



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Mildura Solar Hubs Newsletter

4 April 2011

With the release today of the first Mildura Solar Hubs Newsletter we mark the ramping up of planning prior to the Launch later in the year.

Solar Hubs is a project being run by Mildura Development Corporation in conjunction with Mildura Rural City Council, Sustainability Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, Sunraysia TAFE, National Centre for Sustainability, and Sunraysia Sustainability Network and will be working to set up a bulk buy scheme on behalf of the local community to purchase solar panels for their homes and businesses.

Mildura Rural City Councillor, Nick Cavallo, said "Mildura Rural City Council has for some time planned on using solar technologies on its rooftops."

"Council believes that the current budget for solar installation can be driven further with at least two public buildings now being considered with solar power."

Mildura Solar Hubs is aiming to install at least 785kW of rooftop solar in the next financial year.

Anne Mansell, CEO, Mildura Development Corporation also added, "This will be a great opportunity for Mildura businesses and residences to confidently purchase a rooftop solar system beyond the 1 July reduction in federal government rebate."

Newly appointed Solar Hubs Project Officer, Tim Brand, would like to thank the community for their overwhelming support of the project to date, with at least 560 Expressions of interest received.

Solar Hubs newsletters will be updated monthly. Subscription forms part of the expression of interest that can be accessed from the Mildura Development Corporation's website [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au)

Mildura Solar Hubs is a partnership between Mildura Development Corporation, Mildura Rural City Council, Sustainability Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, Sunraysia TAFE, National Centre for Sustainability, and Sunraysia Sustainability Network.

### END OF MEDIA RELEASE

For further information please contact the Mildura Development Corporation office.

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Welcome to the first Community Update for the Mildura Solar Hubs Project.

We have now welcomed to the Mildura Development Corporation team, Tim Brand in the role of Solar Hubs Project Officer. Tim will provide you with a monthly update of the project through this newsletter.

So far this financial year Mildura Development Corporation, Mildura Rural City Council, Sustainability Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, Sunraysia TAFE, National Centre for Sustainability, and Sunraysia Sustainability Network have been working to set up a bulk buy scheme on your behalf. As you may appreciate these schemes are still in their infancy in Australia and require huge amounts of effort and capital outlay to start.

The aim is to have a solid system in place to provide you with the opportunity to purchase a good quality, proven solar installation at a greatly reduced price beyond the new financial year.

For now I welcome you to invite all of your friends to register their interest in this exciting endeavour at [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au)

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Tim Brand at Mildura Development Corporation on 03 5022 0722 or email [tim@milduraregion.com.au](mailto:tim@milduraregion.com.au)

**Anne Mansell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Mildura Solar Hub's Background

- Solar Hubs is an initiative of Sustainability Victoria aimed to deliver upto 8.6MW, or approximately 3,400 homes, with solar rooftop systems in upto 10 hubs across Victoria;
- In Mildura we are aiming to exceed 785kW of installed rooftop solar, including the Mildura Arts Centre.
- Mildura Solar Hub is
  - A great opportunity to buy solar panels at a wholesale price by buying in bulk.
  - An easy way to get a good quality installation.
  - A helping hand to the industry in town.
  - A great way to tell the Federal Government we are a Going Solar Community.

## Energy Efficiency Tips

### Refrigerator and Freezer efficiency

- The fridge is most efficient if air is allowed to circulate around the fridge. About 4 inches (100mm) around the fridge is ideal.
- Airflow is also important in the room where a fridge is located. They work very poorly in a broom closet with the doors shut.
- Inside a fridge/freezer needs airflow. If it's more than 80% full it will use excessive power to push the cold air around.
- Empty fridges waste power. Beer fridges and the like that are only used sometimes can be turned off when not required, as long as the door is left open to stop the spread of mould.
- Ice build-up in the freezer causes the freezer to overwork, wasting power. Reduce the ice build up by opening the fridge for short periods or less often. Regularly defrosting your freezer can help drive your electricity bills down.