

Double Glaze Matters

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Container Refund

Once again, this time in NSW, the government has strong community support to implement a 10 cent container fee in NSW. But Coke is fighting back.

A similar fight was fought (and lost) in NT 3 years ago. If you are an avid reader of this newsletter you will note that Franciscus Henri's cartoon is actually recycled from 3 years ago.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Carbon Neutral for \$10K

Disclaimer: *The following calculations are general in nature and may not apply to your situation. Just accept my generalizations!*

The Holy Grail for Climate Change evangelists is to become carbon neutral. After all if everyone became carbon neutral Climate Change would be solved!

Being carbon neutral means you minimize your emissions, then offset your remaining emissions some how.

The easiest way to do this is to simply buy solar panels. The average couple will use around 10Kwh of electricity a day. They will use a similar amount of energy from gas for

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Franciscus Henri's contribution to the NSW debate on a 10 cent container refund .

Carbon Neutral for \$10K (cont)

heating, a similar amount of energy from petrol for driving and then industry uses approximately 20 kwh on your behalf.

This adds up to around 50 kwh of energy. If you install 10 kw of solar panels on your roof, you will generate around 50 kwh of electricity a day. You will only use around 3 or 4 kwh yourself, and the remaining 47 kwh will get exported to the grid.

This means that there will be 47 kwh less power generated from brown coal. The emissions that this saves will exceed the emissions from 47 kwh of energy you use elsewhere, since coal is the most carbon intensive way of generating power.

The cost of solar power has plummeted, to the extent that 10 kw of solar panels costs around \$10,000. So for a \$10,000 outlay you have become carbon neutral and you can rest easy that you have done your part to save the world for future generations.

In addition you make a good return on the power you use yourself and sell to the grid. Its not as much as you would like, around \$800 a year, but that still pays off your investment after 12 years.

So, is this the way to solve climate change? Every couple just buys \$10,000 worth of solar panels? That works out at \$100 billion for Australia to go carbon neutral which is cheaper than 12 submarines.

Of course it doesn't work if everyone does it. If 5% of the community had 10 kw of solar panels then then you could no longer export your power to the grid at peak times and so you could not get the offset value from the extra power. If you spent another \$50,000 you could buy 50 kwh of batteries. Now you can store the power you generate each day either use it yourself at night, or export it to the grid at night.

So this would work for the next 15% of the people that convert.

However this would eventually stop working as well. The solar panels and batteries would

be generating all of the power needed for the grid and so additional panels would have no one to use the power.

The next 20% of people need to buy panels and batteries and reverse cycle air conditioners so that the power can be used for heating and cooling houses.

Once all the houses are heated electrically, people then need to buy electric cars so that the electricity can be used to get rid of the transport component of emissions.

This gets rid of 60% of the emissions. Much of food production and general manufacturing could be run from electric factories and electric cars, although electric trucks and tractors are a little way off.

So, by spending money we could solve climate change, or around 80% of the problem. Planes and trucks are still a problem.

Of course I have made a lot of assumptions along the way. There are other more efficient ways this could be done, and things like batteries will become much cheaper by the time we need them. It may not be the best plan, but it is better than the plan our government has!

This should be considered an upper limit to the cost of converting. Even so, it isn't really that expensive, especially if we did it over 15 years. And it is flexible, we can change as we go along. The group Beyond Zero have a more efficient plan:

<http://bze.org.au/zerocarbonplan>

So, if you want a guilt free life, be one of the first 5% who can go carbon neutral cheaply! And if you can't put the panels on your roof, put them on someone else's roof!

| Percent | What | How Much |
|-----------|--|----------|
| Up to 5% | 10 Kw solar panels | \$10K |
| 5 to 20% | 10 Kw solar panels, 40Kwh batteries | \$50K |
| 20 to 40% | 10 Kw solar panels, 40Kwh batteries, reverse Cycle Air con | \$70K |
| 40 to 60% | 10 Kw solar panels, 40Kwh batteries, reverse Cycle Air con, electric car | \$100K |

Summary of costs to go Carbon Neutral