

Media Release



February 14, 2011

Western Water's Strategy for a Greener Future

Western Water's goal of becoming net carbon neutral by 2017-18 moves a step closer this week with the launch of the organisation's Climate Change Strategy.

The water authority has already reduced its carbon emissions by 30 per cent since 2004-05, and is now aiming to reach 50 per cent by the middle of next year.

"As part of the community, we recognise that we have to do our bit to help combat climate change," Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says.

"So far we have started using biodiesel in our vehicles, retro-fitted energy efficient technology at offices and depots and converted our offices to green power" Mr Wilkinson says.

"Our cogeneration facility, which opened last year at the Melton Recycled Water Plant, is reducing emissions by 1800 tonnes a year, the equivalent of taking 450 cars off the road.

"The facility produces "green" power using methane gas from the sewage treatment process."

Future projects include installing energy-efficient equipment at recycled water plants, increasing the use of biodiesel fuel and investigating the use of alternative power sources.

Mr Wilkinson says Western Water is also planning for a future where climate change has an impact on rainfall and water supplies.

"The scientists are telling us that rainfall is likely to be lower over the long term, so we need to plan for that possibility," Mr Wilkinson says.

Western Water is working on "Water Sensitive Urban Design" for new housing developments, which includes measures such as capturing and re-using stormwater, and supplying homes with recycled water.

"We have already had some great success with supplying recycled water direct to people's homes," Mr Wilkinson says.

"At Eynesbury, south of Melton, residents are using around half the drinking water of comparable suburbs because they can use recycled water for toilet flushing, car washing and watering gardens."
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PIC OPPORTUNITY: Western Water staff celebrate the launch of the Climate Change Strategy
When: Wednesday, February 16, 12pm
Where: Western Water head office, 36 Macedon St, Sunbury

About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

Media contacts

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