

Greenhouse gas pollution legislation and regulation

The Federal Government has delayed plans to implement an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in Australia. According to statements by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Environment Minister Penny Wong, Australia will only legislate to put a price on greenhouse gas emissions in 2013 if there has been significant action by major emitters, such as the United States and China. Nonetheless, the Government has asserted its in-principle support for putting a price on greenhouse gas pollution in Australia, suggesting that it may seek to do so during the second Kyoto Protocol compliance period (commencing July 2012). No actual start date has been proposed for the commencement of the scheme.

As a signatory to the Copenhagen Accord, Australia has committed to achieving a 5% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (relative to 2000 levels). In the interim, before the possible re-launch of the ETS, the Government will be relying upon a set of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies to bring about reductions in emissions.

Despite the deferral of the ETS, Synergy remains committed to delivering environmentally-responsible energy to residents of the SWIS. Synergy will continue to support the diversification and growth of the renewable energy sector, purchasing energy from projects such as the Collgar wind farm. Synergy will also continue to provide energy solutions and advice to enable customers to reduce their carbon footprint.