

North Adelaide To Host Australia's First 'Solar City'

Origin Energy Renewable and Low Emission Technologies General Manager, Phil Mackey, with a prototype 80 W SLIVER® panel. Picture courtesy: Origin Energy Solar.

Prime Minister John Howard has announced that north Adelaide will host Australia's first Solar City, a new concept that brings together solar technologies, energy efficiency, smart metering and better electricity pricing to create more energy sustainable communities.

The Adelaide Solar City consortium - Origin Energy, BP Solar, City of Salisbury, Mawson Lakes Development and the ANZ Banking Group - will receive up to \$15 million through the federal government's \$75 million Solar Cities initiative to help change the way individuals, communities, businesses and governments think about and use energy.

Howard said the consortium expects to leverage an additional \$38 million from industry and other partners. The Adelaide Solar City proposal

will install solar panels in more than 1,700 homes in north Adelaide, roll out 7,000 smart meters, and help people save around \$200 a year on their electricity bills by changing energy use and adapting energy efficiency measures.

The solar panels will be made in Australia by BP Solar at their Homebush plant in Sydney, and the SLIVER® cell technology will come from Origin Energy's Adelaide plant. Consumers will be able to purchase these solar panels using special discounted loans. The comprehensive package of measures will double the current capacity of solar photovoltaic panels in South Australia, provide energy savings of \$5 million per year, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30,000 tonnes per year.

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Solar Cities is part of the Australian government's \$2 billion climate change strategy that aims to develop clean, low emission technologies, build an effective global response to the issue, increase understanding of climate change science, and help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Origin Energy Chief Operating Officer, Karen Moses, said the government's decision to select the South Australian consortium's bid marks the beginning of a new era in energy market and greenhouse policy. “This is the culmination of a partnership approach with all levels of government, the private sector and the local community”, Moses said.

BP Australasia President, Gerry Hueston, said BP Solar is delighted to be a part of the initiative. “We are looking forward to working with our consortium partners to make solar PV accessible to the wider community in Adelaide”, he said.

Solar Cities will be implemented by the Department of the Environment and Heritage through trials in Adelaide and at least three other electricity grid-connected urban areas around Australia. The programme will run to 2012/13, with the focus on programme design and site selection in the first year. ■



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