

MEDIA RELEASE

21 March 2012

WA's biggest energy efficiency trial reduces household power costs

Western Power has released results from WA's most comprehensive research into energy efficiency that shows households can cut their power bills in half.

Announced in the 2011 Annual Report into the \$73.5 million Perth Solar City program, Western Power ran a series of trials into energy efficiency that showed that even with no cost to the householder electricity bills can be easily reduced by nearly 10%.

Since its launch in November 2009, the Program has become the most comprehensive energy efficiency initiative in Western Australia, and is managed by Western Power on behalf of the Australian Government.

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.perthsolarcity.com.au/annual-report/>

Perth Solar City has developed and implemented more than 30 energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for households within its target area - Perth's Eastern Region. The preliminary results show a broad range of positive results.

Western Power's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Italiano said the report shows that energy efficiency has clear benefits for customers – saving money and helping the environment.

"It has become clear that access to real time energy use information, rather than a bill every 60 days, is key to real savings for households or bigger energy users. Schools that had access to this type of information were able to save up to 54% on their energy costs by better understanding and changing how they used energy.

"Overall the seven schools that participated in the school's project saved a total of \$16,000 off their power bills in seven weeks, a fabulous result.

"Households were able to save 8.5% on their power bill by very simple cost free actions like turning off lights and appliances when not in use.

"On average households that invested in the benefit of solar energy reduced their power bills by 58%", he said.

“The real benefit of this comprehensive research is that not only Western Power but the State will be better informed in its future decisions.

“On behalf of Western Power, I would like to acknowledge and thank all the members of our consortium – Botanic Gardens and Park Authority, Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, Mojarra, Prospero Productions, Solarhart, SunPower and Synergy for their help in making this Program such a success.” Mr Italiano said.

Residents in Perth’s Eastern Region can still join the Perth Solar City Program until 30 September 2012, for more details visit www.perthsolarcity.com.au.

Western Power will continue to evaluate the results of the four year Program with final results expected in 2013.

(ENDS)

Media Contact – Miriam Borthwick 1300 139 240

Program results

Program	Outcome
In Home Displays	Early evidence showed that access to real time energy use data assisted in reducing electricity use by residential in-home display users (6.82%), and schools (54%).
Demand Management (Air-Conditioner Trial)	20% reduction in electricity use at peak time during year one.
Time-of-Use Tariff (PowerShift)	10.9% reduction in electricity use during the ‘super peak’ period
Residential solar PV systems	57.9% reduction in average daily electricity use (from the grid), or 11.36 kWh per day
Residential solar hot water systems	15% reduction in average daily electricity use
Behaviour change (Living Smart)	8.5% reduction in average daily electricity use