

Blue Mountains Gazette - Letters To The Editor

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Energy Resolution

Every New Year's Eve many folks make resolutions. That's the easy part. The hard part is to convert those resolutions into better lifestyle choices, and for many reasons we persist with the old, flawed ways.

Much the same is happening in regard to energy generation. As an affluent western society, we are hooked on a high energy, high consumption lifestyle, and the cheaper the better. In our hearts we accept that, if the overwhelming majority of climate scientists warn us of an impending environmental crisis, then we should act, but inertia is a powerful force. To most of us the unwelcome answer is a substantive change in our lifestyles, if only for the sake of today's children, because of no apparent alternative to our coal-fired economy.

Some people willingly choose solar hot water, solar PV cells or green power, but for most it is too costly, or just too difficult to change. But, as we saw this week in the Hunter Valley with the application to develop the Bickham coal project being denied, coal has no future, or we don't, and this is a seeming impasse.

However, there is a growing technological knowledge base being developed around renewable energy, particularly as a base load supply, and the awareness of this technology is a key part of local objections to the proposed massive expansion to the Mt Piper power station. The Conservation Society invites you to hear an independent expert evaluate the renewable energy options, at 7:30pm on Friday, 28th May at the Conservation Hut, Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls. The speaker is Dr Mark Diesendorf, Deputy Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies at UNSW. Previously he was Professor of Environmental Science at UTS. He is co-editor of "Human Ecology Human Economy: Ideas for an ecological sustainable future" (1997) and author of "Greenhouse Solutions with Sustainable Energy" (2007) and "Climate Action: A campaign manual for greenhouse solutions" (2009). Bring your questions and an enquiring mind.

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