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## Highlighting the 'social' in CSR

A key theme of *Ecos* 138 is social equity, a core principle of corporate social responsibility (CSR).

On page 9, Ian Dunlop writes on the need for equitable solutions to two pressing global problems – the need to cut carbon emissions and the peak oil phenomenon.

As Dunlop points out, the average American or Australian generates around seven times more carbon emissions than the global average. He argues that it is unrealistic for us to expect that we can continue to emit at these levels while the developing world is being asked to constrain its own growth.

The simplest, most equitable and practical solution, according to Dunlop, is for each nation to agree to move from today's unequal per capita carbon emissions to equal per capita emissions globally, by an agreed date.

Paula Wallace and Vickie Smiles take up the issue of social equity and product stewardship in their report on uranium mining and corporate stewardship. Does uranium carry a higher social and environmental responsibility than other minerals, because of the need for safe utilisation and disposal of nuclear materials? What about the delivery of essential services to traditional landholders on leased land? Who is responsible for such issues – government or mining companies?

Robin Taylor explains the basis of carbon emissions trading in 'Catching up with the new carbon cycle' on page 12. In 2006, the global market for carbon emissions trading was worth US\$30 billion – an almost threefold increase over 2005.

Experts interviewed by *Ecos* agreed that Australia needs to start a cap and trade system sooner, rather than later.



They also stress the need for a strong carbon price signal, and the need to avoid over-allocation of credits to high-emissions industries.

Many readers may have heard

about Peter Andrews, who has developed a new approach to land management called 'natural sequence farming' (page 18). Regarded as a maverick for his ideas for many years, Andrews' advice is now being sought by other farmers and also by scientists. This is an inspiring story!

Finally, a note to let you know that I'll be standing in for James Porteous as Acting Managing Editor while he works on a three-month project assisting the WWF with communications, as part of its effort to incorporate better environmental planning into humanitarian relief operations in tsunami-affected regions of South-East Asia.

We wish James every success with this important work and look forward to hearing about his experiences and insights after his return in October.

Enjoy your reading.

**Mary-Lou Considine**  
Acting Managing Editor



CSIRO, Energy Technology

## Next, in issue 139

Last year, the Prime Minister referred to his vision for Australia to become an 'energy superpower'.

We look at Australia's strengths and weaknesses in the different energy resource areas – gas, coal, renewables, uranium and geothermal – and provide an overview of the challenges facing us in utilising resources sustainably by applying an effective mix of innovation, technology, energy efficiency and policy.