



Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2011-2012

Media Release

No. 20

Budget to deliver water and energy savings to Canberra households

The ACT Government is delivering support to those who need it most and help ease cost of living pressures, through an expansion of the water and energy efficiency program in the 2011-12 Budget, the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Simon Corbell MLA said today.

The announcement, which extends the current outreach service could save Canberrans between \$200- \$500 each year on their electricity and water bills.

“The ACT Government will provide \$4.4 million over four years to expand the Outreach Program, to help low income households to improve their energy and water efficiency through education and retro-fit measures.

“We realise that people, especially on the lower end of the income scale, are doing it tough with cost of living pressures, and we are committed to helping these people boost their energy and water efficiency and in turn, save money on their quarterly bills,” Mr Corbell said

The Government undertook a six-month trial during 2010 to improve the energy efficiency of almost 900 low-income and disadvantaged households in the ACT and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, while lowering household running costs.

“The trial showed that retrofits such as draught sealing and insulation may save households between \$100-\$400 per year, and solar hot water systems may save up to \$300 per household per year.

“This Budget will add to existing funding of \$3.4 million to deliver a much needed program. It is projected that the expanded Outreach Program will assist a total of 4000 households from 2010-11 to 2014-15,” Mr Corbell said.

In 2011-12, the funding will provide:

- A doubling of the energy efficient appliance distribution carried out in 2010 by community welfare organisations;
- Trialling of free professional home energy efficiency assessments and education sessions;

- Energy and water efficiency retrofitting of homes to include a range of water efficient products similar to the ToiletSmart Plus Program;
- Retrofitting of rental properties with portable items such as window curtains that become the property of tenants; and
- Energy efficiency officers in four community welfare organisations to implement the Outreach Program.

Mr Corbell said the efficiency measures would be open to concession card holders and other low income earners facing hardship who meet eligibility requirements.

“This funding will deliver water and energy savings to low income households, both in public housing as well as private home owners and those in the private rental market.

“The ACT Government has announced it will make Canberra carbon-neutral by 2060, and this funding will assist householders to make changes that will help to achieve this goal.

“This program, as well as the increased funding in last year’s Budget, demonstrates the Government’s strong and ongoing commitment to easing cost of living pressures for those who need it most,” Mr Corbell concluded.

3 May 2011

Media Contact: Patrick Cronan Ph: 6205 0401 (w) 0432 758 224 (m)
patrick.cronan@act.gov.au