



Switch Off - Schools Energy Reduction Competition

Two Perth Year 11 students have created one of the biggest energy reduction competitions in the State with their Switch Off competition; a schools based energy reduction competition, with a total prize pool of over \$14,000.

Jessica Gill and Laura Ryan from La Salle College said they created the competition to help schools and their students think about how they can use energy more efficiently.

"There is a real need for people, especially young people, to start taking action to reduce their impact on the environment," said Miss Gill.

"After implementing energy efficient tips schools stand to save real money if they change their behaviour permanently, while at the same time reducing their environmental footprint."

To help them turn their idea of a Switch Off competition into a reality, Jessica and Laura approached several sponsors to assist with the running of the competition and source some great prizes.

Over 65 WA schools have entered the Switch Off competition and all are eligible to win a fully installed 1kW Grid Connect Solar System, donated by Solar Shop Australia and valued at \$12,990.

Solar Shop Australia's spokesman, Liam Hunt said more schools had been installing solar panels in recent years under the Federal Government's National Solar School Program.

"Grid Connect Solar Systems provide both cost savings and educational opportunities for schools," said Mr Hunt.

"Solar Shop Australia has been working with many schools to ensure they understand how improved energy consumption habits combined with a solar system can make a real difference to the schools carbon footprint."

Synergy is also a major sponsor of the competition and Head of Corporate Affairs Andrew Gaspar said it was a natural fit for Synergy to sponsor the Switch Off competition.

"Synergy has recently launched its own Switch campaign which encourages our customers to think about the way they consume energy."

"We provide our customers with a range of energy solutions to help them reduce their energy use, to save them money and lower their carbon emissions; so this sponsorship was a natural extension for us."

"This is a perfect fit and I commend Jessica and Laura for demonstrating maturity beyond their years for initiating the Switch Off competition."

The Switch Off competition will take place from 22 July – 23 September 2009, with nominations closing on 19 June 2009.

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 sponsors are Synergy, Solar Shop Australia, Equilibrium and Pet Rock Media.

For more information about the Switch Off competition, and for energy saving tips, visit synergy.net.au/switchoff

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