



# campbell newman

from the office of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane



**M**y \$100 million CitySmart program is the biggest investment in the environment ever made by Brisbane City Council. Why? Because I have a vision of Brisbane as Australia's greenest city with a massively reduced carbon footprint. Here's how we're going to achieve it.

CitySmart works by a house-by-house, street-by-street, and suburb-by-suburb campaign to get individuals to look at the ways they are making an impact on the environment. A fleet of CitySmart 'one-stop environmental vans' will be arriving at a shopping centre near you to provide you with practical ways you can save water and energy on a daily basis. They will deliver green tips on gardening, collecting rainwater, switching to green power, reducing waste, and will calculate your carbon emissions. In short they will be able to show you how to cut your household emissions without breaking the bank. My household is carbon neutral and yours can be too under this groundbreaking scheme.

We're even integrating the environmental theme into my Lord Mayor Photo Awards this year. The award will go to the best photo about how people are making efforts to cut greenhouse gases and preserve natural habitat. For future generations we will have a snapshot in time of how we made one of the biggest cultural changes in the history of this city.

We're also targeting the groups we have identified as the biggest carbon emitters. Did you know buildings produce up to 40 percent of a city's greenhouse gas emissions? The built environment is one of our major battlegrounds in the fight against climate change.

Heavy vehicles such as trucks or buses produce more carbon than any other vehicle on the road. This is another battlefield where ground can be gained and victories won. But it is not about not building tunnels or everyone using public transport. People will always need their cars. What we have to do is plant trees to eradicate our carbon footprint from our vehicles. I believe the real advances in the future will come from the fuel industry which is why I toured the Neumann (no relation) Petroleum Terminal at Eagle Farm recently.

## Bio-fleet

Neumann Petroleum supplies the clean burning biodiesel for Council's CitySmart Biodiesel Bus Trial, which aims to reduce vehicle emissions and improve fuel efficiency. This trial will see diesel fuel replaced with Neumann Petroleum's environmentally-friendly biodiesel which is a blend of 20 percent organic fuel and 80 percent petroleum diesel. Biodiesel has the potential to reduce air pollutants such as particulates, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and other toxins. This E-Gen biodiesel is an organic fuel made from tallow and domestically grown oilseed products such as linseed, canola and cotton mixed with alcohol. It can be used in any existing diesel engine with little or no modifications. We are trialling it on 25 older buses because our newer buses already use low emission Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

Already, Council's vehicle fleet is on its way to carbon neutrality - which includes all our CityCats and buses. That's a great outcome. But we can do even better. The only credited vehicle emissions testing program in Queensland - VET - has been used on 80 percent of Council buses and I am now promoting it for individual truck drivers so they can measure their emissions, make their vehicles greener and cleaner and keep a track of the effect on the environment.

The battle to reduce greenhouse gases has many fronts. Through my new 'sustainable development grant' we are encouraging developers and the construction industry to think about how they can use recycled materials, install sustainable systems such as air conditioning, and energy-efficient lighting systems. And the more they do this, the more Council will reward them with rebates or opportunities for development benefits. We're also helping all non-profit organisations by funding sustainable water or energy saving devices and systems for their buildings.

You see, I want to halve the entire City of Brisbane's carbon emissions by 2026. It's important to have these targets - it gives us something to aim for and achieve.



**B Magazine**  
Tuesday 9/10/2007  
Page: 7  
Section: General News  
Region: National Circulation: 416,871  
Type: Magazines Lifestyle  
Size: 403.79 sq.cms.  
Published: Fortnightly

Brief: NEUMANN  
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## Recycle e-waste

So, reducing our emissions and offsetting our carbon are key components of Brisbane's journey to sustainability. But, recycling is a major element too. Council is arranging a free 'e-waste weekend' in the last weekend of October across five different Brisbane locations where all kinds of IT equipment can be dropped off for recycling. This way Brisbane can dispose responsibly of its unwanted electronic items, such as laptops and mobile phones.

Did you know that harmful toxins such as lead and mercury are produced when things like your PC or DVD player are dumped at a rubbish tip? Every year 9000 tonnes of e-waste currently ends up in landfill. So, we're hoping for a great response this year to divert as much e-waste from landfill as possible.

Finally I have just launched Signature Brisbane 'Seed' grants for people who help develop Brisbane's unique cultural and environmental signature. The grants are \$7500 and three are available for unique environment projects that incorporate a design component and are trademark Brisbane.

To find out more about these initiatives you can visit [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au) or telephone 3403 8888.

I believe Brisbane is worth fighting for and the environment should be more than a soapbox for politicians, that's why I am putting our money where our mouths are.