

## Of Special Interest

Huge interest so far in  
 Solar Neighbourhood  
 Scheme

2008 Launch - Get Ready!

Name Our Newsletter



## Welcome to our First Issue!

Hello and welcome to the very first issue of the Pine Rivers Climate Action Network Newsletter!

Those of us working on core projects for 2008 are very excited to share with you our plans for the year ahead and hope you will join us in making a difference in our world.

After the formation of Pine Rivers CAN in September 2007, many ideas have been put forward on how best to work with our local community to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and live more sustainably.

We are committed to sharing knowledge and opportunities for residents, schools and businesses to reduce their environmental footprint through renewable energy options, energy and water efficiency, and simple measures to reduce, re-use and recycle.

Our monthly newsletter will keep you informed of how our projects are going, give you our "Green Hints for the Month" to put into action, and more. But we also encourage you to come along to our **monthly meetings** where there will be regular guest speakers, at 7pm on the **third Wednesday of every month** in the Old Catholic Church in Samford.

What issues are you passionate about?  
 What skills can you contribute to make a difference in our community?

Being an active supporter of Pine Rivers CAN is your chance to play a part in preserving our planet for generations to come.

We are pleased to report that key issues of concern to Pine Rivers residents have evolved in real projects for 2008 that we hope will make a real difference.

We urge all of our supporters to come along with family, neighbours and friends to hear about our projects for the year ahead at our

### Official 2008 Launch

**7pm Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February,  
 Old Catholic Church,  
 Cnr Samford Rd & Camp Mtn Rd,  
 Samford.**

Sign up to the Solar Neighbourhood Scheme (see more details page 2), reduce your "food miles" through our organic food co-op, and find out about "Wild Back Yards"

One voice can change another's opinion. Many voices can change a community's habits. Many hands can change the future!

Looking forward to your continued support and involvement in 2008,

*Kirsten Kennedy*

Co-Chair,  
 Pine Rivers Climate Action Network

## Contents

Solar Neighbourhood	2
Name Our Newsletter	3
Green Hints for the Month	3
Did You Know...	4
Upcoming Events	4
In the Community	5
About Pine Rivers CAN	6



*"Be the change you wish  
to see in the world."*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

## Solar Panels – A Great Start!

The Pine Rivers Climate Action Network is proposing that Samford Valley residents take advantage of a practical initiative to tackle climate change at the same time as reducing energy costs.

The availability of cheap solar panels provided under a bulk ordering Solar Neighbourhoods scheme is being coordinated by Pine Rivers CAN. This will propel the Samford Valley into being one of the first Queensland areas for Solar Neighbourhoods using affordable renewable energy.

Households joining Solar Neighbourhoods in Samford Valley can install their own mini-powerhouse of 1 KW Photovoltaic Cells with inverters that enable families to cover significant power costs and perhaps even sell excess power back into the grid.

"The total cost to the householder is only the \$500 or so installation fee with the remaining costs covered by current Government subsidies." said Samford resident, sustainability advocate and Pine Rivers CAN member Howard Nielsen. The supplier covers the significant up front cost that later gets paid by subsidy and is able to provide an overall economically viable deal due to the bulk supply to communities. Installation fees may vary by \$30-100 depending on access to properties and roofs.

A Solar Neighbourhood comprises 50 households in a local area. Significant cost savings are available through the Solar Neighbourhood approach in which a container load of solar equipment is delivered and installed in bulk.

CAN's Rebecca Stowe is the Solar Neighbourhoods Project Manager in Samford and has organised an information evening. Rebecca says that Pine Rivers CAN strongly advocates initiatives like this because the Solar Neighbourhood model has a role in building more sustainable local communities.

Residents interested in signing up to be in the first Samford batch of Solar Neighbourhoods should email Rebecca on [stowe63@aapt.net.au](mailto:stowe63@aapt.net.au) and/or attend the Solar Neighbourhoods Information Evening. Word of mouth has already 'signed-up' a significant number of people in Mt Glorious and Samford so residents will need to respond quickly to the first-come-first-served offer.

For more information:  
Howard Nielsen (Ph: 0407 190 162) and Rebecca Stowe (Ph: 3289 9996)

**Come and find out about being in the  
Solar Neighbourhood in Samford Valley.**

### **Solar Neighbourhoods Information Evening**

**Venue: CWA Hall, Main Street Samford**

**Date: Wednesday, 13 February**

**Time: 7pm-9pm**

Reply: To Rebecca Stowe on [stowe63@aapt.net.au](mailto:stowe63@aapt.net.au) by 7 February.

This is a free information evening sponsored by the Pine Rivers Climate Action Network. Refreshments will be provided.

## Name Our Newsletter!!!

Do you have a flair with words? Are you a journo in the making? Pine Rivers CAN needs your help! Our new monthly newsletter needs a catchy and memorable name.

Send your suggestions to us by email to [pinerivers@gmail.com](mailto:pinerivers@gmail.com) by 29 February, and the winning entry will feature as the new name from the March edition.



*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we merely borrow it from our children."*

**Navajo Saying**

## Top Green Hints for the Month

### 1. **Fact:**

About 40% of landfill waste (8.4 million tones a year) is food scraps and garden cuttings that could be composted.

#### **Action:**

Every kilogram of food or garden waste that is composted instead of going to landfill saves one kilogram of greenhouse gases.

*Thanks to Planet Ark for these facts, figures and suggestions.*

### 2. **Fact:**

Cattle account for about 15% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions from land clearing, transport, methane and nitrous oxide from fertilizer, animal waste and soil disturbance.

#### **Action:**

Eating one less meal of red meat a week for a family of four could mean reducing your greenhouse gas emissions by as much as buying a hybrid car!

### 3. **Fact:**

The equivalent of 30kg of energy, raw materials and packaging are used to make every kilogram of products we buy.

#### **Action:**

Buy fresh food instead of tins, jars and packets. And buy items with packaging you know you can recycle.





## Did You Know...

### Australia and Global Warming

Australia, with 0.32 percent of the world's population, produces 1.43 percent of global CO2 emissions. We have the world's highest per capita greenhouse gas

emissions at 27 tonnes each – just ahead of the US and more than twice as much as the UK, Japan or Germany. Since 1980, emissions in Australia have risen twice as fast as in the US and five times faster than in Europe. (CSIRO)

*Article quoted from "The Little Green Guide – Simple Ways to Save the Planet" by Mark Mann. Published by Planet Ark. Copies of this book are available from Pine Rivers CAN at our monthly meetings or our stall at the Samford Churchyard Markets (second Saturday of every month) for only \$8.*

## Do You Have a Story?

### Call for submissions to our newsletter

Pine Rivers CAN supporters are invited to submit articles for publication in upcoming editions of our newsletter. Tell us how your household or someone in your neighbourhood is making a difference by reducing their ecological footprint in a unique way.

Your contribution may be in the form of a write up or a photograph of a community project in your neighbourhood, an interview, a book or movie review, some handy hints for being a little more "green", or any other suggestions you may have! We would love to hear from you. The deadline for submission is the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. Send your contribution to [pineriversCAN@gmail.com](mailto:pineriversCAN@gmail.com). (Please note your submission may be edited due to space restrictions.)

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday 9  
February 2008**

### Samford Church Yard Markets 7am ~ 1pm \*

Come along to the grounds of the Samford Anglican Church and see the Pine Rivers CAN information stall. Drop by for a chat, pick up some notepads from salvaged paper, or Planet Ark's "Little Green Book" for only \$8. \* **Weather permitting**

**Wednesday 13  
February 2008**

### Solar Neighbourhoods Information Evening CWA Hall, Main St, Samford 7 ~ 9pm

Come and find out about being in the Solar Neighbourhood in Samford Valley.

**See article page 2.**

**Wednesday 20  
February 2008**

### Official 2008 Launch for Pine Rivers CAN Old Catholic Church Cnr Samford Rd & Camp Mtn Rd, Samford 7 ~ 9pm

Find out about projects for the year ahead and sign up to be involved to make a difference in our community.

**See article page 1.**

## In The Community

Pine Rivers CAN is getting out and about in Samford spreading the message about climate change and providing residents with strategies to reduce their footprint on the planet. With brochures from the Australian Conservation Foundation, State and local Council Waterwise Service, and our own handy hints series, visitors are given practical information on becoming more water and energy efficient.

The markets are held on the second Saturday of every month, at the Samford Anglican Church, on Samsonvale Rd from 7am until 1pm. Other stall holders include handmade goods, arts and crafts, organic fruit and vegetables, fair trade coffee, and more. A great opportunity to buy locally produced goods and reduce your food miles and greenhouse gas emissions caused by excess packaging and long distance transport.



### ***VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!***

*Can you spare a Saturday morning once a month? Contact Kirsten on 0418 870 060 if you are interested in helping out with the PR CAN stall at the Samford Church Yard Markets. Any time you can contribute would be greatly appreciated. Upcoming markets are Sat 9 February, Sat 8 March, Sat 12 April.*

## In Schools

How green is your school? Does it need a few hints to get them on the right path?

Please pass our contact details onto your school if they are interested in receiving our newsletter or publishing our Green Hints for the Month in their school newsletter.

Email us at [pineriversCAN@mail.com](mailto:pineriversCAN@mail.com) or

See our website [www.pineriverscan.org](http://www.pineriverscan.org)

for more hints for greening your school.

PINE RIVERS  
CLIMATE ACTION  
NETWORK

**Phone**

Kirsten 3889 1634  
Mobile: 0418 870 060

**E-mail**

[pineriversCAN@gmail.com](mailto:pineriversCAN@gmail.com)

**Website**

[www.pineriversCAN.org](http://www.pineriversCAN.org)

*Renewable is do-able!*

## About Pine Rivers CAN



"Pine Rivers CAN!" is a Climate Action Network started by a group of concerned local residents who are passionate about taking real and effective action on climate change. Pine Rivers CAN acts locally with residents, schools and businesses to raise awareness of climate change and create a sustainable future for the world, starting at home.

Helping residents to live more sustainably is what the network is about, especially by promoting energy efficiency and supporting renewable green power options, as well as promoting material efficiency through reducing, reusing and recycling.

