

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Free forum explores using renewable energy systems at a local level

How local communities can play a part in the coming revolution in renewable energy systems will be the focus of the next event in the Institute for Regional Development's 2008 café forum series.

Dr Morgan Williams, former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment - New Zealand, will present the free public lecture, *Energy – Blowing in the Wind*, at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus on **Thursday, July 24**.

Tasmania and New Zealand already share some energy sources, such as hydro-electricity. New technologies, however, such as wind, biofuel, geothermal, solar, wave power and potentially clean coal are widely promoted as potential carbon-free or carbon neutral replacements as peak oil is passed.

The forum will look at the enormous potential for communities, local businesses and households to be part of the coming revolution in local, distributed, renewable energy systems.

Dr Williams' research interests have spanned more than 30 years, with a strong focus on how people think about and relate to the natural environment, particularly in terms of political, social and economic constructs which influence the management of the world's natural capital.

He spent 10 years as New Zealand's Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and has also worked in Antarctica and the tropical Pacific. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the universities of Canterbury and Queensland.

The event is part of the Institute's 2008 café forum series, *Global Concerns – Regional Responses*.

The forum will begin at 7pm, with refreshments being served at the campus' Red Lion Café from 6.30pm. It is sponsored by the Cradle Coast Authority. **Bookings are essential.** For reservations and information contact the campus on (03) 6430 4949 or email [ccc.support@utas.edu.au](mailto:ccc.support@utas.edu.au)

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