

Thursday, 31 January, 2008

VICTORIANS URGED TO CHANGE THE GLOBE AND SAVE

500,000 Victorian households are being given a free energy saving globe to help reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions by around 300,000 tonnes and save Victorian householders \$40 million on their energy bills.

Launching the *Change the Globe* initiative at Federation Square this morning, Mr Brumby said switching to energy efficient lighting was one of the easiest and cheapest ways Victorians could cut their greenhouse gas emissions, while also reducing their household energy bills.

"The Victorian Government is giving away half a million energy saving globes to help householders save money and reduce their impact on climate change," Mr Brumby said.

"Energy saving globes produce the same amount of light using 80 per cent less energy than old incandescent globes, and they last up to 8000 hours or eight times longer than old bulbs.

"By installing these globes, Victorian households will save a total of 240,000 megawatt hours over the life of the globes, or enough power to supply 25,000 homes for a year.

"For many, it could also be the first small step towards improving the environmental efficiency of their homes, and start people thinking more broadly about the issues of climate change."

Mr Brumby said that old incandescent globes were an outdated and inefficient technology.

"About 90 per cent of the energy used by incandescent bulbs is lost as heat," Mr Brumby said.

"This means they use energy unnecessarily, costing more and producing more greenhouse gas.

"Each energy efficient bulb that is installed today saves around \$80 over the life of the globe and the globe has paid for itself within six months.

"At the same time, each globe will save 630 kilograms of greenhouse gases or more than 12,000 black balloons."

Mr Brumby said 75,000 of the globes would be distributed through the Office of Housing, to ensure all Victorians were able to benefit from this initiative to tackle household emissions.

"This means every public housing unit across Victoria is eligible for this initiative," he said.

The *Change the Globe* initiative delivers greenhouse gas abatement at a cost of about \$6.30 a tonne - well under current European carbon trading prices, and less than the expected price under the national Australian emissions trading scheme to commence from 2010.

"I encourage all Victorians to *Change the Globe* this Saturday. This is about small things making a big difference," Mr Brumby said.

Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings said energy efficient globes were just one form of technology available now to help save energy and money over time.

“Energy efficiency is not about compromising our standard of living. It’s about achieving more with less,” Mr Jennings said.

“When you’re buying a new appliance, for example, choose the most efficient model. It might cost you a little more today, but you’ll save on running costs and cut your greenhouse emissions.

“Climate change requires action from all Victorians, and households can play a major role in Victoria’s response to this important issue.

“To help households achieve this, the Victorian Government has introduced the Victorian Energy Efficiency Legislation to require energy companies to find free and cheap ways to help households cut their energy use and bills.

“This complements the work the government is doing with industry to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

“We are also developing a Climate Change Bill to steer Victoria’s response to climate change for future generations.”

Mr Brumby said responding to climate change was a key priority for the Victorian Government.

“This week, we hosted a forum to hear from industry, social, transport and environmental organisations on the threats and opportunities Victoria faces in meeting climate change,” he said.

“This will be developed further at a summit to be held on Wednesday 23 April, with outcomes feeding into the government’s future policies and programs to tackle climate change.”

Mr Brumby will leave next week for a trade mission in Dubai, Japan and China where he will discuss issues such as climate change with a number of Government and business leaders.

“Victoria is well placed to be a leading state in tackling climate change with our expertise in energy and water savings technologies and it is important that we seek to capitalise on this market in the global economy,” Mr Brumby said.

The *Change the Globe* campaign is a Victorian Government initiative on climate change, driven by Sustainability Victoria in partnership with cool nrg, the *Herald Sun*, Bunnings Warehouses, the Office of Housing and Scienceworks. To obtain a globe, people need to collect the token from the Herald Sun on Saturday 2 February and present the token at participating outlets.