

## Energy efficiency industry mourns pioneer

Peter Szental, a tireless and passionate champion on climate change and sustainability, passed away at home surrounded by his close family on 14 July 2010.

Peter was widely respected for his extensive work over three decades to improve Australia's sustainability. The energy efficiency industry will greatly miss one of its pioneers and leaders.

Peter Szental was a driving force advocating for action on climate change, energy efficiency and sustainable buildings. He is credited with a leading role in turning energy efficiency and renewable energy into mainstream business in Australia.

Peter was the Founding President of the Energy Efficiency Council and instrumental in the establishment of the Australian Alliance to Save Energy, Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Clean Energy Council. He sat on various advisory committees for the Australian Building Codes Board, Standards Australia and the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.

In a world full of people who simply talk, Peter Szental walked the talk. Peter showed that sustainable businesses can thrive in Australia. Peter founded the Szencorp Group to focus on energy efficiency solutions for buildings and green property developments. The cornerstone of the Szencorp Group, Energy Conservation Systems, has been at the forefront of Australian efforts to improve water and energy performance in buildings since 1983.

Peter also put his money where his mouth is, turning his head office at 40 Albert Road, Melbourne, into a world-leading example of sustainable building to catalyse action. Peter was rightly proud of a building that achieved global fame for cutting its energy use by 65 per cent, achieving 5-star NABERS ratings in both water and energy.

Peter defied conventions and had diverse interests. He was passionate about the Melbourne Football Club, where he sat on the board. He held degrees in subjects as disparate as science, politics, philosophy and business and over thirty years of experience in engineering and building projects in Australia and Asia.

Peter was widely respected and will be greatly missed. His infectious passion for the environment has had a formative role in Australia.

The Energy Efficiency Council will seek to recognize Peter's contributions later this year. Our thoughts go out to his family, staff and many friends.