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Media Release

New Project to Offer Both Electric and Hot Water Solar Systems

To: All local media

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While arguments about how best to reduce carbon emissions dominate federal politics the Solar Valley Goes Solar group have been busy preparing a new bulk buy program to give local residents the chance to take their own action.

SVGS are a not for profit community group aiming to increase the uptake of sustainable energy technologies by making selected systems available as cheaply and as simply as possible.

The group is pleased to announce Eco-Kinetics as the successful supplier of solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation systems after a competitive tender process.

A 1.5kW (8 panel) solar system, including bidirectional meter and SVGS management fee is being offered at the discounted price of \$3,960 for Zone 3, (which covers most of the project area). Total price for the cloudier Zone 4 is \$4,410.

The SVGS and the earlier Murchison Goes Solar projects saw nearly 1500 households sign up to install PV systems and take advantage of the Federal Government rebate which was available at the time.

Solar PV systems can now be subsidised under the new Solar Credits scheme which is based on the sale of Renewable Energy Certificates. Unlike the old scheme, there is no means test to exclude higher income earners and businesses are now eligible for the subsidy.

A significant change from the earlier programs is the offer of discounted solar hot water systems.

Origin Energy has been selected to supply the hot water systems after a large group of applicants were considered.

Origin can supply systems with flat plate collectors and gas boosting for areas with natural gas supply is the preferred option, costing \$1940 in out of pocket expenses. LPG and electric boosting options are also available and heat pump water heating can be supplied where solar panels cannot be deployed.

Solar hot water rebates are available for all domestic situations, including on rental properties.

Group spokesperson Ian Christoe said there has been a lot of inquiry about solar hot water during the PV programs.

'After the old solar rebate was suddenly scrapped in June many people have asked what we will do next. It's fantastic to be able to offer two great programs at the same time' he said.

'It is a tribute to the great work of co-conveners Geoff Lodge and Yvonne Forrest that two robust systems can be offered simultaneously', Mr Christoe said.

A series of public information sessions will be held in coming weeks. Systems will be in place soon for people to register their interest with details to be released shortly.

Both solar packages are on offer within the Greater Shepparton City Council, Shires of Strathbogie, Campaspe, Moira and the Rural City of Benalla as in the current SVGS solar PV project.

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