The USA Renewable Energy delegation in March 2013

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) through its International Green Skills Network has been asked to host a delegation of 20 faculty members and Deans of Faculties who are members of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) specialising in renewable energy as well as staff from the Department of Energy in the USA in March 2013. The Create Center which has a strong focus on renewable energy has received funding from the National Science Foundation in the USA for this delegation in partnership with Mindy Feldbaum from the Collaboratory.

The delegation is made up of academics that specialise in and train in solar, wind, bio-energy, geothermal and energy efficiency in the USA. The 18 delegates are interested in learning about a range of activities in Australia in relation to renewable energy and will be visiting Educational Institutions, CSIRO – Energy Flagship, Industrial bioenergy plants, Government officials, industry associations and experts specialising in renewable energy. On their return to the USA they will participate in presenting of papers to various conferences in the USA.

The TAFEs visited include Northern Sydney Institute where the staff organised a special ‘smoking ceremony’ with Indigenous Elders, Western Sydney Institute where the delegates visited the Green Skill Training Centre and had an amazing lunch, Chisholm Institute in Victoria where we heard from CEO Maria Peters about the changing role of TAFE in Australia, Holmesglen where David Tolliday presented to the delegates and NMIT with its amazing facilities which demonstrated State of the Art renewable technologies.

The visit ended with a special workshop with the 18 delegates and International Green Skills Network members exploring exchange opportunities, the establishment of a virtual community and future webinars with the delegation members.