

Tuesday 17 January 2011

Solar North East Project Saves up to \$5,000 to go Solar

Solar energy systems are now more affordable thanks to the benefits of bulk purchasing through the *Solar North East Project*. The program operates across the 7 council areas of Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga and is funded by a \$500,000 grant received under the Solar Photovoltaic Community Hubs program through Sustainability Victoria.

Over 30 solar installations have been made across North East Victoria since the program began in May 2011. Indigo Shire is now leading the tally for solar energy systems with 13 already installed and 11 families signed up and waiting for their system.

Rebates up to \$4,000 are available via the Government’s Small Scale Technology Certificates, depending on the size of the solar system installed, as well as a program discount of up to \$1000 which will be available until December 2012.

WAW Credit Union has been chosen as a project partner and is offering low interest finance packages to help residents make the move to solar power. Following a rigorous selection process to ensure high quality systems, best value for money and excellent customer service, *Solar North East* and Indigo Shire have endorsed ZEN Home Energy Systems as the supplier for the program.

“The Solar North East program provides a range of support to residents and businesses to reduce their energy consumption and determine the most suitable solar system to generate their own electricity, thereby saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.” Said Tamsin Greenwood, Solar Ambassador for Indigo Shire.

Solar North East and ZEN Home Energy Systems will be running information sessions around the Shire to give residents and businesses the opportunity to drop in and find out more about solar energy systems. Remember to bring along your electricity bill to help determine your daily energy usage. Dates for the information sessions are as follows:

- **Chiltern Senior Citizens Centre, Tuesday 7 February, 3pm-7pm**
- **Beechworth Town Hall, Wednesday 8 February, 3pm-7pm**
- **Yackandandah Public Hall, Thursday 9 February, 3pm-7pm**
- **Rutherglen Library, Wednesday 22 February, 3pm-7pm**

For more information please contact Solar Ambassador for Indigo Shire, Tamsin Greenwood: (02) 6028 1100, 04 2760 8298, tgreenwood@indigoshire.vic.gov.au, or drop in to the Yackandandah Indigo Shire Office on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Visit www.solarnortheast.com.au to register for a free site inspection.

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Caption: Roy and Jan Cockram of Rutherglen have installed a 1.5 kW system to cover 70% of their energy usage.