

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

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EDITION 30

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Welcome to the 30th edition of Sustainability Snippets: Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

World Cities Summit Mayors Forum ends with sustainability declaration

Mayors and city leaders reinforced their commitment to sustainable development and environmental reform by signing a policy declaration at the [2015 World Cities Summit Mayors Forum](#) (WCS) held in Manhattan, New York.

For the first time the WCS Mayors Forum issued a [declaration](#) committing attendees to policies promoting sustainability which include affordable home provision and building more accessible transport networks.

The declaration will be submitted to the United Nations and it is hoped that it will influence the UN's agenda for its [Habitat III conference](#) on sustainable urban development to be held in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

Using citizen science

The Office of the Chief Scientist has released a new [paper on citizen science](#), celebrating the contributions that people are making to their communities through science.

The paper discusses how citizen science is strengthening Australia's research capacity, solving real world problems and enhancing our awareness of science.

Reduce your Council's energy bills!

The NSW Government subsidises [Energy Saver training courses](#) for councils and businesses. Gain hands-on experience in energy management and learn

how to implement projects to reduce your energy costs and improve your Council's sustainable excellence. Access training and support for as little as \$200 per course in Sydney and \$100 in regional NSW. Courses can even be tailored for your council.

Emissions reduction fund auction

The Clean Energy Regulator has announced that it will hold the [second Emissions Reduction Fund auction](#) for carbon abatement contracts on Wednesday 4 November and Thursday 5 November 2015. Local Government projects may include street lighting, landfill emissions and transport emissions. Applications for new projects that wish to enter the auction are required to be submitted in full by 18 September 2015.

Coastal erosion

Following up on a snippet from last year, the new Labor [Queensland Government](#) has reinstated potential sea level rise into the planning system with a declaration of new erosion prone areas for the Queensland coast. It is very similar to the erosion prone area rescinded in 2014 by the Newman Government.





Increasing concern about climate change

The Climate Institute's annual Climate of the Nation survey, taken in July 2015, reveals increasing awareness and concern about the impacts of climate change and the country's future energy mix. The report compares data from similar work in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Case Studies

The 10% Challenge

Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils have furthered their community engagement program 'Reduce Your Footprint' with the launch of an exciting new initiative called the '10% Challenge'.

The aim is to get households in their region to reduce their energy use by at least 10%, by offering a free energy assessment for households to reduce energy bills.



Resources

Climate Data Portal is now open

In December 2104, the NSW Government delivered detailed information on climate projections and possible climate change impacts on the AdaptNSW website, to assist Local Government, business and the community to build resilience to and minimise the impacts of climate change.

The NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLiM) project data, can now be accessed through the NSW Government Climate Data Portal.

You can register and get free access to the high resolution climate projections to support your specific needs. The Data Portal allows you to choose the variables, time and region of the data that you wish to download. If you have any questions about the Data Portal please contact climate.admin@environment.nsw.gov.au

Linking policy and economics in climate adaptation

This OECD publication provides practical guidance and the latest evidence for policy makers on how they can more reliably estimate the costs and benefits of adaptation.

Funding

Salty Communities

Funding is available to Sydney metropolitan councils through Sydney Coastal Councils to support on-ground projects to build the resilience of coastal habitats, foreshore and intertidal areas in response to urbanisation and climate change. Funds of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 are available. Applications close 9 October 2015.

Resource Recovery

Round 2 of the Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program supports projects that stimulate and accelerate investment in new equipment and upgrades that will boost recycling processing capacity in NSW. Applications close 9 October 2015.

Love Food Hate Waste

Round 3 of the Love Food Hate Waste program is open to raise awareness of food waste and provide households and businesses with simple actions they can do to reduce the amount of edible food disposed of in NSW. The majority of funding in this round will be allocated to projects targeting households as they contribute the largest proportion (73 per cent) of food waste in NSW. Grants between \$5,000 and \$70,000 are available for councils, groups of councils, non-government organisations, not for profit organisations and community groups. Applications close 30 September 2015.

Performance of green Infrastructure

You are invited to participate in a study that aims to develop a new model for assessing the sustainability performance of green infrastructure. This model will be made available for practitioners and Local Government.

This online survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The core of this survey is to determine the most appropriate list of performance indicators for a green infrastructure assessment model through screening, weighting and scoring processes.

Adaptation network calling for advisory group members

The National Adaptation Network for Natural Ecosystems is seeking people to participate in its stakeholder advisory group. Anyone interested in climate adaptation in Australia is invited to apply. The Network aims to support local decision-makers managing climate risks on Australia's natural environment. Participants would provide advice in their



area of expertise and provide feedback on network activities.

Upcoming Events

Future of Local Food Conference

The 2015 Conference will showcase local food system innovation, strategy and inspiration for Councillors and Local Government professionals, as well as community groups and industry professionals. 10-11 September 2015, Melbourne.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe to this electronic newsletter, visit lgnsw.org.au/policy/ecologically-sustainable-development/news

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

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

LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards, 1 December 2015, Sydney.

NCCARF Climate Change Adaptation 2016 Conference, 5-7 July 2016, Adelaide.

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