



# The Allies Express

A NEWSLETTER FOR SEDA ENERGY SMART ALLIES

March/April 2004

At the recent 'Enviro 04' conference, the Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr officially launched the NSW Greenhouse Office, which will advise the NSW government on policies to limit carbon emissions and address greenhouse gases. Mr Carr also announced a commitment to rate the greenhouse performance of all government office buildings see lead story below for further information.

Please note that as mentioned in previous issues SEDA is still operating business as usual while the arrangements for the integration of SEDA into the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) are being finalised.

If you notice the details in your company's entry in the Allies Directory is out of date, (perhaps your phone/fax number has changed or you have a new website), don't hesitate to let me know and I will change your entry, email [allies@seda.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allies@seda.nsw.gov.au)

Regards,  
Alberta O'Keeffe  
Energy Smart Consultant, Sustainable Energy Development Authority  
Phone: 02 9249 6126  
Email: [allies@seda.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allies@seda.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.energysmartallies.com](http://www.energysmartallies.com)

## **NSW Government drives Greenhouse friendly offices**

Commercial buildings in NSW consume around \$1billion of electricity every year. This represents not only a huge economic cost but an environmental cost as well, because most of our electricity comes from burning coal, which contributes to climate change. The NSW Government has committed to reducing these emissions and leading by example. By the end of 2004, the Government has pledged to rate all its offices using the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR) Scheme to see how they perform on greenhouse, and over the next few years, agencies will, where cost effective, be required to improve the performance of their buildings and tenancies.

By July 2006 all new government buildings are to achieve a 4.5 star rating and all existing buildings will achieve a 3-star rating where cost effective (or 4 stars for major upgrades). By July 2006, all existing government tenancies are to achieve 4 stars where cost effective (4.5 stars for fit outs and refurbishments). In addition, NSW Government tenants will prefer to occupy premises where the base building has at least 3 stars under the ABGR scheme and will require disclosure of the base building rating when seeking information for leasing purposes.

The Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR) Scheme was designed by the NSW Government, and was launched nationally in 2001. Under the scheme, a building or tenancy is given a star rating on a scale of one to five. Buildings with a high star rating are more energy efficient, cheaper to run, and contribute less to greenhouse emissions. ABGR is now being used by some of Australia's largest building developers and Central Business Districts, including Investa Property Group, Mirvac, Macquarie Office Trust, Multiplex, and General Property Trust. ABGR is used by Sydney City Council, which requires a minimum of 4.5 stars for new commercial developments and refurbishments over \$5million.

For further information on the ABGR program visit: <http://www.abgr.com.au>



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## ALLIES EVENT UPDATE - JULY 22, 2004

In light of the Premier's announcement on the new ABGR requirements for government owned buildings and tenancies, the Allies Trade show will be held in conjunction with a workshop on the ABGR for all interested parties in government and industry. The trade show will complement the seminar by featuring exhibitions and presentations on the latest in new (i.e. post 2000) energy efficiency technologies and services from Energy Smart Allies (i.e. the products and services that can increase a building or tenancies ABGR). Places in the trade show are still available, presentation opportunities will be allocated on a 'first in first served' basis. We are in the process of finalising the program and will contact Allies who have already contacted us regarding the showcase in the next few weeks.

Visit [http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/pdf/Allies04\\_Exhibitor\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/pdf/Allies04_Exhibitor_proposal.pdf) to download an Exhibitor Proposal Form and fax back the expression of interest form to reserve your place. For further information email [allies@seda.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allies@seda.nsw.gov.au) and note 'Trade Show' in the subject heading.

## Wollongong Trials Sustainability Street

Wollongong City Council is piloting a community education program called Sustainability Street, which provides practical information, solutions and support to help householders live more sustainably. The Sustainability Street project is being piloted in William Street and Third Avenue, Wollongong. Householders in the streets attend a series of workshops that outline sustainability issues in the areas of biodiversity, waste, water and energy. The workshops are supplemented with on site investigations of current practices in selected homes and the identification of ways to reduce their environmental impact.

The project is being driven by Council's Environment and Health Division with support from across the Council including Engineering Services, Recreation and Natural Resources and the Community and Cultural Services Divisions. Wollongong City Council has also secured the partnership of Sydney Water, Resource NSW, SEDA and the AGO for this project.

Environmental Educators Vox Bandicoot conceived the Sustainability Street concept and successfully trialled the approach with two streets in the Melbourne suburb of Moreland. It is hoped that the Wollongong pilot program will be a success and the project can be extended to other streets in the near future.

For further information see:

[http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/EnvironmentDevelopment/EnvironmentalPrograms/Index\\_1420.htm](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/EnvironmentDevelopment/EnvironmentalPrograms/Index_1420.htm)

## Launch of Castle Hill Demand Management Program

**5 March 2004** Minister for Energy and Utilities Frank Sartor, has launched an energy demand management program which will cut the peak load on Integral Energy's Castle Hill infrastructure and delay the need for expensive network upgrades.

The Castle Hill Demand Management Program is an initiative of Integral Energy and the NSW Government through SEDA to reduce energy demand. The program will cut peak load on Integral Energy's Castle Hill infrastructure on the hottest summer days – when demand is now highest – by up to four per cent. The program will also result in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 6,400 tonnes, equivalent to removing 1,425 cars from NSW roads each year.

Savings will be generated through simple actions such as improving lighting and air conditioning efficiencies. Businesses participating in the scheme should be able to cut energy costs by 20 percent through investing in energy efficiency technologies. The average return on investment will be 30 per cent a year, so participating companies should be in front on their investment after just over three years. Castle Towers one of Australia's largest shopping centres in Castle Hill, and retailer Bi Lo, have committed to the program while a number of the centre's other retailers have completed energy audits and are expected to join soon.



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## NSW COMPANIES COMMIT TO ENERGY SAVINGS

**March 30 2004** The NSW Government's campaign to encourage energy conservation has received a massive boost with seven major companies joining the Energy Smart Business program.

The companies; Telstra, Investa Property Group, Sony Australia, Sony Music Entertainment, Panthers Entertainment Group, ING Retail Property Fund Australia and Cement Australia, have agreed to implement energy efficiency programs across 75% of their operations – potentially generating huge savings in greenhouse gas emissions. The businesses are playing an important role in improving our greenhouse performance and reducing the 35 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> generated every year by the Australian commercial building sector.

SEDA's Energy Smart Business Program helps companies with annual energy bills of \$200,000 or more save money and help the environment through energy efficiency projects, for further information see:

<http://www.energysmart.com.au/wes/DisplayPage.asp?PageID=6>

## WELCOME NEW ALLIES

There are now over 400 organisations providing sustainable energy products and services in the Energy Smart Allies Directory, a warm welcome to newest members:

**Sentor Monitoring Systems Pty Ltd** <http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/companies.asp?num=551> Sentor is an Australian Control hardware manufacturer and exporter of Remote Monitoring and Control Systems for the Telecommunications and Utilities Industry.

**Fuel Cell Institute of Australia Pty Limited** <http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/companies.asp?num=558> The Institute is designed to assist the formation of hydrogen and fuel cell industries within Australia.

**Energys Australia Pty Ltd** <http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/companies.asp?num=556> Stored Energy Solutions provider manufacturing a wide range of batteries for Solar and renewable applications.

**Corrocoat Engineering Victoria** <http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/companies.asp?num=567> Application of their 'fluiglide' technology can save energy used for pumping water.

**Southern Power Management** <http://www.energysmartallies.com/esa/companies.asp?num=580> Exclusive supplier and installer of the Mach 2000 Power reducer / voltage regulators which can save energy in lighting systems.



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## NOTICE BOARD

### Upcoming Events:

#### Building Integrated Photovoltaics Training Course

With the expansion of the photovoltaic industry and specifically the urban grid connect market new issues are arising for the design and installation of photovoltaics systems. A Building Integrated Photovoltaics Training course is now open to all with relevant backgrounds. Proposed training dates\*:

#### NSW

- University of NSW Fri-Sat 13th May
  
- Chullora Building College Fri-Sat 21st May
- Granville TAFE Fri-Sat 29th May

#### VIC

- Swinburne TAFE Fri-Sat 17th July
- Gordon TAFE Sat 24th July

SA Regency TAFE Fri-Sat 7th August  
WA Central TAFE Fri-Sat 28th August  
QLD QSEIDG-Bris. North TAFE Fri-Sat 11th Sept.

\*Check for date confirmation

Register your interest via email - [info@pvsolar.com.au](mailto:info@pvsolar.com.au) - for more information see [www.pvsolartiles.com](http://www.pvsolartiles.com) or phone: (02) 9557 6657

#### **APEC conference - Air Conditioning & Energy Performance – the next 5 years, June 7 – 9, 2004, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour**

A major international event including workshops and a one-day conference of interest to anyone who derives their income from Air conditioning. Issues to be covered include; Regulatory issues affecting APEC countries, International Standards Organisations Performance Testing, Minimum Energy Performance Standards, Horsepower marketing, Electricity prices and peak load issues. For further information on this event visit: <http://www.airah.org.au/downloads/APECbrochure.pdf>

**19th World Energy Conference " Delivering Sustainability - Opportunities and Challenges for the Energy Industry", Sydney, 5-9 September 2004.** The theme of the Sydney conference moves debate beyond expressions of concern about sustainability and invites solutions that are technically sound, economically feasible and environmentally and socially acceptable. The World Energy Congress Youth Symposium will be held in conjunction with the conference. For program and registration details visit: <http://www.tourhosts.com.au/energy2004>