



Carmel Tebbutt MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce

Friday, 5 June 2009

NSW unites for action on climate change on World Environment Day

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, said action underway across NSW shows that the community is heeding today's World Environment Day message to unite to combat climate change.

"From households upgrading hot water systems to businesses embracing efficient technologies, people in NSW are helping to make the planet cleaner and greener," Ms Tebbutt said.

"The work underway across NSW is a testament to our communities' commitment to addressing this problem and recognising we all have a role to play.

"People are taking the environmental message from home to work and out into their communities and making a difference."

Ms Tebbutt said the response to the Government's new black balloon information campaign, launched three weeks ago, has shown that people are keen for more ideas to help them save energy.

"Enquiries about climate change and energy efficiency now make up more than 40% of calls to our Environment Line," Ms Tebbutt said.

"NSW households are making their homes more water and energy efficient, with the take up of more than 85,000 rebates for hot water systems, insulation, rainwater tanks and washing machines.

"Together, they are saving nearly two billion litres of drinking water and the equivalent to 1.4 billion black balloons of carbon pollution a year.

"But there are also many other simple ways that families can save power around the house such as switching off appliances at the wall, turning off lights when not in the room and hanging clothes to dry outside instead of using a dryer."

Ms Tebbutt said a third of NSW schools have signed up to the Sustainable Schools program and a record 561 applications were lodged by community organisations for funding for water and energy upgrades in the latest round of the Climate Change Fund Public Facilities Program.

"Momentum for change is growing across every sector," she said. "In business, that is reflected in major energy savings by the state's highest users, increased uptake in new technology and participation in programs for business sustainability."

Ms Tebbutt is launching World Environment Day in NSW at a recognition event for the first Bronze Partners in the NSW Government's Sustainability Advantage Program.



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“These businesses are working with us to improve their sustainability, while at the same time improving their bottom line,” she said.

“They are demonstrating that it is possible to act on climate change and to operate profitably.”

Working through a series of modules to tackle sustainability across their operations, the 13 bronze partners alone have reduced annual waste to landfill by 17,100 tonnes a year, saved 170 million litres of water and 13,000 tonnes of carbon pollution, the equivalent of 260 million black balloons.

They are Converga, De Bortoli Wines, Focus Press, Inghams Enterprises, Koppers Australia, Ontera Modular Carpets, Marquis Bathroom Products, Rondo Building Services, Schindler, Sydney Markets, TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute, Tarkett and The Austral Bricks Company.

For information on NSW government programs, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on World Environment Day 2009 visit www.unep.org/wed/2009/english/.



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Five tips to save energy and reduce your carbon footprint

- Replacing light bulbs with compact fluorescent globes can save 580kg of carbon pollution and \$71 a year.
- Switching off appliances - mobile phone chargers, TVs and stereos can save 505kg of carbon pollution and \$62 a year.
- Sealing draughts and gaps around external doors and windows can save 80kg of carbon pollution and \$9 a year.
- Closing off rooms that don't need to be heated or cooled saves 310kg of carbon pollution and \$38 a year.
- Fitting thick and close fitting curtains to the windows of your home will save 210kg of carbon pollution and \$26 a year.

Visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au for more information.