

## ***MELTON SHIRE COUNCIL, Victoria***

### **Winner of:**

#### **Energy Innovation**

The Energy Innovation Award recognizes sustainable energy management focusing on innovative energy efficiency measures and climate change issues.

The award is given to the Melton Shire Council for demonstrating leadership and innovation in finding ways to reduce energy use as well as generate power from renewable sources, delivering overall carbon emissions reductions. The Council's programs focus on integrating technologies into the development of the community.

The Melton Shire Council's Big Roofs Project used Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to identify large roofs for installation of photovoltaic solar panels, water capture equipment and location of wind power generators. The Council has also mapped out sites for wind turbines in the industrial and rural planning zones.

Renewable energy technologies are being integrated in the planning of the proposed Toolern housing development. Developers have submitted sustainable community proposals for the 8,000 lots in the project and the Melton Shire Council is looking at including a 200 home Zero Emissions Precinct.

A treatment plant in Melton Shire is using a technological first in Australia, transforming sewerage gases into 100% renewable energy, thereby producing carbon neutral recycled water. The plant captures methane emissions while creating 100% renewable energy to power the water recycling plant. Recycled water from the treatment plant is piped to different townships to be used in households for flushing, watering gardens and washing cars.