

Wednesday 10 March 2010

Green technologies explained: SP AusNet Wonthaggi Energy Innovation Festival

Wonthaggi Energy Innovation Festival: Friday 19 March and Saturday 20 March 2010

Human Powered GP: 12pm Saturday 20 March to 12pm Sunday 21 March 2010

Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve (netball courts area), Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi

SP AusNet continues its sponsorship of the Wonthaggi Energy Innovation Festival this year, which promises to explain the large number of green technologies now available for use in your home.

SP AusNet East Regional Manager Jim Haylock said the Festival aims to demystify energy innovation and show how easily the new technologies can be adopted in your home.

"There are lots of opportunities for people who want to reduce their utility bills and conserve natural resources, however, this market is new and often difficult to understand. The SP AusNet Wonthaggi Energy Innovation Festival is intended to help people navigate through the complex web that is the green revolution," Mr Haylock said.

As an energy distribution business, SP AusNet transmits and distributes energy whether its source is brown coal, wind, hydro or solar. "SP AusNet is always happy to discuss with customers methods they can implement in their home, some of which can earn you money by supplying power to the Victorian grid. Some of these methods will be explained at the Wonthaggi Energy Innovation Festival," Mr Haylock said.

"As well as using alternative energy sources, energy efficiency is also an important issue. SP AusNet employees will be demonstrating how smart meters - that are being rolled out as part of the Victorian Government's smart meter program - work at the festival. Smart meters allow energy consumption to be measured every 30 minutes, which can give people more control over their energy consumption and therefore lead to savings for them and the environment," Mr Haylock said.

New methods being used by SP AusNet to inspect electricity infrastructure will also be demonstrated at the festival, including remotely-operated aircraft that fly along the top of powerlines and take photos and an infra-red thermographic camera that captures a temperature profile of pole-top infrastructure to help identify any potential issues before they lead to a power outage.

Mr Haylock said people in the Wonthaggi area had not been immune to the effects of environmental change, which is resulting in an increasing number of extreme weather events.

"We look forward to demonstrating a number of innovations that are helping us make our network more reliable and safer in the face of this change," Mr Haylock said.

As part of the festival, SP AusNet will be giving high school students a tour of the Wonthaggi Sub Station, enabling them to see electricity transmission in practice and a practical application of their physics studies.

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