

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

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EDITION 33

SOLAR TARIFFS
PAGE 01

CASE STUDIES
PAGE 02

FUNDING
PAGE 03

Welcome to the 33rd edition of Sustainability Snippets

Local Adaptation Plan recognised as best nationally

Lake Macquarie City Council has been recognised at a national level for its pioneering approach to managing future sea level rise. Council collaborated with local residents to produce a long-term strategy and [10-year action plan](#) to help manage the effects of future sea level rise on their neighbourhood.

The three-year collaboration was named 'Best National Case Study in Climate Adaptation' at the 2016 Climate Adaptation Conference in Adelaide this July, hosted by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and the CSIRO.

Climate Adapted People Shelter

Winners were announced for the [Climate Adapted People Shelter](#) (CAPS) design competition to reimagine current bus shelters to be smart and adapted to increasing urban heat in Western Sydney.

The overall winning design by MM Creative incorporates shade panels, self-wicking planter boxes, a self-ventilating structure, technology providing real-time bus arrival updates, automatically adjusting LED lights and adjustable seating that improves visibility as well as ventilation. The team will now work with Penrith City Council to refine, build and install the design as a prototype.

Two more winning designs have been selected by Canterbury-Bankstown Council and Inner West Council to build and install in their areas. The new designs will be built in with funds from the Building Resilience to Climate Change program funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and the NSW Office of

Environment and Heritage and administered by LGNSW.

Fourth Emissions Reduction Fund auction announced

The [Clean Energy Regulator](#) has announced that it will hold the fourth Emissions Reduction Fund auction for carbon abatement contracts on Wednesday 16 November and Thursday 17 November 2016. Project registration is required by midnight Wednesday, 4 October 2016.

There is also the resource, [Emissions Reduction Fund \(ERF\) Guide for Australian Councils](#), available from Ironbark Sustainability.

Household solar tariffs ending

On 31 December 2016, all NSW households with solar gross feed-in tariffs will stop receiving payments. Their feed-in tariffs will fall from 20 - 60 c/kwh to 4-8 c/kWh, which is the typical rate available to new PV systems. Householders may need to physically change meters and should check with their energy retailer.

At present, householders with high feed-in tariffs are encouraged to export as much electricity to the grid as possible. These people will soon have an incentive to use this electricity and thereby displace expensive grid electricity. This could see a trend to increase solar capacity of households as they are no longer constrained by losing lucrative tariffs. It may also see an increase in the use of battery technology and more households going off-grid. The [Department of Industry \(Resources and Energy\)](#) offers advice on what customers need to do.



Street trees provide \$1 billion in services

US research values the services provided by California's street trees at \$1 billion per year. They clean up atmospheric pollution, conserve rainwater, help communities to economise on air conditioning, boost property values, and soak up more than 560,000 tons of carbon dioxide from traffic exhausts every year. Every \$1 spent on planting or maintaining a street tree returns, on average, \$5.82 in benefits.

Reporting on the State of the Environment

For those councils heading to elections this September, this year's annual report is required to include information on the state of the environment. At a minimum, reporting on the state of the environment should address how council has progressed the environmental objectives established by the Community Strategic Plan over the last 4 years.

This requirement can be met by appending the End of Term report to the Annual Report. However, many councils may choose to undertake more detailed reporting because of community expectations, regional collaboration, to attract external funding to environment programs or because they need the information for operation decisions.

Container Deposit Scheme

The NSW Government has released the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit Scheme) Bill 2016 and the Regulatory Framework Discussion Paper for public consultation.

These documents will set out the regulatory framework supporting the scheme including the scheme co-ordination, beverage container collection network, interaction with kerbside recycling, supply of containers to the NSW market, and roles and obligations under the scheme. Submissions are due by 21 September 2016.

Resources

Local Government Adaptation Survey

The results of the 2015 OEH and LGNSW survey of NSW council's needs, and opportunities to assist them minimise the impacts of climate change on NSW communities is now available.

Land Use Planning Guidelines for Disaster Resilient Communities

The Planning Institute of Australia has released an e-handbook, the National Land Use Planning Guidelines for Disaster Resilient Communities, which brings together some of the best-practice thinking in the area of disaster planning, recovery and betterment, including the Rockefeller Foundation's Framework for Resilient Cities and the outcomes of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements.

The handbook demonstrates the role of land use planning in creating resilience, which provides comprehensive guidance for planners grappling with the issues of natural hazard resilience, pre-disaster planning and post-disaster recovery.

Beta version of CoastAdapt released

CoastAdapt is an online decision support and information delivery system designed specifically to meet the needs of coastal decision makers in government and business as well as community groups and NGOs. CoastAdapt brings together a diverse range of information, maps, guidance, and international and Australian examples of coastal adaptation, helping coastal managers in Australia adapt to climate change and sea-level rise.

Case studies

Round 1 projects of the Building Resilience to Climate Change project are complete. Check out the following case studies in full on the LGNSW website.

Safeguarding communication infrastructure against extreme heat

In consideration of increasing regional temperature projections, Albury City Council sought to make its microwave radio network more resilient to the effects of climate change. By upgrading cabinet casings for several remote IT transmissions stations, internet and phone services across 22 critical sites, including the Emergency Management Centre, the airport and water filtration plant, essential communication, utilities and transport services are safeguarded, now and under future extreme heat conditions.

Adapting roads to climate change

The AdaptRoads pilot project builds resilience to road infrastructure by developing a business case for adaptation. The tool uses road asset data and hazard geospatial data both from Manly Council and national and international climate change sources to analyse current and future risks associated with different



climate change scenarios. This analysis shows that extreme weather events such as bushfire, riverine flooding and coastal inundation are likely to increase in severity and frequency, which will result in greater risks to road assets. Adaptation pathways were developed and analysed in order to plan cost-effective adaptation options.

Adapting to urban heat events: by mapping vulnerability hot spots

An urban heat study was conducted for the Penrith and Leichhardt local government areas analysing surface temperature, vegetation and social vulnerability. It served to determine opportunities to adapt local hot spots in terms of infrastructure provision and behavioural change. Subsequently, strategies addressing urban heat were developed and adopted for both councils; specific to the different requirements in the Inner West and Greater Western Sydney.

Adapting the Nowra CBD for cooling and amenity

Having previously identified that vulnerable and elderly residents were exposed to hot days in the Nowra Central Business District, Shoalhaven City Council took advantage of an urban revitalisation project at Egan's Lane Park to introduce an evaporative cooling solution and other infrastructure to alleviate heat stress on high temperature days, while also providing better civic space, shade, water and seating to meet articulated community needs.

Mapping Sydney's foodsheds

Local food production in the Sydney basin provides many benefits and underpins the resilience of the city. Yet competing priorities for Sydney's fertile farmland and the impacts of climate change could threaten future supplies of fresh, local food. By mapping Sydney's current and future food production, an evidence base was created to support effective policies and innovations that seek to support continued agricultural production in the Sydney basin.

Funding

BRCC Round 3

The third round of Building resilience to Climate Change is open to eligible organisations under the following themes:

- building the resilience of vulnerable communities; or
- adapting priority infrastructure

Applications close Monday 10 October 2016.

Community Resilience Innovation Program

The Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP) is a scheme under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, funded by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments through the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.

CRIP supports a broad range of community-led projects designed to increase all-hazard disaster preparedness and build community capacity and resilience. CRIP projects are based on collaboration and partnership between local community organisations and emergency services agencies.

Applications close 26 September 2016

Flying-fox grants program

Applications are invited for grants to assist councils to manage flying fox camps in their area.

NSW Environmental Trust environmental restoration and rehabilitation grants closing date is 26 September 2016.

Upcoming training and events

Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Awareness Training

Free asbestos awareness training for Aboriginal council employees is offered for the first time by LGNSW together with the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA).

The training sessions are open for registration and will be held from 09:30 – 14:00 at these locations:

- Parramatta: Tuesday 27 September
- Grafton: Thursday 27 October

This half-day training offers the chance to hear from an Aboriginal speaker about asbestos management, discuss asbestos issues, complete asbestos awareness training, provide input on asbestos problems and solutions.

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PROGRAM CONTACTS

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