



Currumbin-based eco-friendly IT developer James Skinner at his 'branch office' on the Gold Coast

Green machine puts Coast on carbon-cutting map

by Matthew Killoran
technology reporter

A GOLD Coast company has exploded on to the international scene with a computer program designed to help save the environment.

Broadbeach Waters-based company Little Green Genie has developed software which buys carbon credits to offset your computer's use of power.

Just one month after being launched the software has been sold in 39 countries, including Australia, the US,

the UK, France and Israel.

Founder and director James Skinner said Little Green Genie meant individuals and big businesses could take saving the environment into their own hands.

"We're buying premium gold standard credits that are taking CO₂ out of the atmosphere," he said.

"You're basically purchasing from renewable energy sources, which will be wind or solar power.

"You're buying the direct

reduction of carbon from the atmosphere."

Mr Skinner said the idea came to him in a dream.

"I dreamt I was on the internet and each time I was clicking I was using carbon," he said.

That dream has paid off, with one of the world's largest modern manufacturers, D-Link, signing on. Little Green Genie is also in talks with New York University.

The program buys carbon credits at a cost of 2.5c for

four hours on a desktop computer and 1.2c for four hours on a laptop, with the company taking an 18 per cent cut.

Mr Skinner said carbon emissions from the IT industry accounted for 5 per cent of the global output, which put it on par with the airline industry.

Mr Skinner grew up in Currumbin and said his youth on the Gold Coast influenced his views on the environment.

"My dad was a wildlife ranger. It's been ingrained in

me to respect the environment and do all I can to help," he said.

Little Green Genie is making a big statement on carbon reduction.

From today until Wednesday, more examples of this can be seen at the Carbon Market Expo Australasia to be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The expo will have international and domestic players and will have discussion on a range of topics.

Breakout your broolly

GOLD Coast residents can expect a wet week with four days of rain predicted.

Mild showers swept the Gold Coast early yesterday afternoon with Nerang and the Hinterland copping a hail storm to go with it.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting heavy rain and thunderstorms today and tomorrow followed by easing showers on Wednesday and Thursday.

Fine conditions are expected by Friday.

Solo teen blogs in

TEENAGER Jessica Watson, who is attempting to become the youngest person to sail solo around the globe, is today passing north of New Zealand on her way to the Pacific Islands.

She was halfway between Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island yesterday and said conditions were good.

Her blog entries have so far described an easy run, avoiding the occasional ship and encountering dolphins.

Glider pilot hurt in fall

A HANGLIDER pilot was in a stable condition in Gold Coast Hospital yesterday following an accident at Canungra.

The 35-year-old man is believed to have fallen down a mountain on Saturday about 1.10pm in Biddaddaba Creek Road.

He was flown by the EMQ Rescue Helicopter to Gold Coast Hospital