



2 November 2010

Expert to explain benefits of Solar Power

Portland-based sustainability consultant, builder and Convener of the Portland Sustainability Group, Peter Reefman, will come to Colac to explain the benefits of solar power.

The event will be held on 18 November 2010 in the Meeting rooms at COPACC, commencing at 8pm with a cost of \$10 per household. Funds collected will be used for the hire of the facilities and the speaker's fee.

The event is being organised by local resident Virginia Wallace who is hoping to help people learn more about solar power and its potential to help reduce both energy bills and consumption and ultimately organize a solar bulk buy for local residents.

"Energy comparison companies are warning that the current conservative forecast is for a 100 per cent electricity price increase over the next five years. Many people are interested in installing solar power however they come across conflicting pieces of information about the benefits of and the issues surrounding, solar technology," Virginia said.

"The various offers are confusing. It's also hard to work out how long the payback time will be and what are the advantages and disadvantages.

"That's why this information evening is designed so that local independent expert Peter Reefman with no ties to any particular solar installation company can come and provide us with information about the benefits of, and issues with solar power.

"Things like how Solar Photovoltaic panels work, how long the payback period will be, and the advantages and disadvantages of Solar PV panels. Peter will also discuss solar hot water and other products to help us reduce our carbon footprint.

"A small investment of \$10 now may save you considerable money in the future as you will gain a better understanding of how solar works and whether it will be right for you. For those who wish to install a solar PV system, there will be an opportunity to join a bulk-buy of solar products where you can save hundreds off retail prices and benefit from being able to receive ongoing independent advice as part of the group," added Virginia.

Peter is also asking you to bring along your power bill so you can input your data into his software and work out what the best system is for you and how long your payback period will be.

Peter Reefman has a long history in the sustainable building space, having built one of the first eight star homes in Victoria as well as instigating the Portland Sustainability Group, of which there are over 200 participants including businesses and schools. He has been awarded by the Master Builders' Association, and received recognition from the building industry, the State Government, and Awards Australia. Peter has run bulk-buys of solar products in the past for both individuals and schools, and brings his expertise in farm and residential energy saving projects to this presentation at Colac.

This event is being supported by the Colac Otway Shire as well as the Upper Barwon Landcare Network.

Please call Virginia Wallace on 5233 1077 or 0401 713 475 to register your attendance.

To contact Peter Reefman please call 0408 307730

You can view information about Peter Reefman at www.energised.com.au.

You can view photos of Peter at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/30247641@N04/sets/72157624675803296/with/4869907911/>

Attached: photo of Peter Reefman on the roof of his 8 star home

