$8 MM Boost For Sustainable Energy Research

The Victorian government has allocated $8 million for four major research and development projects in sustainable energy. Two of the projects could see the eventual replacement of costly silicon-based cells, such as those that generate solar energy on houses, and the development of efficient hydrogen fuelled car engines.

Victorian Energy and Resources Minister, Peter Batchelor, said the government will provide $6 million to the Organic Solar Consortium to research the next generation of large, non-silicon, flexible and cheap organic solar cells.

"One of the potential large-scale offshoots of the research could see organic solar cells being embedded into manufactured roofing panels for houses and buildings", Batchelor said. "This would not only protect the buildings from the elements, but also generate electricity."

The other projects, due to be completed by July 2010, are:

- $1.2 million grant for a $2.92 million project led by the University of Melbourne to look at the development of a more efficient hydrogen-fuelled car engine and also the storage of hydrogen.
- $650,000 grant for a $1.3 million project led by Monash University to research the recycling of waste plastics for the production of diesel fuel.
- $250,000 grant for a $500,000 project led by Australian Sustainable Industry Research Centre Ltd (ASIRC), based in the Latrobe Valley, to investigate the energy efficiency of solvent based fuel derived from recycling industrial liquid wastes. ■

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