

# SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



## Helping councils towards sustainability

2 SEPTEMBER 2014  
EDITION 24

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Welcome to the 24th edition of Sustainability Snippets: Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

### Repair Cafe

The Bower, reuse and repair centre in Marrickville has opened the first repair cafe in the Asia Pacific region. Every Wednesday afternoon from 1–5 pm, it provides a social and relaxed environment for people to learn the skills of repair.

The repair cafe hopes to teach the dying art of repair, providing tools and know-how to inspire and encourage people to make a start. People repair their own item with help and advice from the experts and other participants. There is cake and coffee, and discussion and collaboration with others at the cafe is a welcome part of the process. Full article available at [ECOS Magazine](#).

### Renewable Energy Target

The long-awaited review of Australia's Renewable Energy Target has been released and, as widely predicted, has recommended winding back or even scrapping the various parts of the scheme. Check out the discussion in [The Conversation](#) to find out what it means for roof-top solar, the renewable energy industry and Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

### What do Australians think about climate change?

A [research project](#) investigating what is understood about climate change and by whom. The results look at responses by different social groups and potential interventions to encourage climate adaptation.

### The Green Electricity Guide

This [guide](#) has been developed to help inform Australians about which electricity retailers really are as 'green' as they say they are. The guide assesses the nation's retail electricity providers against seven criteria, including investments in fossil fuels or renewable, carbon emissions, intensity of assets, support for the Renewable Energy Target, solar offers, GreenPower products, investment in coal seam gas and commitment to not buying electricity generated by burning native forest products.

### Speed talk: asbestos management



LGNSW along with the NSW Government offers councils the opportunity to discuss recent asbestos projects and incidents to keep up to date with new information and initiatives. This forum will provide concise updates in the form of speed talks as well as case studies to look in greater depth at specific areas of asbestos management, with a focus on recent initiatives and incidents. Ample time for discussion will



enable questions to be answered and more challenging policy concerns to be debated.

The Forum will be held 24 September 2014 in Parramatta.

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## Funding

### Funding available for adapting to Climate Change

The Building Resilience to Climate Change grants are open to all councils in NSW. Funds of between \$15,000 to \$80,000 are available to implement actions identified in climate change risk or vulnerability assessments. Entries close 29 September 2014.

### Community Sharps Management

Funding support is available to councils for the development or enhancement of community sharps management programs to effectively manage disposal of community sharps. The program offers up to \$60,000 for a group of adjoining councils, and up to \$10,000 for a single council.

### Organics Collection Systems

Up to \$1.3 million is available per council under the Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Infrastructure Fund for bins, kitchen caddies, audits and education to support new or enhanced kerbside organics collection services. Applications close 23 October 2014.

### Rehabilitation and Restoration Grants

Grants of between \$5000 and \$100,000 are available for projects working to prevent or reduce environmental degradation. \$2 million for projects by government entities and \$500,000 for projects by owners and managers of State Heritage Register-listed places (new for 2014). Applications close 19 September 2014.

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## Case Studies

### Victoria Park Precinct Renewable Energy Project



Dubbo City Council's Victoria Park Renewable Energy Project improved energy efficiency and installed renewable energy generation at four major Council

community facilities, as a way of encouraging community uptake. These included a 70kW solar system on the Western Plains Cultural Centre and a 4 kW solar system on the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre. The Family Day Care Centre was made energy smart by lighting retrofits, insulation, installation of a skylight and a 4.2kW solar system. The Dubbo Aquatic and Leisure Centre had solar pool heating installed. These improvements were coupled with a community engagement program encouraging uptake of solar and energy efficiency in the Dubbo community.

### Glow Footpaths

Is this the new super cool energy efficiency project? Gosford City is home to an Australia's first glow in the dark footpath. The minerals used in the 400m 'glow path' absorb ultra-violet light during the day so that a soft glow is emitted at night. The project encourages pedestrians and cyclists to take safe routes when walking/cycling across the nearby rail corridor but can it also eliminate the need for public lighting in some areas?

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## Resources

### Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting

Street lighting in Australia costs at least \$400M per year. But, whilst local councils are legally responsible for providing street lighting in Australia, and paying for street lighting, the lights are mostly owned and maintained by the electricity distribution utilities.

Switching to LED street lighting could save Australia's local councils up to \$87 million and prevent 720,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions from entering the atmosphere each year. A new Practice Note Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) and supported by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) aims to give Local Government information for strategic decisions about street lighting for their organisations and equip them for negotiations with lighting suppliers, utilities, regulators and state governments at a time of unparalleled change. A workshop is being held in Sydney on 28 October 2014.



## Understanding City Resilience Framework

From the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program, the [City Resilience Framework](#) provides a lens through which the complexity of cities and the numerous factors that contribute to a city's resilience can be understood. It comprises 12 key indicators that describe the fundamental attributes of a resilient city

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## Upcoming Events

- [Asbestos Management Training Workshop](#), Berrigan, 4 September 2014.
  - [Changeology and Facilitation Skills Workshops Sydney](#) 9 – 11 September 2014.
  - [Climate Adaptation Future Challenges Conference](#), 30 September – 2 October 2014, Gold Coast, QLD.
  - [NSW Coastal Conference](#), Ulladulla, 11-14 November 2014.
- NSW Adaptation Research Hub - Biodiversity Node upcoming events:
    - *A Screening Tool and Website for Assessing Risk of Exotic Plants Under Future Climates*, 11th September 2.00pm-3.30pm, 59 Goulburn St, Office of Environment and Heritage. [RSVP](#).
    - *Assisted Colonisation as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Masterclass*, 18th September 2014, 9.15am-12.00pm, Royal Botanic Garden. [Register online](#).

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