



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

**HOUSEHOLDERS TO BENEFIT FROM EXTRA FUNDING TO
REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment Jon Stanhope today said the ACT Government was making a major investment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with a particular focus on helping domestic residents improve energy consumption.

The 2004-05 Budget provides funding of \$1.2 million over four years for the Government's Greenhouse Strategy which will fund the implementation of a community engagement and support program targeted at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the residential sector. The program will cover funding for household energy audits and financial support to help householders meet up front capital costs of energy consumption improvements.

In addition, the Government will undertake an energy audit of major Government buildings to assess where efficiencies can be achieved. This \$150,000 project will determine priorities for future energy efficiency upgrades across all areas.

"The consequences of human-induced global warming are becoming increasingly apparent.

"The ACT Greenhouse Strategy establishes a framework for managing the impact of global warming and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"The ACT is, by comparison, a small contributor to Australia's greenhouse gas emission profile. However, my Government has a strong commitment to reducing the emissions attributable to the ACT and through this Budget we aim to keep our 'own houses in order' and to help domestic residents cut their energy consumption.

"We are determined to take a lead on greenhouse issues, and the energy audit of Government buildings will identify where our savings can be made.

"Further, over the coming financial year we will be targeting the residential sector where increased energy efficiencies, both in terms of energy use patterns and more efficient buildings and fittings, can lead to important and cost-effective benefits.

"Many people are keen to reduce their energy consumption and support the environment but feel hampered by lack of knowledge of energy efficiency measures or put off by the need for up-front capital to fund improvements.

"To help overcome these barriers we will introduce a home energy audit and financial assistance package in 2004-05 to ensure householders can get ready access to information on the financial benefits of energy efficiency upgrades. Importantly we will also help householders meet some of the up-front costs," said Mr Stanhope.



As a complementary program to Home Energy Advisory Service, the Home Energy Audit will offer on-site visits to provide on-the-spot assessments of potential energy efficiency measures, financial costs and projected savings.

The home energy audit scheme will be run in conjunction with a home energy efficiency rebate program whereby a rebate would be provided on any package of approved energy efficiency measures to encourage changes in household energy use.

“The Government will continue to support rebate programs for solar hot water systems and cavity wall insulation in the residential sector and we will continue to encourage industry engagement in energy efficiency improvements,” said Mr Stanhope.

Statement Ends