

Simple Changes Matter



Our Maggie

After witnessing the benefits of heat pumps installed for customers on Magnetic Island, local plumber Don Kilmartin (pictured) decided to try one out for himself.

"So far I've installed 18 heat pumps at businesses, new homes and existing homes on the island, including one for my own house," Don said.

"I kept hearing great reports and clients were really happy so when mine needed replacing recently, I decided it was a good opportunity to test the energy savings for myself."

Heat pumps provide a more efficient process for heating hot water, using up to a third of the energy of conventional electric hot water systems.

"For commercial accommodation providers, heat pumps are a great solution for providing plenty of hot water 24 hours a day, seven days a week at a much lower cost.

"But they're also effective in a residential environment – and with three bathrooms and four girls at my house, we certainly need to have hot water all the time."

The Solar City incentives program is offering rebates of \$500 for the replacement of hot water systems, with federal government rebates also available.

"The overall savings don't just include monetary savings, but also environmental benefits as well," Don said.

PROJECT UPDATE

Hello again and welcome to the sixth project update. We've certainly been busy since the last one. With almost 700 assessments completed, the team is actively looking for more opportunities to save you money. You can start by having one of our FREE assessments, which then also makes you eligible for our project vouchers.

Around 16 different energy efficiency options are covered by the vouchers, so give us a call at the Smart Lifestyle Centre to make an appointment for your free energy assessment soon – before the rebate period runs out.

We will also be at the Horseshoe Bay Markets so you can give us your contact details to call you back for a suitable time for an assessment – then you can begin to save money and help keep Maggie beautiful.

The installation team have also been working flat out to install meters and at time of printing were well on their way to achieving their target of upgrading around 1300 meters this year. Solar panel installation has been going well, with the team installing their largest system on the roof of the Golf Club earlier this year.



It's really pleasing to see community support for the project extending to the commercial sector. We've been talking to several of the accommodation providers to extend the project into the holiday maker market, and have welcomed aboard Island Palms, Island Leisure, the Golf Club, Mantra One Bright Point, X-base and the Bungalow Bay Resort.

These new partnerships will benefit both the organisations and the environment by reducing peak demand and energy consumption, thus lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

We've also been expanding the displays at the Smart Lifestyle Centre, including filming a video for the project. Thanks to the stars, including Pete Kirkby, Neil and Pat Carter, Kylie Backler, Rick Braley, Mark McKeown and members of our team. The video should be showing at the Centre from late July.

If you would like to be involved or would like to know more about our project, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or the team at the Centre on the numbers on this newsletter.

Till next time
Cheers
Julie

Julie Heath

Solar City Community Engagement Manager



e-Update now available

The Magnetic Island Solar Suburb Update can now be delivered to your computer inbox, rather than your mail box. If you'd like to receive an electronic version of the Update instead of a paper copy, email us at solarcity@ergon.com.au with the Subject line: Electronic Update.



Visit us at the Smart Lifestyle Centre located on Horseshoe Bay Road, at Horseshoe Bay



Phone the Solar City Project Team on **4758 1674**



Check out these websites:

- www.townsvillesolarcity.com.au
- www.ergon.com.au/evolve
- www.townsville.qld.gov.au
- www.waterrating.gov.au

Incentives to encourage energy efficiency

Magnetic Island Solar City Project participants planning an upgrade or renovation can save money with the introduction of new incentive vouchers.

“Our rebate vouchers can help you save money on your next energy efficient appliance purchase and can also be used in conjunction with government rebates,” Solar City Energy Assessment Manager Graeme Pollock said.

There are 16 possible improvements for residents to choose from, with the vouchers available as part of the free energy assessment program being carried out to transform Magnetic Island into a Solar Suburb.

Eligible activities include the surrender of redundant fridges and clothes dryers for removal by Ergon Energy, the upgrade of appliances such as dishwashers, fridges and washing machines, conversion to solar or gas, installation of insulation or painting the roof with reflective paint.

Horseshoe Bay resident Pete Kirkby was the first participant to surrender a voucher, receiving a rebate of \$500 towards the installation of a solar hot water system.

“I’d had two relatively large power bills in a row so I was keen to try and reduce my electricity costs by switching to solar hot water,” he said.



Pete Kirkby surrenders the first incentive voucher to Solar City Manager Ian Cruickshank.

“Receiving the rebate was a great bonus and I’m keen to see improvements on my next bill.”

The incentives program will only operate for a limited time. For further information contact the Smart Lifestyle Centre on 4758 1674.



Renewable energy at the Golf Club

The Magnetic Island Golf Club is feeding around 50 kWh of solar generated energy back into the electricity grid most days following the recent installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of the complex.

Solar City Installation Manager Dean Condon said the 11 kW system was the largest system installed by the Solar City project team to date.

“The large, unshaded roof of the Golf Club provided an ideal location for a solar PV system of this size,” he said.

“The team did a great job installing the system in less than a week and in hot conditions.”

There have now been 61 solar PV systems installed on homes and businesses throughout the island, supplying 132 kW of green power for Magnetic Island.

Partnership saves up to \$13,000 on annual electricity bills

An innovative partnership on Magnetic Island between the Solar City project and the property managers at One Bright Point apartment complex could save an average of \$220 a year per unit.

As well, the energy savings will lead to around 80 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided each year for the 60 apartments involved.

Solar City Manager Ian Cruickshank said this was a milestone first step towards engaging property owners and managers in creating energy efficient holiday dwellings.

“The initiatives so far undertaken include a major appliance control systems trial, lighting changes, reducing the temperature on hot water systems and switching off the hot water service and air conditioning between tenancies,” Ian said.

“It’s important to note that this last point involved switching the units off at the wall,

as leaving appliances on standby just wastes electricity and costs money.

“All of these things are simple to do, won’t compromise customer comfort or the level of service offered at One Bright Point and will contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions during the holiday makers’ stay on beautiful Magnetic Island.”

Former One Bright Point Property Management team, Sam and Alicia Wood, said it was an easy decision to become involved with the Solar City project.

“When we were initially contacted, we were excited by the possibilities for our owners to save money on their bills, while also becoming more environmentally friendly. We have 60 owners who are participating and they are more than happy to have the prompts placed in their unit to gently remind holiday makers of energy efficient behaviour.”



Former One Bright Point Property Management team, Sam and Alicia Wood, with Solar City Community Engagement Manager Julie Heath in one of the apartments.



Australian Government
Solar Cities



Queensland Government

