

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

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EDITION 27

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Welcome to the 27th edition of Sustainability Snippets: Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

Are there opportunities in the ERF?

Ironbark Sustainability gives a run-down and some thoughts on [Emissions Reduction Fund opportunities](#) for Local Government. Since the article was published, the Australian Government has released a draft method for [Commercial and Public Lighting](#).

LGNSW's submission to the [ERF Green Paper](#) highlighted potential issues with Local Government participation in the scheme.

Queensland town to install geothermal energy plant

Winton Shire Council has announced an ambitious project which aims to bring Geothermal energy to the iconic Western Queensland town.

The [Geothermal plant](#) will power all of Winton's key council buildings and has the potential to power the entire town saving up to \$15 million in energy consumption.

The Geothermal energy plant will use the hot water flowing from existing bores in the Great Artesian Basin and convert this heat into a sustainable long-term energy source for the town. Advancements in Geothermal energy generation have opened up the possibility of utilising water temperatures as low as 70 degrees to generate power.

Tips for maintaining rainwater tanks

A recent CSIRO and Smart Water Fund study found households may not be aware of some of the maintenance requirements that come with rainwater

tank ownership. Only 58 per cent of Melbournians indicated that they have conducted some form of maintenance on their system.

It's important to remember that the installation of a rainwater tank isn't a set-and-forget scenario. There are some maintenance tasks that are unavoidable to keep the tank healthy and efficient. Check out the [5 top tips](#) for maintaining rainwater tanks.

Draft Waste Less Recycle More Education Strategy

The EPA just released the [Draft Waste Less, Recycle More Education Strategy 2015–17](#). The draft strategy – Changing Behaviour Together – outlines waste education actions for the EPA, councils and other stakeholders and provides a framework for the evaluation of education initiatives. The draft strategy will be open for consultation until 5 pm, Friday 29 May 2015. Submissions can be made via the EPA's Regional Delivery Team at wasteless.councils@epa.nsw.gov.au

Resources

BoM's Annual Climate Report 2014

The Bureau of Meteorology has published its [Annual Climate Report 2014](#), which confirms 2014 was Australia's third-warmest year on record. Following Australia's warmest year in 2013, warmth persisted throughout 2014 with multiple nationally significant heatwaves and several severe bushfires. Australian mean rainfall was slightly above average; however, large parts of the eastern States and the west coast of Western Australia experienced below-average rainfall.



The year was also marked by a number of significant storms.

Funding

Environmental Education

The aim of the NSW Environmental Trust's [Environmental Education grants program](#) is to support educational projects or programs that develop or widen the community's knowledge of skills in, and commitment to, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour. Expressions of Interest close on Friday 10 April 2015.

Illegal dumping grants

The EPA is offering [Combating Illegal Dumping: Clean-up and Prevention Program grants](#) to support councils to identify local illegal dumping sites and implement prevention and clean-up action on publicly managed land. [Expressions of Interest](#) close on Friday 17 April 2015.

Case Studies

Tumut Shire Council's Sustainable Action Plan

Tumut [Sustainable Action Plan \(SAP\)](#) integrates information from external sources with legislated reporting processes of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework (IP&R).

SAP actions provide a baseline and direction for Council to implement actions with reportable indicators to ensure sustainability. SAP has identified areas that Council needs to address, assigns task to the responsible individuals and reports outcomes to the community. The SAP has achieved estimated annual savings of \$213,000, with projected annual savings from scoping reports estimated at \$119,000. An additional annual saving of \$22,000 is estimated for the community.

Stormwater Harvesting in the Burnt Bridge Creek Catchment

Manly Council is undertaking two [stormwater harvesting projects](#) in the Burnt Creek Catchment at Balgowlah Golf Course and LM Graham Reserve. The overall objective of the project is to integrate water savings with environmental improvement.

This project has constructed a large stormwater harvesting dam at Balgowlah Golf Course. Dam storage of 4ML allows for approximately 60ML per year of captured stormwater to be used for irrigation. The dam and the underground Gross Pollution Trap (GPT) treats 100% of the stormwater flowing through the golf course. A second stormwater harvesting system is currently being designed at LM Graham Reserve in Manly. This will supply an estimated 6.7ML of water per year for irrigation of playing fields.



Upcoming Events

[Earth Hour](#), 8.30-9.30pm, 28 March 2015

[Changeology: Project Makers' Master Class](#), 5-6 May 2015

[Enabling Change's Facilitation Skills](#), 8 May 2015

[NCCARF Climate Adaptation Conference](#), 5-7th July 2015

LGNSW [Water Conference](#), 24-26 August 2015

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