**Australian Alliance to Save Energy (A2SE)**
**Newsletter – March 2016**

### 2xEP Challenge – Help us design a voluntary commitment and recognition program

Over the next few weeks A2SE will present a series of workshops for business. We're in the design phase of a pilot for the voluntary commitment and recognition program. This idea was picked up in the National Energy Productivity Plan. We've laid the groundwork with a detailed feasibility study. Workshops will be offered in Parramatta, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth. We're aiming for the pilot to commence in the second half of this year. We'd really appreciate two hours of your time. Background and detail are available here

### A2SE – Join now. Participate in our energy productivity transition

The Australian Alliance to Save Energy (A2SE) was formed in 2009. The journey since then has led us to a recent re-evaluation. The Board has set a new course that we'll formalise at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 11 April. We'd welcome you as a member. And we'd welcome you to the next part of the story. More information is on our website here. You must be a financial member to stand for the Board and to vote on other matters. The AGM will be held at ISF/UTS in Ultimo, Sydney.

### Australia to set up clean energy fund

The Commonwealth Government has announced it will establish a clean energy fund to support emerging technologies. The $1 billion Clean Energy Innovation Fund will be jointly managed by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

The fund is designed to boost Australia's clean energy market by targeting innovative projects that include the use of large-scale solar with storage, off-shore energy, biofuels and smart grids. The announcement is accompanied by a government commitment to reinvigorate the CEFC and ARENA. To learn more about these developments, see the media release by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull here.

### 2xEP Sector roadmaps

Work on all of the sector roadmaps proceeds apace. We've prioritised manufacturing and agriculture to take advantage of opportunities for traction. The manufacturing roadmap will be launched in late April in Melbourne. The in-kind contribution of expertise by individuals is the lifeblood of this project. If you're interested to contribute to any of the sectors, please drop a line to info@a2se.org.au. You'll find more information about the sectors here. We've started work on the ICT sector (both as a sector of the economy and an enabler of energy productivity). And there's a new innovation stream also.

### Summer Study on Energy Productivity – Content now available online

A joint venture between A2SE and the Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS, the Summer Study was presented over three days in February in Manly. It was a great success with more than 200 participants and a fantastic line-up of content. Presentations and video of many of the sessions can be found online here.

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**Third ERF auction opens on 27-28 April**

The third auction under the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) will be held on 27 and 28 April. Some of the key preparation to participate in the auction includes ensuring

- Projects are registered with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) at least six weeks before the auction and
- Auction qualification is completed no later than 20 business days before the auction.

More details on how to take part in the auction are available on the CER website.

The ERF auctions represent a key mechanism for distributing mitigation funds under the ERF, the core of the Government's policy suite to reduce emissions. Between the first two auctions held in April and November 2015, the Government contracted to buy 92.8 million tonnes of reductions at an average price of AUD$13.12 per tonne of abatement.

**Energy efficiency ramping up under the ERF**

Meanwhile, the Government is supporting an increased take up of energy efficiency projects under the ERF. The CER has registered six new energy efficiency projects since the November 2015 auction. To aid the expansion of similar projects, the Government is establishing a number of new energy efficiency methods.

These include:

- **Community buildings method** to potentially cover schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, retirement villages and public buildings. The Department of the Environment is currently calling for submissions on this new method during the public consultation period from 8 March to 5 April 2016.
- **Industrial equipment upgrade method** to cover projects where industrial equipment is being improved to be less emissions-intensive - which could include the use of variable speed drives, boilers, pumping systems and compressed air systems.
- **Air conditioning upgrade method** for commercial and industrial buildings.
- **Technology-neutral energy efficiency sampling method** for projects where the same or similar energy efficiency upgrades take place across a number of sites. This method could allow measurements to be taken for a representative sample of sites that then cover the whole project.

You can keep up to date with the latest developments on ERF methods here

**Office of Environment and Heritage – Service and support**

OEH has refreshed some its offerings for business

Funding and support for small to large business operating in NSW:
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/business

New guides and support for installing solar for business:
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/business/solar-finance-guide.htm

**2xEP has its own website at 2xEP.org.au**
The site holds background material, sector overviews and summaries, links for contact. Comments and contributions are welcome.

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