



Schools encouraged to Switch Off and win

WA schools have the chance to win a 1.5kW solar power system for their school by registering for Switch Off 2010, a school based energy reduction competition which will take place in Term 3 2010.

This is the second year Switch Off has been held to encourage WA students to think about how they consume energy. Switch Off creator Laura Ryan said the competition has been a great success.

“Last year 66 schools entered the Switch Off competition, with 43 of those recording a reduction in energy consumption. The schools which achieved a reduction in energy consumption saved 101 465 kWh over the period of the competition; equivalent to saving approximately 100 tonnes of CO2 during Switch Off,” said Laura.

“This was a fantastic result which demonstrates how small actions, such as turning off lights and computer screens, can achieve big results in energy reduction. We are looking forward to more schools participating this year.”

The 2009 competition was won by Quinns Beach Primary School, recording a reduction of almost 30%, a result which passed everyone’s expectations, according to Candice Grisbrook, Corporate Affairs Advisor, at Synergy.

“The results from the 2009 competition were beyond our expectations, clearly demonstrating that when customers change the way they use energy, they can save money, energy and the environment,” said Miss Grisbrook.

“We want to help our customers to save energy and that is why we sponsor Switch Off. It is a fun way to promote the importance of energy efficiency, while introducing some friendly competition and the chance for schools to win some great prizes at the same time.”

Solar Shop Australia Communications Manager, Liam Hunt, said that they are excited to once again sponsor the competition and offer a solar power system to the school that reduces their energy consumption by the highest percentage.

“Energy efficiency is a great way for schools and homes to reduce their carbon footprint. When these habits are combined with a renewable energy source like solar power you can truly make a significant difference and be completely carbon neutral,” Mr Hunt said.

Schools within the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) are eligible to enter Switch Off online at www.switchoff.com.au until 2 July 2010. The competition will take place in Term 3 from 21 July – 22 September 2010.

The winning school will be the one with the biggest percentage reduction in daily consumption during the competition period. There will be additional prizes for second and third.

Switch Off was created by Perth school girls Jessica Gill and Laura Ryan in 2008 as part of their school’s, La Salle College, Talented and Gifted Program, and is sponsored by Synergy, Solar Shop Australia and Equilibrium.

For more information about the Switch Off competition, and for energy saving tips, visit www.switchoff.com.au

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