

**Question on Notice
No. 1026
Asked on Thursday, 5 June 2008**

QUESTION:

MR FINN asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) —

As the theme of this year's World Environment Day is "CO2 Kick the Habit – towards a low carbon economy" –

Will he advise the House how Queensland is meeting this challenge?

ANSWER:

World Environment Day brings global awareness to environmental issues.

This year's theme, 'Kick the CO2 habit: towards a low carbon economy' highlighted the significance of climate change to communities across our planet and the need to take action – both globally and locally.

The Queensland Government is helping Queenslanders to kick the CO2 habit through a range of initiatives which fall within the ClimateSmart 2050 strategy. This strategy is helping to ensure Queensland plays its part in meeting a national carbon reduction target of 60 percent below 2000 levels by the year 2050.

As well as helping Queenslanders reduce carbon emissions, the Strategy is ensuring the Government examines its own contributions to emissions.

Electricity use in buildings accounts for a large portion of the overall energy use and resultant greenhouse gas emissions of Queensland Government departments. As part of the 2050 strategy, the Government has established its *Strategic Energy Efficiency Policy for Queensland Government Buildings*.

This Policy sets mandatory minimum energy reduction targets for individual departments.

Integral to the strategy has been the establishment of the Office of Climate Change, which is leading the development of climate change policy and programs.

These programs will ensure that Queensland is well positioned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change as well as preparing our communities to adapt to climate change impacts already occurring.

Importantly, the Office of Climate Change is coordinating the review of the *ClimateSmart 2050* strategy, to ensure the State's response to climate change remains contemporary and relevant.

Another significant element of the ClimateSmart 2050 strategy which is already underway is the ClimateSmart Living campaign.

Launched in June last year, the ClimateSmart Living campaign has encouraged householders to take simple actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

More than 75,000 Queenslanders have been turning off their appliances at the wall, checking tyre pressure, checking their fridge temperature and changing to energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights, reducing their energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

ClimateSmart Living has been a great success with Queenslanders and the second phase of the campaign, recently launched by Premier Bligh, will help even more Queenslanders reduce their carbon emissions to help abate climate change.

The next phase of ClimateSmart Living will provide householders with the opportunity to receive hands-on guidance to help them reduce their carbon footprint through the new ClimateSmart Home Service.

From the beginning of next year, the new ClimateSmart Home Service will help Queenslanders across the State reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by helping them to improve energy efficiency.

The ClimateSmart Home Service will operate in a similar manner to the successful Home WaterWise Service, with tradespeople visiting homes to provide detailed advice and install energy-saving devices.

Residents can register interest to receive the ClimateSmart Home Service now at the ClimateSmart Living web site at climatesmart.qld.gov.au.

As well as the ClimateSmart Home Service, ClimateSmart Living is delivering a range of initiatives over the next two years to help Queenslanders reduce their carbon footprint.

The Low Carbon Diet, a community engagement initiative, will help community organisations and groups guide their participants through a program of actions to reduce their carbon footprint.

Many of us are time-poor. To help householders who need quick, simple solutions to cut their carbon emissions, ClimateSmart Living also provides a Seven Day Diet. Think of it as a carbon detox if you will, helping Queenslanders on the road to changing their lifestyles to reduce energy consumption and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The ClimateSmart Living website also provides further interactive tools including a carbon calculator to help householders track their progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Being greener at home will certainly help Queensland kick the CO₂ habit, but it doesn't stop there. The Queensland Government is also helping business to cut carbon emissions.

ecoBiz, the EPA's signature partnership program with Queensland business and industry, is helping businesses improve their environmental performance by identifying efficiencies in waste, water and energy.

More than 370 Queensland companies have signed up to the EPA's ecoBiz program.

By cutting waste, consumption of water and energy, and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, these businesses are helping Queensland to kick the CO₂ habit while realising the cost benefits that accompany eco-efficiency.

The development of innovative technologies is also helping Queensland reduce carbon emissions.

The Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund (QSEIF), administered by the EPA, is helping Queensland-based organisations to develop innovative technologies that reduce consumption of fossil fuels, water and greenhouse gas emissions.

QSEIF provides funding support to offset the technical risks associated with developing and adapting new technologies and processes to achieve more sustainable production and use of energy and water.

Programs like QSEIF are more than a patch on the arm for Queensland's quest to cut carbon emissions.

Since 1999, QSEIF has committed around \$8 million in funding to over 70 significant innovative energy and water saving projects in Queensland.

Queensland's journey towards a low-carbon economy has well and truly begun and through ClimateSmart Living and programs such as ecoBiz and QSEIF, the Queensland Government will continue to help householders, business and communities kick the CO₂ habit.