

BP: Chasing The Sun

Solar panels fitted on the canopies at BP service stations around Australia and New Zealand are boosting the amount of energy produced by renewable sources and contributing towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

So far, 23 service stations throughout Australia and New Zealand have been fitted with the photovoltaic systems that convert sunlight into electricity, and another 100 are earmarked to have the systems fitted as they undergo refurbishment.

Individual service stations fitted with the systems produce about 16 kW of clean electric power per day, which is enough for each location to supply 20% of its own daily energy needs, or equivalent to the daily energy needs of four average homes, while saving between 18 to 33 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

On a wider scale, BP service stations around the world produce more than 6 mW of electricity per day and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 6,500 tonnes per year. The photovoltaic systems are in use at more than 380 of BP's retail sites in 17 countries.

The photovoltaic systems are in use at more than 380 of BP's retail sites in 17 countries

The BP-developed solar modules are fitted to the top of the island canopy and help run the station's fuel dispensers and exterior lighting.

Harry Shimp, CEO of BP Solar, commented at the opening of BP's first solar powered service station and convenience store in southern California, "The cost effectiveness of our solar technology is rapidly dispelling the idea that you can buy cheaper electricity from conventional sources, which better enables us to showcase our technology and complements our efforts to demonstrate environmental responsibility."

BP Solar has a manufacturing plant in the Sydney suburb of Homebush. The largest photovoltaic manufacturing facility in the southern hemisphere, the plant employs more than 200 people and has the capacity to



produce up to 20 mW of solar energy per annum.

BP supplied solar energy to Sydney's Olympic Village during the 2000 Olympic Games, equipping the village with more than 500 BP solar power systems.

The Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) promotes the use of alternative energy sources and, on January 1st 2000, commenced the Photovoltaic Rebate Program. Under the program, the AGO has \$31MM at its disposal for cash rebates to

householders and owners of community use buildings who install grid-connected or stand-alone photovoltaic systems.

The rebate for householders installing systems is based on the peak photovoltaic output of the new photovoltaic component of the system. The minimum system size is 450 W peak output. There is no maximum size, although the rebate is capped at \$7,500 (or 1.5kW) for each installation. Extensions to existing systems can also receive rebates.

