# Buyers' guide to carbon offset providers

**With the number of carbon offset providers doubling in Australia over the past six months, Global Sustainability at RMIT and Victoria's EPA have developed an online Carbon Offsets Guide as a resource for businesses, government agencies, NGOs and individuals seeking to offset carbon emissions.**

In the 2006–07 financial year, Australian carbon offset providers traded at least 3.28 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents with a value of at least $44 million.The publishers claim the new guide offers prospective purchasers a comprehensive and independent directory of carbon offset providers, prices, project locations, descriptions and accreditation standards. It also highlights the current significant differences in the price of carbon, ranging from less than $10 to more than $50 per tonne.

**www.carbonoffsetguide.com.au**

# Solar electric bus for Adelaide


**The Tindo electric bus is fully powered by a 70 000 kWh solar system installed at the Adelaide Central Bus Station.** Adelaide City Council

**Adelaide City Council has launched Tindo, the first electric bus that can be recharged using solar energy.**

'Tindo' is the word for sun in the indigenous language of the Kaurna people, and the vehicle's power will come from a solar photovoltaic system (PV) installed on the roof of the new Adelaide Central Bus Station. The solar PV system generates almost 70 000 kilowatt hours of zero-carbon-emissions electricity each year – the city's largest grid-connected PV system.

The air-conditioned 26-seat bus has an operational range of around 200 kilometres between charges, is able to carry 42 passengers and includes two wheelchair spaces.

The few existing electric buses in operation overseas are smaller, have a shorter range and do not have a 100 per cent solar-electricity recharge capability.

# New LEDs to get the green light

**A small Hobart-based company, Solux, has developed an extra low voltage LED traffic light that, it says, could reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by more than 100 000 tonnes a year.**

Solux's Mike Austin says the LED traffic light uses 7–10 watts of power compared to 70 watts for an incandescent globe and 35 watts for a halogen globe. Unlike existing LEDs, the new lights work off 42 V rather than 240 V and consume 50 per cent less power. Austin says Solux has been conducting trials of the lights and is having discussions with Tasmania's Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources – and other state road traffic authorities around Australia.

**www.solux.com.au**

# Capital sets its sights on being carbon neutral

**Canberra launched a campaign to become a carbon neutral capital at a 'Switch to Green Expo' in early April co-hosted by the ACT Government, the UN Association of Australia (UNAA), the Australian Conservation Council, a local conservation council and the Canberra Business Council.**

The aim of the event was to bring business, community and government from the ACT and NSW together to work towards making the city a carbon neutral capital.

'Resolving the problem should not be the responsibility of any one sector in the community. The problem is shared and so too must be the solution,' said the ACT Government's Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope.

# On track to Kyoto but still addicted to power

**A new federal government report confirms that Australia is likely to meet its Kyoto target – limiting greenhouse gas emissions to 108 per cent of 1990 levels by 2012 – largely as a result of reduced land clearing and deforestation.**

But the report also forecasts that emissions from 'stationary' energy, including electricity generation (largely from coal combustion), should increase by 56 per cent over 1990 levels by 2012, rising to 64 per cent higher by 2020.

'Tracking to the Kyoto Target' also reports that emissions from transport are projected to increase 42 per cent over 1990 levels by 2012 and be 67 per cent higher by 2020, while industrial process emissions would rise 49 per cent by 2012 and 95 per cent by 2020.

**A government report confirms that reduced land clearing and not reduced emissions is the main factor that will enable Australia to meet its Kyoto target.** Gregory Heath/CSIRO