



**Strathfieldsaye  
& Districts**  
Community Enterprise

# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday October 20 - 2008.

## ***The Solar Electricity Mission Begins***

*The first solar PV Electricity System is installed as part of the Strathfieldsaye & Districts Community Enterprise and the Bendigo Sustainability Group drive to convert 1% of Bendigo's homes to Solar Electricity by the end of October.*

With 160 homes throughout Bendigo already expressed interest, the Strathfieldsaye & Districts Community Enterprise and Bendigo Sustainability Groups mission to have 1% of homes across the Central Victoria install Solar Electricity is well on its way with the first system to be installed this week in Strathfieldsaye.

Jim McGregor is to be one of the very first to have the new system installed by Russell Broad and is one of three to be installed over the next week with 140 to follow.

"We are now aiming for 1% of Bendigo to install Solar Electricity," Keith Reynard said. "Plus with the current value of the Australian dollar, this has seen the cost of securing systems from overseas increase, Energy Matters have committed to holding their price until the end of October, it is then anticipated that the unit cost of systems will rise after that time."

To help households purchase Solar Panels, the 'Focus On Energy' group has acquired a bulk purchase project that reduces the unit cost of purchasing and installing a standard solar system. Whereas a standard system would normally cost between \$13,000 to \$14,000 fully installed, we have been able to arrange a bulk purchase model where an installed standard system costs \$11,000. If you are eligible for the existing federal Government rebate of \$8000, this leaves the customer to pay as little as \$3000.

For more information and registration details, please go to the following web link:

[http://www.strathfieldsaye.com.au/solar\\_rooftops\\_project.asp](http://www.strathfieldsaye.com.au/solar_rooftops_project.asp)

The Strathfieldsaye & Districts Community Enterprise is a Not-For-Profit organization proudly supported by the Bendigo Bank, Bendigo Community Telco and WIN Television.

### **For Further Information:**

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Further information can also be found at the Strathfieldsaye & Districts Community Enterprise website using the following link:

[http://www.strathfieldsaye.com.au/sustainable\\_energy.asp](http://www.strathfieldsaye.com.au/sustainable_energy.asp)

*Interviews available.*

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