

Renewable Energy To Provide 20% Of WA Power By 2010

Renewable energy sources will provide 20% of Western Australia's electricity requirements by 2010, Premier Alan Carpenter has announced.

The commitment forms part of the state government's forthcoming Climate Change Action Plan. "Climate change is a very real issue affecting the entire planet", Carpenter said. "We need to start implementing measures sooner rather than later, particularly as achieving longer-term targets critically depends on early actions.

"We need to act locally and see what we can achieve globally. Buying more renewable energy is one tangible way that we can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions." Carpenter also challenged the federal government, industry and local governments to follow the state government's lead in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

He said the 20% target in 2010 would see a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of about 90,000t per year, the equivalent of taking 21,000 cars off the road. The renewable energy would come from new renewable energy projects in WA.

Meanwhile, the WA government has released a major report on ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The report was prepared by a taskforce chaired by former Environmental Protection Authority deputy chair, Roy Green, and included Dr John Zillman, Cathy Zoi, John Akehurst and Richard Begley. It is available online at www.dec.wa.gov.au ■