

Just Change Newsletter - December 2008

Dear Just Change supporters,

Thank you for supporting our work over the last six months. It's been a busy time for us as a new organisation, and we thought it was about time we updated you on our progress!

Just Change

Just Change is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation that formed in July 2008 with the goal of improving equity through energy efficiency. We are in the early stages of our pilot project, providing ten low-income private rental households with energy efficiency by installing the following items: ceiling insulation, exhaust fan covers, window treatments, compact fluorescent light globes, and low-flow showerheads, and sealing gaps and cracks. Through this work, Just Change hopes that low-income renters will be better able to adjust to the inevitable impacts of climate change - rising temperatures and rising prices.

We're doing this by:

- working with real estate agents and property owners to obtain consent for retrofits
- co-ordinating the installation of a range of products by accredited installers
- combining available government subsidies, rebates and donated materials with additional funding from supporters.

As a component of the pilot project we're conducting research into how energy saving may be able to support household health and comfort. We are also really interested to explore and better understand people's experiences of the program, their knowledge and attitudes about renting and energy, and the relationships between real estate agents, tenants and landlords. This will teach us valuable lessons to help make wider-scale energy efficiency improvements for rental households in Victoria.

We're looking forward to kick starting consent and installation processes with each of our pilot households, real estate agents, landlords, and our installers (Ecovantage and Construct Ramsay Insulation), early in the New Year. Look out for media coverage of the project early in 2009!

Thank you for your support!

As a new organisation, Just Change has been amazed at the level of enthusiasm and support that we've received this year. We'd like to give special thanks to the following people and organisations for their huge support:

We couldn't do our work without the generous funding we've received from the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV), Sustainability Victoria (SV), Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre (CUAC), NetBalance, and the Just Change fundraising trivia committee and attendees.

We are very grateful to our wonderful advisory group, who have provided high level strategic advice and support: John Thwaites (Monash University, Chair), Annie Bolitho (University of Melbourne), Mike Hill (Victorian Local Sustainability Advisory Committee), Alan Pears (RMIT/Sustainable Business Solutions), Ian Porter (Nous Consulting), Enzo Raimondo (REIV) and Katrina Woolfe (Sustainability Victoria).

We've also received input, in kind support and invaluable specialist advice from too many people and organisations to mention. Just Change would especially like to thank the Tenants Union of Victoria, Deacons, Kildonan Uniting Care, Moreland Energy Foundation, the Centre for Sustainability Leadership, NetBalance Foundation and Adi Firth.

Our first group of volunteer house managers have been trained and are ready to make the consent, installation and evaluation process as smooth as possible for each participating household. Many thanks to Alex Houlston, Amelia Easedale, Imogen Schoots, Kieran Perkins, Nancy Lang, and Taboka Finn.

Keep in touch with Just Change

With the help of REIV we have established a website - www.justchangeaustralia.org. You can visit the site to learn more about our work, keep in touch with our progress, or contact us directly. We'll be in touch with an update once we've completed our pilot project, to share our findings with you.

Feel free to contact us at any stage at justchangeorg@gmail.com, or through our website.

Wishing you a comfortable and low-carbon Christmas break!

Best wishes to all of you for a safe and restful end of year break. We look forward to working with you in 2009.

The Just Change team – Roland, Michaela, Kati, Dougal, Kathryn and Bonnie