

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

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EDITION 29

FUNDING FOR
ADAPTATION
PAGE 01

CASE STUDIES
PAGE 02

EVENTS
PAGE 03

Welcome to the 29th edition of Sustainability Snippets: Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

Is this your council's chance to WIN \$10,000 study tour!

The NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards are open to all councils in NSW. With 15 award categories including climate change action; communication, education and empowerment and waste avoidance there's no excuse not to enter. The Awards culminate with two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance (the prize is \$10,000 for the winning council to put towards professional development) and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected councillor in the field of sustainability. [Enter online](#), by 5pm Monday 3 August.

NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT
**EXCELLENCE IN THE
ENVIRONMENT**
AWARDS



Building Resilience funding available

[Building Resilience to Climate Change](#) is now open. Round 2, invites projects that improve resilience of water supply and/or quality management, or adapting priority infrastructure. However, all project proposals will be considered. Read the [FAQs](#), [application forms](#) and [grant guidelines](#) for more information. Applications close Tuesday 4 August 2015.

Adaptation survey 2015

Thank you to all who participated in the Local Government Adaptation Survey. We received 164 responses from 111 councils which is more than the previous surveys. We look forward to analysing the results and developing some useful programming.

Climate projections workshops

OEH is running a series of free workshops across NSW where you can discuss the future climate of your region. These discussions will directly inform the development of training packages and information products that will enable end-users to incorporate climate change information into their decision making processes and communications.

The next Adapt NSW regional information session will be at Ballina on the 23 July. [Register online](#).

Another session is scheduled for Bega in late July (TBC). For information, please contact [Suzanne Dunford](#).

More than 5,000 people dobbed in for littering

The NSW Environment Protection Authority's [Hey Tosser!](#) anti-littering campaign, which gives new powers to the general public to report people who litter from vehicles, has generated more than 5,000 reports to date.



Setting Australia's emission reduction target

As nations prepare for the Paris UN Climate Conference in November, there are quite diverse groups calling for meaningful emissions reduction targets and action to limit global warming to the international agreed target of 2^oC. Check out the following:

- [LGNSW's submission](#) to UNFCCC Taskforce into Setting Australia's post-2020 target for greenhouse gas emissions.
- An [open letter](#) from farmers to the Liberal party.
- Comment on [policy responses to protect health in a changing climate](#) from the medical journal *The Lancet*.
- Pope Francis's [encyclical on the environment](#) which warns of 'serious consequences' if the world does not act on climate change.
- A Dutch district court has [ordered](#) the Netherlands to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 25% lower than 1990 levels by 2020.

Sustainability Scorecard for DAs

A group of Victorian councils has developed the [Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard \(BESS\)](#) to assess energy and water efficiency, thermal comfort, and overall environmental sustainability performance of new buildings or alterations. It was created to assist builders and developers to demonstrate that they meet sustainability information requirements as part of a development application.

Community Renewable Energy

An example of community-owned renewable energy is non-profit [Repower Shoalhaven](#) which installed Australia's first investor-owned community solar project on the roof of the Shoalhaven Heads Bowling Club last year. The Repower solar financing model allows local businesses to purchase community-owned renewable energy at a cheaper rate than grid power. About 80 per cent of the funds are coming from "mum and dad" investors. Read the full article in the [SMH](#).

LG Super wins the Infinity Award

For the fourth time, Local Government Super has won the [SuperRatings Infinity Award](#) in recognition of its leadership in sustainable and responsible investment. Super funds were assessed on a wide range of criteria such as management of climate change risk, member engagement and the types of investment options available to members.

LG Super's Sustainable Australian Shares option is an alternative for members who have a strong commitment to sustainability and it has performed strongly this financial year to May with a 20.97% return on members' retirement savings.

Case Studies

Embracing energy efficiency at Lismore

Lismore City Council undertook energy efficiency upgrades at two sites installing LED lighting, an ultra-violet treatment system for the air conditioning system and exterior heat reflective paint. The project was funded through an Australia Government grant and matched with Council's internal revolving loan fund. The energy efficiency initiatives have reduced the combined electricity consumption at the two sites by 362,977 kWh annually which is saving Council \$19,544 per year on electricity costs, and has reduced council's greenhouse gas emissions by 70 CO₂e tonnes per year. Read the [case study](#).

Roads of recycled toner, City of Sydney

The City of Sydney is trialing a new [environmentally-friendly asphalt blend](#) for city roads. The asphalt mix uses recycled materials including toner from discarded printer cartridges instead of bitumen, which is made from crude oil. These materials are warmed at temperatures significantly lower than regular asphalt, so the asphalt takes less energy to produce.

Resources

Environmental reporting to your community?

Estimate the full environmental benefits of recycling, help broaden resource recovery programs, and communicate these benefits in an understandable way with the [Recyclator](#). It calculates the environmental benefits of large scale recycling initiatives across 21 material types in NSW in terms of the greenhouse benefits, energy savings, water savings and landfill space saved.

Adaptation Plan Database

A PhD student at Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government has developed a [national database](#) of climate change adaptation plans. Councils are encouraged to contribute and use the resource.

Award programs

Green Globes

The NSW Government's Green Globe Awards are the leading environment awards, recognising environmental excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW. [Apply for a Green Globe Award](#) by 5pm 13 July 2015.



Resilient Australia Awards

The Resilient Australia Awards is a national program to recognise and promote initiatives which strengthen community disaster resilience across the nation. The awards cover all aspects of community safety and resilience with an emergency management focus. Entries close 9 August 2015.

Co-benefits Research Project

The University of New South Wales is undertaking a research project to investigate local government climate change policies and their benefits. All councils in NSW are invited to participate in an online survey. The research will enable a better understanding of how councils are addressing climate change and the benefits of their policies. The outcomes of this study will be available to all participants. Take the online survey now.

For any queries, please contact S M Karim.

Upcoming Events

Smart Future Cities Conference

The Smart Future Cities Conference is a collaboration between The Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and The City of Newcastle.

It focuses on relevant and recent innovations and information on adapting our lives for the future. The main topics of interest are Energy, Transport and the Built Environment. 1-3 October 2015, Newcastle.

Keep NSW Beautiful Congress: Less Litter, Live Better, 22-23 July 2015, Sydney CBD.

LGNSW Water Conference, 24-26 August 2015, Bowral.

NSW Environmental Education Conference, 29-30 October 2015, Hunter Valley.

24th NSW Coastal Conference, 2015 10-13 November 2015, Forster, NSW. Hosted by Great Lakes Council. The theme of the conference is *Great Expectations - pathways for learning and delivery*

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