



Institute of
Strata Title
Management Ltd

Media Release

Thursday, 20 November 2008

Free advice on 'greening' your apartment

Residential buildings are responsible for almost one-fifth of Australia's total green house gas emissions¹, so by making a few changes at home, we can all help to reduce emissions and fight global warming.

The Institute of Strata Title Management (ISTM) is holding a free public seminar on November 27, providing apartment owners with advice on how best to go about making their apartment environmentally friendly and how this can reduce the cost of electricity and water bills leading to lower strata levies.

Jackie Zelinsky, ISTM's General Manager, said there are a few simple things owners and tenants of strata title apartments can do to make their home a little 'greener'.

"It's easy to install energy efficient light globes, take shorter showers or to just add a few plants to your balcony. If you're moving into a new place think about purchasing energy-saving appliances or recycled furniture," Ms Zelinsky said.

"Owners can also think about installing water efficient devices, such as low flow showerheads to reduce water usage. Tenants should suggest the installation of these devices to their landlord or agent, especially if the tap keeps dripping or the toilet keeps running," she said.

Investing in these easy improvements to make a 'green' building helps owners to retain and attract tenants and also helps to increase the value of the property. It reduces electricity and water bills through lower consumption saving owners and tenants money.

"If you're thinking about the bigger picture, like installing water tanks or solar panels, these suggestions should be made to the Owners Corporation. You will need permission for any structural changes, which may also have to be approved by local council," Ms Zelinsky said.

¹ 'The Dollars and Sense of Green Buildings 2008 Edition,' Green Building Council of Australia, p.18



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"Strata Managers also have a role to play in leading the way in creating environmentally friendly homes for owners and tenants. They can encourage 'green' behaviours such as using the rubbish and recycle collections correctly and installing energy and water saving devices in apartments and common property areas."

There are also a number of 'green' service providers which the ISTM recommends owners should use for cleaning and maintenance in their strata apartment.

"Our Free Consumer Awareness Seminar aims to provide information that suggests to owners feasible approaches to making their apartment 'green'. We encourage all strata property owners to come along to this free seminar," Ms Zelinsky said.

ISTM Consumer Awareness Seminar

Date and Time: 27 November 2008, 6:15pm – 7:45pm

Address: Hurstville Entertainment Centre

Cost: Free but bookings essential
Ph 02 9904 8499

ENDS

About the ISTM

The Institute of Strata Title Management (ISTM) is the peak industry body for strata title management in New South Wales; promoting the role of the professional strata team and the value such a team adds to owners corporations in managing risk and a creating a harmonious strata living experience.

For further information please contact

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