

Thursday, 25 March 2010

Good Morning,

I live in regional Queensland (Bundaberg area) and I would like this opportunity to bring to your attention some issues that I have experienced since becoming active in the Green Loans Program. I am not associated with any businesses or industry that are marketing "green products". I have a genuine passion for the environment, and feel that the people of this nation need to commit to the Kyoto agreement, not just Heads of Government.

About the software:

1. Why doesn't the software cater for climate zones? Many Queenslanders do not need heating in the home. It is also unwise to place an electric hot water system inside the house, generating more heat
2. Why isn't solar paint considered a form of insulation? An easier option to putting insulation in the walls would be to paint the house and roof in solar paint.
3. Why no mention of whirly birds? This is an important addition to most Queensland homes for drawing heat from the home.
4. There is no mention in the software for maximising prevailing breezes.
5. There is no mention of skylights. Those who have installed skylights in their homes in the tropics and sub-tropics are faced with an increase in heat. (I did an assessment where there was a skylight and an air-conditioner in the bathroom – one counteracting the other)
6. There is no allowance for Hebel and Sandstone Blocks as a building material
7. There is no allowance for asbestos roofing as a material, which I come across quite regularly.

About the systems in place:

1. I have not had one booking made for me through the 1800 number.
2. There has been no marketing or advertising in our area to gain public knowledge of this program. The only publicity has been bad publicity in city newspapers.
3. There is a prevailing feeling in this community that there are more sinister motives by the Government in offering this free assessment. This makes it a hard sell.
4. In Queensland, The State Government has introduced a scheme called ClimateSmart. This has been highly successful program because of the extensive advertising that has been undertaken. Their website offers very similar software, complete with graphs and percentages.. And for \$50 the householder will receive a wireless meter to monitor their electricity use. Most people have taken up this option and therefore are not inclined to duplicate.
5. . From March 22, we are asked to work a green loan program without a green loan. Makes us all look a little silly, don't you think? Why not relaunch it "The Greener Home Program", or "The Kyoto Initiative"?
6. Although I have completed and submitted 20 assessments since Feb 1, 2010, not one householder has received their report. This makes it difficult for me, as word of mouth is part of the marketing process.

Yours Sincerely,
Pauline Bos