

Question on Notice
No. 1694
Asked on Wednesday, 12 November 2008

QUESTION:

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) –

Will he advise what initiatives the Government has put in place to date to encourage households to reduce their carbon footprint?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* includes ambitious targets for reducing the carbon emissions and a number of priority programs are helping Queenslanders to achieve the goal of reducing their carbon footprint by a third by 2020.

The Queensland Government, through the collaborative efforts of the Office for Climate Change and other agencies, is offering Queenslanders a number of programs and services to encourage more efficient energy and water use in the home.

The public response to these programs has been highly positive and indicates that Queenslanders are ready to do their bit to reduce carbon emissions.

The Queensland Solar Homes Program is helping over 1,000 homeowners to purchase and install solar energy systems. This program offered homeowners the opportunity to take advantage of a considerably reduced price achieved through a bulk purchase arrangement organised through the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Queensland Government Solar Bonus Scheme is paying domestic and other small energy customers for the surplus electricity generated from roof-top solar photovoltaic systems that is exported to the Queensland grid.

Home advisory and information services have also been well received.

The ClimateSmart Living campaign has successfully influenced many Queenslanders' attitudes and encouraged them to take positive steps to help address climate change.

Some 93 percent are turning off lights, 81 percent are re-using and recycling items, 73 percent are taking shorter than average showers, 70 percent are replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights, 59 percent are checking their tyre pressure, 71 percent are turning off appliances at the wall and 53 percent are turning down their air-conditioners and heaters.

EPA's ClimateSmart Living website continues to provide a wealth of information to help Queenslanders take further actions to use resources more efficiently. It

is a one stop shop for information about climate change and living sustainably. It also includes a comprehensive Carbon Calculator to assist Queenslanders in determining their carbon emissions and the actions they can take to reduce them.

The ClimateSmart Living Campaign involves a number of key initiatives: The Low Carbon Diet, the Cool NRG – green bulb campaign, the Black Balloons campaign, ClimateSmart Retail and the Premier's Climate Change Awards for Communities.

The Low Carbon Diet is a 30-day program that provides information and resources to help Queenslanders reduce their household carbon emissions by 2,000 kilograms a year by making simple changes to everyday actions—like using cold water to wash clothes, only running the dishwasher when it's full, turning off lights in an empty room and raising the temperature of the air conditioner by a degree.

The Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program has been developed to assist Queensland not-for-profit incorporated community organisations and local councils to implement the Low Carbon Diet. This two-year funding program offers grants between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to help out with administration and delivery costs.

The ClimateSmart Living Black Balloons television commercial has helped to educate Queenslanders about the need to use less energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to help reduce the impact of climate change.

The 'Big Light Switch' campaign has distributed 1 million compact florescent lights (CFL) to households across the State during November 2008.

The ClimateSmart Retail program is providing retailers with training and support materials to increase their awareness and understanding of the environmental impacts of energy and water efficient products. The information is disseminated to consumers making a purchase decision to encourage them to select high-efficiency appliances that reduce water and energy use and cost less to run.

The ClimateSmart Home Service, commencing in January 2009, will provide Queensland householders with additional support to reduce energy consumption. The service will provide energy efficient products, a household energy monitor and a home audit and advisory service to help Queenslanders to conserve energy around the home.

Already over 4,100 households have registered to participate in this program. The Queensland Government aims to provide ClimateSmart Home Services to 260,000 homes across the State over the next two years.

The Home EnergyWise Kit, launched recently by the Department of Mines and Energy, contains energy efficiency information and do-it-yourself auditing tools to help consumers identify energy use patterns in the home. It provides advice to families on how to take positive steps to reduce their energy consumption and lower their energy bills.

Since the kit was launched on 22 July 2008, over 890 kits have been distributed to householders across the State. Several thousand kits have also been distributed through libraries and local councils.

The high level of participation in all of these programs signals that Queenslanders are concerned about the impacts of climate change and serious about taking action to reduce carbon emissions. The Queensland Government is equally serious about providing Queenslanders with the support they need to make a difference.