



Australian Government
Department of the
Environment and Heritage
Australian Greenhouse Office

Solar Cities Programme

Challenges and Opportunities Statement: Feedback Form

PLEASE NOTE: *This document has been produced for general information and public consultation purposes only.*

Introduction

The *Statement of Challenges and Opportunities* provides information about the Solar Cities programme, allows interested parties to begin seeking potential consortia partners, and provides an initial guide in preparing expressions of interest. The Statement also serves as a basis for public consultation and an opportunity for feedback to inform refinement of the programme guidelines and processes for selecting the Solar Cities.

The Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) is seeking feedback on the Draft Programme Guidelines that are at Attachment A of the *Statement of Challenges and Opportunities*. The questions in this form relate to aspects of the Draft Programme Guidelines on which the AGO would particularly welcome views. Please refer to the Draft Programme Guidelines for information relating to each question (page numbers adjacent to each question refer to the relevant section of the Draft Guidelines).

This Feedback Form is to be completed and sent to the AGO by the **closing date of 14 January 2005** by either email, fax or mail as follows:

Email: the Solar Cities Team at solarcities@deh.gov.au

Fax: the Solar Cities Team on **(02) 6274 1884**

or **Write to:**

The Manager
Solar Cities Team
Australian Greenhouse Office
Department of the Environment & Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The AGO will not respond directly to comments provided by individuals or organisations.

Please provide your responses in the text and tick boxes provided in each part of the form.

1. Details of person providing feedback:

Name: Johanna Gastevich

Organisation: Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association (WA SEA) Inc.

(If you are responding on behalf of more than one organisation, please provide details)

Address: PO BOX 8078 PERTH BC 6849

Please note that a summary of respondents' comments will be made publicly available on the Solar Cities web site. Respondents' names and organisation will not be published on the web site.

2. Comments on Draft Programme Guidelines

Part 1: Introduction

1. Are the key expected outcomes of the Solar Cities programme appropriate and achievable?

WA SEA Inc. supports the key outcomes of the Solar Cities programme as stated in the introduction and believes that they are largely achievable.

Additional outcomes that could reasonably be expected to come out of the program are:

- Identification and documentation of methods that successfully facilitate the wide spread adoption of sustainable energy technologies and practices in both homes and businesses.
- Identification and documentation of factors that motivate consumers to adopt sustainability within homes and businesses.
- Educate consumers as to why it is important that they adopt sustainable energy technologies and practices. If consumers are more aware of the impact of their energy intensive behaviours and choices, they are more likely to be motivated to reduce energy use. There needs to be a more tangible link between energy use, resulting greenhouse gas emissions and thus climate change.

WA SEA Inc believes the key outcome as stated in the document is to ‘reduce the impediments to the uptake of sustainable energy’. Following the above mentioned points, impediments need to be identified and addressed adequately to ensure wide spread application of sustainable energy technologies.

Part 2: Objectives

2. Are the key objectives of the Solar Cities programme appropriate and achievable?

WA SEA Inc. agrees overall with the two stated objectives. However, we believe an additional objective needs to be included which states:

‘Develop an effective strategy that increases the uptake of sustainable energy technologies and practices in homes and businesses.’

Part 4: Eligibility & selection criteria

3. Are the *eligibility criteria* suitable?

WA SEA Inc. believes that concentrating the Solar Cities Program on interconnected grid areas unnecessarily limits the program. For example:

- Off grid rural areas have a natural advantage in that the cost of energy in these areas is traditionally higher and therefore the program will have a greater chance of long term success.
- End of grid possibilities will leverage the ability to offset the need to build additional network infrastructure

In addition, the Solar Cities programme needs to take into account that Australia has six different climate zones. It would be ideal if a solar city site was selected in each of these six climate zones.

4. Are the *core selection criteria* suitable? (page 11)

An addition to the *core selection criteria* should be item e) as stated in the *desirable selection criteria* 'Potential for change in community attitudes and behaviour in relation to the efficient use of energy and uptake of new technologies over the course of the trial.' It is only when we have changes in attitudes and behaviours that the increased adoption of sustainable energy will occur.

5. Are the *desirable selection criteria* suitable?

See comment above.

Part 5: Guiding principles

6. Are the *guiding principles* suitable?

WA SEA Inc agrees in principle with the guiding principles specified.

As mentioned in the Funding Section of the document, for each Solar City site, a 50% contribution is to be made by consortium parties. There is concern that small to medium sized businesses within the industry will be unable to match the financial contributions made by the Government. This will reduce the number of companies able to participate in the program

Part 7: Guidance for development of proposals

7. Is the guidance provided in Part 7 (and the programme guidelines overall) adequate to enable interested parties to engage in productive discussions relating to the formation of a consortium and the development of a proposal?

Note: a proposal form together with explanatory notes will also be made available for intending applicants when expressions of interest are invited.

Government must take a leadership role in establishing Consortia. A lot of work will be required to bring together local Government, industry and Community, with minimal guarantee of success in being selected as a potential solar city site. It will be a complex process in co-ordinating all areas of the submission.

Part 8: Process and indicative timeframe

8. Are the *process and indicative timeframe* suitable?

The project may achieve greater success if the AGO co-ordinated the entire Solar Cities process (ie. Selection of Cities and calling for companies to be involved through individual tender). A Community (through tender) could be selected from each of Australia's six climate zones. Then, call a tender for solar water heaters, photovoltaic, energy efficient products etc... This would simplify the process for all participants

Additional Comments

Are there any further comments you wish to make about the Solar Cities programme or the draft programme guidelines?

- WA SEA Inc. supports processes which lead to the greater application of sustainable energy technologies and practices.
- The Association would like to see funding set aside to develop a comprehensive Marketing and Communications plan to educate and inform consumers of the benefits that come from the program and how they can adopt sustainable energy within homes and businesses.
- It is important that we results Australia wide of reductions of energy use, not just within the Solar City Cites.
- The development of a Marketing and Communication's Plan should occur almost immediately.
- The Marketing and Communication's Plan should involve informing the public of the cost and environmental (through greenhouse gas reduction) savings which have been made within the Solar Cities as a result of implementing sustainable energy technologies and practices.