



Adelaide Advertiser
Tuesday 8/1/2008
Page: 31
Section: Business Journal
Region: Adelaide Circulation: 191,325
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 104.45 sq.cms.
Published: MTWTFS-

Brief: HH-CANOPY

Offset support program online

**VALERINA
CHANGARATHIL**

THE launch of an online guide by a state agency will provided much-needed support for businesses gearing up to face demands in a Kyoto-ratified Australia.

The Environmental Protection Agency of Victoria and the RMIT Centre for Global Sustainability recently launched an online Carbon Offsets Guide that provides global information on providers, projects, costs and accreditations.

The Adelaide Convention Centre, which will soon offer carbon-neutral conference packages, feels such initiatives will equip it to answer sustainability questions more easily.

"We would prefer to use SA carbon offset providers and would like such measures to be replicated locally as well," chief executive Alec Gilbert said.

Listed SA carbon offset provider Canopy said very little information was available on initiatives to help emitters make an informed choice.

Canopy chief executive Noel McArdle said:

"Reducing and offsetting carbon emissions is a profitable business for a growing number of providers, but the need is to mix profitability and environmental responsibility.

"Most emitters don't even know that there are actual standards that govern the carbon offsetting process."

EPA SA spokesman Terry Clark said: "We certainly support the Victorian initiative and will explore such possibilities for SA in the new year."

The website - www.carbonoffsetguide.com - recommends offsetting as a secondary option to prevention and reduction of emissions.

The website will be updated every three months.

AGL, Climate Friendly and COzero are the other companies offering carbon offsets in South Australia.

The cost of carbon offsetting in SA is about \$15 to \$55 per tonne of carbon offset.

Renewable energy, energy efficiency and forestry (bio-sequestration) are the most common carbon offset projects in Australia.