

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

Member Newsletter, Tuesday May 25th 2010

Key Dates

- *Wednesday May 26th, MASG finally moves back to Templeton St offices*
- *MASG to meet with Steve Gibbons Monday June 7th @ 11am.*

MASG moves again.

This week we will be moving again to the newly refurbished offices on the corner of Templeton and Barker Sts...back to the future !! We will be closed and off line this week but you can still contact us on the mobile 0448 327 791

Concerned people to meet with Steve Gibbons

A delegation of concerned people will be meeting with Federal Member for Bendigo Mr Steve Gibbons on Monday June 7th. They will be asking for

1. A national gross feed in tariff to support the uptake of larger scale renewable energy
2. A carbon price- to initiate the polluter pays principle, starting at \$30 per tonne.
3. A commitment to take our concerns to caucus and communicate them to Wayne Swan & Lindsay Tanner (for the carbon tax) and Martin Fergusson, Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd (for the feed in tariff). If you would like to com please contact Dean on 0448 327 791 or If you can't make it let Mr Gibbons know of your support for the ideas and ring his office on 130000 131 663

Support us with easy donation option

MASG now has the secure on line donation option that enables you to quickly and easily support our work. Click on the button to see how easy it is!



Events organised by other groups

Public forum: water quality issues for Bendigo May 27, 7pm - 9pm

Latrobe University Visual Arts Centre, 121 View Street, Bendigo

The Friends of the Earth report regarding water quality issues in Ballarat, Bendigo and Benalla showed that while Bendigo had several breaches of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and almost **40 pesticides** are used in the Bendigo supply, yet only a fraction of these are actually tested for by water authorities. A discussion and presentation of the report findings is open to the public.

Changing the Dream Symposium, Castlemaine: 19th June, 10am-4pm@ Castlemaine Community House

Transition Mount Alexander have organized a 'changing the dream' with Deane Belfield. It is a profound inquiry into our purpose for being on the earth at this time and how a deeper understanding of this purpose can help us to create an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on our planet. Suggested Donation - \$50 (lunch provided). Bookings essential with

Jacinta Walsh 0412 759942 or Janet Phillips 0400050399 or:
www.bethechange.org.au and www.transitionma.org.au

Public transport forum Tuesday 1 June from 4.00-5:30 pm @ the La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre, 121 View St Bendigo: What are the future transport needs for this region? How will we cope in beyond peak oil and in a carbon constrained society? A panel of expert speakers to offer new perspectives and provoke fresh debate on public transport in our region has been organised by the Community Planning and Development Program at La Trobe University Bendigo For details contact **Andrew Butt** at a.butt@latrobe.edu.au or by calling 5444 7819

CERES a must visit place

Ceres in Brunswick Melbourne is an inspiring centre of sustainability and is a must visit location. Recently Ceres has unveiled the following programs

1. Sustainable restaurant and community centre
2. Aquaponic Food Hubs: connecting people to locally grown food
3. Electric Vehicle Conversion Conference - 29 August 2010
4. Construction of a Solar Thermal Electricity Generator

For more information go to www.ceres.org.au

Latest science and news:

UK aims for 30% cuts.....Australia asks for maybe 5% ?

The UK's new coalition government will push for the European Union to increase its 2020 carbon reduction target to 30% from 1990 levels, up from the current 20% by 2020. See

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews.aspx?xmlpath=RSSFeed/HeadlineNews/ElectricPower/8732174.xml>

Off shore renewables could provide 6X current energy demand of UK

The Offshore Valuation report, just published by the Public Interest Research Centre (Pirc) finds that the practical resource for offshore renewables in the UK is 2,130 By harnessing 29% of the practical offshore renewable resource:

- *the electricity equivalent of 1B barrels of oil could be generated annually
- *carbon dioxide reductions of 1.1 billion tonnes would be achieved;
- *145,000 new UK jobs could be created.
- * annual revenues of £62b would result. **For more see**

<http://www.offshorevaluation.org/>

Geothermal power under the Latrobe Valley

Geothermal power is likely to be available under our Brown Coal deposits in the Latrobe Valley where the coal acts as a thermal blanket. An operational test plant could be running within four years for \$100 million. See ABC's Radio National story at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/scienceshow/stories/2010/2883582.htm>

Interesting Information and Links

Whilst the news on renewable resources wth is good, there has been some pretty sobering news on the fossil fuel industries' recent impacts here and overseas.

More Than Just an Oil Spill: the Deepwater Horizon BP oil rig catastrophe

New York Times *May 21st* The warm, soft winds coming in off the gulf have lost their power to soothe. Anxiety is king now — all along the coast. "You can't sleep no more; that's how bad it is," said John Blanchard, an oyster fisherman whose life has been upended by the monstrous oil spill fouling an enormous swath of the Gulf

of Mexico. He shook his head. "My wife and I have got two kids, 2 and 7. We could lose everything we've been working all of our lives for." The vast, sprawling coastal marshes of Louisiana, where the Mississippi River drains into the gulf, are among the finest natural resources in the world, and are being destroyed by big business in an unholy alliance with big government against the interests of ordinary Americans. The oil spill permeates and undermines the ecosystem in much the same way that big corporations have permeated and undermined the political system, with similarly devastating results.

From <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/22/opinion/22herbert.html>

ETS collapse to boost coal-fired plants

The Australian *May 19th*

THE head of Origin Energy Grant King has argued that the lack of a carbon price means that Australia's next baseload power stations are likely to be coal-fired. He also said that having a renewable energy target of 20 per cent and a 5% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2020 "made no sense" without putting a price on carbon. He said a carbon price of \$20-\$40 a tonne would be required to start making a gas-fired power station more economically viable than one fired by coal.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/ets-collapse-to-boost-coal-fired-plants/story-e6frg6nf-1225868403280>

Hazelwood to resist energy efficiency bid

The AGE *May 20, 2010*

A CONFIDENTIAL submission accidentally released by the government shows the owner of the heavy-polluting Hazelwood brown coal power station will resist energy efficiency efforts because they could hit its bottom line.

"International Power rejects any proposal to introduce climate change policy, under the guise of energy efficiency measures, which has the potential to destroy the value of existing investments in the generator sector." International Power's assets include Victorian brown coal power plants Hazelwood and Loy Yang B, both among the highest carbon-emitting plants in the developed world.

From <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/hazelwood-to-resist-energy-efficiency-bid-20100520-vfhx.html>

Replace Hazelwood with Clean Energy

Environment Victoria has started a campaign to Replace Hazelwood with Clean Energy. Hazelwood is **Australia's dirtiest power station and it's been rated the dirtiest in the developed world**. Every year it emits 16.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gas or 15% of Victoria's carbon pollution annually and uses 27b Litres of water, the equivalent of a month's worth of Melbourne's total water use. For more information on the campaign go to

<http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/replacehazelwood>

Quote

And our thoughts on the delay in taking action on climate change until 2013

"What is not started today is never finished tomorrow."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 1749-1832

MASG enews is put together by Dean with volunteer help. To advertise an event or comment on any items, please send to: e-news@masg.org.au or phone 5470 6978.