

MEDIA RELEASE

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High electricity bills? We want you.

Eastern suburbs homeowners have only two more weeks to enter the Perth Solar City Eco House competition.

Perth Solar City Project Manager Andrew Blaver said one lucky household would win a \$50,000 home eco-makeover, which includes a range of large and small scale items all designed to reduce energy and water consumption.

"The competition is ideal for a large energy using household," Mr Blaver said.

"Those who stand to benefit most would be larger families and big power users who do not have any energy-saving items already installed," he said.

"Included in the eco-makeover will be a premium SunPower 2.38kW solar PV system, a Solahart hot water system, a fully installed smart meter and in-home display from Western Power and Synergy, a home eco-consultation courtesy of Mojarra, a tailored coaching service courtesy of the Living Smart and a lighting and water efficiency retrofit.

"The outdoors won't be forgotten with the lucky winner receiving premium mulch from the EMRC's Red Hill Waste Management Facility and native seedlings from the Friends of Kings Park and gardening advice from the Kings Park Master Gardeners.

"Depending on the measures already installed at the home, the eco-makeover may also include sun protection upgrades, energy and water efficient appliances, a rain water tank and a native or vegetable garden.

Once the house has been made over, it will be used as a display model to demonstrate best practice in energy efficiency and sustainable living.

"People will have an opportunity to visit the house and it will serve as a public showcase for sustainable living," Mr Blaver said.

Any homeowner living in Perth's Eastern region is eligible to enter the competition. This includes the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan.

"Simply pick up an application form from your local library or Council or download from perthsolarcity.com.au/ecohouse. Every entry goes into the draw to win a \$150 Bunnings voucher," said Mr Blaver.

The eco-house competition closes on 11 March 2011 with the first home open scheduled for September 2011.

Perth Solar City is part of the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities program and is managed locally by Western Power. For more information visit www.perthsolarcity.com.au/ecohouse.

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Background: Perth Solar City

Perth Solar City is part of the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities program designed to help communities change the way they produce, use and save energy.

Perth Solar City is a 'one-stop-shop' offering residents in Perth's Eastern region access to free home eco-consultations, valuable discounts off solar hot water systems, solar energy systems and unique energy saving technical trials.

Western Power is leading the Perth Solar City program and is supported by a Consortium of industry leaders including the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Mojarra, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC), Prospero Productions, SolaHart, SunPower, and Synergy.

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