

**Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA)**

**Media Release**

**What is your carbon footprint?**

'Getting practical solutions in place to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions is critical for all Australian's' says Dr Ray Wills, Chair, Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc (WA SEA).

WA SEA welcomes the screening of this weekend's National Carbon Test on Channel 10 and encourages the community to participate and calculate their own individual carbon emissions.

'Climate change is a result of our use of energy, and anything we do to improve our energy efficiency will help, and will reduce our own carbon footprint. It is critical the community is fully informed about climate change that has already occurred and will increasingly manifest in dangerous changes to global processes.' says Dr Wills.

If we live healthier, eat fresh foods, walk, use public transport, we will save money and reduce greenhouse emissions.

Almost half of the energy we use in our homes goes to heating and cooling. There are many simple and low cost options which can be adopted immediately such as installing compact fluoro lights, turning off electric appliances at the socket and so on. The National Carbon Test will also highlight other cost effective solutions we can all use.

'Energy, like water, has always been undervalued in Australia and while price increases in electricity prices are likely, these costs will be small if householders implement their own energy efficiency measures' says Dr Wills. 'And don't forget to save water too - water is heavy and requires energy to move it around, and so saving water saves energy!'

'The community is right to insist our governments show strong leadership in practical measures to stop greenhouse gas emissions to reduce harm to future generations, and as importantly to prioritise efforts to adapt to the consequences of global warming. Using Al Gore's words, democracy is a renewable resource - it is time all Australian governments listen and act on community concerns'

'In the long term, sustainable energy will play an important role in delivering a raft of affordable and immediately accessible solutions to both reducing greenhouse emissions and providing alternative sources of energy for the world' says Dr Wills.

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