

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

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EDITION 38

ENVIRONMENT
AWARDS
PAGE 01

CASE STUDIES
PAGE 02

EVENTS
PAGE 03

Welcome to the 38th edition of Sustainability Snippets

EOI – hosting climate change adaptation workshop

LGNSW and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage will deliver four or more workshops across NSW promoting the learning of projects funded through the Building Resilience to Climate Change grants program. The workshops will cover:

- Locally specific information on climate variability and climate change including both risks and opportunities for local government to enable informed decision making.
- Showcase of council adaptation projects including discussions on project learnings and identification of barriers and opportunities.
- Facilitated session to assist councils progress adaptation projects.

Workshops will be delivered by May. EOI closes 2 March 2018.

Environment Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Excellence of the Environment Awards. Campbelltown City Council took out the major prize of the Local Sustainability Award for their sustainable council program which provides a strategic and collaborative approach to sustainability in one of the nation's fastest growing population and employment centres.

Campbelltown City Council has introduced a \$600,000 revolving fund for environmental projects, installed a total of 537 kW in photovoltaic capacity, worked with their neighbouring councils on addressing urban heat impacts and embarked on an ambitious staff capacity building and engagement program on sustainability.

The leading individual award - the Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability – was presented to Carmel Hamilton in recognition of the sustainability initiatives implemented under her leadership at Penrith City Council.



Unified climate reporting platform

ICLEI and CDP have announced they will partner to present one unified platform for city climate reporting. ICLEI manages the carbonn Climate Registry which is a recognised reporting platform of the Compact of Mayors, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and other initiatives.

CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) runs the global disclosure system that enables companies, cities, states and regions to measure and manage their environmental impacts.

By streamlining the two systems into one centralised entry point, ICLEI and CDP aim to simplify how local governments report and enable them to track efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build climate



resilience and protect themselves from climate impacts. Beginning in 2019, the ICLEI and C40 local government members only have to report once, on one platform.

Lismore community floating solar farm switched on

The floating solar farm's 280 solar panels with floatation devices have been installed at the East Lismore Sewage Treatment on the overflow ponds. The 100kW floating solar farm will produce around 12% of the site's needs (178,437 kWh annually) with a saving of \$24,000 per annum and a payback period of 11.6 years.

Lismore Community Solar also uses a unique financial model. Two companies each with 20 local investors raised the funds which were loaned to Council to build the solar farms. The investors will see a return on investment slightly better than that of a bank.



EOI electric vehicle fast charger network

The NRMA is looking to partner with councils and the community to deliver an electric vehicle fast charger network across NSW/ACT.

As part of their Social Dividend Investment Strategy, the NRMA will invest \$10 million to deliver at least 40 chargers. This will double the size of the current network of chargers in NSW and the ACT.

A phased approach to the roll out of the network will be taken with the first charging stations operational at the beginning of the year. Priority will be given to where lots of NRMA Members live, where electric vehicles are embraced and supported, and areas of high tourism demand, striking the balance between infrastructure delivery for both metropolitan and regional communities.

The NRMA is seeking support from councils and community groups to demonstrate their interest in having a charging station in their local area.

Resources

Trees for a cool city: Guidelines for optimised tree placement

Trees for a cool city provides guidelines on placing street trees for the largest cooling benefits for human thermal comfort.

It explains where to place trees within street design and orientation, and emphasises the use of urban water management to achieve well-watered trees with healthy, shading canopies.

Measuring urban green space in Australia

UTS Researchers undertook a review of current and emerging approaches, models and tools (methods) that may be employed in Australia to characterise, benchmark and monitor urban green space assets in Australia's urban environments.

Case study

Love Food on Campus - university food waste avoidance project, Hunter JO

Hunter Councils, in partnership with the University of Newcastle, delivered the "Love Food on Campus" project targeting students living on campus. The project investigated what students are buying, eating, cooking and wasting, and most importantly determined what motivates them to change practices. Students were engaged through food waste film screenings, cooking demonstrations, waste audits and the development of a tailor-made low waste cookbook, meal planner and shopping list toolkit.

WildThings bees and biodiversity program, Kuring-gai Council

'Wild Things' is a hive placement program for Tetragonula carbonaria, a stingless native bee. The program is leading to increasing Tetragonula carbonaria populations and enhanced urban biodiversity; the pollination of local plants and food crops; a more positive relationship between people and the natural environment; and building social capital. So far, over 1000 bee hives have been delivered with support from volunteers.





Gross Pollutant Trap Effectiveness, Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)

QPRC identified that projected increases of intense rain from climate change could lead to a decrease in water quality from sediment, debris and pollutants entering waterways.

A field-based audit of the Gross Pollutant Traps was undertaken to identify issues that might impact performance, including inappropriate design and maintenance regimes. The assessment recommended a range of design, construction, operational and maintenance changes to ensure optimal performance of the GPTs into the future under projected increased rainfall intensity.

Council's capacity to address likely future increases in stormwater and water quality issues was improved through staff involvement in the audit process, integration of project recommendations into Council's asset management and corporate planning, cross-divisional working groups and sharing of knowledge within and outside Council.

Consultations

LGNSW's recent submissions to a number of government initiatives are available:

- [NSW Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper](#)
- [Proposed minimum standards for managing construction waste in NSW and other miscellaneous waste reforms](#)
- [Sydney Region Plan and Draft District Plans](#)
- [Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2017-2037](#)
- [Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2000 – Issues Paper](#)
- [Draft NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2021](#)
- [Inquiry into the waste and recycling industry in Australia](#)

- [Proposal for minimum environmental standards in the scrap metal industry consultation paper](#)

Funding

Community Resilience Innovation Program

The 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 management agencies. [Applications](#) close 12 March 2018.

Flying-fox grants program

[Applications](#) are invited for grants to assist councils to manage flying fox camps in their area. Applications can be made for Stream 1 (emergency measures) until 30 April 2018.

Public Reserves Management Fund Program

[Applications](#) for 2018/19 funding open on 5 February 2018. Managers of any NSW Crown reserve can apply funds to undertake general development, maintenance and protection activities including pest and weed management on any eligible reserve.

Restoration and Rehabilitation

The Restoration and Rehabilitation program seeks to improve and protect the quality of ecosystems and environmental assets. Individual grants of up to \$100,000 with a total of \$2,000,000 for government entities are available. [Applications](#) close 26 March 2018.

Events

[LGNSW's International Women's Day Luncheon](#), 8 March 2018, Doltone House Hyde Park, Sydney

[Coast to Coast 2018](#) national coastal management conference, 16-20 April 2018, Hobart

[Climate Adaptation 2018](#), 8-10 May, Melbourne

[Waste Conference 2018](#), 8-10 May 2018, Coffs Harbour

SUBSCRIPTION

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