

Put the sun back into your life

Street after street, Christopher Darker drives through the western suburbs getting more and more frustrated.

"There's hardly a solar panel in sight — and we have all this glorious sunshine going to waste. It's a crime," he says.

Christopher got to appreciate the value and power of sunshine when he worked for Telecom in the bush.

He helped fit solar power panels to transmitters.

"They're fantastic," he said. "So cost-effective and with zero maintenance."

He was so enthused and excited with the idea that he left Telecom to set up his own solar service.

For the past few years he has worked in Esperance and has now moved to North Fremantle to spread the solar message to the suburbs.

He has one last project to finish in Esperance — a house and coffee shop, all solar powered, partly with a federal government grant.

He says he could equip a family home with fully automatic solar electricity for \$4,000.

But most homes would

be well served by a mixed service of solar with SECWA as a back-up, he says.

"The present power systems are so disgustingly wasteful. Coal loses two-thirds of the energy in processing; then 50 per cent of the power produced is lost in transmission. And the whole process is polluting.

Approved

"With a single solar panel the size of a kitchen table, you can light a home. It can be wired in with the existing system."

He says his Solatech Hybrid Power System is approved and has been working for 10 years on farms and homes in the Esperance area.

He is based now at 22 Swan Road, North Fremantle — at the permaculture centre — and is holding a series of day-long solar energy courses at \$100 each.

His phone is 018 934 607.

"I'd advise people to



Solar crusader Christopher Darker wants to shine the light on sun power.

first cut the power load by using energy-saving light bulbs. Then go

solar, adding it to the SECWA system so that can be used in the rare

event you need back-up — after five days of no sunshine."