

Double Glaze Matters

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Climate For Change

Recently I became involved with a group called "Climate For Change". Their aim is "To create the social climate in Australia for effective action on climate change". In other words, to inform people of the real risks of climate change and the need for action.

The way they do this is by holding informal meetings with small groups of people to explain the problem, show solutions and encourage actions.

People are most comfortable about discussing problems when they are in a small group, where they know each other and a friendly space. We therefore are looking for people who are willing to host a 'gathering' in their home and invite 6 -10 friends along. I will attend as

a facilitator, present a short film on Climate Change, lead discussions on what people can do to address climate change and (hopefully) encourage people to take action.



Those who wish to be involved then receive email suggestions over the next few months on things they can do. These suggestions go beyond simply living more sustainably to actually take actions, such as discussing the problems with others. Hopefully someone will offer to host their own gathering and we can then meet a wider audience. It's like a Tupperware party, selling action on Climate Change rather than plastic!

If you think you may be interested in hosting a Climate for Change gathering, please get back to me.

This sign in Naka Meguro - Tokyo may well have been inspired by a casual observation of Australian politics

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franciscus Henri".



Paying for Double Glazing

A friend sent this to me recently....
It didn't come from one of my
customers! (apologies to blondes)

***Last year, I replaced all the
windows in my house with
those expensive, double-pane,
energy-efficient kind.***

***Today, I got a call from the
contractor who installed them.***

***He complained that the work
had been completed a year
ago. and I still hadn't, paid for
them. OMG!***

***Hellloooo,..... Just be-
cause I'm blonde doesn't
mean that I'm automatically
stupid.***

***So, I told him just what his
fast-talking sales guy told me
last year -- that these win-
dows would pay for them-
selves in a year.***

***Helllooooo? It's been a year,
so they're paid for, I told him.***

***There was only silence at the
other end of the line, so I fi-
nally hung up.***

He never called back.

I bet he felt like an idiot !!

Imbedded Energy of So- lar Panels

I was asked to comment on the sugges-
tion that the production of solar panels
is so emission intensive that the emis-
sions saved through switching from coal
to solar power would not make up for
this over the lifetime of the panels.

While this is a valid question it is far
from the truth. A full life cycle analysis
of the imbedded energy of panels is be-
yond my skills, but a "back of the enve-
lope" calculation shows it is wrong.

1 Kw of panels costs around \$1,000 and
over 13 years will generate 20,000 Kwh.

Lets assume for the moment that all of
the emissions from producing panels
comes from the power used to make
them. This would mean it must take
20,000 kwh to make them. Assuming
the power costs 10 cents/kwh, the en-
ergy cost for production would be
\$2,000, so they are hardly likely to sell
them for \$1,000!

Looking at it another way, lets try to get
an upper limit on the energy used to
make the panels.

Of the \$1,000 you pay for the panels,
around half goes in marketing and in-
stallation, most of which consumes
minimum power.

The factory has a lot of other costs to
carry in raw materials and labour. You
would assume less than 20% would be
power costs.

This means that the energy cost for the
panels is less than \$100. Assuming the
power costs 10 cents/kwh, this is 1,000
kwh which is less than 1 years power
generation.

There may be issues with solar panels,
but emitting more CO2 than they save is
not one of them!