



# Paperless

## Monthly News



*Bendigo Sustainability Group: towards a vibrant, connected, ecologically effective and delightful Bendigo.*

**Bendigo Sustainability Group: PO Box 1362 Bendigo 3552,  
BSG Office 108 Wills Street Bendigo  
Opening Hours: 10:00am – 12:00pm Thursday  
[www.bendigosustainability.org.au](http://www.bendigosustainability.org.au)**

## BSG gears-up for 2010

Welcome back everyone, here's hoping we all had a refreshing break and are getting into the swing of things for 2010. This year is going to be an exciting year for the BSG and we look forward to lots of involvement and participation by all our members and friends. Be sure to pop into the BSG office, sign up to our bulk buy solar hot water or solar PV program, come to Bendigo's very own Community Farmer's Market, check out the Peppergreen Farm Festival and/or join one of our many action groups. As you will read below, there's certainly no shortage of activities to be involved in!

*Warm Regards, Karen Corr  
BSG President*

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## BSG Operations

### Administration

As well as having a new committee, we have some recent changes to our operations. David Jones has stood down as Executive Officer and has now taken on the new role of Property Manager in a voluntary capacity - he will be looking after our office at 108 Wills St. Our paid staff continue to be Beck Lowe and Janine Heislars. Beck is working 1 day per week as Events and Volunteers Coordinator and Janine is working a half day per week as Finance and Membership Officer. We are currently in the process of reviewing the need and budget for further staffing requirements.

### Thursday mornings at Wills St

Remember we are open on Thursday mornings if you would like to drop in. Our office is still being set up and there is much work to be done. We are looking for volunteers to help with gardening, cleaning and set up of office rooms. We are also in desperate **need of a small second hand fridge and small table and chairs for kids.**

If you can assist with any of the above please contact Beck at [beck@bendigosustainability.org.au](mailto:beck@bendigosustainability.org.au) or call 0409 661 311.

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## 2010 Diaries

We still have some "Little Things" 2010 diaries available. These are now selling for the bargain price of \$10 reduced from \$20. They are available from the BSG office on Thursday mornings or call the BSG on 0409 661 311 to arrange pick up. We need to sell these urgently so would really appreciate if anyone can help us out with this.

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## Bulk-buy of Solar Hot Water and Solar PV systems

For solar hot water systems BSG have decided to suggest that our members get quotes from two companies, one Bendigo based, the other Melbourne based. Members will then choose the system that suits them best.

For solar PV (electricity) systems, we are suggesting both a Bendigo based supplier and the Central Victoria Solar Cities project. The Bendigo based supplier offer 1kW, 1.5kW, 2kW, etc. The CV Solar City Project only offer 2kW systems. The government rebate system is such that 1.5kW systems appear to be best value for money, so again it depends on members needs. If interested in 'thin film' solar PV, which requires about twice the roof space, but claims other 'benefits', we can organise a quote from a thin film supplier. It's about the same cost as 'conventional' solar PV.

If interested in getting a quote as a BSG member,

1. for Solar Hot Water - email [solarhotwater@bendigosity.org.au](mailto:solarhotwater@bendigosity.org.au) or call Colin on 0417 561 903, or Frank on (03) 5441-6398
2. for Solar PV (electricity) - email [pv@bendigosity.org.au](mailto:pv@bendigosity.org.au) or call Colin or Frank as above.

At the Peppergreen Farm Community Festival (see below) there will be more details about the SHW and Solar PV offerings

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## Farmers' Market set to go!

The Bendigo Community Farmers Market has a date change. It will run every 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10th April. Located at the Rosalind Park end of Williamson St, there will be more stallholders, more regional food, more fun. Mark your calendar now.

The market will feature fresh produce such as meats, cheeses, fruit and vegetables, bread, plants, all from the grower themselves. Meet the maker, and enjoy the best of fresh, regional and seasonal foods. Watch chefs cooking dishes at the community stage, and support local groups fundraising at the same time. Perfect to catch up with friends and fellow BSG'ers and have a coffee, the Rosalind Park end of Williamson St will be buzzing with the best our region has to offer. For more information, call Michele on 0401 272 376 or join Bendigo Community Farmers Market on facebook.

The Farmers' Market is also urgently in need of a volunteer who is officially able to put up road signs – if you can help, contact Michele on the number above.

Also make a note of 'My Best Friend's Wardrobe' Summer Swap: a Bendigo Community Farmers' Market fundraiser. \$20 at the door. St Andrews Hall, Friday, February 26 from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. For more details email [michelejmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:michelejmartin@hotmail.com)

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## PepperGreen Farm Community Festival

BSG and Bendigo EcoLiving are pleased to be working together again to present the PepperGreen Farm Community Festival celebrating sustainability. This will take place on Saturday 13th of March 10am - 3pm. Programming for 2010 is focused on Home, Transport, Gardening and Lifestyle. Our target audience are families to enjoy a day out with a sustainable twist. Sustainable living will be showcased through displays, workshops, a guest speaker program, art - but mostly through FUN!!

The BSG will have a large marquee on the day and we are encouraging all Action Groups to take part. Action groups might like to set up a display within the BSG marquee to showcase their Action Group and what it does and/or present workshops or talks for adults, youth or children in their area of interest. Contact Beck on [beck@bendigosity.org.au](mailto:beck@bendigosity.org.au) or 0409 661 311.

This event will require the input of many volunteers – if you can assist we'd love to hear from you! Volunteers are specifically required for: a bike valet service; washing dishes to facilitate a waste-free event; stage managers; marshals for the day (welcome at gates, answering questions, distributing feedback forms etc); helpers for other bike activities such as bike decoration and races. For more information contact Tamara Marwood on 0428 304 544 or [info@bendigoecoliving.com.au](mailto:info@bendigoecoliving.com.au)

The EcoLiving Centre is also looking for other stall holders – if you have a sustainable business or group you would like to promote, this is a fantastic opportunity. For more information contact Tamara Marwood on 0428 304 544, email [info@bendigoecoliving.com.au](mailto:info@bendigoecoliving.com.au) or click

<http://www.bendigoecoliving.com.au/services/festival>

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## Sustainable food group events

### Thursday evenings are back!

Join us from 5.30 pm at Gravel Hill Gardens, Bramble Street on Thursday evenings over summer. Share and learn new gardening and food skills and knowledge in a friendly atmosphere! Please bring a plate of food or drink to share. Often people are at the gardens earlier in the day. If you would like be involved in the gardens at other days/times or come earlier on Thursdays, please contact Suse on 0400 051 159.

### Produce exchange - Sunday 14th February, 5 pm, Gravel Hill Gardens

Our first produce exchange for the year will be on Sunday 14th February. Please bring along any excess home grown (or baked, preserved etc) produce that you would like to exchange. This month we also encourage people to bring a favourite seasonal recipe to share (so we know what we can do with all those excess zucchinis, and other excess produce!). Even if you do not have produce, you are welcome to join us to meet with like minded people who celebrate good food :)

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## Upcoming workshop on Cultivating Sustainability

A one-day workshop Behaviour Change Training for Sustainability Advocates with Tim Cotter will be held in Hepburn Shire Region on Tuesday February 9th, 9am – 4.30pm. Tim is an organisational and environmental psychologist who specialises in behaviour change. It is a brilliant workshop which provides insights, models and tools to trigger the psychological drivers of sustainable behaviour. For more information on this workshop: call Laurel Freeland on 5348 2236 or look at <http://www.awake.com.au/susthome.html>

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## Workshop on Cheap Low-Tech & Enviro-friendly Out-houses

Weekend workshop on 13-14 February at Yapeen (just south of Castlemaine) on the practical instruction in building small living spaces that do not require planning permits (i.e. 10 square metres ... the size of a garden shed). These are called *EconoSpaces* ... devised and taught by Irish architect Peter Cowman of the Living Architecture Centre, now resident near Castlemaine. Cost \$150. Online booking, preview and videos at [http://www.livingarchitecturecentre.com/?page\\_id=66](http://www.livingarchitecturecentre.com/?page_id=66)

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## National Climate Action Summit

Karen, Alex and Kristy attended the National Climate Action Summit in Canberra last year and got a lot out of it. It was great to connect with and learn from other community groups around Australia as well as have the opportunity to contribute to national community action on climate change. The summit is happening again this year and we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in attending on behalf of the BSG. Go to <http://www.climatesummit.org.au/> for more details about the Summit and email Karen at [pres@bendigosity.org.au](mailto:pres@bendigosity.org.au) to let us know if you are interested in attending. We'll be in contact shortly with those that email to discuss further.

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## Other Local Events, Activities and Opportunities

### Useful information

#### Opt out of a phone book

Did you know it is possible to say no to getting a printed phone directory delivered? To save paper and other precious resources by opting out follow this link <http://about.sensis.com.au/sustainability/environment/>

#### Feed-in Tariffs

Confused about feed-in tariffs? To check out and compare the details of the various feed-in contract offers by Victorian electricity retailers, go to [www.mefl.com.au/documents/Vic\\_FIT\\_Survey-Dec09.pdf](http://www.mefl.com.au/documents/Vic_FIT_Survey-Dec09.pdf)

### **Cap and Trade schemes explained**

A short video cartoon about carbon-control cap and trade schemes and the risks and problems associated with them is available at <http://storyofstuff.com/capandtrade/> If you haven't already seen The Story of Stuff, available on the same website, it is also well worth a look, particularly for educators.

### **Sustainable Leadership Fellowship Program**

The Centre for Sustainability Leadership is looking for people with the passion and potential to create the change the world so desperately needs. The Centre is currently looking for participants to apply for the 2010 Fellowship Program run in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. Only 25 places are available in each city. Applicants from all over the world are welcome. Further information can be found at [www.csl.org.au](http://www.csl.org.au)

### **Victoria Walks**

You've heard the one about how the chicken crossed the road? Watch how Carmel does it! If you want streets made for walkin', then watch this hilarious video and pass it on <http://www.gotwhatittakes.org.au>

### **Earth Hour**

This year Earth Hour is scheduled for 8.30pm Sat 27 March <http://www.earthhour.org.au/>

### **Have your say!**

**Two opportunities for BSG members to give their opinion and help foster sustainability in our local area:**

- The draft of the Bendigo City Centre Travel Plan available on the City of Greater Bendigo website ([http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page\\_Id=3018&h=0](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=3018&h=0)), and comments are invited. Join the wiki (instructions on site) to post your thoughts on this. You can also email your comments to [strategy@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategy@bendigo.vic.gov.au) or use the website to download a feedback form. Comments need to be made before 19 February 2010. If you would like more information contact Nicole on 5434 6449 or email [n.porter@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:n.porter@bendigo.vic.gov.au).
- Coliban are undertaking a 'pricing review' - they have a blog that can be used to give them some feedback. See <http://www.coliban.com.au/pricingreview.asp>

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## **Key dates for the diary ...**

*See above for all details on the following.....*

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb    Produce Exchange (Sustainable Food Group)**

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Feb    My Best Friend's Wardrobe 'Summer Swap' (Farmers Market Fundraiser)**

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Mar    PepperGreen Farm Community Festival**

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Apr    Bendigo's 1<sup>st</sup> Farmers' Market Day; thereafter 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday monthly**

### **Regular Dates**

**Thurs weekly - Come in for a chat at BSG House, 10am-noon**

**Thurs evenings over summer - Gravel Hills Gardens, from 5.30pm**

### **BSG Committee Meetings**

**Next BSG Committee Meeting is 7.30pm 22nd Feb at the BSG Office. Anyone is welcome to attend and be part of the committee discussions**

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## And, a final something to ponder ....

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

**Margaret Mead**

We appreciate the assistance of all our sponsors and supporters



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