cameron Eren- 0425 327 037

A copy of the report is available by [clicking here](#)

# Latest News

## Australian Property Giants Continue Aggressive Emissions Cuts Ahead of 2020 Target Announcement



Created on Tuesday, 02 December 2008 21:02

In December 2007, amidst the fanfare of the Bali Climate Change Summit, five of the nation's property giants (Macquarie Office Trust, GPT Group, the Australian Prime Property Fund, Local Government Superannuation Scheme, and Becton Property Group) came together to commit to combating climate change by upgrading the emissions performance of their Australian office portfolios.

Almost one year on, as the global climate negotiations reach their crucial midpoint in Poznan, Brookfield Multiplex has joined the 'first five' of the Existing Buildings Project and committed to upgrade its entire domestic office portfolio to 4.5 NABERS Energy by 2012. This represents a 40% decrease in emissions below the market average.

"Optimising the performance our properties through efficient management is key to our service delivery strategy, regardless of the property's age, technical limitations or scheduled capital upgrades." said James Vesper, Sustainability Manager for Brookfield Multiplex Services

"Brookfield Multiplex Services recently launched their Sustainable FM training program aimed at providing existing building managers with the knowledge and expertise required to meet increasing sustainability demands, with a particular emphasis on energy efficiency. This initiative will assist in ensuring we achieve the 4.5 Star average rating target." He added

Becton Property Group also announced that it would commit the existing buildings it acquired in its 2007 Lachlan Property Group purchase to the upgrade. This adds a further 16 buildings to Becton's portfolio of projects already committed to climate change goals.

"These new commitments bring the number of buildings in the Existing Buildings Project to almost 100 throughout Australia's major CBDs. These buildings account for over 10% of Australian investment grade office floor space and include many of Australia's landmark buildings." said Cameron Eren of the Total Environment Centre

"This is the largest wholesale movement on existing buildings anywhere in the world. The leadership of these groups should be welcomed at this critical point for climate policy- as Australia prepares to announce its 2020 emissions reduction target and international climate negotiations enter their final turn in Poznan." Mr Eren continued

"Meeting these targets would reduce annual emissions by over 70,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from base buildings alone. This is the emissions equivalent of permanently removing over 15,500 cars from Australia's roads."

"If all office buildings were upgraded to 4.5 NABERS Energy, it would be the emissions equivalent of permanently retiring Australia's entire heavy trucking fleet." Mr Eren explained.

Total Environment Centre believes that existing building upgrades are the first 'cab off the rank' in a national emissions reduction strategy. While much has been made of new 'green' buildings, only existing building upgrades will offer true emissions reductions. This simply reflects the fact that the use of emissions intensive steel, glass, and concrete in the construction of new buildings generates significant greenhouse gas emissions in and of itself.

By one estimate, the emissions benefit of building a new 5 Star NABERS Energy building, instead of upgrading an existing building to 4.5 NABERS Energy, would not be realised for 290 years.[1]

According to a recent report from the Total Environment Centre (Commercial Property & Climate Change: Exposures & Opportunities) the upgrading of existing buildings is not only an environmental priority, but is also a key commercial priority for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

The upgrading of existing buildings will not only safeguard existing margins against rising energy costs, but will also ensure that individual buildings remain attractive to large corporate and government tenants who are increasingly tying leases to the achievement of specific emissions intensities, and demanding that landlords do not simply pass on the costs of their own inefficiency.

*[1] Roussac, C. 2007. Existing buildings, the greenest buildings. Property Australia. v.21. no.4 January 2007. Property Council of Australia*



## Latest News

### Green-business alliance highlights the need to enable voluntary carbon action alongside CPRS targets



*Created on Thursday, 30 October 2008 00:55*

A communiqué signed by the Total Environment Centre (TEC) and more than a dozen businesses was released today calling on the Federal Government to provide certainty for consumers by ensuring that voluntary actions, like purchasing offsets, effectively reduce emissions beyond Government compliance targets.

TEC executive director Jeff Angel said: "We are calling on the Federal Government to be proactive in ensuring that Australia retains a strong, high-quality and innovative voluntary carbon sector. The communiqué makes constructive suggestions on how to work towards achieving this."

"This needs to be a specific objective of the design and implementation of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which is scheduled to be legislated in 2009 and implemented in 2010 to create a national compliance carbon market."

Climate Friendly Carbon Strategy Manager, Laura Eadie said: "While critically important, the Government's mandatory emissions scheme will involve only the top 1,000 companies in Australia. The Government must provide certainty to allow the 20 million individuals and 7.6 million businesses not included in the mandatory scheme to take effective voluntary action to reduce emissions over and above any short term compliance targets."

Andrew Barson, Director of the Carbon Reduction Institute said: "GreenPower and the carbon offset sector have enabled Australians to take personal action against climate change by contributing funds to local projects. The current CPRS design will force Aussies to purchase their offsets from overseas projects rather than investing in projects within Australia."

"Citizens should be able to act on the advice of scientists and drive further local action against climate change beyond the levels that have been set by government. Whilst the compliance market is crucial, care needs to be taken to ensure that the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme does not remove the existing capacity of the voluntary sector and impede further development of these emission reduction projects in Australia," Mr Barson said.

The voluntary carbon market in Australia has over 50 business operators, has created hundreds of jobs in carbon trading and is responsible for millions of tonnes per annum of emission reductions.

Download the communiqué

For further information contact spokespersons:

- Jeff Angel, Executive Director, Total Environment Centre (02) 9261 3437
- Laura Eadie, Carbon Strategy Manager, Climate Friendly (02) 9356 3600
- Andrew Barson, Director, Carbon Reduction Institute (02) 9439 9990

## Latest News

# Smart Investment Can Successfully Reduce Australia's Greenhouse Emissions: Building Australia Fund



*Created on Saturday, 25 October 2008 01:01*

"This building fund is a once in a generation opportunity. These funds can be used in the areas that matter to Australians, such as public and freight transport opportunities and upgrading electricity and energy efficiency," said TEC's Director Jeff Angel.

"The first area that could benefit from these funds is the commissioning of large scale, zero emissions, baseload power plants. This greenhouse emission reducing technology is already available and being installed around the world and it is crucial that any future power plants be zero emission generators."

"Energy efficiency is the fastest and most cost effective means of reducing Australia's emissions but it requires significant infrastructure investment. The creation of a "smart electricity grid" is critical, as is the fast-tracking of the roll-out of smart meters into households and the prioritisation of demand management."

"Another area that could greatly benefit from these funds is public transport infrastructure along future and existing metropolitan growth corridors. If Australia is to address the rapid growth of greenhouse gas emissions, commuters need to be encouraged away from car travel and towards public transport."

"And it's not just the public transport sector that needs a re-haul, the freight transport sector – which has recently outstripped personal travel in terms of emissions, increasing 40% since 1990 – also needs to be encouraged to shift from road based transport to rail and coastal shipping options."

"If Australia is to achieve meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the Australian Building Fund needs to be allocated with the environment's best interests in mind. Future investment in all of the above sectors can successfully achieve meaningful reductions," said Mr. Angel.

To read TEC's submission letter [click here](#)

# Latest News

## Economic and greenhouse policies should work together in green nation building



*Created on Wednesday, 08 October 2008 21:55*

"Directing infrastructure spending towards those projects that promote emissions reductions will not only promote growth in the short run but will also protect our economy from global warming over the medium to long term," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Total Environment Centre.

"We are calling upon the Commonwealth Government to direct Infrastructure Australia spending towards Green Nation Building projects such as:

- Intermodal freight facilities - to shift freight away from carbon intensive road based transport to low emissions coastal shipping and rail;
- High speed train links between Australia's major cities to reduce emissions intensive plane travel;
- Suburban rail links to offer people a low emissions transport option;
- Retirement of existing coal fired power stations and replacement with large scale, zero emissions, Solar Thermal, Geothermal, and Wave powered baseload power stations;
- Smart Grid: technologies to optimise the contribution of demand management and distributed generation technologies to Australian emissions reductions;

"The international demand for the skills that are required to plan and deliver these projects will only grow as the nations of the world take on binding emissions reductions." said Mr. Angel

"By giving Australians the opportunity to 'learn by doing' these projects will also provide much needed investment in skills and promote future export markets for Australian business." said Mr. Angel.

## Latest News

# Not Again: Australia Cannot Be Responsible For Failed Climate Talks



*Created on Wednesday, 01 October 2008 01:43*

“The Review is correct in saying that only a science based international agreement will stop global warming but it’s approach is the best way to ensure that international climate talks fail, by Australia walking into the room and placing a meaningless target on the table,” stated Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

The Garnaut Report includes a recommendation for a 10% reduction in Australia’s greenhouse emissions by 2020, if an international agreement cannot be made to stabilise carbon at 450ppm.

“The science is clear. If we want to avoid dangerous climate change we need to reduce emissions by at least 40% on 1990 levels by 2020. That is the benchmark by which Australian climate policy will be ultimately judged,” said Mr. Angel.

“The goal of climate policy should be very straightforward- it should be designed to stop global warming. The goal of climate change policy is not to write blank cheques for industry groups or cater to the every need of Australia’s wealthiest polluters.”

“Time is running out on this. We need to move now and move meaningfully. This is the time for true leaders. The wisdom, strength and foresight of our leaders will be judged in the fullness of time.”

# Latest News

## Commercial Property on Collision Course with Climate Change



*Created on Tuesday, 23 September 2008 19:54*

Cameron Eren, of TEC's Industry Partnership Program and author of the report said that climate change is creating "a perfect storm" for commercial property.

"On the one hand global warming will directly impact the sector through extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and inflated cost structures," he said.

"On the other hand, climate policy will result in higher energy costs, rising tenant demand for energy efficient floor space, increased investor pressure, and the growing likelihood of further regulatory interventions."

But the news for commercial property is not all bad. The report reveals that while commercial property is one of the sectors most clearly exposed to climate change it is also one of the sectors that is best placed to manage its climate related exposures.

"Commercial property has a strong interest in upgrading the energy efficiency of existing buildings. Energy efficiency upgrades will safeguard existing margins against rising costs and will ensure that individual buildings remain attractive to tenants," Eren said.

"Emissions reduction projects also offer building owners above market rates of return that, despite their profitability, are eligible for subsidies. Reducing emissions from existing buildings is a risk management exercise that is ultimately profitable for the sector."

The report Commercial Property & Climate Change- Exposures and Opportunities is part of the TEC's ongoing work with the commercial property sector through the Existing Buildings Project.

The report explores what climate change means for the sector, what options the sector has to reduce its emissions, the rates of return offered by emissions reduction strategies, and lists all available subsidies for emissions reduction projects.

"The smart money has seen the writing on the wall and has already begun to manage its exposures," Eren said. "In the short-term emissions reductions will offer these groups a competitive advantage. Over the medium term, emissions reductions will simply become a defensive strategy."

Through the Existing Buildings Project, Macquarie Office Trust, GPT Group, Australian Prime Property Fund, and the Local Government and Superannuation Scheme have announced that they will upgrade their entire Australian office portfolios to achieve a NABERS Energy rating of 4.5 by 2012. Becton Property Group has announced that they will upgrade their portfolio to a NABERS Energy rating of 4.0 over the same period.

## Latest News

### Carbon Offset Watch Ranks Offset Providers: helps consumers make the right choice



*Created on Tuesday, 16 September 2008 21:47*

With the voluntary carbon offset market growing exponentially there is a confusing number of claims, products and carbon calculators available to consumers. Carbon Offset Watch clearly ranks 20 of the largest offset providers from 'Outstanding' to 'Adequate'. Overall, Climate Friendly, Cleaner Climate, Climate Positive, SMRC (Southern Metropolitan Regional Council) and the Carbon Reduction Institute all scored an outstanding mark.

"The Australian carbon offset industry is worth over \$44million a year and its credibility has been in question, but Carbon Offset Watch will force the industry to grow up by naming the best and most reliable. Consumers who are actively trying to reduce their carbon footprint are making an important contribution but need to be assured, not duped into buying offsets that provide little environmental benefit," said Jane Castle, TEC Resource Conservation Campaigner.

"We found that there are real differences in the quality and reliability of carbon offsets provided by different retailers so we are taking the confusion out of the process so that people can make an informed decision. This ranking system allows people to see which offset providers guarantee a reduction in carbon footprint and which do not," said Chris Riedy, Research Director at ISF.

"It is far too difficult at present for consumers to differentiate between good and bad carbon offset schemes. Carbon Offset Watch will put organisations that exploit consumers' environmental concerns on notice and help increase consumer confidence in this market," said Kate Norris, Senior Policy Officer at CHOICE.

Concern over climate change has grown rapidly and with it, the demand for carbon offsets, which reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one activity to compensate for the emissions of another. There are now over 50 carbon offset providers in Australia but there is little transparent and independent information about product value. Carbon Offset Watch has investigated the quality of carbon offset products and the full results, rankings, report and tips for buying carbon offsets can be found at [www.carbonoffsetwatch.org.au](http://www.carbonoffsetwatch.org.au)

# Latest News

## Carbon Offset Watch to Spotlight Green Claims



*Created on Wednesday, 10 September 2008 20:30*

"Carbon Offset Watch is forcing the industry to grow up by sorting the best and most reliable from the rest. The industry has grown exponentially in the last 18 months and it's not surprising that individuals and business are confused with so many claims, product offerings and carbon calculators. The credibility of the entire carbon offset industry has been in question. Our independent survey steps in where Government regulation is yet to tread," said Jeff Angel, TEC Director.

"We found that there are real differences in the quality and reliability of carbon offsets provided by different retailers. Carbon Offset Watch identifies the retailers that you can buy offsets from with confidence and those that represent a greater risk", said Chris Riedy, Research Director at ISF.

"For consumers keen to avoid greenwash in the largely unregulated carbon offset market, Carbon Offset Watch provides the first clear ranking showing which ones we consider are better buys," said Kate Norris, Senior Policy Officer at CHOICE.

Public concern about climate change has grown rapidly and one result has been the increased demand for carbon offsets which reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one activity to compensate for the emissions of another. There are now over 50 carbon offset providers in Australia but there is little transparent information about products and inadequate regulation. Carbon Offset Watch has investigated the quality of carbon offset products to help reduce confusion and improve confidence amongst consumers.

## Latest News

### Emissions Trading – making or breaking Australian green history?



*Created on Friday, 05 September 2008 20:53*

This week, Jeff is launching his first book: 'Green is Good, an insider's story of the battle for a green Australia' (ABC Books) which chronicles the journey to making the environment a mainstream political issue. In it he describes several failed attempts over the last two decades to bring-in schemes to reduce carbon pollution; reduce our environmental footprint; and prepare Australia for the 'climate emergency'.

"The last two years have been a crucial turning point with the urgency of global warming and breadth of community support for action. While both political parties endorsed an emissions trading scheme at the 2007 federal election, we are now seeing the real battle with business ramping up the economic hyperbole and the Rudd government aware it made an election promise that it will take firm action against greenhouse polluters."

"It's taken forty years but at last we having the real debate – how to change business into green companies and set us on the path of green capitalism. Garnaut's modeling will tell us what we risk with our future environment and well being and the big green economic opportunities we can create. The Rudd government can't afford to lose it nerve on this one," Jeff Angel said.

**Contact:** Jane Finemore at ABC Books to receive a review copy of 'Green is Good' - 'an important contribution to the most important issue of our age' - Tim Flannery 02 8333 3969 or finemore.jane@abc.net.au



# Latest News

## Greenwash - curses and solutions



*Created on Thursday, 21 August 2008 21:42*

“Greenwash needs to be eradicated because what we buy today has consequences for the environment and what we leave future generations. It’s not just about a short term purchasing contract between producer and consumer,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Centre.

TEC’s Green Capital program today released, ‘The End of Greenwash – how to unlock the consumer potential for sustainability ’ and ‘The Green Cred Checklist ’ at a major debate between environmental and consumer representatives, brand owners and advertisers.

“We are supporting a three pronged approach:

- vigorous Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) action including protection of ‘core’ words like ‘green’ and ‘environment friendly’ from misrepresentation;
- a strong advertising industry code; and
- upskilling of the marketers and advertisers to recognise greenwash and stop it at source.”

“We don’t want to scare producers from developing green products and advertisers telling people about their benefits. We want producers to regain credibility, and advertisers to help make green products the normal purchase for people.”

“TEC will continue to use all three approaches – making complaints to the ACCC where necessary; helping the industry to get an effective code and providing advice on how to avoid greenwash. Our Green Cred Checklist is part of that process,” said Mr Angel.

## Latest News

### Fight Against Greenwash Strengthened by TEC & AANA Announcements



*Created on Thursday, 31 July 2008 00:09*

“We need a war on greenwash. Environmental claims and brands should inspire and encourage consumers, not dupe them into thinking they are doing their part for the environment, when they are not. It’s essential that green products became mainstream, the normal products to buy, but for this to happen consumers must be confident about the environmental claims,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre (TEC).

“While the ACCC must continue their important regulatory work, we hope that the work by TEC and the AANA will come together to prevent greenwash emerging in the first place,” said Mr. Angel.

“TEC has been campaigning to inform industry about greenwash and how to ensure green marketing is clear and substantiated, and we’ll certainly be talking to the AANA”.

TEC will be releasing ‘The End of Greenwash – how to unlock the consumer potential for sustainability’ and ‘The Green Cred Checklist’ at events to be held in Sydney and Melbourne in the last week of August, to help industry develop green marketing strategies, free of greenwash and inform NGOs, regulators and consumers about the issue and way forward – see [www.greencapital.org.au](http://www.greencapital.org.au).

# Latest News

## Freight Transport & Climate Change - Industry Guidance Released



*Created on Wednesday, 30 July 2008 20:16*

“Environmentalists and the industry can work together to get its house in order and be economically and environmentally sustainable. The community push to get effective policies is unstoppable,” said Jeff Angel, Director of TEC.

“This report is designed to help transport companies understand what climate change means for them - their exposures to both climate change and climate policy, what they can do to manage these exposures, and how they stand to gain from efforts to combat climate change,” explained Cameron Eren, coordinator of the TEC's Industry Partnership Program and author of the report.

“Rising costs are designed to penalise energy inefficiency. Transport companies that pursue appropriate fuel switching and modal switching opportunities and maximise energy efficiency, will safeguard existing margins against rising costs and position themselves for growth in a carbon constrained world,” said Mr. Eren.

The report, *Freight Transport & Climate Change: Exposures & Opportunities*, reveals that greenhouse gas emissions from trucks, light commercial vehicles, rail, coastal shipping and air freight are poised to double from 1990 levels by 2020. When considered alongside the emissions reductions that climate science is calling for, the proportion of national emissions produced by freight transport may more than triple by 2020- increasing from 4.07% in 1990 to 13.46% by 2020.

# Latest News

## Light Green Start To Emissions Trading



*Created on Wednesday, 16 July 2008 23:57*

“There are some good elements but gaping holes that could severely damage the national effort on climate change. Polluting industries such as coal fired power stations, energy hungry smelters and land clearing get favoured treatment. This is a recipe for a scheme standing on weak legs,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

“The coal power generators have run a scare campaign and the Rudd government has fallen for it. The real intent is to stop Australia making the big shift from dirty coal power to clean, green power. It is also surprising that while reforestation gets a gurnsey for carbon credits, the other side of the coin - removal of trees - does not attract a carbon penalty. Add in the millions of dollars of free permits to be given to trade exposed industry like aluminium smelters, and the ‘virtual’ non-inclusion of petrol - you have a scheme that is already in need of repair.”

“Equal or stronger good elements are hard to find. The fact there is no ‘soft start’ as suggested by Prof Garnaut could be good, but then the government might have a low carbon cap, instead. In the absence of information about the 2020 target, it’s hard to give the scheme a tick,” said Mr. Angel.

“We are also going to need a lot more from the government on energy efficiency and public transport. Only a few weeks ago, state and federal energy ministers decided not to require big business to implement their energy savings plans and adopted a very slow rollout of smart meters. We can’t afford to keep energy efficiency at the bottom of the agenda.”

## Latest News

### Freight industry has major greenhouse challenge ahead



*Created on Monday, 14 July 2008 20:10*

"This is a big problem for the freight industry because business and individual consumers are becoming increasingly aware of the carbon footprint of products. It's not just 'food miles' but also all the other products the freight system carries. The figures show that without a comprehensive plan freight emissions could rise to more than 13% of national carbon pollution by 2020," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre.

The biggest contributor is road transport (87%) and the largest emitters per tonne of product carried are air transport and light commercial vehicles.

"Clearly the transport sector, both personal and freight need to be included in an emissions trading scheme and the industry should begin a major adaptation process now. This should include much improved fuel and operational efficiencies; switching to less carbon intensive transport; and alternative fuels (with qualifications)."

Review of Freight Transport Full Report [PDF 386Kb]

The project is supported by a NSW Government Climate Action grant.

## Latest News

# Electricity Sector Using Fear Tactics to Derail Emissions Trading Scheme



*Created on Wednesday, 02 July 2008 00:10*

“This is a blatant attempt from energy-intensive industry to sabotage an emissions trading scheme, these polluters will try anything to stay on top of the game, but enough is enough. The government has to stand up to them,” stated Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

“An emissions trading scheme is vital to reduce emissions and aid in the fight against climate change. Its purpose is not to excuse major polluters and reinstate them in their dominant position. If everyday people have to change their ways, so should they,” said Mr. Angel.

“The energy ministers have fallen for the scaremongering of the major polluters. They need to be listening to Professor Garnaut who has been clear that there is no case for compensating electricity generators for their failure to reign in emissions,” said Tony Mohr, Climate Campaign Manager for the Australian Conservation Foundation.

“Renewable energy targets are also extremely important for the environmental and economic future of our country. That future is going to be carbon-constrained and decreasing the dependence on coal is inevitable. It is a big change, but it’s a positive one”, said Mr. Mohr.

State energy ministers have raised concerns that coal power stations will become bankrupt with the implementation of an emissions trading scheme and mandatory renewable energy targets, with demands made from the energy sector for compensation to be provided in this event.

# Latest News

## Environment Groups Ramp Up Emissions Trading Campaign



*Created on Tuesday, 01 July 2008 19:32*

"We have one chance to get this right. The need to move urgently and make the Australian economy low carbon ready, means the government and opposition should ignore industry pleas for delay; and resist weakening of the scheme for short term political gain", said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Total Environment Centre.

"Environment groups have been to the consultation forums and met with Ministerial advisers in the last six months – now is the time to explain to the public what we want from an emissions trading scheme, the large economic and environmental benefits; and mobilise community support," he said.

"Climate Action Network Australia's more than 50 member organisations, want to get the design of our emissions trading scheme right from the beginning. A scheme that lets big polluters off the hook will transfer the cost of action, and the cost of climate change, to the rest of society. This website will give our 50+ member organisations and other local climate groups information upon which to base community action", said Nina Hall of the Climate Action Network Australia.

"With the release of the Garnaut report this Friday and the government's Green Paper in mid-July we have to be ready to engage at a broad community level."

"The emission trading scheme must be open and predictable for investors. Polluters shouldn't be allowed to keep polluting by purchasing forest offsets," said Greenpeace Forest and Climate Campaigner Paul Winn. "It is better that part of the proceeds from auctioning emission permits are used to generate funds for forest sinks both domestically and internationally."

Website: [www.lowcarbonfuture.org.au](http://www.lowcarbonfuture.org.au)

## Latest News

# National Guidelines A Welcome Ally In The Fight Against Business Greenwash



*Created on Monday, 30 June 2008 20:29*

The guidelines will focus on accrediting marketing claims made by business, that promote an environmentally friendly image by using labels such as carbon neutrality and carbon emissions trading.

“Nowadays, there is much benefit in businesses being labelled green, but unfortunately, this has resulted in unsubstantiated claims and cases of greenwashing. These guidelines will help consumers be confident in their decisions and will aid business in making the right choices,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

“Currently, TEC is helping to educate both business and their consumers about false and misleading environmental claims through our business program Green Capital and the upcoming Carbon Offset Watch,” stated Mr. Angel.

Green Capital will be running events in August in both Sydney and Melbourne, aimed at educating marketing professionals on the perils of inappropriate claims, the importance of establishing loyalties of the ‘green’ consumers of today and providing strategies to avoid greenwashing.

Carbon Offset Watch, to be released in August, is a ranking of carbon offset products on the basis of their environmental quality to help consumers navigate through the number of products and claims that currently exist.

“TEC has been fighting a battle against greenwash and pressuring the emerging industries to do the right thing. These guidelines could not have come at a better time,” said Mr. Angel.



# Latest News

## Green Businesses should be Supported, not Scorned



*Created on Thursday, 10 April 2008 22:08*

Cost-effective funding for innovative energy and water savings projects that wouldn't otherwise occur raises the bar for industry and benefits the whole community, TEC said.

"The NSW Government is right to offer the carrot as well as the stick," said Jane Castle, TEC Energy Campaigner. "Responsible support for businesses trying to go green is a legitimate part of the climate change response. This is not a lot of money we're talking about compared to the economic devastation that climate change will wreak if we don't act."

"The Green Business Program rules out funding for programs that would have happened anyway, so this is encouraging businesses to go that bit further. It also requires businesses to contribute to the level of any savings made within a 2 year period. So calling it hand-outs for multi-nationals is simply rubbish."

"The Fund also provides critical support for the emergent energy efficiency industry. Building that sector up so that it can compete with cheap, polluting coal-fired power is essential if we're to tackle our greenhouse emissions."

"The Fund is triggering innovations and setting new benchmarks. Mirvac's ground-breaking tri-generation system is a good example, combining heating, cooling, hot water, and power from a single low emission gas-fired source, and increasing energy efficiency by up to 80 per cent."

"Changing the culture of businesses is not simple. One of the main barriers to energy and water efficiency is other competing investments. The Green Business Program helps businesses to change their priorities. Triggering such deep cultural changes should be supported."

The Green Business Program is so far saving 164 million litres of drinking water and 36,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year. It provides \$6 million per year for five years for projects that will save water and energy in business operations in NSW.

# Latest News

## Climate Change Action and Costa's Mickey Mouse Economics



*Created on Friday, 04 April 2008 22:13*

“We challenge him to release all of the Treasury modelling, rather than selected bits so the assumptions and inputs can be independently reviewed and put in a real world context. As a known climate change sceptic and avowed champion of polluting coal power and its privatisation, he has no credibility in this debate,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

“He throws big figures around but the real impact over such a long period is very, very small. Significant economic and individual income growth continues. And major new green industry is created. Costa is a man of the past, out of touch with the future.”

“He has also thrown up the bogey of scaring off investment, because of sovereign risk. This is nonsense and echoes the ridiculous claims of the mining industry when new environmental laws were being brought in the 1990s. If they had been right we would not have the mining boom we now have,” Mr Angel said.

“My position on privatisation and through participation in the Unsworth Committee is clear. New South Wales should not be out there claiming free permits for the polluting coal fired generators. It would be an obscene gift of cash, when as Professor Garnaut in his review of an emissions trading scheme has said – electricity prices will still increase,” Mr Angel concluded.

# Latest News

## Property Groups Unite to Tackle Climate Change



*Created on Thursday, 03 April 2008 23:19*

Through the Existing Buildings Project, a landmark collaboration between the Total Environment Centre and the commercial property sector, 25 property groups accounting for around 75% of Australia's total investment grade office stock are gathering today to explore how office buildings can become part of the solution to climate change.

"Together with pledges already given by the GPT Group, Macquarie Office Trust, the Australian Prime Property Fund (Lend Lease), the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Becton Property Group, this is the biggest push yet by the office property sector," said Jeff Angel, the Executive Director of Total Environment Centre.

These commitments cover almost 70 office buildings throughout Australia's major cities and collectively account for almost 10% of Australia's investment grade office floor space. "If all office building owners and their tenants upgraded their buildings to an Australian Greenhouse Building Rating of 4.5 it would be the emissions equivalent of retiring almost all of Australia's heavy trucking fleet."

Through energy use alone, office buildings account for around 3.5% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions. This figure grows considerably once the emissions associated with the materials and processes required to construct office buildings are considered.

"Recognition of the embodied emissions of building stock creates a crucial role for 'existing buildings' in Australia's response to climate change," said Mr. Angel.

Whilst recent years have witnessed the rise of 'green buildings' the fact that up to 98% of floor space consists of 'existing buildings' (buildings built without sustainability considerations in mind) ensures that emissions reductions can only come from upgrading existing building stock.

"Replacing existing stock with new 'green buildings' would be an impossible step. On one estimate, a new building built to achieve and maintain an ABGR of 5.0 would not repay its embodied emissions for almost 300 years."

"Maximising the contribution that property can make to emissions reductions will require the upgrading of Australia's existing building stock. The greenest buildings are existing buildings that have been upgraded to achieve substantial gains in emissions performance. Organisations looking to reduce their carbon footprint should not be commissioning the construction of new 'green buildings.' They should be asking for the upgrading of existing buildings," Mr. Angel said.

The Existing Buildings Project is being funded by a NSW Government Climate Action Grant.

# Latest News

## Garnaut on Emissions Trading Makes Sense



*Created on Friday, 21 March 2008 03:44*

“We’ve seen a big push by the coal power lobby for free permits and support from state officials in the last few weeks – but Garnaut makes sense of the white noise. Free permits will not mean lower electricity prices and auctioning them creates a big pool of funds to help low income people and restructure our economy into a green economy,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre.

“It’s pleasing that Prof Garnaut’s report is broadly in line with the key tests for an emissions trading scheme, just released by major environment groups. There’s not much point going to all the trouble of establishing an emissions trading scheme and then negating its environmental results by doing deals with the polluters to carry on business as usual.”

“There’s still a long road to travel on an ETS and no doubt lots of politics. We’re determined to stay the course and ensure the most important environmental reform this country has ever seen, won’t be sabotaged by fossil fuel polluters wanting to prevent the rapid emergence of commercially viable zero and low emission energy and significant reductions in the carbon intensity of the economy,” Mr Angel said.

# Latest News

## Key Tests for Emissions Trading



*Created on Thursday, 06 March 2008 22:40*

Jeff Angel, Executive Director, of Total Environment Centre said: "This is the beginning of a year long campaign to get an effective, efficient and equitable scheme to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The scale of threat from global warming requires an ambitious response from the economy that is linked to strong 2020 and 2050 targets. We'll be opposing free permits generally; and get out of jail cards for coal power plants - which will simply nullify the purpose of a scheme."

Ben Pearson Energy Campaigner, Greenpeace Australia said: "An environmentally credible emissions trading scheme can be an important tool in reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. However, we must also recognise that a broad range of complementary measures will be needed, if we are to reduce Australia's emissions by the amount necessary to avoid dangerous climate change."

Julie Anne Richards, of Climate Action Network Australia, representing over 50 NGOs said: "Australia needs to be a leader and do its fair share to keep the climate safe. A good Australian scheme will feed into a strong global agreement which, as Professor Garnaut pointed out, is vitally important for Australia. It's important that any emissions trading scheme ensures we reduce emissions in a fair manner, in particular with regard to low income people."

The key tests (attached) include:

- targets
- permit allocation rules
- adjustment measures for trade-exposed energy-intensive industries
- coverage of the economy
- penalties and safety valves
- international links and offsets
- governance

Key Tests for an Australian Emissions Trading Scheme

# Latest News

## Office Towers Go Green



*Created on Thursday, 13 December 2007 20:17*

"We welcome the leadership that commercial property is taking in the fight against global warming – it's a landmark for the property sector and Australia's battle against climate change," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

The collaboration (Existing Buildings Project: Commercial Property and Climate Change) involves the Australian Prime Property Fund (Lend Lease), Becton Property Group, The GPT Group, Local Government Superannuation Scheme, and Macquarie Office Trust, who have committed to upgrade the greenhouse gas emission performance of their existing office buildings to challenging levels of performance.

"This scheme involves 68 office buildings throughout Australia's capital cities that collectively account for over one eighth of Australia's entire investment grade office floor space. Estimated initial savings from base buildings alone are over 50,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year".

"Recently, the trend has been to erect new 'green buildings', and while this is encouraging, up to 98% of existing floor space is accounted for by inefficient property stock. The most climate friendly buildings are existing buildings that have been retrofitted and upgraded to achieve significant greenhouse emission abatement, because new buildings require new materials and construction which accounts for a lot of greenhouse gas emissions".

"In the past few years we have witnessed the rise of both public and private sector concern about the greenhouse performance of office buildings. Emissions from the non-residential building sector, of which office buildings are the largest contributor, are predicted to double from 1990 levels by 2010. Action is urgent," Mr Angel said.

"If all Australian office buildings were upgraded to achieve an ABGR of 4.5, Australia could achieve emissions reductions commensurate with taking almost its entire heavy trucking fleet off its roads."

Michael Richardson, APPF Commercial Portfolio Manager: "Becoming a formal participant allows us to engage with the investment community, via an independent framework, on methods to optimise both environmental and economic outcomes for the benefit of all stakeholders."

Brian Harris, Chair of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme: "Sustainable investing is a key concern for our members and one of our prime objectives, as such the Local Government Superannuation Scheme is delighted to participate in this initiative."

Adrian Taylor, CEO of Macquarie Office Trust: "Macquarie Office Trust welcomes the opportunity to publicly commit to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and I commend the leadership demonstrated by the participants of the TEC's - Existing Buildings Project."

Tony Cope, GPT Group's Head of Office: "The greatest challenge facing the property industry today is to make a quantum step in greening existing buildings to ensure they are sustainable in the future, this program is providing that framework."

Hamish Macdonald, CEO of Becton Property Group: "Becton is exploring and introducing exciting environmentally focused initiatives across all parts of our business. While these activities are a solid start to achieving true environmental sustainability, the important journey we have committed to is just beginning."

Other property groups have signed up to participate in a workshop series to be held throughout 2008 to learn about the driving factors behind the upgrading of existing buildings and how they can take the practical steps to improve the emissions profile of their assets.

The project is being funded by a NSW Government Climate Action Grant.

For a full list of buildings click here [PDF 18.2Kb].

For a list of Frequently Asked Questions click here [\[PDF 34.2Kb\]](#).

# Latest News

## Greenhouse and energy efficiency tests for NSW privatisation



*Created on Tuesday, 11 December 2007 02:27*

“Announcements by the Premier lemma about major new initiatives on energy efficiency and renewable energy are on the right track, but will need to be carefully checked, along with effective implementation procedures,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of TEC.

“It’s essential that privatisation does not encourage more coal power or further unabated growth in electricity consumption. These two factors are responsible for our spiralling greenhouse gas emissions, leading to the double whammy of environmental damage and unnecessary investment in new infrastructure, resulting in rising prices.”

“We need an electricity industry that is working with climate change policies. We would also require iron clad commitments from government to not give the new private owners indemnity against state environmental regulation or future carbon costs, or special favours with the new national emissions trading scheme.”



# Latest News

## Nation's economy will thrive with emissions trading



*Created on Monday, 16 July 2007 21:08*

“Quick action on targets and emissions trading will benefit Australia, both environmentally and economically. It will grow small and medium businesses; and could also make Australia the regional hub for carbon trading services. Thousands of jobs are also at risk if we don't act now,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Centre.

“Consumers will also benefit by having access to energy efficiency and if transport is included, the motor industry will have to increase the fuel economy of cars.”

The review outlines the costs of not taking any action and exposes the inadequate government information currently available. Reviews such as those by ABARE do not consider the benefits that are associated with emissions trading.

The TEC review also suggests up to \$1.5 billion dollars could be lost from tourism associated with the Great Barrier Reef alone, and \$17 billion worth of agricultural export will be placed at risk when temperatures rise, just a few degrees. Thousands of jobs are also at risk.

“Australian industry can avoid a ‘carbon-debt shock’ if we have a head-start in the inevitable shift to a low carbon economy. The rapid, mandatory application of deep carbon cuts and negative economic impacts later can be avoided, by taking action here and now,” Mr. Angel said.

# Latest News

## QANTAS Tree Planting: don't use dubious carbon offsets



*Created on Wednesday, 27 June 2007 22:08*

“Attempting to reduce emissions by paying people to plant trees is plagued with difficulties. There are many risks meaning that there’s no way of knowing that the offset will actually deliver what is being claimed. Trees can take up to 100 years to absorb the carbon from a flight, yet the global warming crisis needs to be addressed in the next 10 to 15 years,” said Jeff Angel, Director of TEC.

“Who will be checking to see that the trees haven’t died, been burnt down or bulldozed during the time it takes for them to absorb emissions?”

“Tree planting should be the last resort and only a very small part of reducing emissions. Investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency through Government accredited schemes is a far more effective way to address global warming. We need to be transforming core infrastructure, not providing feel-good band-aids.”

“QANTAS should be showing leadership by offering high quality offsets, not just playing follow the leader. Otherwise they risk putting consumers off. If the sector is tainted with uncertainty, passengers will lose confidence and this will affect the reputation of Qantas and the offset industry as a whole.”

“Emissions from aviation should be included in a robust emissions trading scheme, but people want to take action now. The enthusiasm to reduce personal emissions should not be dampened by poor schemes.”

TEC’s report, Carbon Neutral Watch – corporates, consultants and credibility, points out the conflicting methodologies for offset approval, accreditation and monitoring processes amongst 17 companies and the numerous problems with tree planting.

# Latest News

## Offset or Off Put? The carbon offset market report



*Created on Thursday, 24 May 2007 21:24*

Carbon Neutral Watch\* – corporates, consultants and credibility points out the conflicting methodologies for offset approval, accreditation and monitoring processes amongst 17 companies. “These all contribute to an alarming chasm of credibility and that can become a reputational risk to the organisations who buy them,” said Jeff Angel, Director at the Total Environment Centre. “In its worst light offsets that are not robustly reviewed and assured, can be viewed as greenwash.”

“Then there are trees,” said Jeff Angel. “Carbon sequestration offsets or tree-plantings are plagued with difficulties. Accounting for the carbon varies, then there is the lack of regulation, assurance and insurance to ensure that the offset will actually deliver what it says over the entire life of the tree, regardless of weather conditions or fire.”

“To add confusion to the mix, there are currently, 4 offset accreditation schemes in operation in Australia and another 4 voluntary schemes under development overseas. It is becoming increasingly difficult to know which one is most reliable.”

However, the offset picture isn't completely bleak. “Offsets can be a good way to change behaviour and increase resource efficiencies in organisations,” said Mr Angel. “They can create change, but it must be done in a credible fashion. Otherwise there is a real risk of claims of greenwash and an erosion of consumer confidence.”

“There is a general misunderstanding in the public domain around offsets - that it is all about trees. Which is understandable—consumers get trees. We have concluded that trees should be a last resort, if at all - whereas, carbon neutrality via energy efficiency programs and renewable energy that reduce emissions immediately are a much better option.”

“Of course we would prefer that companies reduce their impact by switching to renewable power and implementing resource efficiency programs (reducing energy, water, and other materials),” he said. “This would demonstrate a change in organisational behaviour and a real commitment, rather than tinkering around the edges with dubious offsets and continuing to emit carbon dioxide.”

The report was released in conjunction with the Green Capital seminar called Going Carbon Neutral – reality or hot air? “This issue has attracted over 700 people from corporate, government and environmental organisations to discuss it in three capital cities over the next two weeks, which demonstrates the level of concern and the need for clarity.”

\* Note: The Report contains updated information on the services offered by Carbon Planet.

# Latest News

## Greenhouse target debate needs to be resolved



*Created on Wednesday, 04 April 2007 20:34*

“There’s too much talk and too little action while we have the phoney war over targets. Australia needs to set robust targets for 2020 and 2050. The Prime Minister is trying to make the debate about economic management and the ALP, for election purposes – but we need to get to the real issue about protecting our economy from global warming,” said Jeff Angel Director of the Centre.

“Our analysis of the emissions trading scheme developed by the states shows it would not meet its proposed target of 60% below 2000 levels by 2050, nor the types of targets being talked about for 2020. Our federal leaders need to improve on the scheme.”

“Unless we have a scheme with effective targets then we will go to a lot of effort without much result. The current shenanigans are a recipe for business, community and government confusion.”

“We are releasing the briefing notes in the run up to the report by the PM’s emissions trading taskforce expected mid-year. Even though the PM refused to allow environment group representation on the taskforce, we are going to make sure we have a voice in the public debate,” Mr Angel said.

# Latest News

## Call for no carbon indemnity



*Created on Friday, 09 March 2007 00:57*

“This is the ultimate test for the Parties to prove they’re serious about climate change”, said Jeff Angel, TEC Director. “Back-room promises to protect dirty coal-fired power and industries must be ruled out. Meddling in the market place undermines the Government’s own climate change policies and the NSW Government led National Emissions Trading Scheme”.

Recently the NSW Government promised to exempt Bluescope Steel’s Port Kembla plant from any future carbon tax for the next 25 years. This will result in 10.7 million tonnes of CO2 going into the atmosphere every year, a staggering 7 percent of NSW’s total greenhouse emissions.

“By protecting polluters, the NSW government is telling dirty industry not to worry about climate change. It is also damaging the renewable energy industry, which should be taking up the slack as dirty coal-fired power is phased out.”

“Indemnifications and exemptions for polluting industries are in sharp conflict with NSW’s greenhouse reduction targets and an efficient and effective energy market.”

TEC is calling for both Parties to commit to:

- No indemnifications of any conventional coal-fired power station or other energy intensive projects against future carbon costs
- No interference with supply contracts between retailers and energy generators
- Refraining from any other form of indemnification, exemption or interference in the viability of fossil fuel power or energy intensive industries.

# Latest News

## Premier Raises Bid for Climate but More to Do



*Created on Wednesday, 28 February 2007 03:06*

“The stakes have been raised but the trump cards for climate change are still to be delivered,” said Jeff Angel, TEC Director.

“Despite the Opposition’s efforts to lead on water and solar homes, they need to commit to 30% greenhouse cuts to prove they’re serious. And Peter Debnam’s pledge to sack the Cabinet Office – and along with it the NSW Greenhouse Office - is a poor proposal that will wipe out crucial government expertise on climate change. NSW has been the main architect of a national emissions trading scheme, through the Cabinet Office.”

“The Government’s commitment to reassess legislated renewable energy and greenhouse targets is also a step in the right direction. Both currently fall short of what’s needed and as new information on global warming becomes available, it is sensible to keep the options open.”

“The solar hot water rebate is long overdue and will help close the gap between electric and solar. However, we question the rebate for conversion from electric to gas hot water. Gas hot water still produces substantial greenhouse emissions and energy bills. Given 25% of household energy use is for heating water, they shouldn’t stop half-way.”

“Solar hot water should be mandatory for all new homes, rather than being optional under the current Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) scheme.”

To address climate change, NSW environment groups are calling for:

- \* Legislated greenhouse emissions reductions of 30% by 2020
- \* Zero energy growth by 2010
- \* 25% renewable energy by 2020
- \* A moratorium on new coal fired power and coal mines
- \* A transport strategy to reverse growth in greenhouse pollution
- \* A genuine end to land clearing

# Latest News

## States set emissions trading deadline of 2010



*Created on Wednesday, 14 February 2007 04:18*

Total Environment Centre today welcomed the announcement by all Australian states and territories that they would proceed with an emissions trading scheme if the Commonwealth failed to act. "The current policy of PM Howard and his narrowly based taskforce is to delay and delay. While there is still much to do on targets and coverage for a scheme, the pressure from the states is most helpful to the national debate."  
States' communique (9/2/07)

# Latest News

## 30% greenhouse cut call to parties



*Created on Friday, 09 February 2007 02:04*

“All parties have finally started talking about climate change. Now it’s time for them to act. We need laws to cut our greenhouse pollution by 30 per cent by 2020,” Cate Faehrmann, Director of the NSW Nature Conservation Council said today.

“If Iemma and Debnam are serious about showing leadership on climate change, both need to commit to introduce laws to reduce our greenhouse pollution by 30 per cent before the state election,” Ms Faehrmann said.

“We are proposing to spend billions to cater for increased electricity use production when we are among the most inefficient energy users in the world. We could spend much less on dramatically increasing our energy efficiency, and not burn more coal. NSW should set a binding efficiency target,” Jeff Angel of the Total Environment Centre said today.

“If we’re going to reduce greenhouse pollution by 30% we need to move on from burning and exporting coal,” Greenpeace climate campaigner Mark Wakeham said.

“The proposed Anvil Hill coal mine is a key test of the whether or not Labor and Liberal are fair dinkum about reducing greenhouse pollution and making the shift from coal to clean renewable energy,” Mr Wakeham said.

“We have excellent renewable energy potential in NSW, but home-grown companies like Solar Heat & Power are moving overseas. We’re spending big on prime-time renewable energy TV ads, but all we’ve seen is a weak policy proposal that won’t keep renewable energy companies in NSW,” Phil Freeman from the Australian Conservation Foundation said today.

“Land clearing is also contributing to greenhouse gas pollution in NSW as trees are bulldozed and burnt or left to rot. Currently, 2 million cars worth of greenhouse gas pollution is created every year this way”, Reece Turner of the Wilderness Society said today.

30% briefing note



# Latest News

## Premier's leadership awards



*Created on Thursday, 23 November 2006 00:35*

The NSW Premier will be recognising leadership in climate change action. To nominate see [here](#).

# Latest News

## PM's emissions trading move – wedge or winner?



*Created on Tuesday, 14 November 2006 22:47*

“The PM is a master at appearing to act. Whether he is continuing to pursue his old policies of delaying action and maximising fossil fuel use will depend on how quick he acts in setting a cap on emissions and an early date for a national emissions trading scheme,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Centre.

“He also needs to involve environment groups in his new taskforce – after all it is the environment movement that has propelled emissions trading to public acceptance; we understand the mechanics and economic factors very well. It will also show he is not using distracting and wedge tactics.”

“If the PM is seeking to drive a wedge between leading business and environment groups who have supported emissions trading, then he will fail to convince the community he is genuine. He is playing catch up but I can assure him the community is so far out in front that it is not going to wait for him to procrastinate and mute the debate on global warming.”

Environment groups have undertaken detailed research into emissions trading over the last two years; have agreed on a set of principles and undertaken detailed economic modelling. It's quite clear that a 60% reduction target for 2050 can be achieved without any significant adverse economic impacts and a carbon price through emissions trading is the most efficient tool.

# Latest News

## Stern Report Highlights Howard's Climate Shame



*Created on Wednesday, 01 November 2006 01:22*

The Report calls for emissions trading and 80% cuts to greenhouse emissions to achieve stabilisation. In contrast, the Government continues to block emissions trading while greenhouse emissions continue to spiral.

“The contrast between the Stern Report and John Howard’s failure to act is vast,” said Jane Castle, Total Environment Centre campaigner. “The Government has been dangerously irresponsible and has got the economics terribly wrong. By refusing to sign Kyoto or put a price on emissions, Howard is leading us into economic and environmental ruin.”

“Peter Costello and Ian McFarlane’s claims that we are on track to meet our target are dangerously misleading. Federal Government's own modelling shows that Australia's emissions are set to rise 122% by 2020. This is a very long way from the 80% cuts that the Stern Report is calling for.”

“Australia needs to end its self-imposed exile and sign Kyoto. We also need an ambitious renewable energy target, action on public transport, a mandatory national energy efficiency target and an emissions trading scheme with a target to reduce emissions by 80%.”

“Australia is like an iceberg drifting about in a warming sea of inadequate policies.”

# Latest News

## Getting to grips with the fuel crisis



*Created on Wednesday, 09 August 2006 03:35*

The Centre's Green Capital Program, has set up a project for business and environment groups to work together on the twin problems of increasing demand for oil and dwindling reserves that are driving higher fuel prices.

"As we are already seeing, increased prices affect different sectors as well as a general impact on macro-economic indicators and policy. We are keen to see what the risks and opportunities are for environmental sustainability. We can't just let the situation run away from us," Mr Angel said.

"We will be receiving briefings from the team at Sydney University and CSIRO that delivered the widely reported 'Balancing Act' with a quantitative index of sectors ranked by exposure to liquid fuel costs and expert risk analysis by leading economists Dr Shane Oliver of AMP Capital Investors and Jeff Oughton of National Australia Bank."

"The results will be part of 'Fuelling the Future, Clean Solutions for Crude Problems', to be held on the 29th August in Sydney and 5 September in Melbourne.

"Environmentalists are as much concerned about economics as the condition of the environment, as we are well aware of the interactions between the two. We want to be part of the solution in a way that advances environmental sustainability, as opposed to making it an option that is discarded at the first panic about oil supplies," Mr Angel said.

For more information on Fuelling the Future, please go to: <http://www.greencapital.org.au/>

# Latest News

## The Crucial Role of 'Existing Buildings'



Created on Thursday, 01 June 2006 10:00

Recognition of the 'embodied emissions' of office buildings creates a crucial role for 'existing buildings' in Australia's response to climate change. While recent years have witnessed the rise of 'green buildings', the fact that up to 98% of floor space consists of 'existing buildings' (buildings built without sustainability considerations in mind) ensures that emissions reductions can only come from upgrading existing building stock.

Moreover, because of the embodied emissions of office buildings, replacing existing stock with new 'green buildings' would be a backward step. On one estimate, a new building built to achieve and maintain an NABERS Energy rating of 5.0 would not repay its embodied energy for almost 300 years\*.

The embodied emissions in Australia's existing building stock is a sunk cost that needs to be capitalised upon in order to maximise the contribution of property to Australian emission reduction. The greenest buildings are existing buildings that have been upgraded to achieve substantial gains in emissions performance.

Organisations looking to reduce their carbon footprint should not be commissioning the construction of new 'green buildings'. They should be asking for the upgrade of existing building stock.

\*Roussac, C. 2006. *Existing buildings, the greenest buildings*. Property Australia. v.21. no.4. pp.84-85. December 2006/January 2007. Property Council of Australia.

# Latest News

## Are we facing a warmer summer?



*Created on Wednesday, 01 September 1999 10:00*

The previous projections were for a global mean temperature increase between 0.8 and 3.5 degrees C, but the new projections are for 1.3 to 4.0 degrees C. This warming is at a rate 2 to 7 times more rapid than that of the 20th century.

The effects of global warming are predicted to include a rise in sea levels as the water becomes warmer; shifting climatic zones that change how and where we grow our food; and the spread of disease as temperatures rise.

"But the news is not all bad. It is possible to reduce production of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming" said Kathy Fook, of the Community Information Project on Sustainable Energy (CIPSE). "The average home uses around 8,500 kWh of electricity every year, which costs about \$750, and generates over 18 tonnes of greenhouse gases."

"But just by adopting a few 'Energy Smart' measures, energy consumption can be reduced by about 1,300 kWh, saving the householder around \$150 every year, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions".

Energy Smart measures include fitting efficient shower heads, door seals and draught stoppers, compact fluorescent lighting, ceiling insulation, and tap aerators on the bathroom basin and kitchen sink. Using energy efficient appliances and solar hot water also helps.

\*The study - "The Science of Climate Change: Global and US Perspectives" was conducted and written by the National Center for Atmospheric Research for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

CIPSE's free booklet 'Greenhouse & energy: what you can do' and guides to energy efficient fridges and freezers, air-conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, and dishwashers, are available by contacting CIPSE at the Total Environment Centre on 9299 0189.

# Latest News

## Carr should lead on greenhouse



*Created on Tuesday, 08 May 2001 10:00*

"Bob Carr is the nation's political leader on greenhouse. NSW is the premier greenhouse state economy and has adopted leading environmental policies. However, these new warnings from the CSIRO require enhanced government action. We call on Premier Carr to announce stricter emission benchmarks for the electricity sector; new financial incentives, including removal of the EDL levy from Green Energy and a major energy conservation program for Sydney's CBD," said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

"We should aim for 20% of electricity to be supplied from renewable sources by 2010. A TEC study found this was practical and would create thousands of new jobs."

"Actions to halt NSW's land clearing must also be a top priority action for the Government," said Kathy Ridge, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council.

"Massive amounts of greenhouse gases are released when the bulldozers and chainsaws move in. Clearing affects regional environmental sustainability and the climate change impacts will reduce agricultural productivity. We need clear and effective conservation targets; financial help for farmers that embrace vegetation protection; and more active prosecutions for those who persist in breaching clearing laws."

The Government's new Environment Statement, to be released soon, is the appropriate vehicle to announce new greenhouse policies, the two groups said.