



A way of earning \$100

By **Nick Soon**

INTEGRAL Energy is on the lookout for 2000 families to take part in four major energy-saving trials that will start in early October.

The initiatives are part of the Blacktown Solar City project.

They cover Blacktown, Quakers Hill, Acacia Gardens, Marayong, Stanhope Gardens, Glenwood, Kings Langley, Kings Park, Lalor Park, Parklea, Prospect, Seven Hills and Toongabbie.

Families who take part in the trials will be paid \$100.

The trials are of air-conditioner saver, pool pump saver and of peak pricing and seasonal saver.

The air-conditioner trial will require participants to switch on their air-conditioners for 40 minutes and then off for 20 minutes within the hour, up to 12 days of high electricity demand each year.

The premise of the study is to

test previous findings that temperatures rise by an average of only one to two degrees during the off time, while energy consumption increases by up to 30 per cent.

The pool pump trial will call on those families who are taking part to have their pumps turned off during peak energy periods for 12 days a year.

In the peak pricing trial, a tariff will apply during a limited number of peak periods.

Those taking part in the seasonal

saver trial will be charged higher tariffs during the warmer months, when demand is higher.

The compensation for this is that they will be charged a reduced rate at other times.

Data base administrator Syed Zahid Hussain Shah was one of the first to sign up for the two-year air-conditioner energy-

saving trial last week.

"I want to save the environment for my children as well as learn to slash my current electricity bill of about \$250 for three months," Mr Shah said.

The air-conditioners of those taking part in this trial must, like Mr Shah's, be less than seven years old.

Ian Robinson, Integral Energy's acting general manager, regulat-

ory and corporate affairs, thanked Mr Shah for volunteering.

"Let's make a difference is the tagline for Blacktown Solar City project and taking part in one of Integral's energy saver trials is a simple way to do just that," Mr Robinson said.

For more details about any of the trials, call 131 002 or log on to www.integral.com.au



Energy saver: Syed Zahid Hussain Shah has signed up to take part in the air-conditioner power-saving trial.

Picture: **Natasha Paes**