

Sustainability Pioneers

The Alternative Technology Association's first 30 years



Note: A more detailed timeline can be found at www.renew.org.au
We welcome amendments and additions to the timeline. Please email renew@ata.org.au with updates



Thanks to subgreen design for timeline design
www.subgreendesign.com.au

1970 - 1979

Pre-ATA: The formative years and the AT Cooperative

1976

- Friends of the Earth anti-uranium campaign was looking for a pro-active alternative
- First meeting held in Carlton. Alternative Technology Cooperative was born

1976 to 1979

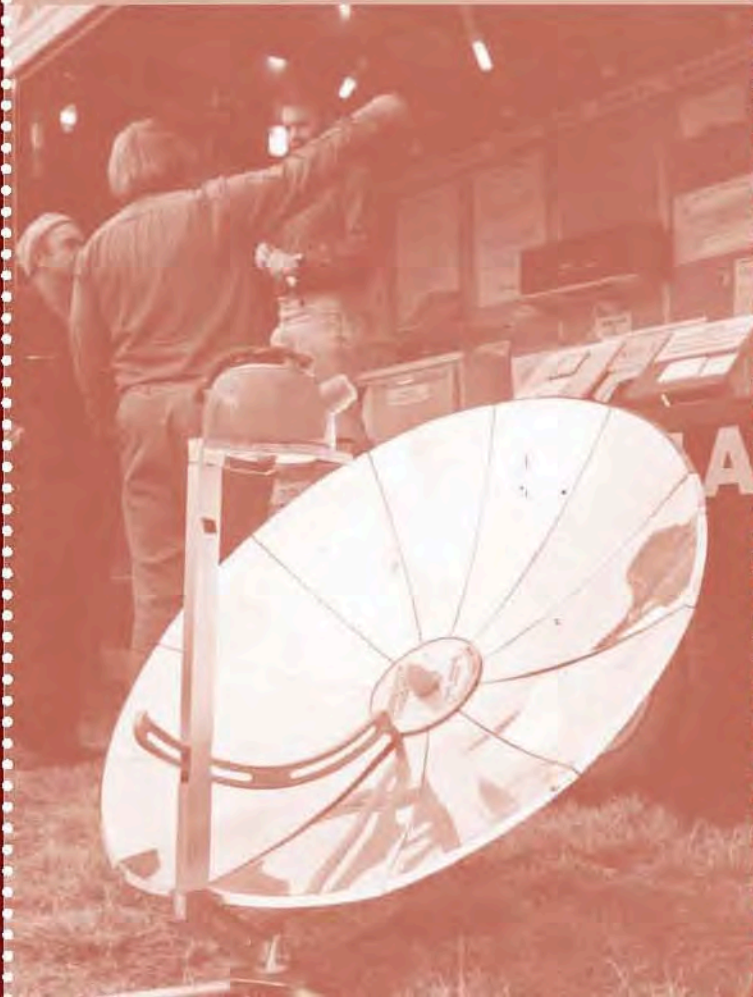
- Alternative Technology Cooperative produces newsletters, radio programs on 3CR, holds monthly meetings in a church hall in Carlton and establishes workshop in Collingwood

1978

- Alternative Technology expo held at Ringwood
- Going Solar established
- Alternative Technology Cooperative slowing down

1979

- Alternative Technology Cooperative ceases operating



1980 - 1985

Alternative Technology Association history from 1980

1980

- Alternative Technology Cooperative restarts with the name changed to Alternative Technology Association and a new structure introduced
- First *Sun* members newsletter published
- First issue of *Soft Technology* magazine published

Early 1980s

- ATA members start taking displays to festivals and shows

1983

- ATA members start building the solar workshop at CERES with the help of a \$3000 grant. Total build costs \$10,000 thanks to volunteer labour and the help of Collingwood TAFE stonemason students
- ATA starts visiting solar-powered houses

1984

- ATA produces its first book *Alternative Technology Australia* with the best content from the first 12 issues of *Soft Technology*. Print run of 2500 copies
- ATA starts to run courses on retrofitting, alternative building techniques, solar electric systems, solar greenhouses, DIY wind power and solar hot water. Information kits are produced, some of which later evolve into booklets
- ATA constitution changed to allow for branches



1986 - 1990

Mid 1980s

- Alan Hutchinson builds ATA's first computer

1986

- Solar workshop finished
- ATA submission to the MREC inquiry into electricity generation and correct insulation regulations. Many recommendations appeared in the final MREC report and helped drive policy including 1991 insulation regulations

1986 to 1989

- Work begins on an early version of the solar shuttle

1987

- ATA receives a \$3000 grant to produce the first solar trailer
- ATA employs its first staff member to do part time membership admin
- ATA moves offices to the new Friends of the Earth Centre in Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- Wind generator constructed by SECV at Breamlea, Victoria (see ATA ownership 1995)
- First prototype of a model solar car made

1988

- ATA policy framework for Victorian Parliament Natural Resources and Environment Committee on Energy Supply Options for Victoria

1989

- ATA moves to Ross House
- First energy display trailer up and running and tours Australia twice
- ATA becomes a member of the Community Energy Network, providing policy input to the Federal Government on an ongoing basis
- ATA produces *The Renewable Solution* which sets out a renewable energy path for Victoria. The booklet was produced for the Bill Keepin tour of Australia on the greenhouse effect. The booklet was used for ATA's submission to the state and federal government inquiries on the subject

1990

- ATA produces *Build Your Own Green Technology* book with the best articles from *Soft Technology* magazine



1991 - 1995

1991

- First full colour cover on *Soft Technology* magazine
- ATA membership hits 1000
- ATA submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology on *Reducing the Impact of the Greenhouse Effect*. Also submissions to the Victorian Government policy paper on *Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation* the Renewable Energy Authority (now Sustainability Victoria) five year plan and SECV *Power Grid Strategic Plan*

1992

- Renewable Energy Trust established
- *Soft Technology* distributed to newsagents for the first time
- The EnergyMobile is constructed and starts touring Australia. This was ATA's biggest ever display vehicle. It weighed 7 tonnes, was 10 metres long with numerous energy displays and working solar and wind systems. It had its own bedroom, kitchen and even a washing machine
- ATA goes national and starts establishing interstate branches with the first established in Sydney
- Noel Jeffery's first Treasures from Trash column in *Soft Technology*

1993

- ATA Canberra branch formed

1994

- ATA Brisbane branch formed
- Solar Shuttle built and starts touring the country

1995

- ATA purchases Breamlea wind generator from SECV
- ATA Coffs Harbour branch formed
- ATA launches website
- Planning for ATA magazine relaunch commences

mid 1990s

- ATA/ANZES merger discussions

1996 - 2000

1996

- Breamlea wind generator sold to ATA member Michael Gunter due to cash flow crisis
- *Soft Technology* renamed *ReNew: Technology for a Sustainable Future*
- ATA Cairns branch formed
- ATA Energymobile retired

1997

- Alan Pears first column for *ReNew* magazine
- ATA recycle factory built
- ATA's Hot 100 project to install 100 solar water heaters launched

1998

- First face-to-face meeting of all the interstate ATA branches
- ATA moves offices to the Solar Workshop at CERES

1999

- ATA/Greenpeace solar shower demonstration, held around the time of the Victorian gas crisis
- ATA biodiesel production commences

late 1990s

- Solar Shuttle sent to schools
- Second edition of Stuart McQuire's *Water Not Down the Drain* released

2000

- ATA New Zealand Northland branch formed
- Solar panels installed on ATA solar workshop
- Perth branch formed

2001 - 2005

2002

- New ATA logo created
- Adelaide branch formed
- ATA Cool Communities Project
- Water tank to flush the loos installed at solar workshop
- ATA participated in the inaugural Solar House Day
- ATA's Power Bill Saver Service launched

2003

- ATA International Projects Groups formed with first projects in East Timor
- ATA Greenhouse Action project
- ATA Energy TaskForce Project
- Lance Turner identifies LEDs as lighting of the future in *ReNew* magazine
- ATA participated in the Sustainable Housing seminar series held across Australia
- Commenced an Australian-first trial of different types of greywater systems to test the usability of the technology from a user and environmental perspective

2004

- ATA Energy Smart Home Rating project
- Launched *Wind Power: Plan your own wind power system* booklet
- Submitted a range of submissions to regulatory reviews on demand management, energy efficiency and distributed renewable energy.
- Launched *Reaching for the Stars—An Assessment of the Impacts of an Assumed Extension to Victoria's Five-Star Energy Rating for Residential Buildings* report

2005

- *Sanctuary: sustainable living with style* magazine launched
- Released research report *Impediments to Grid Connection of Solar Photovoltaic: the consumer experience*.

2006 - 2009

2006

- Sunraysia branch formed
- Advocated for consistent national and state policies that encourage greater use of rainwater, greywater and stormwater
- Conducted greywater seminar series
- Advocated the benefits of small-scale embedded generation technologies such as grid-connect solar power

2007

- Sydney branch becomes two: Sydney West and Sydney Central
- ATA International Projects Group Village Lighting Scheme launched in East Timor
- Updated edition of *Water Not Down the Drain* book released
- Conducted stage 1 of research into the viability of domestic wind turbines in urban areas
- Campaigned for the introduction of feed-in tariffs to encourage the installation of small-scale renewable energy
- Celebrated the 100th issue of *ReNew* magazine
- *Sanctuary* magazine expanded from annual to biannual

2008

- Blue Mountains/Central West branch formed
- Soil analysis research conducted to investigate the potential short and long term implications of greywater use
- ATA played an active role in the design of state-based energy efficiency schemes in South Australia and Victoria
- ATA made various submissions on energy market reform and energy efficient appliances
- Attended over 50 home shows, environmental expos and community events across Australia
- ATA is the sole representative from the environment sector on the National Water Reform Roundtable

2009

- Warkworth New Zealand branch formed
- ATA's receives biggest grant for International Projects Group
- *Sanctuary* magazine expanded from biannual to quarterly
- Conducted research into bathroom products and greywater
- Stage 2 of research into the viability of urban wind completed
- Advocated for changes in the design of the Renewable Energy Target and the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme bills
- Active member of the national steering committee to develop and review the functionality of smart meters
- *Sanctuary* magazine website launched
- ATA's *Renters Guide to Sustainable Living* booklet launched

