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Solar powers surf life saving club

Shoalhaven City Council supports solar energy to power Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club.

Council was successful in gaining Federal funding for part of the cost of the installation of a grid interactive solar system for the roof of the surf life saving club house.

Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club has had a two kilowatt solar power system installed. The solar power system comprises 12 Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the club house and an inverter.

The system will produce about 2800 kilowatt hours of sustainable energy per year and can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the normal generation of electricity by up to 300 kilograms each year.

This sustainable energy used by the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club will help to reduce the club's electrical accounts and any excess energy produced will be feed back to the electrical grid

Clean Energy for Eternity (Shoalhaven branch) initially requested Council to consider providing cleaner energy to Councils public buildings. Community group, Footprint, represented by David Herring has worked tirelessly in providing education on "energy for the future", coordinating community consultation with various stakeholders, applying for rebates and seeking sponsorship funding with the assistance of Healthy Cities Shoalhaven.

Footprint has partnered with Council, Milton Ulladulla Community Bank and Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts to provide funding for the Mollymook Surf Life Saving clubhouse and three other public buildings in Kioloa, Milton and Ulladulla which are also proposed to have the same two kilowatt solar system installed this financial year.

Local electrical business AJ & BA Barker Electrical substantially discounted the cost of the material for the 2kw solar system and coordinated the installation of the solar power system for the surf life saving club.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said that Council is aiming to achieve a sustainable Shoalhaven where many of our public buildings are using sustainable technologies to reduce their greenhouse gas footprint.

"We are aiming to progressively incorporate energy and water saving measures into Council's buildings where we look at the whole of life costs," Cllr Green said.

"We actively encourage all community organisations that are using Council's buildings to develop asset management plans that identify operational requirements, desired enhancements, capital improvements and include Ecologically Sustainable Development principles including solar photovoltaic panels as have been installed at the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club."

Once Council has these plans in place Council can then support submissions for grant funding as they have done with the Mollymook Surf life saving clubhouse and Footprint.

Council is proud to be partnered with Footprint, Healthy Cities, Milton Ulladulla Community Bank, AJ & RA Barker Electrical and the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in this project to provide renewable energy which is more environmentally friendly.

For more information you can visit the Council's internet site at <http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Environment/GreenLiving.htm>.

CONTACT: Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green

(02) 4429 3251
0423 881 873