

Switched on Students Switch Off

Quinns Beach Primary School is today home to 18 new solar panels on its roof, after beating 65 other schools to reduce energy consumption in the Switch Off competition; a school based energy reduction competition.

Over the course of the competition Quinns Beach Primary reduced their consumption by 29.41% compared to a similar billing period last year by implementing simple energy efficient actions at the school. They won a 1kw Solar System donated by Solar Shop Australia for their efforts.

Craig Collie, a teacher at Quinns Beach Primary, said his school was very excited to take out first place.

“This project was a wonderful experience in demonstrating just how easily we can make a difference when we try, and both staff and students have continued to make adjustments and changes to the way they go about using energy around the school,” said Mr Collie.

In total 66 schools took part in Switch Off with 68% of those schools recording a reduction in their energy consumption compared to a similar time last year. Eneabba Primary and Manning Primary took out second and third place with reductions of 24.32% and 24.12%.

The 43 schools which achieved a reduction in energy consumption saved 101465 kwh over the period of the competition; equivalent to saving approximately 100 tonnes of CO2 during Switch Off.

As a major sponsor of the competition, Synergy Managing Director, Jim Mitchell, said Switch Off was an important competition to promote energy efficiency.

“Through this competition the importance of being energy efficient reached over 26,000 students across metro and rural WA,” said Mr Mitchell.

“From the excellent results achieved by schools participating in Switch Off it is clear it has had a positive impact on behaviour change when it comes to the importance of being energy efficient to save energy, money and the environment.”

Solar Shop Australia Communications Manager, Liam Hunt, said the Switch Off competition has given thousands of students across WA tools to enable them to use energy more wisely at school and at home.

“Changing habits in relation to energy play an important role in reducing our reliance on traditional carbon polluting energy sources. However, they only go so far and we need to look at combining these habits with alternative renewable power sources, like solar power,” said Mr Hunt.

Switch Off was created by two Perth Year 11 school girls, Jessica Gill and Laura Ryan from La Salle College to educate your people about the positive impact being energy efficient can have on the environment.

Switch Off took place from 22 July – 23 September 2009 and was sponsored by Synergy, Solar Shop Australia, Equilibrium and Pet Rock Media. The winning school was the one with the biggest percentage reduction in daily energy consumption during the competition period, compared to a similar billing period last year.

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