



\$150 million plan helps consumers save money and the environment

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Premier Morris Iemma said today a massive \$150.5 million energy efficiency package would relieve pressure on family expenses and help protect our environment.

Mr Iemma said the clean and green energy-saving package would reduce power use and cut the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

Premier Iemma released the plan at EnergyAustralia's new state-of-the-art Energy Efficiency Centre at Homebush - the first of its kind in Australia – which showcases world's best practice in saving energy.

“By using energy smarter, we can help families reduce their power bills, and their overall household expenses,” Mr Iemma said.

“The community has done a great job reducing water consumption – and it's possible we can do the same with energy.

“Our package will help reduce power bills for families struggling with cost of living pressures – like interest rates and fuel prices.

“Low-income households will be targeted with initiatives that will cut around \$100 a year off their power bills, while small businesses will also see huge benefits.

“These measures are win-win, because they also have a significant environmental impact – allowing NSW households to be cleaner and greener.

“We're creating a specific trading scheme, which will set tough targets for energy companies to deliver more energy efficient measures for homes and businesses.

“Our new systems will make NSW the leading energy-smart state.”

The package includes:

- \$63 million for 220,000 low income families to receive door-to-door home energy advice and free energy savings kits, including energy efficient light bulbs, water saving showerheads, low-flow taps and draught-proofing. **This will help cut the average annual household power bill by up to 10% or \$95;**
- \$15 million to begin an energy efficiency program with on-site advice for 6000 small and medium businesses. Measures will include lighting upgrades and improvements to air-conditioning and refrigeration - **expected to save the average small business \$7850 on power bills over 10 years;**
- \$20 million to work with 800 medium to large businesses on leading-edge waste, energy and water saving measures – cutting energy use by at least 10 per cent.

- Establishing an economy-wide energy savings target to be implemented by 1 January 2009. NSW's energy performance will be published every 12 months so the community can be part of the energy savings campaign;
- Tough new targets under the Government's re-vamped, world-leading Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme. From 1 January 2009, to meet the targets, energy retailers will be able to purchase tradeable green credits, which will be created by delivering more and better energy efficiency products and services in homes and businesses;
- \$20 million for extra training for skilled trades- and businesspeople to meet the increasing demand for '**green collar**' workers - like plumbers, electricians and interior designers who deliver energy efficient design, building and other services;
- Up to \$27.5 million for an Energy Efficiency Community Awareness program, providing practical advice on how to save energy at home and work;
- A legal requirement for the State's largest 200 energy users to implement cost-effective energy savings measures - **expected to save around 120,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.**

These energy efficiency measures will be delivered in line with the delivery of the Government's energy plans.

Funding for the package will be partly from an increase in the Climate Change Fund, via electricity distributors and some measures will be budget supported.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Verity Firth said the package was responsible and forward thinking.

"It's a win-win – which uses smarter technology to reduce demand for costly electricity supply as well as cutting household power bills and fighting climate change," Ms Firth said.

Mr Lemma said the Government had recently announced a plan to improve its own energy efficiency performance through energy savings projects across government buildings, hospitals and schools.

"I have also committed the NSW Government to work to be carbon neutral by 2020 and Cabinet by 2009."

Work is progressing on other measures that are part of the Government's long-term Energy Efficiency Strategy including:

- Appointing an energy co-ordinator, within the Office of Co-ordinator General;
- Working with the hot water industry and the Commonwealth to prepare for the planned national phase-out of electric hot water storage in 2012;
- Working on the national process for the roll-out of smart meters and time of use pricing, through COAG and the Ministerial Council for Energy;
- Supporting the development of a national energy efficiency trading scheme;
- Continuing to deliver help to all households to save water and energy through our \$340 million Climate Change Fund.