

**Media Release:**

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## **New Guide to Efficient Energy and Water Use**

The Northern Territory Government has launched a new guide on the efficient use of energy and water in the residential housing sector as part of its commitment to managing greenhouse gas emissions.

NRETAS Environment and Greenhouse Policy Manager Paul Purdon said the booklet would provide a guide for buyers, builders and renovators to improve the sustainability of houses in Central Australia.

“Water and energy use remains high in Central Australian homes compared to the rest of the country, this guide aims to cover ways to reduce energy and water use without compromising people’s lifestyles,” Mr Purdon said.

“The booklet features many great tips for existing homes to become smart houses, as well as ideas for those still in the design phase of their homes.

“From changing the way we water our gardens to reduce water usage, to harnessing one of Central Australia’s greatest resources – the sun to reduce energy use, this guide aims to provide Central Australians with the information they need to live in a sustainable way.

“Smart homes use well placed shade to keep homes cooler in summer, whilst the winter sun is let into windows as a free source of heat, in addition to solar hot water systems providing 95 per cent of hot water in a water efficient household in Central Australia.

“Residents who embrace an efficient home can reduce their electricity and water bills by more than \$1000 per year, and other financial benefits such as green home loans and higher resale value on their homes are all added benefits to sustainable homes.

“For those still in the planning stage of their homes, consider how you could take advantage of the climate conditions and select appropriate building materials to keep a home cool in summer and warm in winter.

“This includes everything from the way you position your house, to materials used such as louvers to optimise cross-flow ventilation.”

*The Sustainable Housing in Central Australia: a guide to efficient use of energy and water for buyers, builders and renovators* was first released in 2005. The Northern Territory Government has released a revised version of this popular guide with assistance from the Power and Water Corporation and Desert Knowledge COOLmob.

Copies of the guide are available at the 2008 Desert Knowledge Symposium and Business Showcase from Monday 3 to Thursday 6 November 2008 at the Alice Springs Convention Centre or online at [www.nt.gov.au/greenhouse](http://www.nt.gov.au/greenhouse).

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**Media Note – for more information contact Paul Purdon on 8924 4070**

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