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Sustainable cities leading us to a low carbon economy

As the Federal Government carbon tax debate continues, Keep Australia Beautiful says its Sustainable Cities Awards finalists are providing tangible grassroots examples of how communities can successfully tackle carbon emission reductions at the local level.

The Canberra Institute of Technology Sustainable Skills Training Hub was announced as the ACT Sustainable Cities Awards winner last week

ACT Sustainable Cities Awards Judge and former president of Engineers Australia, Rolfe Hartley, selected the CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub as the deserving winner, "as this initiative is the perfect example of how partnerships at all levels can achieve sustainable outcomes in the area of carbon reduction and education."

"The new building demonstrates the design and use of almost every conceivable sustainable option in a building, from various types of mechanical, electrical and hydraulic systems including micro turbines, solar and Bluegen fuel cells, to chilled beams and geothermal loops."

"Importantly, it also provides the education and training opportunities to ensure industry can meet renewable energy targets and increase the energy efficiency standards for both residential and commercial buildings through green building applications." Mr Hartley added.

According to Glenn Carter, Director of the Building and Environment Centre and Director of Science, Forensic and Engineering, the purpose built facility provides hands-on green skills training for students, whilst also addressing 'higher skills' shortages for scientists and engineers in the area of emerging sustainable technologies.

"Students will be trained in the installation, testing, commissioning, and maintenance of these technologies so they will gain the skills required to assess and employ the latest in green building applications, materials and new products."

"Importantly however, it will also provide a forum where government, industry and the private sector can come together to showcase emerging technologies to further develop knowledge and ideas that may not be fully realised as yet."

"And, although many of the technologies used in this facility are in use in other buildings, very few combine all those technologies under one roof. We have also left many of the building elements exposed to a high degree, so that people can directly see how they all fit together." Mr Carter added.



Following the announcement Keep Australia Beautiful National Executive Officer, Scott Lyall said:

“The Sustainable Cities Awards winners from around the country clearly demonstrate that a low carbon economy is possible when local communities join together at all levels to introduce, and educate others about, sustainable energy initiatives.”

The CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub will go on to represent the ACT at the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards in Perth in November. The other finalists already announced include the City of Subiaco in WA and the City of Burnie in Tasmania, whilst further state and territory finalists will be announced over the coming weeks.

For further information about the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards visit www.kab.org.au

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