

Nationwide launch for energy-saving scheme

A North Canterbury energy-saving pilot programme is about to go nationwide.

The pilot Eco-Smart Home project, a world first, was the brainchild of energy-efficiency company Energy Mad, the company behind the Ecobulb.

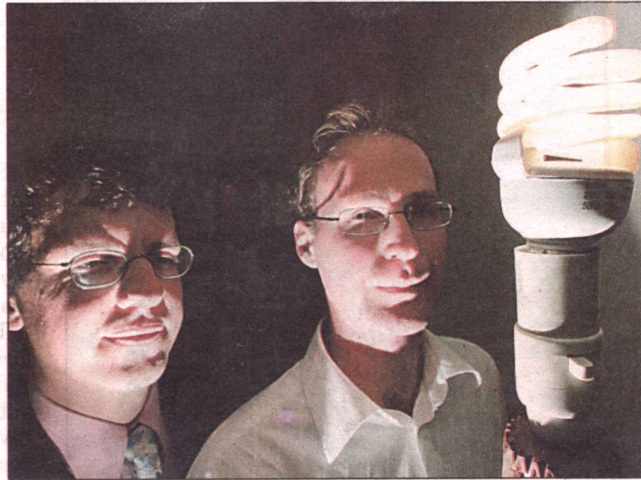
In conjunction with electricity supplier MainPower, Energy Mad trialled the Eco-Smart Home project in North Canterbury last year.

Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons will be in Rangiora next week to help Energy Mad launch a nationwide roll-out of the project.

The pilot Eco-Smart Home project began in October 2007 with several randomly selected homes in Rangiora and Kaiapoi being invited to participate.

Fifty households were initially selected, but such was the interest that a further 500 randomly selected North Canterbury households were invited to join the following month.

Each Eco-Smart Home starts with a free home visit by an energy assessor. The assessor calculates the power usage of various



SAVING POWER: Energy Mad directors Chris Mardon and Tom Mackenzie.

household appliances, and recommends ways to significantly reduce this.

MainPower's commercial manager, Todd Mead, said the energy assessment alone could save each home several hundred dollars a year just by recommending a more effective power plan.

If adopted across the district, it has been estimated the project could save North Cantabrians \$7.5 million on their power bills over the next 10 years.

Energy Mad director

Chris Mardon said North Canterbury homes on the Eco-Smart programme could save up to \$11,000 each over five years.

"Eco-Smart Home offers a range of products that could save you half your power bill – plus your home will be warmer, healthier and more environmentally friendly," Mardon said.

The nationwide launch of the project will be held at the Mainpower Oval function rooms in Rangiora on June 13.