

Power to Make a Difference Stage Two Using Cent-a-meters (Energy Monitors) in High Schools

Northern Rivers Group on Energy (NRGe) is a network of staff from within regional Northern Rivers councils, working together to improve energy efficiency on a local level. The councils involved are Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Tweed Shire Council, Lismore City Council, Kyogle Council, Richmond Valley Council and Clarence Valley Council.

During 2007/ 2008, NRGe, together with energy conservation company Easy Being Green, raised a substantial amount of money that was put towards purchasing and installing Cent-a-meters into all high schools in the NRGe council areas. A Cent-a-meter is an energy monitoring device which provides the user with information on the Kw, cost of electricity in dollars and amount of greenhouse gases being consumed by that user at any given point in time. The Cent-a-meter is a domestic device but also worked well if installed in a school block.

Support was also provided to students and teachers, educating them how to best use the Cent-a-meter. A CD package was provided as support material. The aim was to encourage students to audit the amount of energy being used in their school and implement steps to reduce energy use.



Kel Gale, Penny Skehan and Grace Skehan using a Cent-a-meter at Alstonville High School

In September 2009, Power to Make a Difference Stage Two was undertaken to evaluate Stage One of the program to improve the capacity of schools to further reduce their energy use. As a result of this evaluation, further support was provided to staff in the form of teacher resources, technical help and demonstrations. The Cent-a-meter Coordinator will also partner with teachers and students to deliver a workshop on energy monitoring and reduction as part of the **2010 Students Using Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) Forum to be held within the region from the 26 to 28 May 2010.**

At the completion of Stage Two, thirty high schools across all seven council areas have Cent-a-meters installed in their school buildings and have received updated teaching resources for support. The NRGe worked in close partnership with schools and the schools' electrical contractors to provide and install these valuable resources for students.

Trouble Shooting – Please refer to the [Cent-a-meter user manual](#) and [Quick Start manual](#) for trouble shooting

