

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

MAY 2015
EDITION 28

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Welcome to the 28th edition of Sustainability Snippets: Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

Adaptation survey 2015

LGNSW and Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) will be surveying Local Government practitioners over the next few weeks to:

- Determine the levels, barriers and drivers of climate change adaptation across NSW Local Government;
- Compare these findings to previous studies to determine progress, changing priorities and potential future directions;
- Assess the appropriateness and usefulness of OEH and LGNSW resources and programs over the past 5 years; and
- Inform future program development and support to enable enhanced resilience to climate change within the local government sector.

We know you are all very busy, but your input into this research will be extremely valuable.

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. If you can't make a workshop in person, the Sydney meetings will also run as a webinar. Workshops are approximately 90 minutes long.

For further details and to register your interest, please click on the location of your choice.

- Tuesday 12 May - [Dubbo](#)
- Wednesday 20 May - [Broken Hill](#)
- Thursday 21 May - [Tamworth](#)
- Friday 22 May - [Goulburn St, Sydney](#)
- Monday 25 May - [Parramatta](#)
- Thursday 28 May - [Coffs Harbour](#)

Additional workshops in Newcastle, Wagga, Albury, and Wollongong are planned for June. For information, please contact [Suzanne Dunford](#).

Urban Greening: managing the risks

The 2020Vision, OEH and Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council are hosting a forum for Local Government practitioners to meet, share knowledge, connect and build capacity for urban greening. 19 May 10am - 12.30pm - complimentary lunch provided at Caley Pavilion at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road St. Ives. Speakers include:

- Jennie Cramp and Dr Jenny Scott - Balancing Bushfire risks with other risks in Ku-ring-gai.
- Brendon Graham, Sutherland Shire Council - Tree vandalism: how Sutherland responds.
- Dave Bidwell, Senior Arborist, Royal Botanic Gardens - How safe are your trees?

[Register online.](#)





Prioritising green infrastructure

The [Planning for Cooler Cities: A Framework to Prioritise Green Infrastructure to Mitigate High Temperatures in Urban Landscapes](#) research paper provides a framework to prioritise urban public open space for microclimate cooling. The paper makes recommendations on what types of urban green infrastructure will be most suitable in different circumstances including green open spaces (primarily public parks), shade trees, green roofs, and vertical greening systems (green walls and facades).

Extreme heat and the workforce

Heatwaves do not only impact council's outdoor staff but indoor workers too. A paper published in [Nature Climate Change](#) shows that heat stress probably cost the Australian economy nearly A\$7 billion in 2013-2014 through productivity losses from extreme heat events. Although indoor workers are in air conditioned environments during the day, often at home they are not. Poor sleep can lead to increased stress levels and affect judgement. Read the full article in [The Conversation](#).

Adapting to climate change in NSW

Knowing how to adapt and prepare for changes in our climate is complex, and often unknown. In 2013, the OEH funded the NSW Adaptation Research Hub, a collaboration between government and research organisations around how to plan for a changing climate. The Hub is focused around three key nodes - biodiversity, coastal processes and communities. Now into its second year, The Hub has more than 25 research projects underway, and is generating significant outputs across the three nodes. Find out more about the research [here](#).

The business case for deep energy retrofits

The [Rocky Mountain Insitute](#) has developed practical guidance to incorporate all the value elements of deep retrofits into decision making. While primarily aimed at real estate investors, their model looks beyond the capital cost and energy paybacks to also include development cost reductions, operating cost savings, risk analysis, increased occupancy productivity and sales proceeds which is relevant to Local Government. Read to full article in the [Fifth Estate](#).

Sustainable procurement

To achieve financial sustainability for your council, long term profit should take priority over any short term savings. Procuring sustainable goods and services that are more efficient to operate will reduce energy, water and time costs. Some products that appear more expensive upfront may in fact provide a more financially sustainable product in terms of whole-of-life. This saves further expenditure on waste disposal and maintenance, as well as encouraging supply chain efficiency and market competitiveness. The Sustainable Choice Online Supplier Database lists over 900 sustainable products and services that are specifically relevant to meet the standard purchasing needs of Local Government. Click [here](#) to access the database.

A statement in sustainable design

[Water Tak House](#) in Port Melbourne certainly makes a statement. The house is completely covered in a combination of water tanks and modular vertical planters. It also features a rooftop garden, solar panels and a solar hot water system. The rainwater tanks are plumbed to the toilets, laundry and gardens.



Photograph by Aaron Poupard

Resources

Applied Studies in Climate Change Adaptation

This [book](#) shares the results from Australian NCCARF's (National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility) research programs. It covers frameworks for enabling adaptation and looks at the context within which adaptation takes place and the instruments and circumstances that can act to facilitate or impede the adaptation process.



Technical Guidelines for Urban Green Cover

These [guidelines](#) aim to increase the resilience of NSW communities to climate change by addressing increasing temperatures in urban settings. This resource outlines strategies for increasing vegetation and permeable and reflective surfaces in urban environments, which can ameliorate urban heat and provide co-benefits such as reduced energy use for cooling, stormwater management, cleaner air, biodiversity habitat and increased amenity.

Stuck in traffic?

[Decongestion](#), the book, lists 7 steps to cut traffic congestion without the expense of new roads or community angst. Author Rachel Smith has spent the last 15 years creating and implementing traffic congestion solutions in the UK and Australia.

Funding

Building Resilience to Climate Change

Opening Soon. An announcement will be sent to all [Sustainability Snippets](#) subscribers and through [LGNSW Weekly](#). This round focuses on:

- Building resilience to water supply and/or quality
- Adapting priority infrastructure

Grants of between \$80,000 to \$15,000 are available. Further information is available on the [LGNSW website](#).

Sydney Coastal Councils Group's Funding Guide

[The Guide](#) provides a comprehensive list of funding opportunities for councils and other stakeholders to support the management and protection of the environments. It includes over 60 funding opportunities, and also award programs for councils to demonstrate their environmental achievements.

Case Studies

City of Sydney's Sustainable Fleet Management

The [City of Sydney](#) is investing in cleaner, greener vehicles and fleet management systems to drive down greenhouse gases and help abate climate change. Taking measured risks in trialling new low emission technologies, changing fleet management practices and ensuring a sustainable culture is embedded within the City of Sydney are key success indicators. The City's Fleet Management Strategy and Asset

Management Plans are the key drivers and detail a range of inter-linked initiatives to achieve ambitious emission reduction targets.

Over the past four years, the City has reduced the carbon footprint of its fleet vehicles by 805 tonnes of CO₂-e (carbon dioxide equivalents) and has achieved its four year reduction target of 20% by the end of 2013/14. Annual CO₂-e emissions were reduced by 26% from 3,155 tonnes to 2,350 tonnes, without reducing the delivery of services to its communities.

Shellharbour City Council and Clarence Valley Council sell carbon credits

Shellharbour recently missed out in the reserve auction of the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). However, their [carbon credits](#) generated through active extraction and flaring of landfill gas at the Dunmore Recycling and Waste Disposal Depot have been purchased by Wyndam City Council in Victoria to offset their emissions.

Congratulations also to Clarence Valley Council who were successful in their [ERF bid](#) for Grafton Regional Landfill landfill gas capture and combustion project. Only two Local Government projects were successful in the national auction.

Upcoming Events

[Managing Risks associated with Urban Greening](#), 19 May 2015.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW [10th Biennial Bushfire Conference](#), 26 – 27 May.

[Climate Security – a local perspective](#). 27 May Price Theatre, Macquarie University 6:30-8:30pm. Hear from guest speakers including Andy Pitman and the Hon Rob Stokes, MP on discussing climate security at a local level. Free event, [RSVP here](#).

[National Urban Forest Master Class](#), Thursday, 25 June 2015, Melbourne.

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

[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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