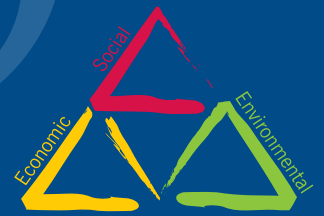


E-NEWSLETTER:
December '08



smart&sustainable
HOMES

Welcome

to the December 2008 edition of the Smart and Sustainable Homes e-newsletter.

We have had a very busy year with a number of display homes opening and closing. The visitation numbers have been excellent which is a great endorsement for the program and all the hard work that goes into each of the display homes. We will continue to spread the word in 2009 as we have some exciting projects in the pipeline. We look forward to bringing you news of these as they develop. The two renovation projects are progressing—keep an eye on the website and newsletter for updates and display details. Thank you for your support and interest over the last 12 months.

The Smart and Sustainable Homes team wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. Regards Ros and Isabella

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SSH WINS!!

The Smart and Sustainable Homes program has success at Premier's Awards

Full story on page 2...

Sustainable homes

Display homes currently open

Sustainable Home Toowoomba

308 Ramsay Street, Toowoomba

Sustainable Home Toowoomba has had over 18 000 visitors since it opened in August 2007. It is open from 10am to 4pm Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment.



Sustainable Home Doonella Noosa

Cnr. Jacksonia and Sea Eagle Drive, Noosaville

Sustainable Home Doonella Noosa has had over 5000 visitors since it opened to the public on 6 September 2008. It is open for display to the public seven days a week, 11am to 5pm.





Sustainable homes



Projects closed

Sustainable Home Caboolture

Sustainable Home Caboolture closed on 31 October 2008. It received over 1600 visitors since it opened in early March 2008.



Upcoming projects

Sustainable Home Spring Hill Enviro-Cottage

The Sustainable Home Spring Hill Enviro-Cottage is a renovation project revitalising an old Queensland workers cottage.

The objective is to turn one of Brisbane's oldest traditional residential properties into a showcase of sustainable development and environmentally friendly living.

Despite a fire causing considerable damage to the cottage, the project is now back on track. In November, the cottage was lifted into place and now waits for supports to be constructed.



Check out the Sustainable Home Spring Hill Enviro-Cottage newsletter for up-to-date information on progress of the renovations: www.sustainable-homes.org.au/00_downloads/Spring%20Hill%20Enviro-Cottage%20Project%20Newsletter%200811.pdf

For more information visit: www.envirocottage.com.au or www.sustainable-homes.org.au

Sustainable homes



St George

Northern hairy-nosed wombat habitat

A new habitat is being created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) north of St George for the preservation of the northern hairy-nosed wombat. SALA Homes has won the tender to construct the home/office on site. Once the design for the home is completed by SALA, it will be submitted to the Smart and Sustainable Homes Steering Committee for review and endorsement to be part of the program. Watch for progress on our website.

For more information on the northern hairy-nosed wombat, visit: www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/wildlife/threatened_plants_and_animals/endangered/northern_hairynosed_wombat_emlasiorhinus_krefftii/em/

For more information on the homes and the program visit: www.sustainable-homes.org.au

Latest news



Smart and Sustainable Homes WINS Premier's Awards

The presentation of the 2008 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management was held on Tuesday 9 December.

The awards recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of work units and teams within the Queensland public sector who continue to strive for excellence, best practice management and improvements in services and public sector management.

The Smart and Sustainable Homes Program won from a pool of four finalists in the Sustainable Environment Category.

A big thank you to everyone involved in the program, especially the members of our Steering Committee for their support and commitment to the program.



L to R: Mike Roberts (HIA), Premier Anna Bligh, Shawn Godwin (AIA), Michael Ball (DPW), Katie Bickford (Lend Lease), Ros Rees (DPW), Isabella Manetti (DPW), Lynn Whitfield (EPA)

Photo courtesy of Tony Phillips for the Queensland Government





Latest news

Living Laboratory's new website

The Smart and Sustainable Homes program is supporting research at the Living Laboratory home in the Ecovillage at Currumbin. A new website has been launched for information and helpful tips on sustainable living and green building. Visit the website to find out more about the Living Laboratory and the Ecovillage.

Visit the new website: www.sustainablegreen.com.au



Queensland news

Queensland homes go green

Premier

The Honourable Anna Bligh

14/12/2008

All new houses in Queensland will be required to achieve a minimum 5 stars (out of 10) energy equivalent rating from early next year under new sustainable housing regulations.

Premier Anna Bligh said the 5-star rating—which will also apply to major renovations where possible—is just one of several new mandatory regulations covering house design and construction, and energy and water fixtures and fittings.

“If we want to build a greener future for Queensland, the change has to start at home,” said Ms Bligh.

“One of our targets under the *Towards Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* program is to cut the State's carbon footprint by a third and these measures will reduce the amount of electricity we use.

“From 1 March 2009, the current minimum rating will be increased to 5 stars instead of the current 3.5 to 4.

“This rating applies to the building shell: roof, walls, windows and floors.

“It means architects and designers will need to give more thought to the orientation of the house, location of rooms, amount of insulation, ventilation, shading such as eaves and awnings, and window location and size.

“This will increase the natural comfort of homes and lower energy use by reducing the need for air conditioners and heaters.

“We expect this will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 85,000 tonnes by 2020—equivalent to taking 17,000 cars off the road.”

Ms Bligh said the higher rating would also apply to all new units from 1 March 2010.

The announcement of the new regulations follows three months of public consultation on a discussion paper—*Improving sustainable housing in Queensland*—which proposed 11 new measures.

Nearly all the proposed measures were strongly supported by the community and building industry stakeholders and will be implemented over the next two years.

They also include:

Better recognition of outdoor living areas: From 1 March 2009, outdoor living areas connected to an indoor living area of a new or extensively renovated house will attract a credit towards its energy equivalence rating. This credit will only apply to fully-covered outdoor living areas that are at least 12 m² in size and attached to homes in the ‘tropical’ and ‘sub-tropical’ climate zones (prescribed by Building Codes Australia). The Department of Infrastructure and Planning will consult with the building industry on whether the credit should be 0.5 star or 1 star.

4-star toilets, 3-star tapware and 80 per cent energy-efficient lighting in new houses and units: From 1 March 2009, all new houses and units will be required to install minimum 4-star Water Efficient Labelling Standards (WELS) Scheme rated toilets, 3-star WELS rated tapware to kitchen sinks, bathroom basins and laundry taps, and energy-efficient lighting to 80 per cent of fixed internal lights. Irrigation systems—in areas of Queensland where they are not prohibited under water restrictions—will also be required to be water-efficient, e.g. low-flow systems.

Prevention of residential estate covenants that restrict the use of energy-efficient design features and fixtures: Laws will be introduced as quickly as possible to render invalid new and existing covenants and body corporate statements or by-laws that restrict an owner or body corporate from using selected sustainable features, such as roof-mounted solar hot water systems.

Preventing the sale and installation of inefficient air-conditioners: From 1 July 2009, newly installed air-conditioners will be required to meet 4-star Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). Laws will also be introduced to prohibit the sale of air-conditioners in Queensland that do not meet this minimum rating.

Sustainability declaration: From 1 January 2010, a sustainability declaration must be completed as part of the sale of a house or unit. It will not form part of the contract of sale, but rather serve to inform prospective buyers about the sustainability features of the dwelling. This requirement will not apply to rental properties.

“There will be further investigations and consultation on other measures such as a star rating for building materials, minimum energy ratings for pool pumps, and higher performance standards for large new homes,” Ms Bligh said.



Latest news



Fuel cell trial—a first for Australia

Minister for Mines and Energy
The Honourable Geoff Wilson

30/10/2008

Ergon Energy has embarked on an Australia-first, by hooking up a hydrogen fuel cell in a Cairns display home to generate electricity into the supply network, Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson said today. Minister Wilson, in Cairns for the historic sitting of State Parliament, said the ground-breaking technology had the potential to be used in remote communities on the fringes of the electricity network.

“Hydrogen fuel cells are an exciting generation concept,” Mr Wilson said. “They combine compressed hydrogen and oxygen from the air to produce electricity, water and heat with no greenhouse gas emissions,” he said.

Mr Wilson said Ergon Energy would install a residential-sized hydrogen fuel cell into the display home at Trinity Park.

“The fuel cell will run for about two hours a day to demonstrate the supply of electricity direct to the customer’s premises.

“On-site generation means that instead of drawing from the main electricity grid, a household will be able to generate its own power and reduce the load on the network.

“It’s an instant start. It doesn’t have to warm up and it’s not dependent on sun or wind to generate power,” Mr Wilson said.

Fuel cells are designed so that power can be available, on demand, 24 hours a day.

“There’s real potential for this type of cutting-edge technology to be used elsewhere in the network, particularly in remote regions,” he said.

“If successful, it could reduce the need to build bigger powerlines and infrastructure and that means huge savings.

“The use of hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity into a large network is a first for Australia and it will be happening right here in far north Queensland.

“It’s appropriate that the trial is taking place here in the electorate of Barron River because the local member, Steve Wettenhall is a passionate advocate for tackling climate change through alternative energy sources,” Mr Wilson said.

Brick factory achieves 88% water savings

Previously Austral Bricks’ Riverview plant’s mains water usage averaged 16 000 to 20 000 litres per day. As a result of the new recycled water system and the water saving devices installed on ancillary devices around the site, mains water usage is now just 2 000 to 3 000 litres per day. This is an impressive saving of around 80 per cent.

To read more visit:

www.australbrick.com.au/qld/news_item.php?ID=31169

ClimateSmart Home Service

From the first of January 2009, all Queenslanders will be able to receive a home water and energy audit, a wireless device for monitoring energy use, 15 energy-efficient light globes and a water-efficient showerhead. Delivered and installed, for only \$50!

To find out more or to book your ClimateSmart Home Service visit: www.climatesmarthome.com

National news



Nominations open for Cycling Achievement Awards

Cycling is well recognised as offering substantial benefits to health, the environment and liveability. You may be aware that a bicycle rider emits negligible greenhouse gases making it a great alternative to the car.

The Cycling Promotion Fund is a national body with a vision of an Australia where cycling is a safe, popular and convenient activity for people of all ages.

We can achieve this by: being a leading advocate for and source of information on cycling; gaining increased Government investment for cycling; making it easier for people to choose to cycle; promoting and encouraging initiatives which achieve measurable increases in cycling; recognizing, rewarding and encouraging innovation and achievements; and promoting best practice.

The Cycling Achievement Awards were established in 2002 by the Cycling Promotion Fund to recognise innovation and achievement and inspire others. Organisations, businesses and individuals are encouraged to nominate individuals, a cycling group, local school, bicycle-friendly business, local council or shire, councillor, politician or an organisation that deserves recognition from the cycling community. Nominations close 19 December 2008.

For more information visit: www.cyclingawards.com.au

International news

Sustainable Cuba

SALA Homes visited Cuba to discover ‘a community that is approaching true sustainability’. There they found Professor José Fernando Martierena Hernández from the Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de Estructuras y Materiales (CIDEM) at Santa Clara University who is developing sustainable solutions to Cuba’s housing challenges.

To find out more visit: www.salahomes.com.au/cubastory.html





Latest news

UK—Building for Life

Building for Life is the national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods.

Good quality housing design can improve social wellbeing and quality of life by reducing crime, improving public health, easing transport problems and increasing property values. Building for Life promotes design excellence and celebrates best practice in the house building industry.

The 20 Building for Life criteria embody our vision of functional, attractive and sustainable housing. New housing developments are scored against the criteria to assess the quality of their design.

For more information visit: www.buildingforlife.org

Universal design

Australian Network for Universal Housing Design

The Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD) is a network of housing industry bodies, housing professionals, government professionals, designers, builders, researchers and home occupants who believe the homes we build for today's Australia should be fit for all of tomorrow's Australians.

For more information visit: www.anuhd.org

Applying the Triple Bottom Line to the garden

Connecting to the earth through gardening is a time-honored tradition. Today it is considered one of the most popular hobbies throughout the world. Why is that? Research suggests participation in gardening and garden related activities has the potential to positively influence one's psychological, cognitive and physiological well-being. Not only does gardening collectively help people experience a sense of wellness and purpose, it provides an opportunity to develop a sense of community and connectivity. Yet for many people obstacles, including their bodies and the gardening environment, threaten to interfere with pursuing this glorious passion. What can be done about it?

The principles associated with the *Smart and Sustainable Homes Design Objectives* Triple Bottom Line model of sustainability are ideally suited to creating enabling and flexible gardening environments for all people at all times in their lives. Enabling garden spaces encourage active and lifelong participation in gardens and garden-related activities and encompasses the three principles of the Triple Bottom Line model; social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Thoughtfully designed enabling garden spaces take into account economic factors of long-term cost efficiency for maximum output and enjoyment. Selecting and planting native plant materials well suited to the local climate, part of the garden movement known as xeriscape, is environmentally sound

because once established in the garden they require less water and care than non-native plant material. On a social level xeriscape (planting) principles applied to an enabling garden provide children the opportunity to develop a sense of connection to the local 'green' environment and for the mature gardener, it is an opportunity to recollect, reconnect, and reminisce about plants they grew up with.

The scope and social benefits of an enabling garden extend far beyond notion of connection and reconnection. An enabling garden, be it in the public or private sector, ensures active participation through inclusion of elements of universal design. It contains accessible pathways and turning radiuses wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices.



An enabling garden allows all users to access the garden through raised beds, container plantings securely anchored to ledges, trellises and wall gardens. A well-designed enabling garden contains curves and nooks to create spaces to gather and socialise. It contains safe, nontoxic plant materials that enhance and entice the senses through touch, sight, sound and smell.

To ensure full social and active participation of those tending an enabling garden, provision of specialised garden tools is of the utmost importance. These tools tend to be lightweight, have longer or enlarged handles, or operate with less effort than standard garden tools.

As we recognise the need and importance of applying principles of universal design to homes and commercial buildings, so too can these concepts be taken 'outside' and successfully applied to green spaces. Because research supports the idea that exposure to the green world fosters an over-all sense of well-being, full access to green spaces is of paramount importance. Please watch for additional ideas about specific methods and principles associated with universal design in the garden in future newsletters.

Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR, HTR, CAPS is Senior Lecturer at Lasell College in Newton, Massachusetts (USA) and is the owner of The Thymely Gardener (www.thymelygardener.com), a unique organisation committed to blending principles of universal design with innovative strategies and solutions to provide a personalised approach to making gardens and gardening practices accessible to all adults and children.





Sustainable products, materials, resources and services



Brisbane City Council Eco Development Advisory Service



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

The Eco Development Advisory Service (EDAS) provides advice and advocacy to the development industry, including small to medium-sized developers, on making building projects more sustainable. EDAS works closely with the development industry to achieve sustainable outcomes for both the industry and the Brisbane community.

For more information visit: www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search for 'EDAS'.

Carbon Market

The Carbon Market is an online market place where you can find a wide range of low carbon emission products and services from a large number of suppliers and retailers. One of their products is a sustainable building guide. Whether you are building a new home, renovating or upgrading and want a dwelling that's energy efficient, this popular guide was written for you. Real solutions that work, all put together in one guide that's easy to read, understand and use.

Check out the website: www.carbonmarket.com.au

Ecospecifier

Ecospecifier is an online guide to eco and health preferable products, materials and technology for the built environment and construction sector, specifically targeted at the needs of decision makers and specifiers.

It contains over 3 000 independently assessed eco and health preferable products which can be searched using industry categories and sub-categories, by eco-outcomes and keywords.

For more information: www.ecospecifier.org

Energy efficient globes

With the Australian Government phase out of incandescent globes already underway, these super efficient LED globes are a smart choice. Up to six times more efficient, they contain no mercury and last up to 50 000 hours.



Replace your standard globes and halogens with energy efficient LED globes and save electricity. Go to the calculator to see how you can save.

Check out the new 3w LED down light bulb, 80 per cent less energy than a halogen.

For more information visit: www.spectrumlighting.com.au

Habitat Hardware

Habitat Hardware sells sustainable hardware and building supplies to trade and online retail customers throughout Australia. Habitat Hardware offers homeowners and businesses a more environmentally responsible and cost-effective way to renovate and build. They are constantly sourcing and testing new products.

For more information call: 07 3305 0063

Check out the website: www.habitathardware.com.au

Hope Australia

Hope Australia is a non-profit organisation whose aim is to raise awareness of and encourage active participation in, waste minimisation and the conservation of energy and resources; develop educational material; and show you how you can make a difference.

To subscribe to their newsletter email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Check out their website: www.hopeaustralia.org.au

The Green Directory

The Green Directory is Australia's number one online green business eco directory. They promote a comprehensive range of eco friendly products and services for sustainable living.

Check out the website: www.thegreendirectory.com.au

Your Home—Design for lifestyle

Your Home—Design for lifestyle and the future is produced by the Australian Greenhouse Office. Your Home has a suite of consumer and technical guide materials and tools developed to encourage the design, construction or renovation of homes to be comfortable, healthy and more environmentally sustainable

For more information: www.yourhome.gov.au

Copies of the **Smart and Sustainable Homes Design Objectives, Designing for Queensland's Climate** booklet, **DVD** or **fact sheets** can be obtained through the Queensland Bookshop. Go to www.bookshop.qld.gov.au or view online at www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au

Contact us

The Smart and Sustainable Homes program coordinators would like to hear from you!

To contribute items to this e-newsletter, or provide feedback, comments and suggestions, send an email to: smarthousing@publicworks.qld.gov.au

www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au

www.sustainable-homes.org.au

