



MEDIA RELEASE

School goes green after Living Building Challenge win

Antonio Park Primary School powers up with solar panels

Melbourne – 15 March 2017 – Antonio Park Primary School students are seeing green with a new solar panel power system becoming the latest addition to the school's environmentally friendly facilities.

The state-of-the-art system donated by Solgen Energy Group has been officially unveiled after innovative grade 5 student Olivia Murley won the 2016 Brickworks Living Building Challenge's design competition for primary school students.

A commemorative plaque was presented to the school by the Living Future Institute of Australia last Friday 10th March.

The primary school competition ran in conjunction with the International Living Building Challenge design competition and called for innovative sustainable ideas for the new shopping centre to form part of Frasers Property Australia's mixed-use Burwood Brickworks project.

The solar panels will reduce the school's reliance on the power grid and were the main prize in the school's competition. The new 5-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system was supplied and installed by Solgen Energy, a sponsor of the competition.

Olivia's winning entry included many creative ideas, such as installing funnels on the corner of the shopping centre's roof to capture water to be stored in underground water tanks.

Stephen Choi, Executive Director of the Living Future Institute of Australia, said Olivia's impressive entry was a worthy winner.

"It had a surprisingly mature focus on human scale, natural light, public transport, local food and water systems," he said.

"The competition was just one way of hearing from the often ignored younger generation. When talking about sustainable development, it would be a cliché to say that 'the children are the future', but it's true. This competition showed that kids are already passionate about a better future."

Olivia's entry also included ideas for community herb, vegetable and fruit gardens, as well as free train, tram and bus tickets for shoppers who spend a certain amount at the centre.

The 2016 Brickworks Living Building Challenge design competition and the primary school challenge were coordinated by the Living Future Institute of Australia. Frasers Property Australia, the developer of Burwood Brickworks, was the competition's Principal Partner.

Peri Macdonald, Executive General Manager – Retail, Frasers Property Australia, said the 2016 Brickworks Living Building Challenge design competition was about unlocking creative new ideas that could shape the sustainable shopping centres of the future.



“The unencumbered, fresh ideas in some of the entries we received from primary school students were of a very high calibre, and Olivia’s winning submission touched on some very practical, smart concepts,” Mr Macdonald said.

“It’s great to see young people taking an interest in sustainability, and we congratulate Olivia and everyone at Antonio Park Primary School for the educational focus they are bringing to this important area.”

David Naismith, Solgen’s Executive General Manager, said the system would generate enough solar energy to power up to four classrooms.

“It will help improve energy efficiency, reducing energy consumption from the grid thus saving electricity costs. “The amount of CO2 savings this system will deliver is the equivalent of removing 32 cars from Australian roads each year,” he said.

“Through integrated monitoring that we installed with the system, teachers and students can learn more about renewable energy and how it works. The technology can be used as a teaching tool for students in a variety of subjects.”

Antonio Park Primary School vice-principal Annette Hayes said the large capacity solar panels would complement the school’s existing sustainable facilities and practices.

“We have huge water tanks that supply irrigation to our gardens and oval and flush our toilets. We compost all of the students’ vegetable waste and use it in our gardens. We have animals on-site including goats and chickens that the students care for to teach them animal husbandry, and we recycle all of our paper and cardboard waste,” she said.

“This solar panel system will enable the school to collect solar power to generate electricity for the school and the local power grid. The students will be able to see the data produced by this system and use it in their curriculum to determine how electrical power can be generated by solar panels and thus assist a more sustainable future.”

She said teaching young people about sustainability has never been more important.

The plaque was presented to the school on Friday, March 10. Attendees included Stephen Choi, Executive Director - Living Future Institute of Australia, Peri Macdonald – General Manager Retail, Frasers Property Australia and Ivor Kades, National Commercial Sales Manager at Solgen Energy Group.

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Fraser's Centrepoint Limited (FCL) is a full-fledged international real estate company and one of Singapore's top property companies with total assets of S\$25 billion as at 31 December 2016. FCL has three strategic business units – Singapore, Australia and Hospitality, which focus on residential, commercial, retail and industrial properties in Singapore and Australia, and the hospitality business spanning more than 80 cities across Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Middle-East. FCL also has an International Business unit that focuses on the Group's investments in China, Southeast Asia, and the United Kingdom.

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As a testament to its excellent service standards, best practices, and support of the environment, FCL is the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades both locally and abroad.

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About the Living Building Challenge

The International Living Future Institute operates the Living Building Challenge, the world's most rigorous and progressive building performance standard. The Challenge is a philosophy, an advocacy tool and a certification program. Launched in 2006, more than 300 projects are currently registered for the Challenge. The Living Building Challenge fosters buildings that produce more energy than they consume, avoid known toxins and harmful chemicals, and collect and reuse their own water.

For further information visit www.living-future.org/lbc

In Australia, the Living Building Challenge is driven by the Living Future Institute of Australia (LFIA), part of the International Living Future Institute. The Living Future Institute of Australia was established in 2012 by a passionate founding committee as a visionary hub for restorative programs and action.

For further information visit www.living-future.org.au

About Solgen Energy Group

Solgen Energy Group is a leading commercial solar Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) group. Solgen provides multi-disciplinary solar power solutions from concept to completion, through design, planning, project management, construction and ongoing operation.

Solgen Energy Group are not only part of a critical industry; they are at the forefront of change with experience across universities, councils, business, property development, aged care and industrial sectors.

For more information about SEG, please visit www.solgen.com.au