

**ParraCAN**  
**Parramatta Climate Action Network**

**Newsletter May 2009**

*‘... a great, great deal has been said about the weather but very little has ever been done...’  
(Mark Twain... often quoted... never more true... )*

**What’s hot and what’s not**

CCN (Community Climate Network) is a nationwide collective of grass roots groups – people who are increasingly alarmed at the Government’s inability to act with the decisiveness and urgency that is needed , never mind the ‘we will be bi-partisan’ Opposition...

CCN is rapidly building a community movement. CCN made the ‘red ring around Parliament’ (3 February) possible. ParraCAN is an active member of CCN. What does CCN want? The Climate Summit this February ratified many proposals and motions but the three core ones are:

- Prevent the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme from becoming law, as it will fail to the make emission cuts necessary to stop the climate emergency.
- Build community-wide action to demand green jobs, a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers and 100% renewable energy by 2020.
- Aim for stabilisation at 300ppm CO<sub>2</sub> and strong international agreement in line with what science and global justice demands.

**Demonstration – 16th May**

On 16 May ParraCAN joined several hundred others in the Nature Conservation Council’s March from Sydney Town Hall to the Labor Party’s NSW Office to protest about the back-flip performed by Federal Labor on its already deeply flawed CPRS (Carbon Production Reduction Scheme).



Their proposed changes will further reward bad polluters like the Coal Industry.

Enough is enough. Australians must build a Nation-wide Movement to fight the power of the lobbyists with a Government that is ignoring the overwhelming (reputable) scientific opinion that we must act radically now – no delays. Australia is blessed with an abundance of renewable energy sources (sun, wind, water, thermal rocks) – what we lack is political will...

## **Join ParraCAN and thousands more at World Environment Day**

**13 June 10AM at Barrangaroo, Hickson Rd. Sydney City**

**Help us demonstrate the absolute need for urgency and major action!  
(We will send out more details shortly)**

### **Our AGM**

We held our first Annual General Meeting in Parramatta Park (near the kiosk) on a sunny Sunday '09 morning (29 March) and after a very brief formal process (17 minutes) we helped the Lake Parramatta Trust plant lots of sedge on the banks of the Parramatta River to help stabilise those banks. Then we ate a wonderful lunch provided by Megan and Peter.

A thoroughly recommended model for AGMs.

The result of our election of office bearers is:

Chair – Tom Halbert  
Vice Chair – Ling Halbert  
Treasurer – Annie Nielsen  
Secretary – Bill Tibben  
Committee Members – Phil Bradley, Graham Matthews

### **Solar Energy Bargains**

#### **Solar Photo-voltaic (PV) Panels**

PV panels sit on your roof and convert sunshine to electric power which you then use. If your panels produce more power than you are using the extra is fed back into the main power grid- for which you get paid – if you produce less you pay for the difference.

They cost a lot to install but they will produce savings over time and right now the Government is giving rebates to people who buy panels.

We have information from two companies. Both companies offer 6 panels for about \$4000 and they will apply and get the \$8000 rebate for you so you don't have to pay upfront. Two companies are Solar Switch and Sydney Solar Electricity. The second one is more expensive but is very good and can answer any questions you have on PV. To be eligible for the commonwealth govt rebate you must have a combined

income under \$100,000. As well the state govt will give you a REC (renewable energy certificate of about \$900 but these two are already taken off the price to give you the approximate cost above. If you decide to get a quote tell them you want to be included in the plan with Annie Nielsen. We have 2 people so far and the more you have the greater the discount. The discount is \$500 off the quoted price for 3 and if there are more the discount goes up further.

As well as the two systems above Origin Energy is offering a deal to its customers whereby you can pay \$1987.50 up front then you can pay the rest off at approximately \$82 a month but you would have to have them come to your house and give you a quote for the system.

The rebate runs out on 30 June and after that date the rebate will be \$5000 and it will be open to all no matter what the income and to small business.

Please contact Annie Nielsen on **96861956** or email at [anniphil@bigpond.com](mailto:anniphil@bigpond.com) me if you decide to get a quote so all can benefit from the discount. You must be quick though as it takes a while to process and June is quite close.

### **Insulation**

\$1600 is now (was limited to \$800 previously) available for rebate and for many houses this will cover the cost.

Even if you already have batts in the roof you could get it upgraded by this initiative to get more effective insulation.

You can ask for batts plus aluminium shielding in the roof.

**One supplier** : Safe and Sound insulation, Christopher Huxtable. 0412 609 483, 8819 4286.

### **Old Fridge Buy Back**

Fridge Buyback is an energy efficiency program that actually pays you to reduce your electricity bill and help save the environment. Old fridges are big energy users, consuming up to three times the energy of new fridges. Running your second fridge adds an average of **\$190** a year to your electricity bill and puts 1 tonne of greenhouse gas into the environment.

If you live in metropolitan Sydney or Wollongong and have a working second fridge that is in regular use, is at least 10 years old and larger than 250 litres (8.83 cubic feet) you can participate in Fridge Buyback. Experienced removalists will collect your fridge **free of charge** from your home if removal involves 20 stairs or less. We'll also pay a **\$35 rebate\*** if removal involves six stairs or less. If removal involves 21 or more stairs, a fee will apply. The refrigerant gas in your fridge will be properly removed and safely disposed of and the metals recycled.

Fridge Buyback is supported by the NSW Government's [Climate Change Fund](#) and local Councils. The program has already collected 7000 fridges and aims to collect more than 22,000 by 2011, reducing NSW's greenhouse gas emissions by over 180,000 tonnes. Opportunities to expand Fridge Buyback to NSW regional towns are being explored.

## Time to get rid of your 2nd Fridge!



**FOR YOUR  
2ND FRIDGE  
YOU'LL GET...**

- A \$35 rebate\*
- FREE in-home collection by experienced removalists\*
- \$190 / year average electricity bill savings
- Proper recycling and greenhouse savings

\* Conditions Apply

**Inquire Online or Call  
1800 708 401 / 8966 9888**

### **ParraCAN Membership**

- Email us at [info@parracan.org](mailto:info@parracan.org) or visit <http://parracan.org/index.ht>
- Write to PO Box 128 Granville NSW 2142
- Phone Annie 0425 265 169 or
- Bill 0404 210 438 or
- Tom 0412 098 031

### **WHAT WE CAN DO**

### **WE CAN ACT**

**AND WHEN ENOUGH PEOPLE ACT THEN TOGETHER**

**WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**