

MARCH 2011

MINING NEWS PREMIUM

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## **Solar technology takes off**

Tuesday, 29 March 2011

Sharon Sebastian

### **AN Australian-first in state-of-the-art solar tracking technology at mine sites has been recognised at a recent sustainable energy awards.**

Lithium producer Galaxy Resources installed 14 solar tracking panels and two wind turbines in operation at its Mount Cattlin lithium mine and processing plant near Ravensthorpe in Western Australia at the end of last year.

The solar panels were designed with a tracking feature which enables the panels to move with the sun and generate 15% more power than a single-axis system.

The panels and turbines generate 226 megawatthours of renewable energy a year and are also said to cut carbon dioxide emissions by around 200 tonnes per annum.

The company said the wind-and-solar system supplements power from Galaxy's 5MW diesel generator which accounts for one-sixth of the mine site's daily power.

Renewable energy supplier Swan Energy designed and supplied Galaxy with the solar panels and turbines.

Last week, the technology was recognised by the Sustainable Energy Association of Australia, which presented Galaxy and Swan with the Energy Generation and Distribution Award for their excellence and innovation in recognising sustainable energy.

Galaxy Resources managing director Iggy Tan said the move demonstrated the company's commitment to renewable energy.

"It would reduce our carbon footprint [and] our power generation costs," Tan told *MiningNews.net*.

Galaxy was the first to install tracking solar panels, he said.

"[If] companies are prepared to pay the up-front capital costs, wind and solar [energy] is cheaper," Tan said.

Galaxy was looking at expanding into full, wind-turbine power generation at the Mount Cattlin mine in the near future, he said.

The company recently commissioned its Mount Cattlin mine, set to be the world's second-largest hard-rock lithium operation after Greenbushes, with a forecast production rate of 137,000tpa of concentrates.

Yesterday, Galaxy announced its first shipment of lithium from Mount Cattlin, destined for China.

MARCH 2011

ENERGY MATTERS

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## **Solar Powered Western Australian Mine Receives Award**

by Energy Matters

Galaxy Resources has received the Energy Generation and Distribution Award from the Sustainable Energy Association of Australia for its use of solar power in a mine in Western Australia.

The Mt Cattlin site is the first mining operation in Australia to incorporate solar panels on a solar tracker. The tracking system follows the sun throughout the day and provides 15% more solar electricity than fixed systems according to the company.

Galaxy Resources has 14 solar panel arrays on trackers and two wind turbines operating at the Mt. Cattlin lithium mine site; which generate 226 megawatt hours of clean electricity each year - approximately 17% of the mines power requirements.

Galaxy Resources Managing Director, Iggy Tan, says the company is proud to be a part of efforts to get the mining industry to use more renewable energy for its electricity needs.

Galaxy is the owner and operator the Mt. Cattlin site, which is currently producing spodumene concentrate. Spodumene is a pyroxene mineral consisting of lithium aluminium inosilicate; a source of lithium. Lithium compounds are in high demand due to advances in long life batteries and electronics including mobile phones, computers, hybrid and electric cars.

Galaxy Resources not only mines the lithium, but also supplies lithium carbonate to the expanding Asian market. Galaxy's Jiangsu lithium carbonate plant will have capacity of 17,000 tpa of lithium carbonate, which Galaxy says will make it one of the largest plants in China.

The Sustainable Energy Association of Australia's Energy and Distribution Award is given to organisations that are best seen to be incorporating principles of sustainable energy, energy efficiency and/or greenhouse gas reduction in the generation of electricity for Western Australia residential and commercial customers.

[http://www.energymatters.com.au/index.php?main\\_page=news\\_article&article\\_id=1416](http://www.energymatters.com.au/index.php?main_page=news_article&article_id=1416)



MARCH 2011

ABC

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## First mine powered by renewables



The mine site uses wind and solar energy. (NP Power)

A WA lithium miner plans to establish the first mine site in Australia completely powered by renewable energy within the next three years.

Galaxy Resources was presented with the Energy and Distribution Award in Perth last night.

The company received the award for its use of solar and wind power at its Mt Cattlin mine near Ravensthorpe.

Renewable energy generates more than ten per cent of the mine site's current power supply and the company plans to make that 100 per cent by 2014.

Managing Director, Iggy Tan, says the Federal Government's proposed carbon tax will see an increased interest in renewable energy sources within the industry.

"Well I think companies are still obviously being proactive about being sustainable and where they can be reducing their carbon footprint, but obviously the prospect of a carbon tax is also one of the important parameters to consider," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/25/3173939.htm?section=justin>



MARCH 2011

## Galaxy Resources' solar powered lithium mine

By **Cole Latimer**



Galaxy Resources has received an award for its solar tracking panels at its Mt Cattlin lithium mine.

The miner has won the Energy Generation and Distribution Award from the Sustainability Energy Association of Australia.

Mt Cattlin was the first mine in the country to have real time solar tracking panels installed to generate power on site.

By having solar tracking, the panels are able to follow the sun in all directions, providing 15% more power than a single axis system.

Galaxy has 14 solar trackers and two wind turbines operating at the lithium mine, which create 226MWh per year of renewable energy and accounts for a sixth of the daily energy at the site.

The system was designed by Swan Energy

<http://www.miningaustralia.com.au/news/galaxy-resources-solar-powered-lithium-mine>

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**Kalgoorlie Miner**  
**26-Mar-2011**  
**Page: 7**  
**General News**  
**Market: Kalgoorlie WA**  
**Circulation: 5665**  
**Type: Regional**  
**Size: 40.86 sq.cms**  
**MTWTFS-**

## Galaxy sees stars

RAVENSTHORPE lithium miner Galaxy Resources has been recognised for its efforts in using sustainable energy.

In conjunction with Swan Energy, Galaxy was awarded the Energy Generation and Distribution Award by the Sustainability Energy Association of Australia in Perth on Thursday night.

Galaxy received the award for the installation of state-of-the-art solar tracking technology at its Mt Cattlin project. Mt Cattlin is the first mine site in Australia to have real-time solar tracking panels as part of its power generating requirements.

The solar panels follow the sun in all directions to maximise the power generated and provides 15 per cent more power than a single axis systems.