

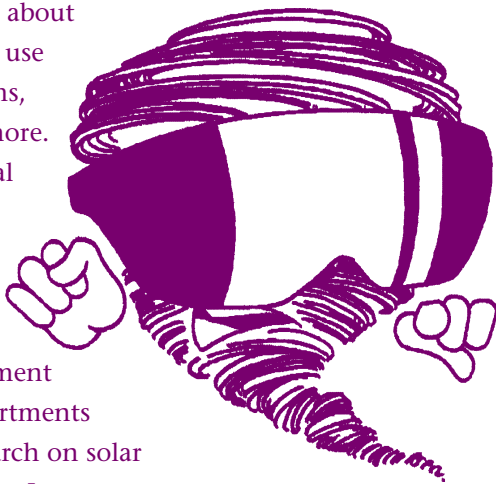


## DECISION MAKING

### Aim:

When you have completed this activity you will have used a decision-making process to suggest participatory action in support of the widespread use of solar power.

- Read through the information about the issues surrounding the use of solar energy. Despite the obvious environmental benefits of using solar power many Australians aren't supporting its use. Your task is to find out why by undertaking a survey and then planning a campaign to encourage the use of solar power.
- An important part of this activity is to demonstrate how well you practice effective decision-making skills. Read through the decision-making skills below before you begin and try to use them throughout the activity. At the end of the activity rate how well you think you have used these skills. Your first decision is whether you will work alone or with one or two others. Record your steps in decision-making and planning throughout the activity.
- If you don't have enough information about solar energy use and programs, find some more. Contact local electricity retailers and generators and government energy departments and do a search on solar energy on the Internet.



### Procedure:

#### Conducting the survey

- Decide who the target audience of your survey and product will be. Are you targeting householders, businesses, your school? Design your questions for this group. This means finding out what their needs are and using appropriate language.
- Write your survey. Don't make it too long. Test it on a volunteer who is in your target group. This could be your parents, teacher, or member from a local business, organisation or industry.
- Decide who you will deliver the survey to. Decide how you will administer the survey: verbally in person or over the phone; photocopied and hand delivered; or posted.
- Deliver the survey and allow a reasonable time for people to respond. Thank respondents for their time.

#### Designing your product

- Decide on the type of product you will design to encourage the use of solar energy in your chosen group. It could be a brochure, poster, fact sheet, letter/report, PowerPoint, or multimedia presentation, or web page. The message, language and appearance should appeal to your chosen group.
- Design your product and test your first draft on someone from your chosen group. Use their feedback to modify your work.
- Consider the best way to deliver the product to the intended audience. You may need to ask permission or arrange time or space to show your work. Send a copy of your work to an organisation working to promote alternative and solar energy.
- Evaluate your work by completing the following questions.



## Evaluation and reflection

### Decision-making skills

Skill	Rating		
	Always	Sometimes	Rarely
I gathered all the information I needed at each step before progressing			
I listened carefully to what others had to say			
I was willing to change my mind when I heard new information or convincing reasons			
I identified options and discussed their pros and cons			
I thought about the consequences of making various choices			

### Reflecting on a decision

Choose one decision you made during this activity and answer these questions.

- What was the decision you are examining?
- Why did you make this choice?
- What were the possible consequences of this decision?
- Did you have all the resources you needed to carry out your decision?
- Explain your answers.

