



## Saving energy for generations to come

### Moreland Energy Foundation working with the Moreland community

Welcome to the Moreland Energy News, a new section of *Inside Moreland* from Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL). We are pleased to have this opportunity to keep the Moreland community in touch with the achievements of local residents and businesses when it comes to wiser energy use, and to let you know of services and programs which may be of future benefit to you.

Moreland Energy Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation established by the Moreland City Council to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the municipality. Council established MEFL after the forced sale of council owned electricity retailers and it is the first independent, locally based organisation in Australia devoted entirely to reducing community greenhouse emissions.

Since 2001, MEFL has been working with households, businesses, schools and community groups to reduce wasteful energy use, save money on power bills and make buildings more comfortable to live and work in all year round. MEFL uses a variety of approaches – education, practical assistance, research and innovation, financial support, partnerships and advocacy – to help the Moreland community as well as other localities to become more energy smart.

### What's the problem with our energy use?

Because most of our energy comes from burning coal in the Latrobe Valley, the electricity we use to power our homes and businesses releases Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere. Fuel to power our cars is another big CO<sub>2</sub> polluter. These greenhouse gases blanket the Earth and trap in the heat of the sun, warming the planet.

Scientists around the world, including CSIRO scientists in Australia, have found that this

warming effect is causing our weather patterns to change and increasing the occurrence of extreme weather events, with less reliable rainfall and more extreme storms predicted for Australia in the future. For more information on climate change take a look at the fact sheets on the Australian Greenhouse Office website at [www.greenhouse.gov.au/science/hottopics](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/science/hottopics)

The good news is that we can all do something to help.

### Moreland taking action

Moreland City Council aims to reduce greenhouse emissions from operational energy use (Council buildings, streetlighting etc.) by 40% by the year 2010! Already, they have reduced their operational emissions by 20% from various actions, most significantly the purchasing of Greenpower for six of their largest buildings.

Council also has a goal to reduce community greenhouse emissions by 20% by 2010. In 1995, energy use by the Moreland community led to 1,350,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases being emitted – which is equivalent to around ten tonnes per person.

Fortunately, we can all contribute to reducing community emissions. Much of the energy we use is wasted, so there is plenty of potential to cut our energy usage and reduce greenhouse emissions (and save money at the same time!). In addition, you can choose a Greenpower electricity product which will have an immediate and significant impact on reducing your emissions – Community Power outlined on the following page, includes Greenpower at no extra cost.

To start making a difference today, contact MEFL to take advantage of our free services and information. Several MEFL services are outlined on the following two pages, or you may simply need information on a particular aspect of energy efficiency for your home, business or local community group.

Phone us on 9381 1722 or contact us through the website at [www.mefl.com.au](http://www.mefl.com.au)

### Joining MEFL

MEFL membership is open to all who want to express their support for MEFL and to regularly keep in touch with our activities. Membership entitles you to participate in the annual election of the community representative on the Board of Directors. Members receive regular newsletters plus updates on local and international developments, innovations and events.

Please fill in and return to Moreland Energy Foundation, PO Box 276, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category:

Membership Fees	1 Year	3 Years
Individual	\$15	\$40
Concession	\$10	\$25
Family/Household	\$25	\$70
Community		
Organisation	\$25	\$70
Business	\$40	\$110

### Payment Options

#### Cheque

Please make payable to:

"Moreland Energy Foundation Limited"

#### Credit Card

VISA Bankcard Mastercard Other (please circle)

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact MEFL

Moreland Energy Foundation Limited (MEFL)

Level 1, 233 Sydney Rd

Postal Address: PO Box 276

Brunswick, Victoria 3056

Phone: 03 9381 1722

Fax: 03 9381 1733

## Making the switch to Community Power...

### Energy for a better tomorrow for Moreland residents



Moreland households once again have the fantastic opportunity to take up a Community Power Energy Plan and benefit from more affordable Green Power whilst also helping the wider community by reducing Moreland's impact on the environment.

Community Power is a community-based energy purchasing group consisting of the Moreland Energy Foundation and the Cities of Darebin, Banyule, Melbourne and Yarra. The partner organisations act on behalf of the five communities in negotiating an Energy Plan with energy retailer AGL – they do not make a profit from the project and do not buy or sell the energy directly.

Community Power has been delivering more affordable Green Power Energy Plans since 2002 and the more households we get on board the stronger our collective voice, allowing us to negotiate better deals over time.

#### What is available?

The Community Power Energy Plans offer a percentage of government-accredited Green Power at competitive rates (see box), making it more affordable and easier for households to make the switch to Green Power.

20% Green Power... 20% of your electricity use will be matched by the generation of Green

Power, but you won't pay any extra above the regulated electricity rate for your area.

**BONUS!** AGL will source an amount of electricity equivalent to the remaining 80% of your electricity consumption from non Green Power renewable generators, so in effect all your electricity is matched by greenhouse-friendly electricity without an increase in cost!

There is also a 100% Green Power option where AGL will pay half the Green Power premium for you.

By combining your gas and electricity together, you will also receive an annual \$24 account credit spread across your gas bills. With Community Power there is no lock-in contract, no fixed term and no termination fee.

Currently, Community Power is only available to residential households in Moreland, Darebin, Yarra, Melbourne and Banyule. We are hoping to develop an energy offer for small businesses in these municipalities within the next year.

The easiest way to join Community Power is to call AGL on 1300 762 245 where you can choose to sign up directly over the phone or have an Energy Plan Offer sent out to you.

For more information,

- Refer to the Community Power brochure which has been inserted into this magazine.

#### Green Power

Green Power is renewable electricity generated from wind, solar, waste and water sources that are accredited under the nationwide Green Power scheme. This scheme was first established in 1997 to drive investment in the renewable energy industry. Community Power has an agreement with AGL to source its Green Power from methane gas recovery generators at landfill sites around Melbourne. The Green Power is not delivered directly to your house, but an amount equivalent to your electricity consumption is fed into the power grid, replacing conventional electricity that would have otherwise been generated. The remaining renewable electricity for Community Power Energy Plans is sourced from the same type of methane powered generators except they were built prior to 1997. For more information on Green Power go to [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au)

- Contact Community Power for more information on 8470 8220 or visit [www.communitypower.org](http://www.communitypower.org)
- Call AGL directly on 1300 762 245 to ask for a Community Power Energy Plan.



## Community action on greenhouse

### Five star home renovator's service

**More comfortable, more efficient, more sustainable houses in Moreland**

While renovating can turn your home into a dream home; it can also be complicated and costly, especially when design choices result in large energy bills over the long term and reduced comfort. Moreland renovators can now access a wealth of free information through MEFL's Five Star Home Renovator's Service. On offer is a one hour consultation, with advice about Energy-smart design, products and materials and help in choosing appliances.

Contact Euan Williamson at MEFL for more information or to book a consultation.



Kevin and Christine Kosky enjoy the winter sun in their comfortable and energy efficient Brunswick renovation.

### Energy ratings....

Moreland Energy Foundation has Accredited house raters who can give your new building or renovation plans an energy rating helping you achieve a five star rating. All new houses built in Victoria must supply an energy rating as part of their building permit application.

Contact Bess or Euan at MEFL for a quote on First Rate.

### New life for old fridges

'Phoenix Fridge Program' is a world first, tackling overuse and inefficiency of household fridges by collecting old and under-utilised fridges from community members and transforming them into energy-efficient appliances for redistribution to low-income households. The project works in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence providing social and environmental outcomes.

Fridges are big energy users, accounting for around 15% of your power bill.

Using a new energy-efficient fridge, a smaller fridge and/or getting rid of your second fridge helps tackle climate change. Fridges stored in sheds are usually old, expensive to run and only utilised occasionally (swap it for a good Aussie esky for weekend events!). Perhaps it's time to get rid of yours?

To donate your fridge –  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
Ph (03) 9385 6111

For further information on reducing your fridge's energy use –  
[http://www.mefl.com.au/documents/Keeping\\_t\\_Cool.pdf](http://www.mefl.com.au/documents/Keeping_t_Cool.pdf)



Joe D'Angelo, Operations Manager for the Brotherhood of St Laurence, delivers a fridge to a low income household.

### Baby on board! Keeping energy bills low when baby comes home.....



Bringing home a baby can mean a dramatic increase in energy usage and higher bills during times when household incomes are often lower than normal. MEFL has been assisting Moreland families with the 'Energy Smart Babies' information kit, which provides practical advice on how new parents can cater for babies' needs 24 hours a day, without putting up with sky rocketing energy costs.

MEFL visits Moreland New Mothers Groups to talk to parents and distribute the kits, but if you have a young family and have missed out please call and we'll send you a copy.



Coburg Mothers' Group get together to discuss tips for running an efficient household with young children.

## Special deal on home water and energy audits

New local business Easy Being Green is offering Moreland residents a special introductory price for household water and energy audits. The audit is designed to identify where opportunities lie for householders to significantly reduce their energy and water use and costs. A qualified auditor will visit you at your home and provide you with a list of recommendations. The first 15 households to contact MEFL will get an audit for the special price of \$90 (normally \$180).



## Give your Moreland business an energy makeover

Our expert team can support your business to SAVE MONEY and help the environment at the same time by helping you to find your hidden energy traps and keep your hard earned cash where it belongs. MEFL has worked with a wide range of Moreland businesses, including retail, commercial, and industrial, to identify and reduce energy consumption, achieving effective energy and cost savings.

Contact Bruce Thompson for more information.



MEFL has worked on saving energy with many Moreland retail businesses.

## Bringing car share to Moreland

Joining a car share is a great way to save money and help the environment, and you get to drive a flash new car when you need to as well! Car share has recently arrived in Australia, with services popping up around Melbourne. Members pay a monthly fee to access a fleet of shared vehicles as needed, paying a set price for kilometers traveled and hours booked. This gives members the freedom to sell their own car or avoid buying one in the first place, and as a member, you won't pay for registration, servicing, insurance or cleaning.

MEFL supports the establishment of car share in Moreland, and encourages residents, businesses and organisations to check out GoGet and Flo Carshare on their websites [www.goget.com.au](http://www.goget.com.au) and [www.flo.net.au](http://www.flo.net.au). If you like what you see, you can register your interest in joining through these websites.

## Community taking action. . . .

### Kinda cooling

Seven Moreland kindergartens are currently working with MEFL to develop energy efficient cooling plans for their premises. Many Moreland kindergartens suffer from stifling hot temperatures indoors on summer days and are keen to improve the comfort of their buildings without hiking up their energy costs. Simple changes to the building such as improved shading of windows, increased ventilation and use of fans, increasing reflection off the building and insulation can be very effective at keeping the buildings and children cool in summer without the use of costly and energy-intensive air conditioning units.

## Saving energy at school

MEFL has worked with several schools in Moreland on reducing their energy use. Four schools in the north of the Municipality took part in the 'Greenhouse Countdown' competition last year which was run in conjunction with the local North Coburg Football Club. Pascoe Vale North won the competition for cutting down their use of lights and computers and for their new school energy plan and end-of-term shut-down plan. Fawkner Primary School also won a prize for their commitment to shading and ventilation techniques to keep classrooms cool. If you would like more information about saving energy at school, contact Bess at MEFL.



Students from Fawkner Primary School studying ways to save energy.

## Contacting Moreland Energy Foundation. . .

Drop in: Level 1, 233 Sydney Rd, Brunswick.  
Phone: 03 9381 1722

Website: [www.mefl.com.au](http://www.mefl.com.au)

Email: [contact@mefl.com.au](mailto:contact@mefl.com.au)

