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Energy efficiency overhaul for Seymour Youth and Fitness Club

\$25,000 to improve energy efficiency and environmental impact

The Seymour Youth and Fitness Club has used the SP AusNet Community Challenge to make \$25,000 worth of energy efficiency improvements to the club, reducing energy costs and the impact on the environment.

SP AusNet North Region Manager Paul Lane said the power company always looked for ways to assist the communities in which it operated.

"The Seymour Youth and Fitness Club is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged groups and people with additional needs, which are ideals that align perfectly with our Community Challenge," Mr Lane said.

"Through a grant of \$25,000, the fitness club was able to install solar panels, window tinting, security lighting, a water tank and more effective insulation," he said.

The SP AusNet Community Challenge was launched to assist not-for-profit organisations, like the Seymour Youth and Fitness Club, to enhance their energy efficiency, provide more comfortable surroundings and improve their overall sustainability.

Representatives from SP AusNet and the Seymour Youth and Fitness Club met in October 2009 to begin planning how best to utilise the grant, with works subsequently completed in April 2010.

The Seymour Youth and Fitness Club is a community club devoted to providing disadvantaged groups and people with additional needs equitable access to sport and recreational activities, which research has shown often results in enhanced personal wellbeing along with greater acceptance and participation in the community.

Mr Lane said SP AusNet was pleased to have been able to form a partnership with the Seymour Youth and Fitness Club and was looking forward to seeing the results of the innovative energy efficiency changes that have been implemented.

"We're pleased to have been able to contribute in a small way to the valuable community service the club provides," Mr Lane said.

SP AusNet's Community Challenge involves a total investment of \$100,000 across the state and will allow the gathering of knowledge about the effect of energy efficiencies on electricity networks. The power company also hopes to use the specialist expertise and passion of its Seymour-based employees to deliver innovative, sustainable solutions for those who serve the community.

The Seymour Youth and Fitness Club is one of four buildings across eastern and north-eastern Victoria that SP AusNet is working with as part of the program.