

MEDIA RELEASE

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Free workshops to reduce electricity bills

Mount Isa's Mica Creek Power Station will be generating more than just electricity next week.

In conjunction with the Queensland Sustainable Energy Industry Group (QSEIDG), station owners CS Energy will offer free workshops to help generate savings for Mount Isa households.

QSEIDG Director Wendy Miller said the practical workshops were designed to show people ways they could reduce their consumption of electricity to help save both money and the environment.

"Our aim is to raise awareness of the potential of renewable energy technologies as well as well as developing the knowledge and skills to enable these technologies to be appropriately integrated into our existing infrastructure," Ms Miller said.

Mica Creek Power Station Manager Larry Whitehead said investment in new technologies was only one of the ways to reduce the impact of our lifestyle on the environment.

"CS Energy converted Mica Creek from coal to gas firing in June 2000, which has saved more than half a million tons in green house gas emissions per year but that's just part of the solution," he said.

"Managing energy consumption is a way we can all contribute to reducing our impact on the environment."

Queensland Acting Energy Minister and Member for Mount Isa Tony McGrady welcomed the initiative.

"Queensland's economic and population growth, combined with the increasing demand for air conditioning poses challenges for our electricity industry," Mr McGrady said.

"Encouraging customers to review their energy use will not only save them money but will reduce the load on the electricity network.

"For example, simply by switching appliances off at the wall instead of leaving them in stand-by mode can save customers at least \$100 off their annual power bills.

"The Queensland Government is also encouraging the use of renewable energy and has reinforced that by sourcing five per cent of its total electricity needs from renewables."

Ms Miller said the workshops were aimed at the general community and would provide valuable tips on how to make your home more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

"Each 90 minute workshop will provide free practical information, explanations and discussions on how you can incorporate sustainable energy practices into your everyday life," she said.

“The first workshop will focus on building and designing homes that are affordable and environmentally friendly and the second will discuss the use of solar power to reduce electricity bills.

“These seminars are a must for anyone who is planning to renovate or build in Mount Isa.”

The free community workshops will be held on 4-5 April at the Mount Isa Civic Centre.

They will run from 7:00pm – 8:30pm on both evenings.

For more information about QSEIDG or the free community workshops, please contact Wendy Miller on 0428 734 316 or email w2.miller@qut.edu.au.

The QSEIDG is the peak body for sustainable electricity in Queensland.

It was formed in 2004 to enhance the collaboration between government, education, industry and community organisations involved in sustainable energy projects.

QSEIDG’s aim is to integrate renewable energy systems and education for a sustainable society.

For further information:

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