

Get behind the 100% renewable energy campaign

EARTH FIRST

By Nick King, ECCO

100% Renewable Energy Launch

On Sunday, March 2, communities across Australia will be celebrating the commencement of a national campaign for our energy requirements to be met by 100% renewable energy resources.

Our political leaders have sidelined climate change in favour of issues which are politically more attractive and less controversial, but this doesn't mean that climate change and our dependence on destructive fossil fuels has gone away. Nor does it mean that there is no longer a need to demonstrate concern about the environmental effects of continued use of fossil fuels. One of the objectives of the 100% renewable energy campaign is to give communities around Australia the opportunity to voice this concern and to demand a transition to renewable energy.

Fossil fuel use

As we all know, of the main source of generating electricity in Australia is through the burning of coal, which is abundant, accessible and comparatively inexpensive compared with other methods, such as hydroelectricity, or solar. Coal is also one of our major exports. However, there is mounting scientific evidence that the long term effects of our dependence on coal fired power causes pollution of our air and water, long term damage to our farmland and food security, damage to our health and contributes significantly to global warming and climate change. It is becoming increasingly important that fossil fuels are phased out if we are to enjoy a healthy, sustainable, and viable future.

Fortunately, Australia is blessed with an abundance of renewable resources which are clean and free. We have plenty of sunshine and wind, and wide open spaces to install infrastructure to create clean, safe power.

Exciting opportunities

Not only is energy from renewable sources clean, inexpensive and pollution free, it also provides exciting opportunities for the creation of new industries and opportunities for employment. Right now most of the world is investing in clean energy. We don't want Australia to be left behind, and we have an opportunity to become a clean energy leader and clean energy provider.

Call for action

The 100% renewable energy campaign aims to unite community members all over Australia to call on our political leaders to give real support to research, investment and installation of renewable technologies Australia-wide. We want to see real encouragement and incentive such as rooftop solar installation on individual properties, support for community clean energy projects and the provision of clean energy at state and national levels. Community members can join w climate action

groups to call for the governments to encourage further use of renewable energy technologies through the introduction of a clean energy bonus scheme.

We have proven technology which is capable of converting clean natural resources into energy, and it is only the absence of support from our political leaders that is preventing its widespread roll-out. The objective of the 100% Renewable Energy Campaign is to send our leaders a powerful message that communities Australia-wide support a national commitment to clean renewable energy.

Local support

Members of Orange Climate Action Now (OCAN), the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO) and supportive members of the Orange community recently gathered at the 'Welcome to Orange' sign on Bathurst Road to send their message to passers by, in support of a 100% renewable energy future. This photo, along with photographs from many other concerned communities throughout Australia will be circulated to our leaders, demonstrating a national community message for renewable energy.

Sustainable tip

Install a solar hot water system to harness the sun's free and clean energy for many years to come.

Green dates for the calendar

March 2 – 100% renewable energy community campaign launch – See www.100percent.org.au/