

**Speech from Jeanette Fitzsimons
Government Spokesperson for Energy Efficiency
Green Party Co-Leader**

Good afternoon. I am disappointed not to be here in person to celebrate this landmark project. It is wonderful to see so much interest in energy efficiency and in the consumer side of the electricity sector. Normally we only hear about new generation projects or new transmission line proposals.

This increased profile and delivery of energy efficiency wouldn't have happened without the vision and passion of Energy Mad. I remember when Chris and Tom first approached me to find partners to make their vision fly. I remember how many organisations' doors they knocked on and their determination to keep on knocking until the Electricity Commission responded. Now they have bought on more partners with Shell, TrustPower and Housing New Zealand.

I applaud Energy Mad's work in doing what Government officials, politicians and policy wonks can never do directly; delivering carbon savings and saving householders money.

All of government's work comes to nothing if there is no one to initiate projects, find funding and partners and deliver more efficient products to the public. It is businesses like Energy Mad that are essential if we are to become more sustainable as a nation.

Finally, it's also good to see Shell supporting an initiative like this and recognising the importance of climate change and energy efficiency.