

# TAKE A LOAD OFF SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY



## A TASMANIAN GREENS POLICY INITIATIVE

Launched by Nick McKim MP  
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# Take a Load Off – Save Energy, Save Money

## Energy Efficiency in Low Income Housing

*The Tasmanian Greens will invest \$5 million to rapidly rollout energy efficiency upgrades to more houses in need.*

The Tasmanian Greens will work to reduce the cost of living through a targeted, statewide investment in household energy efficiency upgrades. This investment will be key to stimulating the green skills sector and will create jobs in the building and sustainability industries while reducing Tasmania's carbon footprint.

### > THE ISSUE

- Every year the cost of living rises, and a big part of this increase has been higher power prices.
- Finding ways to use power more efficiently is a great way to bring down household and business electricity costs.
- It also has the added benefits of improving the warmth and comfort of a home, improving the health of tenants and lowering the stress levels over cost of living pressures.
- Rather than a subsidy on your power bill that needs to be topped up year after year, the Greens will invest in energy efficiency improvements that insulate households and businesses against future price rises.
- Energy efficiency upgrades will include draft proofing, insulation, water efficiency measures, energy efficient lighting, heating, and appliances, and controls on standby monitors and TVs.
- Programs established by Greens in Government between 2010-14 have already reached almost 10,000 Tasmanians.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Data shows that households save on average \$250 on their annual power bill, with many saving more.<sup>[2]</sup>
- The Tasmanian Wedges analysis into how Tasmania can reach its 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target put energy efficiency at the top of the list for the most cost effective mitigation action the State could take.

### > OUR PLAN

- To deliver a statewide rollout of energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades for households to reduce the cost of living, and create jobs in the building and sustainability industry.
- We will do this by initiating and funding a stage 2 of the successful Energy Champions program.
- We will invest **\$5 million over four years** for a statewide rollout of energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades for public and community housing, as well as low income private renters and home owners.
- This investment will assist at least **5000 homes**.
- Investing in household energy efficiency programs, will assist stimulating jobs growth in areas including, direct installation of energy efficient heat pumps and insulation, energy assessors and home energy helpers.
- It will also boost downstream development and employment in solar industry

*"Improving energy efficiency is recognised as one of the most practical, cost effective and simple ways to bring down the cost of living."*

*Nick McKim MP, Greens Leader*



## > DELIVERING OUR POLICY

Programs initiated by Greens in government already delivered significant benefits to low income Tasmanians.

- We will continue this effort beyond the end of the current funding allocation which expires in July 2014.
- Residential Energy Champions – Stage 2 : additional support for 5000 homes across the public and community housing, as well as low income renters in the private market.

## > Warmer Homes-Cheaper Power Bills

- \$5 million funding for Energy Champions-Stage 2 to be rolled out in the public and community housing sector, and for low income private renters and home owners.
- This investment of \$5 million over the next four years will rapidly rollout energy efficiency upgrades to 5000 homes in need.
- Energy efficiency programs will be delivered to 1250 properties per annum between 2014 and 2018.
- Between 2010 and 2014, the Tasmanian Government will have spent almost \$13.5 million on programs to help low-income households reduce their energy consumption and their power bills through energy assessments and minor upgrades or retrofits.
- Almost 10 000 households have participated so far, however, there are many more homes around Tasmania yet to benefit from these services.
- Indicative modelling in *Climate Smart Tasmania* shows that this measure could generate total emissions reductions of 85 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e by 2050, delivering a net benefit of \$46.4 million.
- This program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from reduced energy use, improve the thermal comfort of homes, deliver lower power bills, leading to reduced need for bill assistance, and reduce pressure on the electricity grid, especially at peak times, and encourage job growth in the energy efficiency and solar industries.

## > Energy Efficiency – Reduces Cost to the Environment, Reduces Cost of Living

- A report from September 2013 demonstrated that an energy efficiency achievement of 3% per year in the US (up from the current of 1% per year) would reduce fuel bills in the US by US\$300 per year in 2020, and US\$550 billion by 2030.[3]
- It also found that greater energy efficiency investments will save on capital cost, where the 2% improved electricity saves US\$900 billion by 2030 in power production costs, and that investments in energy efficiency can create 750,000 jobs by 2020, and up to 1.5 million jobs by 2030.[4]
- Seventy-seven per cent of the tenants who were surveyed in the Power Saving for Tenants program that targeted private renters said they rationed their electricity in order to manage bills, and 55 per cent considered their bills to be unaffordable.
- Sustainable Living Tasmania also found in their Energy Champions project with Housing Tasmania that tenants were overwhelmingly happy with the service and upgrades provided and how they had improved the comfort of their homes and affordability of their power bills.
- As part of its vision to provide quality affordable homes for all Tasmanians, Housing Tasmania is working to ensure that new developments are not only accessible to people struggling to find a home in the private rental market, but also are as energy efficient as possible.
- The highly energy efficient Hopkins Street development is an excellent example of this. The \$7.9 million site in Hobart's Northern Suburbs provides 30 one and two-bedroom units that have been built according to sustainability principles.
- Individual units have achieved a mix of seven and eight star energy efficiency ratings, and include energy efficient heating, cooling, lighting and glazing, insulation, and an on-site 58 000 litre underground water storage tank.



> **References:**

- [1] Climate Smart Tasmania: A 2020 Climate Change Strategy - [http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/212762/2020\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Strategy.PDF](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/212762/2020_Climate_Change_Strategy.PDF)
- [2] Climate Smart Tasmania: A 2020 Climate Change Strategy - [http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/212762/2020\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Strategy.PDF](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/212762/2020_Climate_Change_Strategy.PDF)
- [3] [http://www.theclimategroup.org/\\_assets/files/The-Economic-Benefits-Of-Energy-Efficiency-for-the-USA---23Sept2013.pdf](http://www.theclimategroup.org/_assets/files/The-Economic-Benefits-Of-Energy-Efficiency-for-the-USA---23Sept2013.pdf)
- [4] <http://www.theclimategroup.org/what-we-do/news-and-blogs/investments-in-energy-efficiency-can-create-750k-jobs-by-2020-and-15-million-jobs-by-2030/>
- [5] Power Saving for Tenants Project: Implementation Completion and Interim Evaluation: March 2013

*Hopkins Street is the first development in Australia registered to achieve 5-star Green Star and tenants have saved on average \$300 a years on their power bills since living in the complex.<sup>[5]</sup>*

> **TABLE 1:** Take a Load Off – Save Energy, Save Money Investment

	2013-14 Budget	2014-15 Forward Estimate	2015-16 Forward Estimate	2016-17 Forward Estimate
<b>Energy Champions –Stage 2 Program</b>	\$'000 1, 250	\$'000 1, 250	\$'000 1, 250	\$'000 1, 250

> **YOUR TEAM IN STATE PARLIAMENT**



> **WANT MORE INFO?**

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