

AUSTRALIAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES

NECA Australia is the peak national body for the electrical and communications contracting industry. It has been working closely with the Australian Government and other partners on energy efficiency issues. NECA Australia is a proud part of FAPECA – the Federation of Asian and Pacific Electrical Contractors Associations.

A lighting resource manual, *The Basics of Efficient Lighting*, was developed by the Australian Government and the lighting industry to:

- provide the lighting and allied industry workforce with an overview of the key principles of light and lighting including an understanding of basic design concepts and lighting technologies currently available - in the context of sustainability;
- help users understand the importance of energy efficiency and the implications of choosing a product in the overall scope of energy consumption; and
- assist users with the selection process when specifying, recommending, designing and installing various lighting systems.

With the support of the Australian Government and the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) the manual has been translated into Chinese.

The Basics of Efficient Lighting explains what we mean by sustainability and energy efficiency in an Australian context and how good lighting design can contribute to these. Both the English and Chinese versions are available from the NECA website at www.neca.asn.au and is free for use by FAPECA members.

Australian industry recognises the need to **Promote Energy Efficiency**. Energy efficiency is a critical way for Australia to waste less energy, reduce our demand on energy resources and lower our greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing the amount of energy we use is widely believed to be the quickest, simplest and most cost-effective way to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Australian Government has recognised this and is phasing out inefficient incandescent lights

where more cost-effective and energy efficient alternatives are available. This is being implemented through the introduction of minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for lighting products.

MEPS are the minimum standards that products must meet in order to be sold in the Australian market. MEPS are used for various product ranges, including refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and other household appliances. Further information on the Australian phase-out is available at: www.climatechange.gov.au/what-you-need-to-know/lighting.aspx

Promoting *EcoSmart Electricians*

NECA Australia has developed and implemented a new and innovative national training and accreditation program for electricians in energy efficient technology, products and installations. The course consists of four compulsory modules: *Energy Management; Lighting; Pumps, Fans and Motors; and Solar, Heating and Cooling*.

Contractors and electricians who successfully complete all four modules are granted EcoSmart Electricians accreditation, assisting them to successfully access the rapidly growing market of energy efficiency. It also enables them to promote their additional skills and add value to the services they offer to their customers. A training resource is also available free of charge from the EcoSmart Electricians website at www.ecosmartelectricians.com.au

Mr Steve Balzary will be attending the Guangzhou Lighting Exhibition and speaking at the FAPECA forum to be held from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on 11 June 2011. His contact details are:
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