



Castlemaine 500 Watt Matters Most on World Environment Day (WED)?

For more information about the Castlemaine 500 project, please contact Geoff Brown on 0403 763 660 or visit our website: www.castlemaine500.org.au

Hello to the Castlemaine 500 Community!

Today is June 5 2007, World Environment Day (WED) and Castlemaine 500 is 12 month old and over 300 households strong! The WED 2007 slogan selected is **Melting Ice - a Hot Topic?** Like Castlemaine 500, WED focuses on the effects that climate change is having on polar ecosystems and communities, and the ensuing consequences around the world.

A brief reflection on C500...

Many people do not realise that Castlemaine 500 is more than a household energy saving project. Behind the scenes, we are working with individuals, community groups and local businesses to build local skills and create a more resilient community - one that can tackle the climate challenge head on and lead other communities by example.

In January this year, 18 local community members were selected to participate in the C500 Community Development Program. This program has been training and supporting local people to run small-scale energy-saving projects and recruit new households into Castlemaine 500. Many of the community projects have already happened and other exciting activities are planned in the coming months.

In early March, over 100 people attended a C500 Community Conference to explore "Ways of Creating Energy Smart Neighbourhoods". Despite the thermometer pushing 39 degrees, a dozen community action projects emerged to find local solutions to this global climate change challenge.

Reflecting on the past 12 months, our team has been "blown away" by your community! The Castlemaine State Festival was extraordinary and how many provincial towns manage to *attract and stage* a world premier of a big-screen movie?! Last year's special screening of Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth was yet another example of a community that gets on with the business of *doing*.

As we enter a second year of activity, Castlemaine 500 will continue to grow and evolve. I am confident that our ultimate goal of building local, community ownership and ongoing participation will be realised in the coming months. In Castlemaine ... C500 is in the best of hands.

Each time we leave a TV on standby, have a long, hot shower or switch on the heater, we use energy. The more we use the more greenhouse pollution we create and the more we change the world's climate.

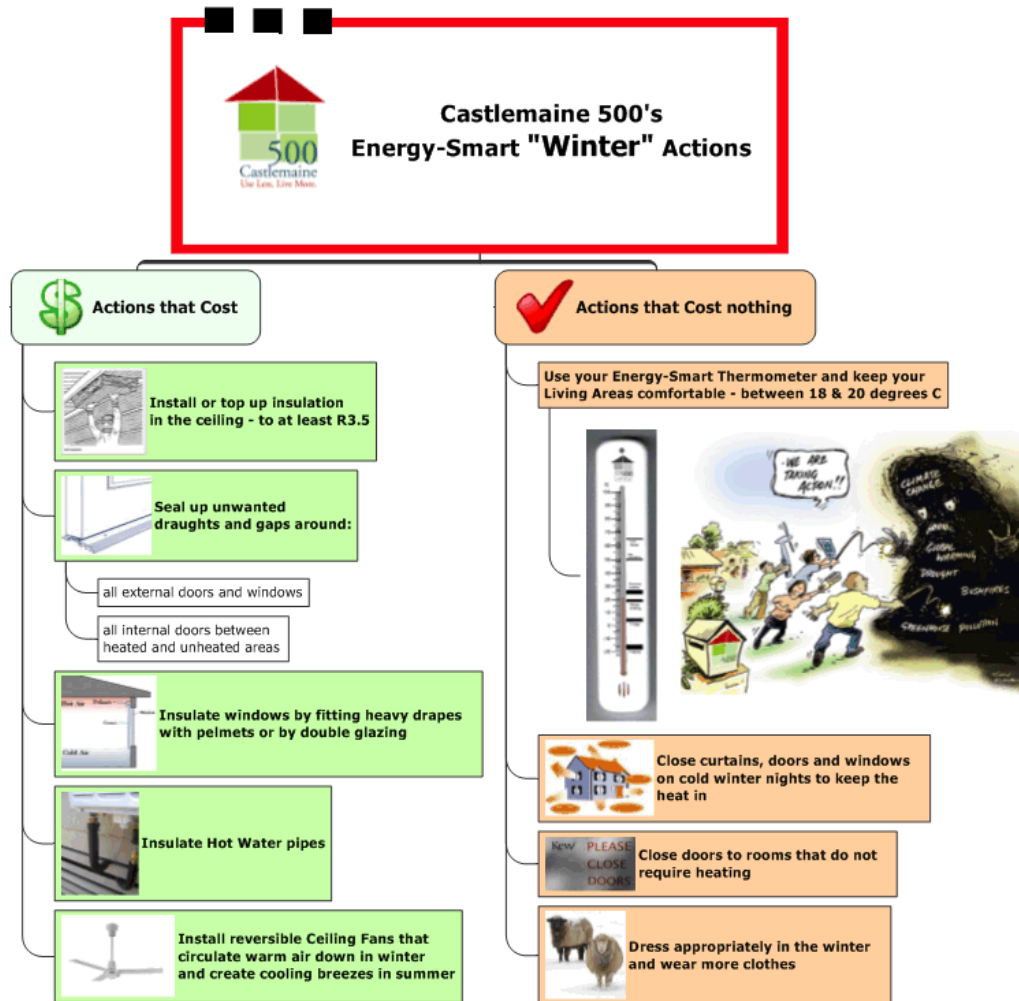
Hot links to some WED media

1. **Melting Ice in Focus on World Environment Day:**
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200706/s1941043.htm>
2. **About WED:**
http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/About_WED_2007/index.asp
3. **Aussie's want Action on Climate Change - Survey:**
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200706/s1942296.htm>
4. **Greenpeace backs China's Climate Plan:**
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200706/s1942242.htm>

C500 Energy Smart Winter Actions

By doing a combination of these action below, you will make a big dent in your energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions this winter!

For more information visit our website info & links page:
www.castlemaine500.org.au/links.html



Happy World Environment Day!!

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