

Hon Jay Weatherill MP

Premier

Wednesday October 26, 2016

Low carbon entrepreneurs win big in Adelaide

A project which aims to turn wood waste into fuel that delivers power at the point of consumption has won the top prize in the inaugural Adelaide to Zero Carbon Challenge, South Australia's Low Carbon Entrepreneur Prize.

Premier Jay Weatherill presented the \$100,000 to Enecon - which teamed up with the University of Adelaide - for its project proposal that once built, will replace fossil fuel sources and deliver energy security within the city boundary.

Processing wood waste feedstock into pyrolysis oil at its source, eliminates the challenges of transporting energy. The fuel is then combusted in a high-efficiency trigeneration plant to deliver power at the point of consumption which will eliminate transmission losses.

EcoCaddy was the runner-up and received \$50,000 for EcoCart parcel delivery service for city-based businesses which uses real-time tracking and sustainable transport, therefore easing congestion in the CBD.

South Australian proposals by Peats Soil & Garden Supplies and D Squared were both highly commended.

Background

The Low Carbon Entrepreneur Prize - the first initiative of the Adelaide to Zero Carbon Challenge held as part of Open State - provided entrants with opportunities to develop new partnerships, attract investment and create new economy jobs.

The worldwide search for the best low carbon ideas, solutions or technologies to help Adelaide reduce its carbon emissions and become the world's first carbon neutral city received 150 local, national and international entries.

Eleven finalists were awarded \$10,000 to help develop their concepts further and to prepare a more detailed submission on their proposal. They then pitched their ideas in front of a live audience and expert judging panel as part of PitchFest South Australia at Open State.

International applicants or those based outside South Australia had to partner with a South Australian entity (organisation, business, individual) or demonstrate their willingness to find a local partner to progress to Stage 2 before they could pitch their ideas.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill

Enecon's proposal presents a world's first opportunity to combine proven technologies to deliver carbon-neutral electricity generation within the city boundary.

The opportunities for replication of Enecon's project in other commercial premises in Adelaide and beyond are significant.

All finalists have proven that their low carbon solutions have the potential to be exported to other cities.

The Low Carbon Entrepreneur Prize provided a catalyst for local action and behaviour change.

The proposals we've seen have great potential and participating in the Prize gave entrants the support they needed to develop their ideas further.

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