

Dear CEFE members and supporters,

Welcome to a very belated June edition of the Clean Energy for Eternity. The *Information Watch* section at the bottom provides additional climate-related links the promised brief report on lastmonth's BioEnergy and Carbon Trading Forum hosted by SE NSW Private Forestry will have to be held over for the next edition. Please feel free to pass this on or ask to be removed from the list anytime. Apologies for any duplicated addresses. Enjoy.

Philippa

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- **Schools Human Signs across the South Coast and Canberra a phenomenal success**

Hundreds of schoolchildren from Canberra and South East NSW seized a break in the torrential rain on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June to make their statements about what they would like to see done about climate change. See [www.cleanenergyforeternity.net.au](http://www.cleanenergyforeternity.net.au) for up-to-the-minute photos of all the school signs, thanks to Geoffrey Grigg from thebegavalley.org.au. Collages have been made of the combined signs and a video will be edited from the various footage taken.

Congratulations to all those involved, as it required complex logistical planning of planes, photographers, sometimes soggy and recalcitrant school ovals and of course all the children and teachers taking part. The following South Coast schools – Eden High, St Pat's, Lumen Christie, Anglican College, Bega High, Bega West, Tathra, Mumbulla, Cobargo, Quaama, Bermagui, Little Yuin – and seven Canberra schools – little Girls Grammar, Maribyrnong, Melrose, Mt Rogers, St Joseph's, St Michael's and Stromlo participated. Eurobodalla schools will be following suit later in the year.

Especial thanks are due to Prue Kelly for organising the Junior Schools, to Matthew, Derek and Nick for the High Schools and to the tireless team of Jo Dodds and Liane Shields for organising the Canberra effort at arm's length from Bega and to Sascha Saharov for arranging EshACT funding to pay for the Canberra planes

For ABC SouthEast coverage of schools human signs, see

<http://www.abc.net.au/southeastnsw/stories/s1964706.htm?backyard>

- **Nature Conservation Council Award for the most inspiring community climate action group**

*Letter from Matthew Nott re NCC Award:* Dear CEFE, Derek and I went to Sydney on Thursday (7<sup>th</sup> June) to pick up an award from the Nature Conservation Foundation of NSW. The award was for the most inspiring community climate action group, and we won. We (cefe) were praised for raising awareness about climate change, and coming up with community solutions. The solutions that the NCC liked were the fact that we have got 3 shires to agree to a 50/50 by 2020 target, and LifeSaving Energy. CEFE is now a large group, with representation right across SE NSW. Our profile has been raised, and our responsible use of community support has put us into a fantastic position to generate change.

Whilst we accepted the award on behalf of all CEFE groups, one thing has become pretty apparent to me. There are community climate action groups all over the country. One of the reasons why our group has been so successful is because of the fantastic communities that we live in. Look at the Charcoal Factory, or the Snowy River. SE NSW is used to wielding responsible community action, and without that mindset, CEFE would not have got past first base. I therefore think that this award belongs squarely in the hands of the local communities that have supported our campaign.

Well done to all of CEFE. We have a large number of passionate people working hard to generate change, and we now strongly represent SE NSW, I would like to thank all those that have been working so hard for so long. When it comes to climate change, we are turning SE NSW into part of the solution. That success is what is keeping us going. I think the electorate of Eden-Monaro should be re-named "Groundswell"

Matthew

- **CEFE Administrative Assistant to be appointed thanks to IMB Community funding**

IMB Community Foundation has granted CEFE \$25,000 to fund a part-time administrative assistant position and contribute to the costs of running our new office. There was a strong field of over 40 applicants and we are now short listing a handful of outstanding candidates for interviews. The latest IMB Community Foundation newsletter <http://www.imb.com.au/NextgenWeb/NGStandard/NGBlobRender.asp?blobid=389178346> features all 2007 projects.

- **Get-Up “Get-Together” on Climate Change – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Get-Up is organising a series of nation-wide GetTogethers. The first, on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, is focussed on the climate change issue. More than 100 are happening OZ-wide but hosts are sought for Queanbeyan, Bega, Cooma and in the Snowy. Interested people can also RSVP to attend an already registered GetTogether in their area. Just go to the link provided <http://www.getup.org.au/community/gettogethers/>

**Contact** Glenn Willcox, GetUp Eden - Monaro Electoral Campaigner, Tel: 0427 305 462 Email: [glenn@getup.org.au](mailto:glenn@getup.org.au) Website: <http://www.getup.org.au/>

- **Combined CEFE meeting charts a clearer path forward**

15 people from 5 separate groups got together in Bega on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June for a very fruitful meeting. As a group, we agreed:

- To update the CEFE mission statement to reflect current actions and maintaining grassroots focus

- On a structure for CEFE that consists of a central executive, an administrative hub in Bega, local chapters with their own internal structure, plus a series of local and dispersed working groups on various topics from targeted projects (eg schools sign) through to longer term (eg macro-renewable options) etc
  - To set up an interim CEFE Executive with representation from each CEFE chapter plus existing legal office bearers under Incorporation.
  - To formalise Executive via nominations at General Meetings in each chapter and voting at AGM to be held (following all due process) sometime in October
  - That each CEFE Chapter will find bodies to fulfill the roles of Chair-coordinator/ Finances-membership / Media liaison / Website
  - To collectively work up agreed policy statements on a range of topics (eg. from nuclear to forests to biofuels) by email over next month
  - To hold a media workshop for media reps in about the same timeframe
  - On membership– CEFE supporter \$30 family, \$20 individual, \$10 concession, Voting member - one local nomination, signed off by executive within 6 months, expanded membership forms to gather useful information. Each chapter to run their own receipt books out of petty cash, central database to be created and maintained by CEFE Admin and information shared and regularly updated between chapters and admin.
  - On the need and benefit of consistent common materials, eg membership forms, brochures, information kits – Bega to use Mumbulla grant as seed funding
  - AND On an exciting list of jobs as long as your arm.
- Contact** [admin@cleanenergyforeternity.net.au](mailto:admin@cleanenergyforeternity.net.au) if you'd like to help carry any of these ideas out or want further information on the dotpoints above

- **Support the Cooma Community Clean Energy Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August**

Antje Brademan and other members of the Cooma chapter of Clean Energy for Eternity are organising a community forum on Thursday August 8<sup>th</sup> 2007. Venue and final times are yet to be finalised, but please get in touch with Antje if you know any Cooma residents who maybe interested in attending. This will be the first time a CEFE community forum has been held in an area where the local Council is not actively supportive – a strong and positive community voice will be needed. **Contact Antje Brademan by email: [antia@snowy.net.au](mailto:antia@snowy.net.au)** . (Further details will be provided in the next edition, due out well before August!)

- **Emerald Awards launched for World Environment Day**

A new national climate change award program – the Emerald Awards – has been launched to recognise outstanding action by companies, individuals, government and the community in Australia towards achieving a true carbon neutral future. Its creators and supporters include The Climate Institute, ACF, WWF, Clean Up Australia, The Green Building Council of Australia, Baker & McKenzie, The Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Environment Business Australia, Country Women's Association and Clean Energy for Eternity.

“The essence of the new Emerald Awards is to create a focal point in Australia for authentic climate action through a group that is collaborative, inclusive and that represents a broad cross-section of the country,” said Joel Fleming, Chair of Climate Leaders, the organisation behind the awards. “The participation of so many distinguished organizations and individuals supporting the Emerald Awards will make them a unique and important platform for real leadership on this issue.”

The Emerald Awards will help to reduce confusion about carbon offsetting and its place in helping to reduce global warming. The Awards will be aimed at those who are or are committed and working toward becoming carbon neutral with an emphasis on efficiency, renewable energy and lastly offsetting emissions that cannot be eliminated. They will highlight innovation and creative approaches across Australia that leads the way in cutting our growing greenhouse gas emissions.

“Through the Emerald Awards, we hope to showcase leaders from different spheres and create a picture of how a carbon neutral world could look as a model for the broader community,” said Fleming, “By creating such a model, we hope to inspire others to take action to rapidly reduce Australia’s emissions and to realise that we can effectively cut our emissions and address global warming,” Joel Fleming said. “The principles of the awards are to Reduce, Renew, Offset and to encourage World’s Best Practice. By setting a baseline, the awards hope to take some of the mystery out of what ‘carbon neutral’ means. Carbon offsetting is not a panacea for being able to continue “business as usual.”

An official Emerald Awards launch event is planned for the end of August when the specific award categories and criteria will be released and an information website made public. A call for entrants will follow with the first award winners to be announced just before World Environment Day 2008 in Sydney. Efforts will be made to ensure the awards are both credible and easy for those interested to be nominated.

**For more information, or to be included on the mailing list contact Blair Palese, email: [blairpalese@yahoo.com](mailto:blairpalese@yahoo.com)**

- **Bermagui Forum attracted over 300 people**

The meeting held in Bermagui Country Club on 3<sup>rd</sup> June was a roaring success, with over three hundred people coming along, staying for over two hours and talking animatedly with the renewable energy and related service providers around the walls before they left. The general feeling was positivity and enthusiasm, which has already translated into action, with several people changing their habits, purchasing green power or looking into renewable energy/efficiency options for their homes.

**Congratulations to Bill Southwood and Prue Kelly for organising such a great show!**

- **Report on Southern Rivers Catchment Authority/DPI Climate Forum on Tues 19<sup>th</sup> June**

Ray Spencer’s article in the Bega District News gives a good roundup of the key issues raised at this important forum

[http://bega.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=news&subclass=general&story\\_id=1010433&category=general](http://bega.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=news&subclass=general&story_id=1010433&category=general)

## **Information Watch**

- **Swedes halfway to carbon neutral future**

Vaxjo, Sweden is halfway to a future free of fossil fuels, without having sacrificed lifestyle, comfort or economic growth (Age article, June 17, 2007) <http://www.theage.com.au/news/in-depth/emission-possible/2007/06/17/1182018934799.html>. (Thanks to Mark Diesendorf for this positive article)

- **Pasha Bulka displays Greenpeace climate messages**

See <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/resources/photo-stories/climate-change/what-climate-change-looks-like>

- **Wall Street Journal article on solar developments in the USA**

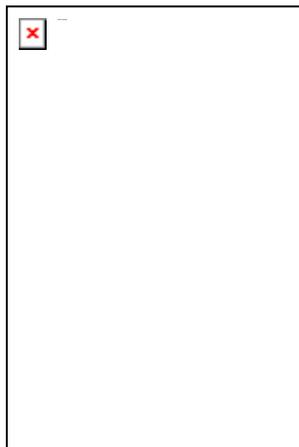
"...Solar's environmental contribution is considerable even if it provides only a fraction of the world's electricity because it can kick in when demand is the highest. Usually utilities fire up old, inefficient coal plants when demand is high, invariably spewing out higher levels of greenhouse gases. If solar were used at peak times instead, the world's energy grids would be cleaner and more efficient..." See full article below, thanks to Bill Southwood and Ken Horne

## **Solar Companies of All Sizes Race To Develop Cheap, Efficient Panels**

By LEILA ABBOUD  
June 14, 2007; Page B1

In a laboratory in Palo Alto, Calif., engineers testing new, super-powerful solar panels shock them with searing heat and deep cold, then blast them with wind, sand and hail. The year-long battery of tests aims to assess the reliability of new panels being developed by a start-up called SolFocus Inc. The panels contain curved mirrors that magnify the sun's rays up to 500 times, concentrating them onto a tiny solar cell that converts them into electricity far more efficiently than conventional panels. "We even shot them with BB guns," says Nancy Hartsoch, the marketing director for SolFocus.

How the panels stand up has big implications, and not just for SolFocus, which raised \$32 million from venture capitalists last year. Also on the line: whether, after decades of unfulfilled promises, solar power will become a cost-effective alternative to coal and natural gas.



Hampered by its high cost, solar power accounts for less than 1% of world-wide electricity generation. It costs 35 to 45 cents to produce a kilowatt hour of electricity from solar panels, compared with about three to five cents burning coal, according to the International Energy Agency. A different approach, known as concentrating solar power, uses huge arrays of mirrors or solar dishes to track the sun and collect its heat to make electricity. Yet even that costs nine to 12 cents to generate one kilowatt hour.

For now, government subsidies are necessary for solar power to develop, and the biggest markets for it aren't the sun-drenched southwestern U.S. but Germany and Japan, whose generous incentives have spurred growth.

Solar panels developed by SolFocus use curved mirrors to magnify the sun's rays up to 500 times.

But that equation is beginning to change. SolFocus is one of nearly a dozen start-ups competing alongside established solar giants like Japan's Sharp Corp. to develop a solar panel that is both cheap and efficient. Well-known tech venture capitalists like Apax Partners, Benchmark Capital and US Venture Partners, as well as Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, have poured cash into solar start-ups in recent years. Meanwhile, established leaders in conventional solar panels like Sharp, the U.K.'s [BP PLC](#) and Germany's [Q-Cells AG](#) have well-funded research labs working on their own technology.

Whoever can come up with the answer will be able to claim a large chunk of the solar-power pie, an \$11 billion market that is growing by more than 25% a year. "The race is on," says George Scott, who spent 20 years in the solar industry and now runs a renewable-energy consulting firm in England.

Of course, even if solar power explodes, it won't replace coal as the primary source of electricity anytime soon. "Solar will only be a small part of the solution to global warming," says Christian Reitzberger, who has invested in solar companies for Apax Partners. But solar's environmental contribution is considerable even if it provides only a fraction of the world's electricity because it can kick in when demand is the highest. Usually utilities fire up old, inefficient coal plants when demand is high, invariably spewing out higher levels of greenhouse gases. If solar were used at peak times instead, the world's energy grids would be cleaner and more efficient.

For years, solar panels followed a standard design: large blue or black rectangles made of silicon. The panels, which account for about 90% of today's market, do a decent job of making power, converting anywhere from 12% to 20% of the sun's rays into electricity, depending on clouds, weather and location. But the high cost of silicon makes them far too expensive to compete with coal or gas.

With some 20 states in the U.S. calling for programs to increase the use of renewable energy, solar power is already growing rapidly here. California has set up \$2.85 billion in incentives to spur solar power, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is calling for solar in one million homes. The U.S. Congress is also debating a law to encourage renewable energy sources. Nonetheless, most of the spending on solar installations is happening in Europe, where many governments have set up so-called feed-in tariffs that require utilities to buy electricity made from renewable sources at above-market rates.

[First Solar](#) Inc., the largest maker of next-generation solar cells, launched its product on the German market in 2003 and has signed major contracts for solar installations in the not-so sunny climes of Bavaria and Saxony.

Founded in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1999 and backed by a venture-capital firm controlled by Wal-Mart heir John T. Walton, First Solar's "thin-film" panels are relatively cheap because they use only 1% of the costly semiconductor material found in conventional solar panels. But engineers at the company's Ohio plant struggled for years to get their manufacturing process to an industrial scale. The method involves feeding a sheet of glass into a pressurized chamber filled with cadmium telluride gas, which condenses in a thin, uniform layer onto the glass.

"Every time you fix one piece of the production line, another part would go out of whack," says First Solar Chief Executive Michael Ahearn. First Solar ended up spending \$100 million and six years to get it right, far more than the initial plan of \$40 million over three years.

But it's finally paying off. Revenue grew to \$135 million in 2006 from \$13.5 million in 2004. The company signed long-term contracts with six European solar-project developers totaling 795 megawatts -- about the size of a coal-fired power plant -- that are expected to bring in \$1.62 billion in revenue through 2011. The world's biggest -- 40 megawatt -- solar park is now being built in the Saxony region by Juwi GmbH using First Solar's thin-film cells.

When First Solar went public in June 2006, it was listed on the Nasdaq at \$20 a share. It closed at \$74.36 yesterday. Mr. Ahearn's goal is for First Solar's panels to compete with fossil fuels even without government subsidies by as early as 2010. "It's a big challenge certainly, but it's not a pipe dream any more," he says.

Many other companies are also pursuing thin-film solar cells, which minimize the use of silicon or eliminate it altogether to drive manufacturing costs even lower. Nanosolar Inc. in Palo Alto has attracted \$100 million in venture-capital for its method of printing solar cells on rolls of shiny foil. The company spent two years researching how to make ink filled with nano particles of copper indium gallium selenide and another two years designing the manufacturing.

"The ink is basically the secret sauce," says Martin Roscheisen, Nanosolar's chief executive.

Q-Cells, the second largest maker of traditional solar cells after Sharp, is taking a different approach to next-generation solar technologies. The company has bought, invested in or developed joint ventures with four companies researching four different types of thin-cell technologies. Pilot batches of the cells have been made, and scaling up production of some should start this year, says Q-Cells Chief Technology Officer Florian Holzapfel.

Many in the solar industry are betting that the market will make room for products with different prices and efficiencies. "What works for a solar array on a rooftop in Tokyo wouldn't be the best choice for the desert in Spain," Mr. Holzapfel says.

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