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Child Care Centre leads by example and switches to solar

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A Child Care Centre in Sutherland Shire is leading by example using solar power to reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to a healthier community. Kindarama Long Day Care Centre has installed a 40 kilowatt system with over 200 solar panels, enough to cover an entire basketball court, on to its roof space to power its business. Proprietor, Peter Brown, said that the switch to solar was driven by green principles.

"Sustainability accreditation was the main motivator for switching to solar energy. It shows Kindarama Long Day Care Centre cares about the environment and, importantly, reduces our centre's environmental impact on the community.

"The children are also enjoying learning about solar power, which is relevant, as sustainability is part of their education and in keeping with future schooling and lifestyle choices."

Mr. Brown said that choosing solar power as a preferred renewable energy source made sense due to the business being open from 7.30am to 6.00pm five days a week.

"Solar energy reduces our power costs significantly and with the sun and our business operating at the same time, supplies our daytime energy use," he said.

While costs were not the main impetus for Kindarama Long Day Care Centre installing the solar system, Mr. Brown said with the price of electricity rising, the switch to solar gave them more certainty in relation to overheads, which in the end would be advantageous for parents.

"Solar power not only decreases our bills but insures us against future electricity price hikes. This helps us to control our running costs and impacts the stability of pricing and fees for childcare."

Mr. Brown said while solar power provided financial advantages that the environmental aspects of installing solar power were most important.

"Moving away from coal-fired energy to clean energy sources, such as solar is the way of the future and I am glad that as a Child Care Centre we together with other innovative business sectors are leading by example.

"It gives me a great sense of pride to know that by installing solar power we are making a difference for our Centre's children and their future generations," he said.

Companies like Kindarama Long Day Care Centre by shifting to clean energy sources like solar are reducing Australia's reliance on the coal-fired electricity grid. And there is evidence that solar energy is contributing to a reduction in power drawn from the grid as well as carbon emissions.

Research in 2011 by the Australian Energy Market Operator shows the demand for electricity in Australia fell for the first time in 20 years. This year the number of solar installations on Australian rooftops passed the 1 million mark.

In keeping with this, the latest research from Pitt & Sherry reveals electricity from rooftop solar panels in the commercial and domestic sectors almost doubled last financial year in Australia.

Mark Tuke, Chief Executive Officer of Sun Connect the company that installed and leased Kindarama Long Day Care Centre its 40 kilowatt commercial-grade solar installation said the uptake of commercial solar power was rising exponentially.

"Australia is in poll position for a rapid uptake of commercial scale solar electricity, for a plethora of reasons. From the fact that our available solar energy, called solar insolation, is amongst the highest in the world, to the reality that Australian business owners are amongst the most forward thinking when it comes to best business and best environmental practices, all of the right elements are in alignment for this commercial solar boom to be epic on all fronts."

"Up and down the production and supply chains across just about every commercial vertical, businesses are looking to their suppliers, their peers and their distributors to have as many green ticks in their company ledger as possible. It reflects positively on them and on their bottom line, if not just they but also the businesses upstream or downstream from them, are practically and emphatically pursuing carbon free options like solar electricity."

☐ Sun Connect is an award-winning, premium supplier of solar electricity systems. The company has installed over 4,000 systems across Australia. As a leader in commercial grade solar installations, Sun Connect has designed and installed systems ranging from 10 kilowatts to over 100 kilowatts in Australian urban and rural regions. Sun Connect has a national network of installers and suppliers to manage commercial client needs and, importantly, will help them reduce their reliance on grid-electricity while reducing their overall electricity costs.

+ For more information on Sun Connect, please visit www.sunconnect.com.au or phone Gordon Impey (08) 9468 3189.

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