

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

19 DECEMBER 2014
EDITION 25

BUILDING RESILIENCE
TO CLIMATE CHANGE
PAGE 01

ADAPT NSW WEBSITE
PAGE 01

CASE STUDIES
PAGE 02

Welcome to the 25th edition of Sustainability Snippets: Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

NSW Environment Awards unearth best practice

The Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards, held on 2 December 2014, have formally recognised more than 50 award winning projects. Congratulations to Lake Macquarie City Council who won the overall Local Sustainability Award for their *Sustainability is Core Business in Lake Macquarie* program. Congratulations to Bernadette McKinnon of Camden Council who was awarded the Louise Petchell Memorial Award for her individual commitment to environmental sustainability. The list of winners including project descriptions and case studies is available [online](#).



Photo by Eventpix, Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards 2014.

New climate change website

The Office of Environment and Heritage has launched a new [website](#) with interactive maps using the latest regional climate modelling. The NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling (NARClIM) use scenarios for 10 square-kilometre grids out to 2030 and 2070 for all of eastern Australia stretching from

south-east Queensland down to the east half South Australia.

Under some previous models, the coast and west of the divide were treated as having the same climate. This finer scale detail provides an excellent opportunity for councils to review their climate risk assessments.

The portal is geared to provide information for Local Government as well as other users. There are [regional summaries](#) or enter your location into the [interactive map](#).

Building resilience to climate change grants announced

These [grants](#) build on the significant amount work that councils have undertaken to understand and minimise the impacts of climate change in NSW.

The breadth of projects demonstrates the innovative, collaborative and resourceful projects that have been developed to address different climate threats across NSW.

The recipients of the first round of [Building Resilience to Climate Change](#) grants are:

- Albury City Council: *Retrofit of remote IT transmission stations to manage the impacts of extreme heat on critical and emergency services.*
- Manly Council: *AdaptRoads Pilot.*
- Penrith City Council: *Adapting to urban heat events – a Western Sydney and Inner West analysis.*
- Shoalhaven City Council: *Cooling the Nowra CBD.*
- SSROC: *Heatmap: Urban Heat Mapping for Southern Sydney.*



- Wollondilly Shire Council: *Mapping Sydney's Potential Food Sheds: Adapting Sydney's food system to future climate by enhancing local food production.*

Get Ready for Summer

The NSW Government has developed information resources for key disaster preparedness messages, information on hazard-specific disasters and emergency service agencies. The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (MPES) is seeking council support in promoting these disaster preparedness messages to the community.

The [website](#) includes a flyer with five simple steps to make sure you and your family are ready for summer disasters. In summary, these are:

1. Know your risk – this is about the area you live in and the types of disasters that could happen
2. Plan for what you will do – Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what to do if a disaster affects your area
3. Get your home ready – Prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and check your insurance
4. Be informed – Find out how to prepare and what to do if there is a disaster in your area
5. Look out for each other – Share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance.

Case Studies

Sustainability is Core Business in Lake Macquarie, 2014 Environment Award winner

This program has successfully embedded environmental sustainability principles across all aspects of [Lake Macquarie City Council's](#) operations, with sustainability now a core part of Council's business. Environmental responsibility and sustainability are evident through all levels of Council's management framework, and deliver on Council's objective to make an equitable contribution to global sustainability.

Council has achieved a considerable reduction in the City's ecological footprint:

- Over 13,000 households participated in sustainability engagement programs.
- 3.3% decrease in residential electricity usage.
- 2,764 tonne per year reduction in Council's greenhouse gas emissions.
- A decrease of 149.42 kg per capita in 2012/2013 of waste landfilled.
- \$164,000 in costs savings and around 34,300 kilolitres saved from water efficiency programs at Council facilities.
- 43 on-ground environmental restoration projects (943,267m² of land rehabilitated and 1075m of foreshore stabilised).

Oceans of Waste, 2014 Environment Award winner

[Warringah Council](#) invited residents to compete to be part of a scientific expedition, on a tall ship Yukon, in Sydney Harbour. The successful residents went on board to trawl for plastics and see what was just under the ocean surface. They saw and learnt about the insidious life-cycle of plastics, what micro-plastics are, how they affect the food chain and pollute beaches, and how our actions can make the difference.

RHPEEP...ing the rewards, 2014 Environment Award winner

[Tumut Shire Council's](#) Riverina Highlands Building Energy Efficiency Project "creating an Energy Efficient Facility for the community and future generations". RHBEPP reduced energy consumption by 62% by replacing the existing heating, lighting and air conditioning system, and installing insulation and solar panels. Tumut Shire's RHBEPP is achieving annual cost savings of \$192,000 per year.

Upcoming Events

[NCCARF Climate Adaptation Conference](#), 5-7th July 2016

Wishing you a wonderful and safe Christmas period.

SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe to this electronic newsletter, visit lgnsw.org.au/policy/ecologically-sustainable-development/news

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Denise Anderson
Senior Policy Officer – Environment
Local Government NSW
E denise.anderson@lgnsw.org.au
P 9242 4056