

Simple Changes Matter



Our Maggie



Peter Duckworth and Tania Theroux have cut their electricity bills by an average of 30% over the last six months by participating in our peak demand reduction trial.

Nelly Bay residents Peter Duckworth and Tania Thoreau have managed to cut their peak period consumption by an average of 30% since they signed up for the Solar City Peak Demand Reduction Trial (PDRT) six months ago.

The couple has reduced their energy usage during the peak demand period between 6pm and 9pm by devising and adhering to their own personal environmental campaign they refer to as "take it outside".

"Each afternoon at 6pm we turn all accessible appliances off at the wall and go out for a walk until 7.15pm," Tania said.

"Before we head out we prepare and cook our evening meal, except for the meat which we cook on the barbecue when we get back. We also now heat water for tea or coffee in a cup in the microwave instead of boiling the electric jug with surplus water, as we understand this uses less power."

Combining their environmental acumen with some good old-fashioned common sense, Peter and Tania have been "taking it outside" every day since they became part of the trial with great results.

Their household electricity bills have decreased dramatically making the couple

eligible for rebates in five out of the six months since the trial began.

Peter and Tania believe the trial has been a great incentive for them to continue along the peak demand reduction path.

"Following our energy assessment we progressively changed our light globes to CFLs, turned appliances off at the fuse box or wall and switched the pool pump to lower cost tariff," Peter explained.

"We have also decided to purchase and install our own solar panels and relocate the Ergon Energy-owned Solar City panels we are hosting elsewhere on the roof. We're pleased we can still host the panels as well as having our own and others should be aware that this could also be an option for them."

Recent figures show Peter and Tania's total peak consumption fell by 114 kilowatt hours (kWh) year to date, which includes a massive 51% drop in their first month. Their energy usage profile also shows a significant reduction during the "peakiest" time of 7.30pm.

"The data on kWh production of the hosted solar panels was one of the key factors in our decision to install solar panels for our own use," Tania said.

"The Solar City program showed us that this is viable."

PROJECT UPDATE

Since we began the Solar City project on Maggie with our first energy assessment in February 2008, around 80% of residents and businesses have spent time with our skilled assessment team getting professional advice on energy efficiency.

That's a huge amount of you out there who have participated in the project and are doing your part to reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and peak demand. And you have been successful!

Work on the Solar Skate Park is almost completed and a big thanks to everyone for their patience while construction has been taking place. The bright



colours of the steelwork structures are hard to miss and we have had a lot of positive comments from the artists and skate park users who are pleased with the new shade and expanded facilities.

The completed Solar Skate Park will be officially opened on 23 July with a community fiesta and skateboarding clinics and demonstrations. There are more details on your invitation which you should have received in the mail.

If you'd like further information, please don't hesitate to contact our new Community Engagement Manager Melanie Landrigan on 0407 635 910 who is on secondment to the project for the next few months.

Look forward to seeing you on 23 July for the official opening.

Regards

Julie Heath

Solar City Community Engagement Manager



e-Update now available

The Magnetic Island Solar Suburb Update can be delivered to your inbox, rather than your mailbox. 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.

Want more Information?



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



You can also phone the Solar City Project Team on **4758 1674**



Visit our website:

www.townsvillesolarcity.com.au



For more information on Government rebates:

www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/solar-hot-water-rebate.html

www.climatechange.gov.au/What-you-need-to-know/renewable-energy/solar-homes.aspx

Peak Demand Reduction Trial

The "Take it Outside" campaign undertaken by Peter Duckworth and Tania Thoreau and their participation in the Peak Demand Reduction Trial (PDRT) is just one example of many across Magnetic Island that are producing great results so far.

Figures for March 2011 show that participants reduced their consumption in the peak period by 24% when compared to March 2010, indicating that participants are willing and able to shift or lower their Tariff 11 load from the peak demand period of between 6pm and 9pm daily.

PDRT Project Manager Wayne Preston said although the trial is designed to reduce peak demand, there has also been a significant reduction in overall Tariff 11 power

consumption, which puts more money back into the pockets of trial participants.

"One of the focuses of the trial is to engage with participants about ways to reduce peak power demand on the network and the 85 participants have produced some great results so far," Wayne said.

"The cumulative results for the first six months of the 18-month trial show that overall, total Tariff 11 electricity usage by trial participants fell by 22%.

"As the weather cools there is an expectation that reductions in energy savings from trial participants may ease. I'd like to encourage everyone to keep up the good work and maintain the effort to become more energy efficient – it can certainly pay off in a lot of ways!"



Manager of the successful Peak Demand Reduction Trial Wayne Preston.



Julie Heath presents Providence Sailing's Grant Lewis with the Ecotourism/Sustainable Tourism award.

Local businesses shine at new tourism awards

Magnetic Island's businesses and tourism operators were recognised at an awards night held recently, with the Solar City team joining the celebrations as a sponsor of the event.

The Townsville Queensland Solar City project sponsored the Ecotourism/Sustainable Tourism award, which was presented by Community Engagement Manager Julie Heath to category winner Grant Lewis from Providence Sailing.

"It's important organisations and businesses in the community support

awards nights like these, and I would like to congratulate Sunferries for getting the ball rolling with this great event," said Julie.

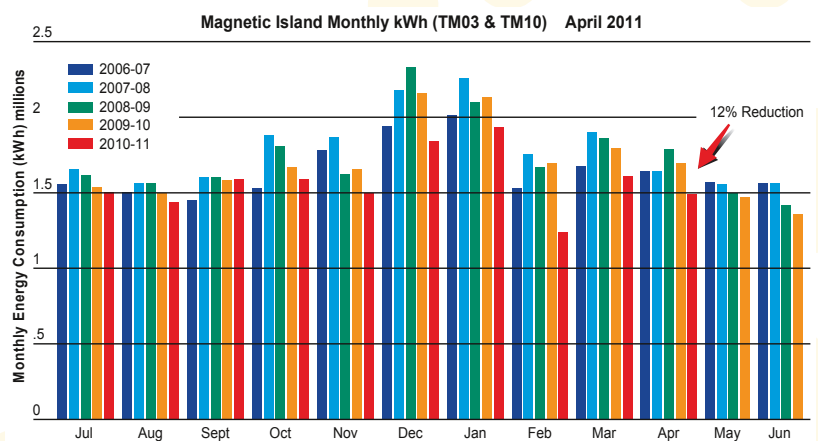
"Both the judging process and the lead up increase the awareness of the importance of supporting Island businesses and bringing recognition to its tourism operators."

The inaugural Magnetic Island Tourism and Business Awards held at the All Seasons hotel featured 10 categories of awards ranging from best tour operator to best accommodation.

PROJECT PROGRESS

There is a noticeable reduction in energy use and April 2011 results are just the latest in a string of reductions with a 12% reduction in monthly electricity usage when compared to April 2010. Also, peak demand levels on Magnetic Island are lower now than what they were in 2007 thanks to the your participation in the solar PV hosting process, which has been a great help in supplying some of the demand.

These results show everyone is still making a concerted effort to maintain the energy efficient standards that are helping keep Magnetic Island a sustainable community. In the same period last year energy consumption decreased by 5% so again, congratulations on a job well done!



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