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Canberra can have an energy plan

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has called for the ACT Government, on World Environment Day, to do its bit for the world environment by setting up an Energy Commission to look at permanently slashing our greenhouse gas emissions.

“Towns and cities all around the world are putting energy plans together that will dramatically cut their greenhouse emissions, but not Canberra” Dr Foskey said today.

“And it’s not as if the plan would have to be developed from scratch. There are more than enough ideas on the shelf.”

“The town of Woking in the UK has already made the shift away from energy purchased from the national grid to more efficient local generation. Now those plans are to be taken up in London.”

“To put something appropriate for the ACT in place, I’d like to see the ACT Government establish an Energy Commission.”

“The Government set up a Skills Commission at the end of 2006. It reported in April this year, and its recommendations are now guiding government policy in areas such as industry, education, family support, housing and industrial relations.”

“An Energy Commission would look at current and future energy use in our buildings and transport. It would draw on local and national expertise, including planners, community advocates and well placed people from the relevant industries.”

“The Commission would map out the foreseeable risks such as peak oil and the increasing cost of energy as we give up brown coal. It would develop a plan to make us resilient in the face of these shocks including a move away from reliance on the car as the only transport option for most people, and steps to reduce our giant heating and air conditioning bills.”

“I raised the issue of adapting our car-based city to a declining oil supply and climate change in the Assembly in 2005. In response, the Government made much of its energy policy supposedly in development.”

“Since then we have seen increasing traffic problems, cuts to our public transport system, and conflict over a giant gas fired power station. But no policy or strategy to address the underlying issues.”

“For World Environment Day we need the promise of something better” Dr Foskey said.

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another world is possible...

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Extra m note:

Canberra could become a Transition City.

The Transition Network is a UK based initiative about responding to the twin pressures of climate change and oil shortage, and transition those towns or cities to a lower energy future and greater community resilience. A lot of the work has been done, and the ACT Government could pick that up and run with it.”