

MEDIA RELEASE

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Most sustainable community award

An innovative vegetable and egg trading program has helped a Kalamunda community kindergarten win a 2.1 kW solar panel system and the title of the most sustainable community in a Perth Solar City competition.

Kalamunda's Spring Road Kindergarten will receive the award from Environment Minister the Hon Donna Faragher MLC on **Wednesday 27 October at 12pm** on site at **1A Spring Road, Kalamunda** as part of the federally funded Perth Solar City program.

Representing Energy Minister the Hon Peter Collier MLC, Ms Faragher said the kindergarten had been outstanding in demonstrating energy efficiency, sustainability and community engagement in its initiatives.

"The kindergarten is run voluntarily by 40 local families whose vegetable gardens and hens are used for vegetable and egg trading with the wider community.

"The kindergarten's native garden is sustained by on-site water tanks while the kindy has gas fired under floor water heating to keep little bottoms warm in winter and running costs and carbon emissions down. The kindergarten also has an excellent education program teaching children about sustainability and the natural environment," said Minister Faragher.

The sustainable communities' competition ran from March to the end of May and was open to all community groups that demonstrated sustainable living practices in the Perth Solar City region which includes the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan.

A Lesmurdie family who entered the competition also won a fully installed 1.2kW PV system, courtesy of SunPower.

Western Power is leading the \$73.5m Perth Solar City program which is part of the Australian Government's Solar Cities program. The program is supported by a Consortium of industry experts including the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Mojarra, EMRC, Prospero Productions, SolaHart, SunPower, and Synergy.

Western Power Managing Director Doug Aberle said increased energy efficiency programs are vital for a more sustainable energy sector.

"By winning a new solar PV system this little kindergarten is likely to generate enough electricity to cover its annual electricity bill which will prove invaluable to this small not-for-profit community group.

"The Perth Solar City program is also offering thousands of residents in Perth's Eastern Region access to free home eco-consultations, valuable discounts off solar hot water systems and solar energy systems and involvement in other energy saving projects. It's a highly effective broad approach to supporting communities to change behaviours for long term household, community and environmental benefits", Mr Aberle said.

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