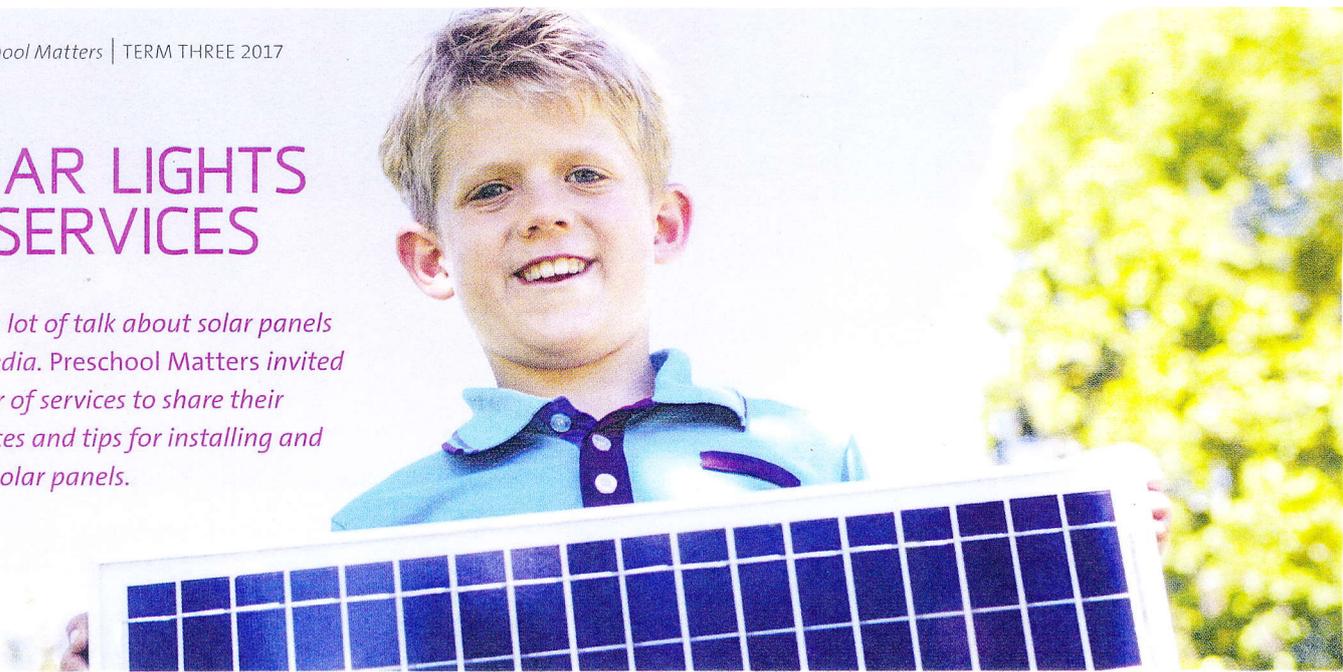


SOLAR LIGHTS UP SERVICES

There is a lot of talk about solar panels in the media. Preschool Matters invited a number of services to share their experiences and tips for installing and funding solar panels.



Early Learning Centres, Moreland City Council

Stuart Nesbit, MCC Climate Change Technical Officer and Helen Eveleigh, Positive Charge, Moreland Energy Foundation

What are the benefits?

Going solar can significantly reduce services' electricity costs (typically by 50–60%) and carbon emissions.

How was solar funded?

Moreland Council funded the solar system for services leasing premises from them. Services repay the cost of solar over 7–10 years, enabling them to save money from day one.

What advice do you have for other services?

Services leasing facilities from Moreland Council can email helen@mefl.com.au to see if they qualify for a place.

Positive Charge helps services find the right solar deal from vetted suppliers. Contact Positive Charge for free advice on solar at www.positivecharge.com.au

Castlemaine Childcare Centre (Carinya)

Daria Healy-Aarons, Chair of Committee of Management

What are the benefits?

Our committee wants to direct parent fees to quality education. One of the biggest items in the budget is the cost of energy.

How was solar funded?

Carinya was nominated to be a recipient of a \$10,000 gift for a solar installation by Powershop, an energy supplier.

What advice do you have for other services?

Reach out to local community groups which have the expertise on costs and benefits of solar and information about how to fund and install solar.

Isabelle Henderson Kinder

Nicole Messer, Director

What are the benefits?

Our service has a goal of being carbon-neutral by 2018. Our use of power was the biggest contributor to our consumption of energy.

How was solar funded?

Together with the children we filmed a story about a solar python for a crowd-funding campaign using the platform Pozible. The platform reached out beyond our families to people who are interested in sustainability and we were able to achieve our funding goal ahead of the deadline.

What advice do you have for other services?

Engage children and use parents' skills. We had a strong story which was important to the overall strategic direction of the kindergarten.

Do the research and plan each stage of the project.

Albert Park Kinder

Jenny Whelan, Administration Director

What are the benefits?

We have a dream to become energy neutral. The children understand that one of the best ways we can help our planet is by installing solar panels.

How was solar funded?

Families' fundraising efforts and a donation from Community Carbon Cops covered the cost of half the solar panels we need. We are currently trying to raise the additional \$5000 required to complete the system via the Solar Schools Program.

What advice do you have for other services?

Have a dream and build a team! Our partnership with the Sustainability Department at our local Council has been integral. Don't feel you have to raise all the money at once.

Consult with Solar Schools Program weblink www.solarschoolsprogram.net.au