

2018 Bioenergy Field Trip: Holla Fresh

5 December, 9am - 12pm

The day will provide an informal opportunity to learn more about and celebrate the achievements to date of an exciting bio-energy business collaboration in the Limestone Coast, which has been supported by State and Federal Government.

Come along on our morning bus trip hosted by Peter Burgess from Rainbow Bee Eater to visit the ECHO2 facility at Holla Fresh, Tantanoola and the BioGro Wandillo composting facility.

The Backstory:

Holla Fresh grow culinary herbs that are grown hydroponically in a controlled environment that eliminates the use of herbicides and damage caused by the elements. They needed to replace purchased electricity and a high maintenance boiler that used waste oil to heat water for their glasshouse with a cleaner and lower cost alternative.

Green Industries SA assisted Holla Fresh to review various energy options including solar, wind, wood chip boiler, diesel and LPG boilers and ECHO2 which at that stage was an R&D prototype at Kalannie in Western Australia. After 9 months of due diligence, feasibility studies and review of Holla Fresh's eligibility for the AusIndustry R&D Tax Incentive, ECHO2 was chosen to be the energy supply system for the facility.

The technology was developed in Australia by Rainbow Bee Eater and SDA Engineering in a 10 year R&D project supported by AusIndustry, Alumina Ltd, Costa Group and the WA Government. This is the first commercial demonstration of this technology in application in Australia.

The ECHO2 visit will be on the good faith basis of no unauthorized photos please.

On the day:

Discussion on the day will be around how the module functions to supply:

- Hot water for the Glasshouse
- Electricity
- Horticultural CO2

Biochar is exchanged for the biomass fuel with Van Schaik's BioGro to run the system and is fully automated. Peter Burgess, will talk about the R&D behind ECHO2 and the cascading economic, social and environmental benefits from the process.

Important information for attendees:

Please wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to wear safety goggles and high vis vests for the tour of the Holla Fresh operations and the Echo2 Unit.

Business partners in this project are:

- Ian Lines and Kimberley Ferguson, Holla Fresh <http://www.holla-fresh.com.au/>
- Peter Burgess and Ian Stanley, Rainbow Bee Eater <http://www.rainbowbeeeater.com.au/>
- Leon and Steven, SDA Engineering <https://www.sdaengineering.com.au/>
- Stephen and David, BioGro <http://www.biogro.com.au/>