

MEDIA RELEASE

3 December 2010

THE LIVING SMART PROGRAM WINS WATER AWARD

The Living Smart household sustainability program, currently being offered to 10,000 households in Perth's Eastern Region has recently won an Australian Water Association (WA) award for its successful behaviour change approach to saving water.

The Living Smart Household program won the water conservation and efficiency category after householders saved 128 million litres of domestic water throughout the 12 months of the program. It also showed impressive reductions in energy, waste and car-based travel.

In 2008 the Living Smart Household program was offered to 15,000 households within the City of Joondalup and City of Mandurah and was designed to encourage householders to reduce energy, water, waste and car use.

It is now being offered to residents in Perth's Eastern Region under the Australian Government's Perth Solar City program.

Perth Solar City's Andrew Blaver said the program was both educational and practical, allowing residents to learn how to benefit from changing their behaviour.

"The Living Smart Household program is a perfect fit for us to reduce energy, water, waste and car travel," he said.

"The award is a great result for the program and we are expecting similar outcomes for the Eastern Region."

Living Smart participants choose localised leaflets and households receive ongoing support via an eco-coaching and meter reading service. Incentives, community courses and home assessments are also offered as part of the program.

Living Smart Household is managed by the Department of Transport and has evolved out of its effort to reduce car trips and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport through the successful TravelSmart behaviour change program. The program now links to other government demand management initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste.

The winners of the Water Association WA Water Awards were announced at a gala dinner at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre in late October. Living Smart was also a finalist in the 2010 WA Environment Awards.

Background: Perth Solar City

Perth's Eastern Region is home to Perth Solar City and includes the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan. Perth Solar City is part of the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities Program.

Residents in Perth's Eastern region have access to free home eco-consultations, valuable discounts off solar hot water systems, solar energy systems and unique energy saving technical trials.

Western Power is leading the Perth Solar City program and is supported by a Consortium of industry leaders including the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Mojarra, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC), Prospero Productions, SolaHart, SunPower, and Synergy.

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