

Energy Matters

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This Issue

There is something very unusual about this issue of the newsletter... It didn't arrive on the last day of the month!

You may think that this is because I finally got organised, but the reality is that it is late as ever. I am actually heading off first thing tomorrow for a

That Beer Fridge

I often get a comment from the female member of the house when I am doing an assessment, "Can you please recommend that he gets rid of the beer fridge. He won't listen to me".

The cost of running fridges was brought home to me when I did an assessment the other day and I noticed that since May the electricity bill had suddenly dropped 25%. I asked why and was told that they had an old fridge in the house and an old one in the garage. They had replaced them with just a single fridge and had reduced the daily power usage by 4 KWH.

So, if you have a beer fridge, recognise that the cost is around \$100 a year. More if it is an old fridge. If you still need the fridge, consider leaving it off (with the door ajar) and only turn it on for the few days in the year when you are having a party. The other idea is to consider

three week holiday in Western Australia and so this is the last chance I get!

I feel a little guilty because I am going by plane. The round trip to Perth is 1.6 tonne which is an awful lot. However, if I was to drive my Prius over and back, it would still create 1 tonne of emissions. So I suppose I will just have to walk next time...

the option of increasing the thermostat so that the fridge does not have to work as hard.

The other thing that I often find is that the fridge is outside on the patio and is in direct sunlight. This can double the work done by the fridge, so move it or give it a sunshade.

Of course if you really want a guilt free beer fridge, you could also power it with Green Power. By paying an extra 5 cents per KWH, you can ensure that your power comes from wind rather than coal. Effectively you have eliminated all of your emissions from electricity usage simply by paying a little extra. If you want more info about Green Energy, go to:-

www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au/results.php

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Disclaimer

The views in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Green Loans program

Hepburn Wind— its Happening!

..a \$5,000 investment will provide enough power for the average household..

On several occasions I have made mention of the Hepburn Wind project . This is a community based wind farm which has been started by a group in Hepburn Springs.

They have set up a cooperative to raise the 13 million dollars needed to build the two towers and are finally showing results. Last April they signed the order for the wind towers and last Friday they turned the first sod on the site at Leonard's Hill.

I also like the fact that it provides a business model that other community groups can follow. If there were enough similar projects in Victoria, we could actually close down Hazelwood now!

While they have managed to raise most of the money required, they are still interested in new investors.



Their prospectus states a reasonable return on the investment, but what I really like is that it is one of the few environmental projects that ordinary people can be involved and see a real positive outcome. They suggest that a \$5,000 investment will provide enough power for the average household. To achieve a similar result for PV systems, you need a 5KW system which costs around \$20,000.

Some facts:-

- 2 towers
- Each produce 2 MW
- Will power 2,000 homes
- Weight of the hub 67 Tonnes
- Weight of the Blades 21 tonnes

For more information, visit www.hepburnwind.com.au

Note: I have invested in the project myself and so have a personal interest in the project. Also, I have no experience or qualifications in investment advising. Please ensure you discuss any investment with your financial adviser before proceeding