

Labor Plan To Phase Out Electric Hot Water Systems

The Federal Opposition has announced plans to rid Australian homes of off-peak electric hot water systems in a move it claims will cut Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 7.5 million tonnes annually.

Opposition Environment spokesman Peter Garrett says greenhouse-intensive electric hot water systems account for 28 per cent of the average home's greenhouse gas emissions and produce three times the emissions of solar, heat pump or high-efficiency gas systems.

The Opposition says that by 2010, greenhouse-intensive electric hot water systems will no longer be installed in new homes or those with access to reticulated natural gas, and by 2012, electric hot water systems will be phased out as replacements in both new and existing homes. Exemptions will be available based on tank size for smaller households where gas is unavailable, and where significant physical changes would be required, such as in blocks of flats.

"In replacing electric hot water systems, households can choose the most costeffective technology for their location," says Garrett.

"Labor will provide rebates of \$1000 to install solar and heat pump hot water systems in existing eligible homes, continuing the current Solar Hot Water Rebate Program."

Garret says the plan will be implemented in consultation with State and Territory Governments and industry to ensure low-income earners are not disadvantaged and to provide manufacturers with adequate transitional timeframes.

"In addition, Labor's Green Loans will provide low-interest loans of up to \$10,000 for the replacement of greenhouse-intensive systems, ensuring that climate-friendly hot water is affordable for all Australian families," says Garrett.

[Source essa news]