

# National and State Renewable Energy Initiatives

## *Australian Government Initiatives*

The Australian Government recognises the important role renewable energy will play in Australia's long-term greenhouse response and is committed to the development of renewable energy sources. As such, the Government has implemented a range of measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to stimulate the renewable energy industry in Australia.

The *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, also known as the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET), is a key element underpinning the strategic development of the renewable energy industry in Australia. The measure was announced by the Prime Minister in the 1997 statement, *Safeguarding the Future: Australia's Response to Climate Change* and commenced on 1 April 2001.

The MRET scheme creates a guaranteed 20 year market backed by legislation and uses a system of tradable renewable energy certificates (RECs). The MRET measure involves phased annual targets from 2001, reaching 9,500 gigawatt hours (GWh) by 2010 and requires this level to be maintained until 2020. MRET has already stimulated \$1 billion in renewable energy investments and is expected to drive \$2 billion of investment by 2020. In the Energy White Paper, released in June 2005, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to MRET at the current level and also announced a number of amendments to strengthen the scheme.

Through the Energy White Paper, the Australian Government has allocated a further \$700 million to support the development of low emission and renewable energy technologies, including:

- A \$500 million Low Emission Technology Demonstration Fund;
- A \$75.3 million Solar Cities trial;
- A \$100 million Renewable Energy Development Initiative;
- A \$20.4 million Advanced Electricity Storage Technologies; and
- Up to \$14 million to develop a Wind Forecasting Capability.

In addition, over the last six years, the Australian Government has allocated over \$300 million for renewable energy specific programs including:

- The \$51.8 million Photovoltaic Rebate Program;
- The \$54 million Renewable Energy Commercialisation Program;
- The \$26.6 million Renewable Energy Equity Fund; and
- The \$206 million Renewable Remote Power Generation Program.

The Australian Government has also worked in partnership with the renewable energy industry to develop the Renewable Energy Action Agenda (REAA). The REAA, which was released in June 2000, outlines a strategic vision for the renewable energy industry, to work towards achieving annual sales of \$4 billion by 2010. Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Action Agenda, particularly in the areas of export, community commitment, and training and accreditation.

1.

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Increase electricity market share of renewable energy sources.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2001-2020
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.orer.gov.au">www.orer.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER), Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage
<b>Description:</b>	MRET aims to raise the contribution of renewable energy sources in Australia's electricity mix by 9,500 GWh per year by 2010 and maintain this requirement

	until 2020. The initiative stimulates demand for renewable energy by requiring liable wholesale electricity purchasers and retailers to source a set percentage of their power from renewable generators. In order to meet their obligation, liable parties purchase and surrender Renewable Energy Certificates (representing 1 MWh of electricity produced by a renewable generator). The penalty payment for non-compliance is AUS\$ 40 per MWh
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<b>Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Support for demonstrating new low-emissions technologies with significant long-term abatement potential.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2004-2020
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	2. Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage and Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$500 million
<b>Description:</b>	The Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund will support the demonstration of new, large-scale, low-emissions technologies that indicate significant long-term abatement potential. The fund will include those renewable technologies that can demonstrate the potential for wide uptake.

<b>Solar Cities</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Demonstrate the economic and environmental costs and benefits of the mass installation of solar energy technology, energy efficient measures and smart meters on electricity supply and demand profiles and infrastructure needs.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2004-2013
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities">www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage in conjunction with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$75.3 million
<b>Description:</b>	3. The Solar Cities programme will trial new models for electricity supply and use, where distributed solar technologies (including solar thermal and photovoltaic technologies), energy efficiency, load management, smart meters and cost-reflective pricing will combine in large-scale grid-connected urban sites. Through the Solar Cities trials, barriers to solar generation and demand side participation in grid-connected urban areas will be identified and then addressed.

<b>Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI)</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Promote strategic development of renewable energy technologies
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	7 years
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.ausindustry.gov.au">www.ausindustry.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$100 million
<b>Description:</b>	The Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI) funds are allocated for promotion of strategic development of renewable energy technologies, systems and processes that have commercial potential.

<b>Advanced Electricity Storage Technologies</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Promote advanced electricity storage technologies.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2004-2008
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au">www.greenhouse.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment & Heritage
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$20.4 million

<b>Description:</b>	4. The programme is designed to increase the attractiveness of intermittent electricity generation sources such as wind and solar and their ability to contribute to the electricity system. It is anticipated that projects demonstrating batteries, electro-mechanical and chemical storage technologies in either on-grid situations, or off-grid situations that could lead to on-grid usage, will be considered for support.
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<b>Wind Energy Forecasting Capability</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Facilitate greater use of wind power in energy markets and allow for more strategic planning of new wind farms.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2004/08-09
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage in conjunction with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$14 million
<b>Description:</b>	5. This program will support the development and installation of software and systems to allow accurate wind forecasting. This will facilitate the increasing penetration of wind energy in the National Electricity Market. Implementation of forecasting systems will assist market management and improve strategic planning for wind farms.

<b>Photovoltaic Rebate Programme (PVRP)</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Promote Government assistance to householders and the owners of community buildings to install photovoltaic systems.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2000-2007
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/pv/index.html">www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/pv/index.html</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$51.8 million
<b>Description:</b>	6. This program provides rebates to households and community organisations that install roof-top PV power systems. The level of rebate is based on peak PV output. The minimum system size is 450-Watt peak output. There is no maximum size, although the rebate of \$4.00 per peak watt (ppW) for new systems is capped at \$4 000 per residential system and \$8 000 per community building system. Extensions to existing PV systems can receive rebates of \$2.50 ppW capped at \$2 500 (1.0 kW). The community buildings component is similar in minimum size and rebates, but these are generally capped at \$10 000 (2 kW) unless exceptional circumstances apply.

<b>Renewable Energy Commercialisation Programme (RECP)</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Assist commercialisation of promising new renewable energy technologies.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1999-2006
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/recp/index.html">www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/recp/index.html</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$54 million
<b>Description:</b>	<p>A competitive grants programme designed to achieve greenhouse gas abatement through assisting renewable energy technology commercialisation leading to development of the renewable energy industry in Australia. Projects are chosen for their strong commercial potential, contribution to diversification of the renewable energy industry and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Applicants must fund at least 50% of project costs. Applicants applied for funding over five rounds held from 1999 to 2004.</p> <p>The programme also includes a \$6 million Renewable Energy Industry Development (REID) component. There is a separate entry for REID.</p>

<b>Renewable Energy Equity Fund</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Increase venture capital available to promising renewable energy innovations
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1999 - ?
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.ausindustry.gov.au">www.ausindustry.gov.au</a> , <a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au">www.greenhouse.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage in conjunction with AusIndustry in the Department of Industry, Tourism & Resources.
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$17.7 million
<b>Description:</b>	7. Provides venture capital to small, innovative companies for the development of renewable energy technologies. The fund is managed by an independent company with supervision provided by the Industry Research and Development Board. Government funding is matched by private equity on a 2:1 basis. The fund manager raises capital from investors and assesses small businesses in which to invest based on the expected rate of return. Eligible companies may receive a maximum investment of \$3 million or 10% of the initial capital (whichever is less).

<b>Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme (RRPGP)</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Increase use of renewable energy and decrease use of diesel in remote power generation.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2000-2012
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/rpgrp/index.html">www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/rpgrp/index.html</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Diesel Fuel Excise paid by public power generators in the period 2000 to 2004, equating to \$206 million
<b>Description:</b>	Provides up to 50% of the capital cost for installing new renewable generation equipment in off-main grid applications. Funds are allocated to the states and the Northern Territory on the basis of the relevant Diesel Fuel Excise paid in each jurisdiction by public generators in the years 2000-2001 to 2003-2004. To be eligible, installations must be able to demonstrate that they displace diesel consumption with renewable generation. Qualifying capital costs include renewable energy generation equipment, enabling /ancillary equipment (inverters, batteries etc.) and essential expenditures such as installation costs.

<b>Renewable Energy Action Agenda (REAA)</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Plan of actions to develop the Australian renewable energy industry.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2000-2010
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.industry.gov.au/reaa">www.industry.gov.au/reaa</a> , <a href="http://www.greenhouse.gov.au">www.greenhouse.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Industry, Tourism & Resources in consultation with the Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment and Heritage
<b>Total Funding:</b>	N/A
<b>Description:</b>	Industry and the Australian Government worked in partnership to develop the Renewable Energy Action Agenda (REAA), launched in 2000. The REAA Vision is "to achieve a sustainable and internationally competitive renewable energy industry". Over the last four years, the Government has worked with the renewable energy industry to implement action agenda initiatives that aim to increase community commitment to renewable energy, encourage exports, improve the reliability and quality of renewable energy products and services, develop a renewable transport fuels industry, ensure that skilled people are available to support industry growth, and encourage a culture of market-driven innovation.

## State and Territory Renewable Energy Initiatives

The States and Territories are involved in the delivery of the Australian Government's Renewable Remote Power Generation Program and Photovoltaic Rebate Program (both detailed above).

One program, Green Power, is common to all states:

<b>Green Power</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To encourage growth in consumer demand for renewable energy</li> <li>– To provide consumer choice for, and increase confidence in, renewable energy products</li> <li>– To promote the renewable energy industry through the rigorous accreditation of generators</li> <li>– To increase consumer awareness of the benefits of renewable energy</li> <li>– To increase the sustainability of Australia's electricity supply</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Launched in NSW in 1997, then launched Nationally in 2000. Ongoing initiative
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenpower.com.au">www.greenpower.com.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Departments in each jurisdiction administer. Overall project management by the NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Description</b>	The Green Power Scheme provides a means for electricity retailers to differentiate electricity sourced from renewable energy. This allows customers to purchase new renewable energy, generally at a premium to conventionally source power. The premium paid supports renewable generation by provides additional income to renewable generators.

### *Australian Capital Territory*

<b>Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Encourages the adoption of renewable technologies.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1 January 2005 to 31 December 2012.
<b>Website Address:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Office of Sustainability, Chief Minister's Department
<b>Description</b>	This program establishes a scheme along the NSW model (described below) by which retailers of electricity into the Territory must progressively increase the percentage of their product sourced from cleaner or renewable generation sources. Benchmark targets are established for each retailer based on the market share for the previous calendar year.

<b>Wind Farming</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To research the possibility of wind farms as a source of renewable energy for the ACT.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	n/a
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Office of Sustainability, Chief Minister's Department
<b>Total Funding:</b>	n/a
<b>Description:</b>	8. Wind is a form of renewable energy currently being examined by the ACT Government. In recent months, there have been significant developments regarding wind farms and proposals for new wind farm developments. All of

	these activities (currently 15) are based in surrounding NSW. The ACT is generally unsuited to wind generation due to its predominance of national parks, which prohibit the construction and transmission of the generated energy through protected areas. However, the Territory would be a market for any wind generated energy.
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<b>Government Electricity Contract</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To buy renewable energy as a component of the Government Electricity Contract
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1998 - 2008
<b>Website Address:</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Urban Services
<b>Total Funding:</b>	No specific funding
<b>Description:</b>	The ACT Government has a contract with ActewAGL to supply around 22,750 MWh of electricity per annum generated from methane gas at Canberra's tip sites, which is 100% of the energy generated from the tip sites. This electricity is attributed to 101 of the 176 sites covered by the whole of Government electricity contract. On average green energy makes up around 25% of the electricity consumed at the 101 sites or 18% of electricity consumed across all ACT Government sites

<b>ACT Energy Wise</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	9. To establish an audit list of home energy efficiency improvements that will enable households to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	15 December 2004 – ongoing
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Office of Sustainability, Chief Minister's Department
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Program budget - \$1.2 million over 4 years
<b>Description:</b>	A residential energy advice and rebate program. Audit reports identify a list of home energy efficiency improvements that will enable a householder to reduce greenhouse emissions. A rebate of \$500 is offered to householders who install identified energy efficiency improvements. There are more than 17 identified improvements that are included in the program including insulation, window treatments, weather stripping, pelmets, lined curtains or blinds, fluorescent lights and permanent external shading.

### *New South Wales*

The NSW Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. In light of this, to date the NSW Government has introduced a range of voluntary and mandatory measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power consumed in NSW. These include emission intensity limits on power consumed in NSW, mandatory performance standards for design of new residential buildings, and voluntary rating schemes for the greenhouse performance of existing commercial and residential buildings. It is also committed to the introduction of a national emissions trading scheme that sets a national cap on greenhouse gas emissions.

The NSW Government also works co-operatively with other jurisdictions on policies which have the potential to increase the greater up-take of renewable energy technologies.

The NSW Government also operates a number of initiatives specifically targeted at supporting the development of renewable energy projects in NSW, aimed primarily at assisting solar power, wind power and bioenergy project developers as well as increasing demand for renewable energy.

In addition, the NSW Greenhouse Office has been established to coordinate the development and implementation of a Greenhouse Strategy for NSW. The Strategy is expected to be launched in 2005 and may include further measures to support renewable energy in NSW.

Finally, the NSW Government released an Energy Directions Green Paper in late 2004 and is developing an Energy Directions Statement White Paper which will state the NSW Government policy on energy issues facing the state. This is expected to be released in 2005 and may also include new policies supporting renewable energy in NSW.

<b>NSW Government Purchase of Green Power</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	– Government leading by example
<b>Objective(s):</b>	– Improving the sustainability of electricity consumed by the NSW Government
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Ongoing.
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (monitoring); Department of Commerce (implementation)
<b>Total Funding:</b>	approximately \$1.8 million p.a.
<b>Description:</b>	10. NSW Government Schedule 1 Agencies purchasing their electricity through the State Government 777 Contract must purchase at least 6% of their electricity as Green Power.

<b>Solar in Schools</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To install solar power systems on school roofs across NSW and to integrate climate change issues, renewable energy and energy efficiency into the teaching curriculum
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Phase 1 commenced 1999, and Phase 4 is currently underway (completion expected December 2005). Future Phases dependent on funds being available
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.solarschools.net">www.solarschools.net</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (lead); Department of Education and Training
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Approximately \$2 million across the 4 phases (NSW Government share approx. 50%)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Solar in Schools is an award winning NSW Government initiative which installs solar power systems on school rooftops and, importantly, incorporates climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy into the school curriculum. SEDA's Solar in Schools program provides visible examples to NSW communities of a local solution to the global problem of climate change. Participating schools each receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of a 1.5kW (nominal) grid-connected solar power system</li> <li>• A 'Solar Explorer' educational resource kit for use within the school</li> <li>• Teachers' training to use the kits and the related website</li> </ul> <p>Other schools not directly participating in the program can also learn about solar energy, access historical performance data from participating schools and benefit from the results of the program through the national solar schools education website: <a href="http://www.solarschools.net">www.solarschools.net</a></p> <p>Solar in Schools commenced in November 1999 with a pilot program of 18 schools. This was a partnership between the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA), the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) and Integral Energy, with SEDA also receiving rebates from the Federal Government's PV Rebate Program. In 2002, SEDA and DET extended Solar in Schools to a further 25 schools (Phase 2). In 2004, SEDA (now DEUS), DET</p>

and Integral Energy extended Solar in Schools to a further 36 schools, so that today more than 34,000 school children in 79 NSW Solar Schools are learning about climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy. A further 20-30 schools will join the Solar in Schools initiative in Phase 4 of the program in 2005.

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Assist the development of wind power in NSW
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Commenced 2001. Ongoing
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.seda.nsw.gov.au/ren_wind06.asp">www.seda.nsw.gov.au/ren_wind06.asp</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Cost recovering
<b>Description:</b>	<p>DEUS provides the following products to assist the development of wind power generation in NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Information on wind power to the public, including the NSW Wind Atlas, NSW Wind Energy Handbook and an information pack for landowners.</li> <li>– The NSW Wind Energy Synopsis - provides an overview of the development potential of wind energy across NSW, allowing users to quickly focus time and resources on suitable regions;</li> <li>– Regional Wind Reports – 48 reports presenting everything developers needs for initial site selection and analysis in regions across NSW. The regional reports use WindScope™ to model wind speeds and wind energy, and also provide an extensive range of other site filtering information; and</li> <li>– Wind Data Licences - access to high-quality, long-term raw data from 41 wind monitoring sites via a non-exclusive licence.</li> </ul>

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To provide information on renewable / low emission energy resources in NSW to aid with project development.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Commenced in 1997. Ongoing.
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	11. Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Approximately \$1 million in total (excl. feasibility studies)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>DEUS and its predecessor SEDA have produced a number of resource assessments and other technical reports to provide developers with adequate information on renewable / low emission energy resources in NSW. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two resource assessments on small scale hydro potential, on Murray River locks and Lake Victoria, and on existing dams and structures in NSW and the ACT</li> <li>• Four resource assessments on the potential for bioenergy generation in NSW, including on agricultural wastes, wet wastes and forestry by-products and residues</li> <li>• The NSW Bioenergy Handbook, providing extensive coverage of all aspects of bioenergy for a range of stakeholders</li> <li>• A market evaluation on the potential for biomass pellet and briquette heating in NSW (under development)</li> <li>• Statistics on “Who Buys Solar Power”, to help PV suppliers improve their marketing efforts</li> <li>• A resource assessment on the potential for power generation using methane from decommissioned coal mines (under development)</li> <li>• Individual feasibility studies on the potential for gas fired cogeneration at 27 commercial and industrial sites (studies are confidential)</li> </ul> <p>Individual feasibility studies on the potential for coal mine methane fired</p>

<b>Policy/Program Name: BASIX</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To improve the environmental performance of new homes built in NSW,
<b>Objective(s):</b>	including the greenhouse gas emission impact of these homes
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Introduced 2004. Ongoing initiative
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au">www.basix.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources
<b>Total Funding:</b>	tba
<b>Description:</b>	<p>BASIX (the Building Sustainability Index), is a web-based planning tool that measures the potential performance of new residential dwellings against sustainability indices. BASIX ensures each dwelling design meets the NSW Government's planning requirements of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 40% reduction in water consumption and</li> <li>– 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul> <p>in new homes compared with the average home. The greenhouse target will increase to 40% from July 2006.</p> <p>Each development application for a residential dwelling must be submitted with a BASIX Certificate. A Certificate is issued once a BASIX assessment has been satisfactorily completed, using the on-line tool. The building applicant, (e.g. architect, builder, owner builder) is responsible for completing the assessment, ensuring the BASIX commitments are clearly marked on the plans, and submitting the BASIX Certificate with the development application.</p> <p>BASIX was introduced on 1 July 2004 for new single dwellings and dual occupancy, and new boarding houses, guest houses, hostels, lodging houses and backpacker accommodation under 300m<sup>2</sup>. From 1 July 2005 it will apply to all new residential dwellings, including single dwellings and multi-units (eg. villas, townhouses and low to high-rise developments. From 1 October 2005 it will also apply to all residential alterations and additions throughout NSW.</p>

<b>Australian Building Greenhouse Rating Scheme</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by energy used in office buildings
<b>Objective(s):</b>	across Australia
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Launched in 1999. Ongoing.
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.abgr.com.au">www.abgr.com.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$850,000 p.a. (total for all building performance ratings)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Australian Building Greenhouse Rating Scheme (ABGRS) is a world leading voluntary scheme enabling commercial building owners and tenants across Australia to benchmark the actual greenhouse gas emission performance of their buildings. Under the scheme, buildings or tenancies receive a star rating on a 1 to 5 scale representing its greenhouse performance – the more stars, the lower the greenhouse intensity of the building or tenancy (on a square metre of office space basis). To date, 24% of office space in NSW and 14% of office space across Australia have obtained an accredited ABGRS rating (based on m<sup>2</sup> of floor space).</p> <p>This scheme may result in an increased demand for renewable energy, as the purchase of Green Power results in a decrease in the greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity used in the buildings and is therefore an eligible way to obtain a higher Building Greenhouse Rating. Demand for on-site renewable and distributed generation (e.g. PV, solar hot water, gas fired cogeneration) may also be boosted due to the scheme, as installation of these systems will also result in a higher rating.</p>

<b>NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To reduce the per capita greenhouse gas intensity of electricity consumed in NSW
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Commenced 1 January 2003, Ends 2020
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenhousegas.nsw.gov.au">www.greenhousegas.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	12. Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (policy development); Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (scheme administration)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme commenced on 1 January 2003 and remains in force until 2012. The Scheme is one of the first “emissions trading” type schemes in the world. It imposes mandatory greenhouse gas benchmarks on all NSW electricity retailers and certain other parties, including those who elect to manage their own benchmark, to abate the emission of greenhouse gases from the consumption of electricity in NSW. These parties are referred to as benchmark participants.</p> <p>The Scheme sets a State greenhouse gas benchmark expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) per capita. The initial level set for 2003 is 8.65 tonnes and the benchmark progressively drops to 7.27 tonnes in 2007 and will continue until 2012. This will bring NSW greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector down to 5% below 1990 levels on a per capita basis. In June 2005 the NSW Premier announced the extension of the Scheme to 2020.</p> <p>Benchmark participants, are required to reduce their emission of greenhouse gases to the level of their greenhouse gas benchmark by off-setting their excess emissions through the surrender of abatement certificates. These certificates are created by accredited abatement certificate providers and can be traded to benchmark participants. Abatement certificate providers can be accredited to carry out the following abatement activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Low-emission generation of electricity (Generation)</li> <li>– Activities that result in reduced consumption of electricity (Demand Side Abatement)</li> <li>– The capture of carbon from the atmosphere in forests (Carbon Sequestration)</li> <li>– Activities carried out by elective participants that reduce on-site emissions not directly related to electricity consumption (Large User Abatement)</li> </ul> <p>Renewable energy generators are able to create and sell abatement certificates and thereby benefit from the Scheme.</p>

<b>Minimum Performance Standards for NSW Government Offices under the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating Scheme</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by energy used in NSW Government offices
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Announced 2004. Ongoing
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.cabinet.nsw.gov.au/greenhouse/linked_files/NSW%20Government%20drives%20Greenhouse%20friendly%20offices.pdf">www.cabinet.nsw.gov.au/greenhouse/linked_files/NSW%20Government%20drives%20Greenhouse%20friendly%20offices.pdf</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Estimated capital cost of \$5 million to meet ABGR commitments
<b>Description:</b>	The NSW Government has committed to rating all its buildings with over 1,000m <sup>2</sup> of floor space using the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating Scheme by the end of 2004 (i.e. 179 buildings). By July 2006, all new government owned buildings will achieve a 4.5 star rating under the scheme and all existing government owned buildings will achieve a 3 star rating where cost effective (or 4 stars for major upgrades). By July 2006, all existing government tenancies will achieve a 4 star rating where cost effective (4.5 stars for fitouts and refurbishments). In addition, NSW Government tenants will prefer to

occupy premises where the base building has at least 3 stars under the ABGR scheme and will require disclosure of the base building rating when seeking information for leasing purposes.

The measure may result in an increased demand for renewable energy, as the purchase of Green Power results in a decrease in the greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity used in the buildings and is therefore an eligible way to obtain a higher Building Greenhouse Rating. Demand for on-site renewable and distributed generation (e.g. PV, solar hot water, gas fired cogeneration) may also be boosted due to the scheme, as installation of these systems will also result in a higher rating.

### Energy Smart Home Rating Scheme / National Australian Built Environment Rating System

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	13. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by energy used in residential buildings in NSW and Australia
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Launched in 2004. Ongoing but transitioning to NABERS in 2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.energysmarthome.com.au/main1.1">www.energysmarthome.com.au/main1.1</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$850,000 p.a. (total for all building performance ratings)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Energy Smart Home Rating Scheme (ESHR) was launched in 2004 as a voluntary initiative for NSW's 2.3 million existing homes to rate, and improve, their greenhouse gas performance.</p> <p>ESHR includes a web-based self-assessment tool and an official rating with a home energy audit offered through accredited assessors. It is delivered to consumers via corporate partners, councils, and Energy Smart Product Partners.</p> <p>DEUS has been awarded the contract to develop and operate the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) on behalf of the Federal Government. NABERS is a rating system for the built environment covering greenhouse emissions, water, transport and other environmental indices. NABERS will transition in 2005 as the primary brand for residential performance ratings in NSW and will also be promoted nationally for this purpose. However, ESHR will remain the greenhouse input for NABERS.</p> <p>This scheme may result in an increased demand for renewable energy, as the purchase of Green Power results in a decrease in the greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity used in the buildings and is therefore an eligible way to obtain a higher greenhouse rating. Demand for PV and solar hot water may also be boosted due to the scheme, as installation of these systems will also result in a higher rating.</p>

### Policy/Program Name: National Emissions Trading Scheme

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of NSW and Australia in a least cost manner through the introduction of a national emissions trading scheme
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	n/a
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	NSW Greenhouse Office / NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The NSW Government has called for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the Australian Government and the establishment of a national emissions trading scheme that sets a national cap on emissions.</p> <p>However, in the absence of national leadership on greenhouse policy, the NSW Government has brought together an Inter-jurisdictional Working Group to develop a national emissions trading scheme at a State and Territory level. An emissions trading scheme would provide a framework for states and territories</p>

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and assist in meeting Australia's Kyoto Protocol target. It would help position Australia for a carbon constrained future and emissions reductions beyond 2012 and allow interaction with other international markets.

Renewable energy projects may become more competitive under a future national emissions trading scheme compared to conventional greenhouse gas intensive forms of electricity generation currently in use in Australia.

### State Based Increase to the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target

<b>General Policy</b>	To investigate ways to grow the Australian renewable energy industry
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	yet to be implemented
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	<b>14.</b> Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<b>Description:</b>	<p>On 26 June 2004, after a meeting of State Ministers for Energy from the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Tasmanian Governments, the Ministers noted that leaving the Federal Mandatory Renewable Energy Target unchanged means that Australia's renewable energy industry will remain small, it will lose investment for projects in the short term, and lose the opportunity for Australia to establish itself as the renewable energy hub of the Asia-Pacific Region.</p> <p>The Ministers therefore agreed to immediately establish an Inter-jurisdictional Working Group to recommend ways to increase the MRET from the current level and time frame; noting the recommendations of the Federal Government commissioned Tambling report as a minimum outcome.</p>

### Energy Directions Statement White Paper

<b>General Policy</b>	To outline NSW Government policy positions on energy issues
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.deus.nsw.gov.au/new/index.htm">www.deus.nsw.gov.au/new/index.htm</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (secretariat)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>In December 2004 the NSW Government released the Energy Directions Green Paper, to facilitate broad public discussion about particular aspects of energy policy, and further reform proposals, which are primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Following a public consultation process on issues raised in the Green Paper, the NSW Government will develop final policy positions on these issues. A White Paper outlining policy positions is being finalised.</p> <p>One focus of the NSW Government is on ensuring that renewable energy technologies continue to be developed and applied, so that their current technical and cost barriers are overcome, and they can make a more substantial contribution to NSW energy supply in the longer term.</p> <p>The policy positions outlined in the White Paper may include policies designed to remove impediments to the generation and use of renewable energy in NSW.</p>

### Policy/Program Name: NSW Greenhouse Strategy

<b>General Policy</b>	To limit the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and put NSW on a long term path towards a prosperous, low carbon economy
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Expected to be released in 2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.cabinet.nsw.gov.au/greenhouse">www.cabinet.nsw.gov.au/greenhouse</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	NSW Greenhouse Office (co-ordinating strategy formation and implementation); individual agencies (implementing components of the strategy).
<b>Total Funding:</b>	yet to be determined
<b>Description:</b>	The NSW Greenhouse Strategy will identify what needs to be done at a state and national level to reduce greenhouse emissions. The strategy will aim to

limit the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and put NSW on a long term path towards a prosperous, low carbon economy. It will:

- Provide an update on the latest climate science, and the impacts that NSW could expect;
- Set out NSW action to combat climate change;
- Identify areas that require further work; and
- Include new initiatives to reduce emissions and prepare NSW for a carbon-constrained future.

The strategy is expected to be released in 2005 and may include new initiatives that will help increase the uptake of renewable energy in NSW.

## *Queensland*

In May 2000 the Queensland Government released its *Queensland Energy Policy: A Cleaner Energy Strategy*. This strategy aims to diversify the State's energy mix towards a greater use of gas and renewables and reduce greenhouse emissions from the energy sector. Current renewables initiatives, as announced in the 2005/06 budget, include:

- a \$5 million package to support Queensland bids under the Commonwealth Government's \$75 million Solar Cities Trial Program;
- continued purchase of up to 5% of the State Government's annual energy requirements from green sources, costing around \$1.4 million per year; and
- \$4.4 million over 4 years to continue the successful Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund

A number of renewable energy projects have been developed in Queensland in recent years. Many of these projects have been the initiative of Government Owned Corporations, such as Stanwell Corporation's 12 megawatt (MW) Windy Hill Wind Farm in North Queensland and 30 MW Rocky Point biomass cogeneration plant in South East Queensland; and Ergon Energy's 1.5 MW macadamia nut shell biomass cogeneration plant at Gympie. The Government will continue to support these niche projects where they are commercially viable and meet electricity market needs, including reliability and security of supply requirements.

Other energy initiatives include the establishment of the Centre of Low Emissions Technology and the 13% gas scheme designed to encourage new gas generation in Queensland, including distributed generation. The Queensland Government is also facilitating development of geo-thermal technology, which is recognised as having the potential to supply large amounts of base load power.

### **Solar Cities Trial (\$5 Million Package)**

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To strengthen Queensland bids for funding under the Commonwealth Government's \$75 million Solar Cities Trial (SCT) Program.
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005/06 to 2009/10
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.energy.qld.gov.au">www.energy.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Energy
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$5 million
<b>Description:</b>	15. The SCT Program is intended to provide a model of how distributed solar energy in a grid connected context, in combination with changed consumer behavior (including energy efficiency), can deliver economic and environmental benefits. The \$5 million package is aimed at assisting Queensland bids under the SCT Program and is conditional on Commonwealth funding being successfully secured. Financial assistance will be limited to proposals that demonstrate alignment with desired Queensland Government outcomes.

### **Green Energy Purchase Program**

<b>General Policy</b>	Support the establishment of new renewable energy projects in Queensland
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005/06 – 2008/9
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Public Works
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$5.6 million
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Queensland Government will spend around \$1.4 million per year purchasing green energy, to an amount up to 5% of its energy consumption.</p> <p>This initiative will build on the successes of the Government's previous green energy purchase program, which encouraged new renewable generation investment in this State and increased community awareness of the benefits of renewables.</p>

### **Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund**

<b>General Policy</b>	Promote innovation in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and practices
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005/06 – 2009/10
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.epa.qld.gov.au">www.epa.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Environmental Protection Agency Queensland
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$4.4 million
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund (QSEIF) seeks to promote innovation in energy and water efficiency and renewable energy technologies and practices. The fund seeks projects from business or the community to establish Queensland as a market leader in energy innovation and sustainable energy. Funds are focused on innovative projects dealing with research, development, demonstration or commercialisation of energy and water efficiency or renewable energy.</p> <p>The Government's 2005/06 budget commitment will see continuation of the popular QSEIF program which has been assisting sustainable technology innovation in Queensland since 1999.</p>

### **Centre for Low Emission Technology**

<b>General Policy</b>	Commercialisation of Low Emission Technology
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2003/04 – 2007+
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.sdi.qld.gov.au">www.sdi.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Queensland Department of State Development & Innovation
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$9 million over 4 years
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Centre for Low Emission Technology focuses on clean coal technologies and the commercial potential of coal-renewable hybrid technologies such as cogeneration using biomass.</p>

### **Geo-thermal Exploration Act**

<b>General Policy</b>	Facilitating development of geo-thermal technology
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005 -
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au">www.nrm.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Queensland Department of Natural Resources & Mines
<b>Total Funding:</b>	n/a
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Government is facilitating development of geo-thermal technology, which is recognised as having the potential to supply large amounts of base load power. The passage of the <i>Geothermal Exploration Act 2004</i> made</p>

Queensland the first State in Australia to have specific legislation for the development of geothermal energy. A competitive tender process for geothermal exploration permits is to occur later in 2005.

### **13% Gas Scheme**

<b>General Policy</b>	Encourage greater use of gas in electricity generation
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005 – 2020
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.energy.qld.gov.au">www.energy.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Queensland Department of Energy
<b>Total Funding:</b>	n/a
<b>Description:</b>	The 13% Gas Scheme is designed to diversify Queensland's energy mix towards the greater use of gas, encourage the installation of distributed generation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Queensland electricity sector, and assist in encouraging the development of new gas sources and gas infrastructure in Queensland. The 13% Gas Scheme requires retailers and other liable loads to obtain Gas Electricity Certificates from accredited generators equal to 13% of electricity used in Queensland.

### ***South Australia***

The South Australian Government has developed a sustainability objective as part of South Australia's Strategic Plan, to make South Australia world-renowned for being clean, green and sustainable. Some of the key targets of the Plan include:

- Reducing energy consumption in Government buildings by 25% within 10 years;
- Leading Australia in wind and solar power generation within 10 years;
- Increasing the use of renewable electricity so that it comprises 15% of total electricity consumption within 10 years;
- Extending the existing Solar Schools Program so that at least 250 schools have solar power within 10 years;
- Increasing energy efficiency of dwellings by 10% within 10 years, by such means as the introduction of a five-star energy requirement for new houses by May 2006;
- Extending the One Million Trees program so that 3 million trees will be planted in South Australia within 10 years; and
- Achieving the Kyoto target during the first commitment period (2008 - 12).

The Government has also announced a number of initiatives to contribute to the targets, including a four year extension to the Government's subsidy for solar hot water systems, and the progressive installation of solar power to key government buildings including Parliament House.

In addition, the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA):

- Released Electricity Industry Guideline No. 12 regarding demand management for electricity distribution networks;
- Committed \$20 million over five years as part of the Electricity Distribution Price Review for ETSA Utilities to trial, develop and introduce initiatives designed to lower business and household customer demand for electricity during peak periods;
- Is reviewing the Electricity Distribution Code to remove potential barriers to embedded generation in South Australia and is preparing an embedded generation guide for consumers; and
- Is participating in the Embedded Generation Working Group which is looking at developing a nationally consistent Code of Practice for Embedded Generation.

<b>Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	16. To reduce greenhouse gases, increase efficient use of energy and promote sustainability
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	21 July 2001 – ongoing (Extended for 4 years)
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.sustainable.energy.sa.gov.au/pages/advisory/rebates/rebates.htm:sectID=106&amp;tempID=58">www.sustainable.energy.sa.gov.au/pages/advisory/rebates/rebates.htm:sectID=106&amp;tempID=58</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Energy SA
<b>Description:</b>	Rebates up to \$700 for the installation of eligible solar hot water systems.

<b>Renewable Energy Target: State Strategic Plan</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Increase the use of renewable energy
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	10 years
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	n/a
<b>Total Funding:</b>	n/a
<b>Description:</b>	Target to increase the use of renewable energy to 15% within 10 years

<b>Solar Schools Program</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Increase photovoltaic use in schools
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	3 years
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$1.25 million
<b>Description:</b>	To assist with the installation of photovoltaic systems at between 50-100 schools

<b>South Australia's Sustainable Energy Research Advisory Committee (SENRAAC)</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To facilitate further development of sustainable and renewable energy technologies, and of demand side management technologies that enable more efficient use of energy, reduced peak energy demand, or reduced energy-related greenhouse gas emissions
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1977 - Ongoing
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.senrac.sa.gov.au">www.senrac.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Energy SA / Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate of the Department of Further Education, Employment Science and Technology
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$5 Million since 1977
<b>Description:</b>	Provide energy R&D grants for competitive proposals that have strong commercialisation prospects, environmental benefits and could potentially reduce costs for SA energy consumers. Significant projects are sought (total cost \$50-200,000 p.a.) that are likely to have a major impact on the State.

<b>Biodiesel use by metro trains and buses</b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Reduce greenhouse gases and fuel consumption
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	From 1 March 2005 – ongoing
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	n/a
<b>Total Funding:</b>	n/a
<b>Description:</b>	Converting all metro trains and diesel buses (535 diesel buses and all 95 railcars) to operate using 5% biodiesel, with the figure to be increased progressively to 20%.

Tasmania currently sources over 90% of its electricity supply from renewable energy, and the Tasmanian Government is committed to continue to encourage and assist the development of wind and other renewable resources in a manner that respects the environment from which they are drawn while being responsive to the community's energy needs.

As such, the Tasmanian Government's major renewable energy focus has been the displacement of diesel generation in remote locations, such as the State's many islands. This has been greatly assisted by the Federal Government's Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP), which has funded projects on the Bass Strait Islands and Bruny Island, with more planned on Maria Island, Maatsuyker Island and Deal Island. The Residential Remote Area Power Supply program, a sub-program of RRPGP, is supporting the conversion of many off-grid residential energy users from diesel to renewable energy.

On a larger scale, Basslink has been a major initiative that will significantly compliment the ongoing development of Tasmania's substantial wind resources by enabling more efficient use of available energy capacity between NEM regions and off-setting the need to build additional conventional power generation plants on the mainland.

Another aspect of the Tasmanian Government's renewable energy policy is the facilitation of synergies that may arise between our existing renewables base, such as wind, and emerging technologies, such as the use of hydrogen as an energy storage medium. This is being highlighted by a proposal to install a hybrid wind/hydrogen renewable generation alternative on Cape Barren Island.

<b>Residential Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS)</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To provide an effective and sustainable electricity supply to remote users, whilst assisting the development of Australia's renewable energy industry
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	June 2004 – June 2008
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy/RAPS.html">www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy/RAPS.html</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$1.8 million
<b>Description:</b>	A sub-program of the RRPGP, Residential RAPS provides a rebate of 50% of the GST-inclusive capital costs of eligible renewable energy equipment and services, up to a maximum of \$40,000. Rebates will be available for both new renewable energy systems and additions of new equipment to existing systems. The applicant must be the owner of a private household not connected to the main Tasmanian grid and the dwelling must be at least one kilometre from the main grid and/or connection cost to the grid would be in excess of \$30,000.
<b>Bass Strait Islands Solar Hot Water Trial</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To assist in the displacement of diesel generation on the islands, whilst also supporting the PV industry in Tasmania.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	12 month trial, starting mid 2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy">www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$30, 000
<b>Description:</b>	The Bass Strait Islands Solar Hot Water Trial is a 12-month trial to test the suitability under local conditions of a wide-scale solar hot water installation program on the islands. Meters have been installed on electric hot water systems, gas hot water systems and solar hot water systems, and their outputs will be measured over the 12-month period. The data will be the basis of a feasibility study to support a government rebate program on the islands.
<b>Tasmanian Hydrogen Stakeholders Network (THSN)</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To progress the use of hydrogen for a variety of end uses, including as a storage mechanism for renewable energy in remote areas and use as a transport fuel
<b>Objective(s):</b>	

<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Indefinite
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy/Hydrogen.html">www.dier.tas.gov.au/energy/Hydrogen.html</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Hydro Tasmania, University of Tasmania, Australian Antarctic Division
<b>Total Funding:</b>	DIER provides venue and secretariat services.
<b>Description:</b>	The THSN provides a forum for Tasmanian organisations involved in the development of hydrogen as an energy carrier for Tasmania and surrounding regions to share information, skills and technologies that will direct the development of this energy carrier.

## Victoria

The Victorian Government has set a target that by 2010, 10% of Victoria's electricity consumption will be from renewable sources. To support this, the Victorian Government has also made a commitment to facilitate up to 1,000 MW of wind energy installed in environmentally acceptable locations by 2006. The Victorian Government also has a range of initiatives in place to facilitate the achievement of this target, with the lead agency being the Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria. These initiatives include:

- the development of a Victorian Renewable Energy Strategy;
- support for a State-based Mandatory Renewable Energy Target Scheme;
- an \$8 million Renewable Energy Support Fund to support innovative applications of medium-scale renewable energy technologies;
- the Centre for Energy and Greenhouse Technologies, that supports the commercial deployment of low emission technologies, such as renewables;
- the purchase of 10% of the Victorian Government's own electricity needs as accredited Green Power;
- support for Green Power accreditation and promotion;
- a Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme that has been operating since 1 July 2000;
- a \$3 million Victorian Solar Innovation Initiative for community facilities;
- increasing the quality of information about Victoria's renewable energy resources,
- introduction of the 5 Star Standard for new residential housing including a mandatory solar water heating or water tank option; and
- introduction of the *Geothermal Energy Resources Act* to facilitate geothermal exploration and extraction by providing security of tenure over geothermal energy resources and regulating the industry's environmental performance.

Specifically, there have been a number of measures implemented to ensure the appropriate and balanced development of Victoria's wind resources. These measures include:

- the development of *Policy and planning guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria*;
- the publication of a Victorian Wind Atlas to increase the quality and consistency of information about Victoria's wind resources; and
- the introduction of the *Electricity Industry (Wind Energy Development) Act* to facilitate the development and construction of wind energy projects in Victoria by removing barriers to grid connection and providing an assured buyer for power from small wind generators.

## Renewable Energy Strategy

<b>General Policy</b>	The objectives of the Renewable Energy Strategy are to:
<b>Objective(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– facilitate achievement of the Victorian Government's renewable energy policy commitments;</li> <li>– meet Victoria's future energy needs through increased reliance on clean and secure renewable sources in the long-term;</li> <li>– develop a Victorian renewable energy industry; and</li> </ul>

<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	support the achievement of the Government's greenhouse abatement strategies To commence 2005/06
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria and Department of Infrastructure, coordinated by the Renewable Energy Working Group
<b>Total Funding:</b>	tbd
<b>Description:</b>	The Renewable Energy Strategy will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– build on existing policies and initiatives to accelerate the uptake of renewable energy;</li> <li>– cover a broad range of renewable energy applications, including electricity generation, heat provision and transport; and</li> </ul> consider a range of renewable energy resources, including biomass, geothermal, hydro, solar, wave and tidal, and wind.

<b>State-Based Mandatory Renewable Energy Target Scheme</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To investigate ways to grow the Australian renewable energy industry.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Yet to be implemented
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Infrastructure
<b>Description:</b>	On 26 June 2004, after a meeting of State Ministers for Energy from the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Tasmanian Governments, the Ministers noted that leaving the Federal Mandatory Renewable Energy Target unchanged means that Australia's renewable energy industry will remain small, it will lose investment for projects in the short term, and lose the opportunity for Australia to establish itself as the renewable energy hub of the Asia-Pacific Region. The Ministers therefore agreed to immediately establish an Inter-jurisdictional Working Group to recommend ways to increase the MRET from the current level and time frame; noting the recommendations of the Federal Government commissioned Tambling report as a minimum outcome. Victoria currently chairs this Inter-jurisdiction Working Group.

<b>Renewable Energy Support Fund</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To demonstrate innovative applications of medium-scale (20 kW –
<b>Objective(s):</b>	5 MW) renewable energy projects
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2003 - 2007
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.seav.vic.gov.au">www.seav.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$ 8 million
<b>Description:</b>	17. The Government has allocated \$8 million to the Renewable Energy Support Fund to provide up to 20% of the capital costs of medium-scale renewable energy projects. By demonstrating successful applications of renewable energy, the Fund will help reduce the barriers to future projects, enabling widespread replication.

<b>10% Government Green Power purchase</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To demonstrate Government leadership and increase Green Power uptake.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	10% Green Power purchase by 2006
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	All
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Agency funded
<b>Description:</b>	Departments and Agencies are required to purchase 10% of their electricity consumption (measured against 1995/96 levels) from Green Power by 2006.

### Centre for Energy and Greenhouse Technologies

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	The aim of the Centre is to facilitate investment in new sustainable energy and greenhouse pollution reduction technologies and capitalise both on Australia's specific energy sector requirements and the existing clear global export opportunities
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	ongoing
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.cegt.com.au">www.cegt.com.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Originally the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Centre is now a private company
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$14.25 million over 3 years
<b>Description:</b>	The Centre for Energy and Greenhouse Technologies provides investment funds and support services for the development of new sustainable energy and greenhouse pollution reduction technologies. Technology application can be across the entire energy spectrum from generation, transmission and distribution to end use applications - focussing on energy efficiency and greenhouse pollution reduction outcomes. While the Centre's investments are across the entire Research, Development, Demonstration and Commercialisation (RDD&C) spectrum, the main focus is on the Development to Demonstration phase, bridging the gap between R&D and Commercialisation.

### Green Power Promotion and Awareness Campaign

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To increase awareness of Green Power and double the uptake of Green Power in Victoria
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Completed 2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.greenpower.gov.au">www.greenpower.gov.au</a> (under development)
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$1.1 million plus electricity retailer contributions
<b>Description:</b>	18. The Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria is working with electricity retailer partners to promote the increased uptake of Green Power through a coordinated Green Power Promotion and Awareness Campaign. The campaign includes an intensive television advertising campaign supported by a broad range of activities to facilitate Green Power uptake, including direct mail and sign-up opportunities at events.

### Solar Hot Water Rebate

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To accelerate the uptake of solar water heating in Victoria
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1 July 2000 to 2007
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.seav.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/shw/shw_rebate_index.asp">www.seav.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/shw/shw_rebate_index.asp</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$18 million
<b>Description:</b>	Solar Hot Water Rebates are available for accredited solar water heaters when replacing an existing gas or solid fuel hot water system, or converting an existing hot water system to solar. For most other situations, such as replacing an electric hot water system or installing a solar hot water system in a new home, an alternative benefit is available through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). Existing home owners are eligible for a rebate of up to \$1500 for installations of solar hot water that are not eligible for RECs.

### Victorian Solar Innovation Initiative

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To encourage the innovative use of solar energy design and technology, and demonstrate their application in buildings which are widely used by the community
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2003-2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.seav.vic.gov.au/buildings/vsi_initiative/index.asp">www.seav.vic.gov.au/buildings/vsi_initiative/index.asp</a>

<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$3 million over 4 years
<b>Description</b>	<p>Community facilities provide excellent opportunities to showcase innovation in sustainable energy. Facilities such as schools, kindergartens, crèches, childcare and community health centres will benefit from the VSII by improving their amenity and comfort. The initiative will also demonstrate how solar technology and design can reduce energy consumption and energy costs.</p> <p>The Sustainable Energy Authority is seeking partnerships with community organisations wishing to lead by example and integrate innovative solar design and technology into the upgrade of their community buildings. VSII will support the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– design and documentation of solar energy building features</li> <li>– installation of active solar technologies and passive design components (innovative building alterations to make the most of passive heating or lighting from the sun).</li> </ul> <p>The VSII complements existing rebate schemes for photovoltaic panels and solar hot water heaters.</p>

<b>5 Star Standard for new homes</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To increase the efficiency of new housing stock in Victoria, and accelerate the uptake of water efficiency and solar hot water technologies.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	1 July 2004
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.5starhouse.vic.gov.au/">www.5starhouse.vic.gov.au/</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria, Building Commission, Plumbing Industry Commission
<b>Description:</b>	<p>From 1 July 2004, building surveyors will check the design documentation for building permits for compliance with the 5 Star standard. For the first 12 months after 1 July 2004, there will be a transition period where extra flexibility will be allowed. To achieve the 5 Star standard during this period new homes will need either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A 5 Star energy rating for the building fabric (walls, floors, ceilings, windows, air leakage points, glazing and other features); or</li> <li>– A 4 Star energy rating for the building fabric, plus either a solar hot water system or a rainwater tank for toilet flushing.</li> </ul> <p>From July 2005, all new homes will need a 5 Star energy rating for building fabric and water saving fixtures with either a solar hot water system or a rainwater tank for toilet flushing.</p>

<b>Information on Victoria's renewable energy resources</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To increase the quality and consistency of information on Victoria's renewable energy resources
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	To be published late 2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
<b>Total Funding:</b>	Victorian Greenhouse Strategy funded
<b>Description:</b>	<p>19. A range of renewable energy resource assessments have been undertaken, including solar, geothermal, wave and tidal, bioenergy and wind. The Victorian Wind Atlas has been released, and work is underway to identify appropriate ways to enable access to the remaining resource assessments.</p>

<b>Geothermal Energy Resources Act</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	The purpose of the Victorian <i>GER Act</i> is to create a framework to facilitate and regulate the exploration and extraction of geothermal energy resources in Victoria
<b>Objective(s):</b>	

<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/0/9c7f1198c6aee641ca256f5d0012489f?OpenDocument">www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/0/9c7f1198c6aee641ca256f5d0012489f?OpenDocument</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Primary Industries
<b>Description</b>	<p>The intention of the bill is to facilitate primarily large-scale commercial exploration and extraction of geothermal energy. Small-scale or localised uses of geothermal energy which do not significantly diminish a geothermal energy entitlement may be exempted from the operation of this bill through regulation. The type of activity that may be exempted could include the local limited use of naturally heated water for heating, or businesses such as spas or aquaculture. The <i>GER Act</i> is based on the regulatory model established in the Petroleum Act 1998.</p> <p>The <i>GER Act</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– establishes that the heat energy within the earth belongs to all Victorians and is therefore vested in the Crown;</li> <li>– establishes property rights over geothermal energy and resources within particular areas; and</li> <li>– enables government to set a royalty on such resources to return some of their value to the state.</li> </ul> <p>The <i>GER Act</i> provides for three different titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– an exploration permit;</li> <li>– a retention lease where resources have been discovered but cannot as yet be commercially extracted; and</li> <li>– an extraction licence.</li> </ul>

<b>Policy and planning guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	The Guidelines aim to:
<b>Objective(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– facilitate appropriate development of wind energy facilities</li> <li>– balance environmental, social and economic outcomes</li> <li>– provide a planning framework for wind energy facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Released 2002
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.seav.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/wind/guidelines.asp">www.seav.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/wind/guidelines.asp</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Guidelines provide a clear decision making framework to ensure that proposals for wind energy facilities are thoroughly assessed against criteria important to both proponents and the community before development can commence. The Guidelines include provisions to assist decision making on proposals for wind energy facilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– definition of a wind energy facility</li> <li>– State Planning Policy on wind energy facilities</li> <li>– an outline of information required for Planning permit applications</li> <li>– an outline of matters to be considered when assessing permit applications</li> <li>– criteria to ensure the protection of critical values under Commonwealth or Victorian legislation</li> </ul> <p>The Policy and Guidelines contain the Government’s renewable energy policy, and the government support available to assist wind energy proponents in the development of wind energy facilities.</p>

<b>Victorian Wind Atlas</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To increase the quality of publicly available information on Victoria’s wind

<b>Objective(s):</b>	resources and the factors that constrain wind energy development
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Launched January 2003
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.seav.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/wind/atlas/index.asp">www.seav.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/wind/atlas/index.asp</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
<b>Total Funding:</b>	The Wind Atlas was funded through the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy where \$500,000 was allocated to improve the quality and consistency of information about Victoria's renewable energy resources
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Wind Atlas shows the scale and location of Victoria's wind resource. The Wind Atlas also displays the factors that may impact on wind energy development to highlight the constraints to wind energy development in Victoria. The first part of the Atlas has a number of maps showing the modelled average wind speeds across Victoria, with overlays of factors that affect the viability of wind farms, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wind speed;</li> <li>- proximity to the electricity network;</li> <li>- location of National Parks;</li> <li>- elevation; and</li> <li>- vegetation</li> </ul> <p>The second part of the Atlas provides further data and analysis at the Local Government Area level. The Wind Atlas is available from the Sustainable Energy Centre, all public libraries in Victoria, and all local councils. Individual copies of the Wind Atlas can also be purchased from the Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria.</p>

<b><i>Wind Energy Development Act</i></b>	
<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To foster a vibrant renewable energy industry and secure a cleaner energy future for Victoria</li> <li>- To reduce the cost for developers wishing to set up wind farms located at a great distance from the existing power grid</li> <li>- To facilitate least cost upgrade for connecting a number of wind farms in an appropriate location where each wind energy facility only pays a reasonable share of the connection costs</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Introduced December 2004
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au">www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Department of Infrastructure
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the development of Victoria's wind energy industry by removing barriers to grid connection and providing an assured buyer for power from small wind generators.</p> <p>Under previous regulatory framework, the first (pioneer) wind farm had to bear network connection and augmentation costs, whereas subsequent developers were able to connect at a much lower cost.</p> <p>The new charging principles ensures that the least cost network upgrade that will connect several wind farms is built, and that wind farms only pay a reasonable share of the upgrade cost..</p>

### ***Western Australia***

The Western Australian Government has a range of policies and initiatives that aim to increase the use and awareness of renewable energy in Western Australia. The focus of these policies is on the removal of barriers for renewable energy and on the establishment of a framework that enables the development of the local renewable energy industry. The Western Australian Government also provides incentives and drivers for the installation of renewable energy generators in the State.

Importantly, the Government has established a renewable energy target of 6 per cent by the year 2010 for the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). This will increase the proportion of renewable energy on the SWIS from the current level of around 1 per cent. This represents around a 50 per cent increase above what would be expected under the Australian Government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) and a substantial increase in the amount of renewable energy currently generated on the network.

The Government continues to support expanding the MRET scheme or similar national mechanisms to deliver renewable energy in a competitive market environment.

The Government has committed to developing a renewable energy strategy, which will include a renewable energy target for 2020. This strategy will build on research identifying barriers to the increased use of renewable energy, and consideration of strategies to support renewable energy technologies, including wind, biomass, solar and emerging technologies.

Market barriers to renewable energy are already being addressed through the Western Australian Government's electricity reform program. The process of restructuring the industry will enable renewable energy to participate more effectively in the electricity market. In addition, the Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO) carries out a number of renewable energy advocacy activities including, participating on various national working and steering groups that promote renewable energy, and advocating for renewable energy in policy development across Government.

Western Australian Government renewable energy funding programs include the Solar Water Heater Subsidy scheme, which provides rebates for the installation of solar hot water systems, and the SEDO Grants Committee, which provides funding for research, demonstration and education projects aimed at increasing the uptake of renewable energy technologies.

A number of new renewable energy funding initiatives have been announced by the Government, including a Renewable Energy Production subsidy of \$10/MWh for the first 30 GWh of individual projects until June 2007, a Solar Schools program, an urban renewable energy demonstration project, a solar concentrator demonstration project and a substantial trial of the Integrated Wood Processing technology at Narrogin. The Solar Schools program will involve the installation of solar power systems in schools across Western Australia, with funding committed for up to 100 schools.

The Western Australian Government also administers and supports a number of renewable energy funding programs utilising the Australian Government's Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP) funds. Building on the increased funding flexibility of the RRPGP and Western Power's expertise in the area of remote renewable energy systems, a target has been established of developing eight new renewable energy projects in remote towns of Western Australia over the next four years.

<b>Renewable Energy Target of 6 per cent by 2010</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	Increase the proportion of renewable energy on the South West Interconnected System to 6 per cent by 2010.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	on-going
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$250,000 over 4 years
<b>Description:</b>	A renewable energy target of 6 per cent by 2010 has been set for the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). The SWIS is the main electricity network in Western Australia. The mechanisms for implementing this target are intended to be developed through the Inter-Jurisdictional Working Group investigating the development of a model for State-based legislative schemes.

<b>Government purchase of renewable energy</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	Support the expansion of Western Australia's renewable energy industry through Government purchases.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	on-going

<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office/Department of Treasury and Finance
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Western Australian Government has committed to purchasing the equivalent of 5 per cent of its electricity from cost-effective renewable energy sources by 2006/07 under an electricity procurement process for Government agencies.</p> <p>In addition, all of the electricity requirements for the Water Corporation's proposed desalination plant will be met from renewable energy.</p>

### Renewable Energy Production Subsidy

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	To provide an incentive for the development of renewable energy projects
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	20. To June 2007
<b>Website Address:</b>	TBA
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$6 million
<b>Description:</b>	<p>In October 2003, the Minister for Energy announced the policy package, <i>A New Deal for Sustainable Energy</i>. The package included a \$10/MWh subsidy for the production of electricity from renewable sources.</p> <p>The subsidy is for individual projects and is capped at 30 GWh (or \$300,000) per project per year.</p>

### Funding Support for innovative Renewable Energy Projects

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	Support demonstration of innovative renewable energy technologies
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2005/06
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$6 million
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Three key projects identified for funding support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kalgoorlie-Boulder Sun Farm project – the development of a 2 – 2.5 megawatt photovoltaic solar generator using innovative Australian technology;</li> <li>• Urban Renewable Energy Demonstration project –the development of a significant renewable energy demonstration project in the urban area. The project will focus on technology that will offset peak electricity requirements in the urban area and provide a visible demonstration of the benefits of renewable energy; and</li> <li>• Narrogin Integrated Wood Processing System – funding a substantial trial of a 1 megawatt biomass pilot plant to determine the potential of the technology to provide commercial opportunities for landowners growing the oil mallee, while reducing salinity through the tree planting.</li> </ul>

### Solar Water Heater Subsidy

<b>General Policy Objective(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To assist in the long-term development of the solar water heater industry;</li> <li>– To replace the use of fossil fuels with renewable energy;</li> <li>– To reduce household expenditure on energy and increase accessibility to sustainable technology;</li> <li>– To reduce greenhouse gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions; and</li> <li>– To increase public awareness about renewable energy technology</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	November 2001 – June 2008
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/subsidy.asp">www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/subsidy.asp</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$4 million
<b>Description:</b>	The Sustainable Energy Development Office administers and promotes the

Western Australian Government's Solar Water Heater Subsidy scheme. The scheme aims to increase the adoption of solar hot water systems and assist the industry to increase its market share, particularly in the new home market. Rebates of up to \$1,000 are available to householders that install gas-boosted solar hot water systems. Smaller rebates (of up to \$700) are available for the installation of electric-boosted solar hot water systems with a timer controlling use of the booster in new homes.

The scheme was extended from June 2005 until June 2008 with an additional \$1.6m allocated for rebates on gas-boosted solar hot water systems only

### **Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO) Grants Committee**

<b>General Policy</b>	To provide seed funding and other support for the research, development, education and demonstration of sustainable energy products and services
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	Established in 1995 – (on-going)
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/grants.asp">www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/grants.asp</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$500, 000 p/a
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO) Grants Committee provides funding for innovative renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Western Australia. Funding is available for research, demonstration and education projects that increase the uptake and understanding of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Projects that are typically funded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Research and development of new sustainable energy technologies;</li> <li>– Feasibility studies investigating the viability of innovative sustainable energy projects;</li> <li>– Education and training projects that increase understanding and adoption of sustainable energy practices; and</li> <li>– Projects that demonstrate the viability of emerging sustainable energy technologies.</li> </ul>

### **Solar Schools Program**

<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	To commence in 2005
<b>Website Address:</b>	TBA
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$1 million over 4 years
<b>Description</b>	The program aims to support and promote sustainable energy in schools. It will provide funding for solar power systems for up to 100 schools.

### **Electricity Reform**

<b>General Policy</b>	The Western Australian Government's electricity reform process has included a focus on enabling renewable energy generators to participate effectively in the new electricity market
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	2001 – on-going
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.eri.energy.wa.gov.au">www.eri.energy.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Office of Energy
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The electricity reform process includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The establishment of a new wholesale electricity market with a balancing mechanism that allows intermittent generators to participate readily in the market and a Reserve Capacity Mechanism which will provide increased certainty for renewable energy generators bidding capacity into the market;</li> <li>– The implementation of a new Electricity Networks Access Code that will facilitate network connections for renewable energy generators on a non-discriminatory basis; and</li> <li>- An interim Top-Up and Spill Market that provides more favourable energy balancing arrangements for renewable energy generators.</li> </ul>

<b>Renewable Energy Strategy</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To increase the amount of renewable energy used in Western Australia.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$250,000
<b>Description</b>	A Renewable Energy Strategy is being developed, which will include a renewable energy target for 2020. The strategy will identify remaining barriers to the increased use of renewable energy, and consideration of strategies to support renewable energy technologies, including wind, biomass, solar and emerging technologies.

<b>Bioenergy Strategy</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	To promote biomass-based renewable energy generation in agricultural areas.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Total Funding:</b>	\$100,000
<b>Description</b>	Based on the outcomes of the trial of the Narrogin Integrated Wood Processing System, a strategy will be developed for developing biomass-based renewable energy generation in agricultural areas, with a focus on approaches that will benefit land care.

<b>Renewable Energy Advocacy</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	Increase the uptake of renewable energy in Western Australia and the development of the local renewable energy industry
<b>Objective(s):</b>	
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	on-going
<b>Website Address:</b>	n/a
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Sustainable Energy Development Office
<b>Description:</b>	The Sustainable Energy Development Office performs a range of functions and activities to facilitate capacity building in the renewable energy industry. This includes active participation on an Inter-Jurisdictional Working Group, which is investigating the development of a model for State-based legislative schemes to stimulate renewable energy generation, and on the National Green Power Accreditation Steering Group, which aims to drive investment in renewable energy in Australia.

<b>Planning Bulletin No. 67 – Guidelines for Wind Farm Development</b>	
<b>General Policy</b>	
<b>Objective(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To facilitate the development of wind farms in an efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner that meets community needs, while taking into account the needs of developers and State and national imperatives</li> <li>– To promote community understanding of the issues involved in the design and installation of wind farm infrastructure and provide opportunities for community input to decision-making</li> <li>– Promote consistent approach in the preparation, assessment and determination of applications for planning approval for wind farm developments</li> <li>– Minimise disturbance to the environment and loss of public amenity in the establishment, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of wind farms</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of Policy:</b>	on-going
<b>Website Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.wapc.wa.gov.au/cgi-bin/index.cgi?page=/publications/policies/Policies.htm">www.wapc.wa.gov.au/cgi-bin/index.cgi?page=/publications/policies/Policies.htm</a>
<b>Responsible Agency:</b>	Western Australian Planning Commission
<b>Description:</b>	In May 2004, the Western Australian Planning Commission released a Planning Bulletin to provide wind farm developers, local government and other

relevant approval authorities with a guide to the planning framework for the balanced assessment of land-based wind farm developments in Western Australia.

Planning has an important role in the development of renewable energy by facilitating the appropriate siting, establishment and operation of wind farms in a way that balances the environmental, social and economic benefits with any demonstrated environmental, landscape and amenity impacts. The Planning Bulletin provides information requirements for proponents intending to develop a wind farm, as well as a list of relevant considerations for the responsible planning authority in determining an application.