

Press Release 29 April 2015

The APVI recognised with the ENERGY GLOBE Australia Award for the Australian Solar Mapping Tools.

The Australian PV Institute has been awarded the national ENERGY GLOBE Australia Award for contributions to the environment and sustainability through its development of the [Australian Solar Mapping Tools](#).

The Australian Solar Mapping Tools are the result of over three years of collaborative development between the Australian PV Institute, the University of New South Wales, industry partners SMA Australia Pty Ltd and others. With contributions from the partners and with support from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), the team has worked together to deliver an impressive suite of tools that inform and engage on the uptake of solar around Australia.

The Tools provide an interactive platform for mapping current installations around Australia, for tracking in real-time the contribution of solar energy to the electricity grid and for assessing the potential for solar energy production from rooftops down to individual rooftops.

“The Map provides data that gives us a better understanding of the performance of PV systems and their impact on electricity systems across different regions of Australia.” said Dr Anna Bruce from UNSW, the lead researcher behind the map.

“We expect that this data will inform the planning and management of distributed PV and help to manage integration issues as PV plays an increasing role in electricity generation”.

ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht said ARENA was pleased to provide funding support to enable the APVI to develop the map.

“By showing the successful deployment of solar in distributed generation, the APVI Solar Mapping Tools can inform discussion, investment and planning and ultimately drive further investment in solar photovoltaics (PV)” Mr Frischknecht said.

The ENERGY GLOBE Award was founded in 1999 by the Austrian energy pioneer Wolfgang Neumann and is one of today’s most prestigious environmental awards aiming to present successful sustainable projects to a broad audience. With more than 160 participating countries and over 1000 project submissions annually the Energy Globe Award distinguishes projects regionally, nationally and globally that conserve resources such as energy or utilize renewable or emission-free sources. The aim of the Energy Globe is to raise global attention on sustainable, everywhere applicable environmental solutions and to motivate people to also become active in this area.

National Winners, including the APVI for its Live Solar Map, now go on to preselection for the International ENERGY GLOBE Awards under the patronage of UNESCO and in cooperation with UNEP with the launch planned to coincide with the United Nations World Environment Day.

The Australian Solar Map can be found at <http://pv-map.apvi.org.au/> and includes the following functions:

- The *Solar PV Status Map* provides an interactive guide to the location, capacity and annual performance of PV installations across the country. It provides detail on installed capacity, percentage of households with PV, and estimated annual PV production by state, city (local government area) and postcode.
- The *Solar Potential Tool* allows stakeholders to assess the potential output from PV on urban rooftops. At a city level, insolation maps allow identification of the best roofs, while on a specific roof surface, an estimate of annual electricity generation, financial savings and emissions offset from installing solar PV can be obtained. The interactive map uses 3D spatial data to allow users to zoom down to rooftop level and see information about the shading from surrounding buildings and trees, the tilt and orientation of roof surfaces and the solar resource available on each surface.
- The *Solar Animation* provides a visualisation of the roll-out of solar across Australia from only 10MW total in 2007 to close to 3.6 GW in mid 2014.
- *Market Analyses and Postcode Data* keep track of the progress and impact of the technology.

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About the Australian PV Institute

The Australian PV Institute is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation which focuses on data analysis, independent and balanced information, and collaborative research. Our objective is to support the increased development and use of PV via research, analysis and information. In addition to Australian activities, we provide the structure through which Australia participates in two International Energy Agency (IEA) programs – PVPS (Photovoltaic Power Systems), made up of a number of activities concerning various aspects of PV, and SHC (Solar Heating and Cooling), concerned with new solar thermal products and services.

About ARENA

ARENA was established by the Australian Government to make renewable energy technologies more affordable and increase the amount of renewable energy used in Australia. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects, supports research and development activities, boosts job creation and industry development, and increases knowledge about renewable energy. ARENA is currently supporting more than 200 projects and is actively seeking new projects to support.