

**Climate Future**

**'Cool It'**

and



A Zero Emissions Future for Our City



17 April 2011

## **Swansea Climate Change Forum – *Impacts and Policy***

### ***What can we do to react to the threat of Climate Change?***

*Come along and discuss our future! (it's Free)*

**Date:** Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011  
**Time:** 1pm to 3:30pm  
**Where:** Swansea Centre  
228 Pacific Highway, Swansea, 2281

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Mark Diesendorf  
Deputy Director  
Institute of Environmental Studies  
NSW University

#### **Background:**

Climate Future "Cool It" continue their promotion of the climate debate and combine with Lake Macquarie Climate Action to hold the Swansea Climate Change Forum, 1pm, 21 May 2011, Swansea Centre. This Forum is to discuss what policies should be adopted by Government.

The science is clear. We are altering our planet's climate system to the detriment of our ecosystems for hundreds if not thousands of years into the future. Our decisions today will have repercussions echoing down future generations beyond our children and grandchildren.

There has been increasing resistance to change with the fossil fuel industry spreading anti-science propaganda and the hardening of right wing political opposition to attempts to tackle the problem. There even appear to be some in the left of politics who doubt the facts or the need for action.

Dr Mark Diesendorf of the University of NSW will be the guest speaker on what policies will bring the changes needed to respond to the dangers of Climate Change. Dr Diesendorf is a specialist on sustainable energy, energy policy, urban transport and the economics surrounding these topics. He has a broad understanding of the changes needed to our energy systems and the associated policies and economics.

"The question at the heart of the issue", said John Wiggin, "is how can we replace our use of fossil fuels. Clearly this cannot be done simply by putting solar panels on houses. We have to build enough non-fossil fuel power stations to enable us to shut down the coal burning power stations we rely on." Can this be done with current technology? Will a price on carbon do this and how high should it be?

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There are already constructed concentrated solar power stations of the size we need, so we can 'purchase' these directly from companies who have already built them. The next step is to plan for such replacement.

The Zero Carbon Australia Plan ([beyondzeroemissions.org](http://beyondzeroemissions.org)) provides a detailed plan of how to do this. It is a very big project with around 230 concentrated solar plants up to 4km in diameter and 10,000 wind turbines. They would be scattered across Australia at suitable locations. All the details of planning are considered including the work-force required, the manufacturing capacity and materials supply, the investment required and the extra electricity needed both for an electric vehicle fleet and projected growth in demand.

The plan is costed at \$370 Billion over ten years roughly equivalent to \$1000 per person per year. Around a third of this money would be invested in improving and extending the electricity distribution network with new DC transmission lines. What the plan does show is that the proposal is economically feasible and is practical to build with currently available off the shelf power stations.

Another recent report, the Grattan Report, shows how the market based programs tried so far have been much more effective at reducing our emissions cheaply than any other programs.

Come along and have your say in the climate policy discussion and workshop. Bookings are essential:- 4349 4756 or to [coolit@cen.org.au](mailto:coolit@cen.org.au) .

*Climate Future and Lake Macquarie Climate Action thank Lake Macquarie Council for its generous support in running this Forum.*

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[www.cen.org.au/issues/climatefuture/](http://www.cen.org.au/issues/climatefuture/)

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