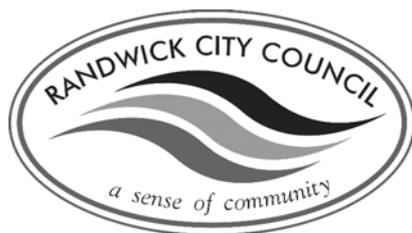


ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2008

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25 November 2008

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Environment Committee Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 2 December 2008 at 6:30 pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor, B Notley-Smith, Andrews, Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Nash, White & Woodsmith.

Quorum: Five (5) members.

NOTE: At the extraordinary meeting held on 22 May 2007, the Council resolved that the Environment Committee be constituted as a committee with full delegation to determine matters on the agenda.

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Confirmation of the Minutes

Environment Committee Meeting – 12 August 2008

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

Environment Reports

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Closed Session

Nil

Notices of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E23/08



Subject: Randwick Council's Eco Heroes Club
Folder No: F2004/08350
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to detail the success of Council's Eco Heroes Club run by the Randwick City Library Service.

Issues

Council's Eco Heroes Club is a sustainability schools initiative developed by Randwick's City Library Service with support from Council's Sustaining Our City program. The Club, formed as a result of the Library's 2008 Summer Reading Program, meets monthly at the Bowen Library and Community Centre.

The Eco Heroes Club provides a positive opportunity for children in the six to eight year olds age group and their parents to discover ways they can make a positive contribution to the environment. As well as regular meetings, the youngsters and their parents have been involved in a number of important planting days and learning activities including:

- Earth Day in April
- National Tree Day in July
- Reducing our Carbon Footprint in September
- National Recycling Week in November
- Coastcare Week in December.

The Eco Heroes Club was recognised by the Hon. Peter Garrett, Minister for Environment, Arts and Heritage, receiving his Green Heroes Award earlier this year.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 5: Excellence in recreation and lifestyle opportunities.
Direction 5(d): Library programs, resources and facilities provide innovative and inspirational opportunities for education and leisure.
- Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment. Our natural environment will be protected, enhanced and promoted for future generations.
Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Financial impact statement

Council's Eco Heroes Club has been supported through the Sustaining our City's Community Participation and Education budget. Approximately \$3,000 has been allocated to support tree planting and educational activities over the past 9 months.

Conclusion

Council's Eco Heroes Club has provided another important aspect in Randwick Council's sustainability school's education efforts. Feedback from parents and children

E23/08

has been overwhelmingly positive. Local school principals and parents have provided additional support for the Club whenever required. The positive impact of the Eco Heroes Club is likely to be felt for years to come as more children making their way through primary and secondary schools learn practical day to day ways of making a difference to the world.

Recommendation

That this report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E23/08

Environment Report No. E24/08



Subject: Council's Living Smart Workshops
Folder No: F2004/08350
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

To report on the successful pilot of the new "Living Smart" sustainability education workshops for Randwick residents.

Issues

Over the past four years Council's Sustainability Education Officer has organised and conducted a series of Sustainable Living Workshops, free-for-residents each term. Targeting adult learners, these workshops have been supported by the Eastern Suburbs Evening College and attract wide participation across topic areas including composting, designing gardens that support local flora and fauna, energy and water conservation around the home, green cleaning and recycling.

Over the last term of 2008, a new "Living Smart" workshop series has been trialled for Randwick residents combining most of the above topics into a 6-week, 8-session program. The trial has been completed with feedback from participants and the initial review process confirming its approach as a more efficient and improved format than previous versions.

It is intended to consolidate Council's annual sustainability education program with the emphasis on "Living Smart" as the entry point for residents seeking to develop knowledge, skills and confidence on being more sustainable around the home and garden. The reduced number of other workshops, including native havens and reducing waste, will provide more detailed learning for those having completed the introductory but comprehensive Living Smart approach.

Delivery of the different sessions utilises various Council staff including Bushland, Waste Education, Transport, and Ecological Footprint Project Officer. A number of additional external speakers are brought in at different times.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.
Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Financial impact statement

These new Living Smart workshops will form an integral component of Council's 2009 Sustaining our City's Community Participation and Education program. Approximately \$4,000 for Term 1 and Term 2 has been allocated from the remaining 6 months of the Environmental Levy program.

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Conclusion

Council's Sustainability Education and Community Participation efforts are focused on creating tangible behavioural changes amongst residents, students, businesses and staff. The "Living Smart" sustainability workshops are intended to deliver this learning more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Recommendation

That this report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E25/08



Subject: Update and report on Council's energy conservation rebates for Randwick residents

Folder No: F2005/00230

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

At the October 2007 Environment Committee meeting, it was resolved:

“(Mayor, Cr B Notley-Smith/Tracey) that a report be provided to Council seeking approval to continue the Home Energy Makeover in a limited capacity past December 2007 by providing up to \$80,000.00 for Home Energy Rebates for the 2008 calendar year.”

Issues

In October 2007, Council agreed to support \$80,000 to continue home energy rebates for Randwick residents on completion of the formal Home Energy Makeover program. This was mainly to enable an ongoing program encouraging residents to build on the successful results of Council’s Home Makeover program. This amount was set in the 2008-2009 budget.

With the commencement of the NSW and Commonwealth Government rebates for thermal insulation and solar hot water, Council adjusted its financial incentives for residents with the energy focus shifting to energy saving downlight systems and the major focus facilitating residential installation of rainwater tanks or grey water systems. This wider program was re-named Randwick’s Sustainable Home Makeover Program.

With the range of current rebates available for water saving measures and energy efficient downlight systems, residents are required to submit case study information to Council so that savings and results can be better demonstrated. Council staff have also instigated evening information sessions at Barrett House providing more targeted information to interested residents on where the different rebates overlap for the various energy and water saving measures being supported.

The take-up of the energy rebates for the energy saving downlights has been slower than expected mainly due to the number of downlights in need of replacement in individual dwellings and the cost involved in replacing this high number of halogen downlights and associated re-wiring costs.

As well as high energy savings available from changing over existing halogen downlight systems to the new LED energy-efficient downlights, the greatest energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions for householder are achieved through:

- Solar hot water (immediate savings in the order of 1/3 of total energy costs, approximately \$300 per year); and
- Thermal insulation of the home (saving approx \$200 a year in energy costs).

In both these cases, installation can be paid for through the cost savings achieved within a 2 to 3 year timeframe.

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It is proposed to expand the existing Sustainable Home Makeover program from financial incentives for rainwater tanks, greywater systems and efficient downlights to include the incentives to install solar hot water and thermal insulation for Randwick residents.

On this basis matching rebates would be available for Randwick residents of:

\$500 for installation of solar hot water (electric hot water changeover); and
\$300 for installation of thermal insulation (minimum R3 rating).

This rebate would run in parallel to the existing rainwater and grey water rebates for residents up to the end of the 2008/2009 financial year.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Financial impact statement

A maximum of \$80,000 is already available from Council's environmental levy program as financial incentives for energy saving actions taken up by residents. These would comprise of the following:

Energy saving action	Rebate status	Maximum rebate of	No. of households
Changing to energy saving downlight systems	current	\$800	20
Solar hot water installation (electric hot water replacement only)	new	\$500	60
Thermal insulation installation (ceilings or walls, minimum R3 energy rating)	new	\$300	100

Conclusion

Council's Sustainable Home Makeover and previous Home Energy Makeover programs provide a valuable financial incentive to encourage the take-up and installation of the most effective energy saving actions for residents. The incentives supplement the substantial actions underway by Council to conserve energy and water and other rebates supported by the NSW Government.

The innovation and results of Council's Home Energy Makeover Program has been recognised with Council receiving the 2007 National and NSW Local Government Awards for Local Greenhouse Action and Climate Change Mitigation. Council's current Sustainable Home Makeover Program was commended at the recent Sustainable Water Challenge Awards in Sydney.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E25/08

Environment Report No. E26/08



Subject: Development of a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan for Randwick City.

Folder No: F2005/00230

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

In accordance with a past resolution, the Environment Committee is to be updated on the ramifications of Council adopting a municipal adaptation plan as a means of identifying appropriate local responses to local climate change impacts in Randwick.

Issues

Council has been advised of its successful funding application to the Commonwealth Government's Local Adaptation Pathways Program for the preparation of a municipal Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. A grant of \$50,000 is being provided to assist Council identify and understand the specific risks posed by climate change at the local level and establish two plans, one to adapt to and plan for future threats and damage posed by climate change, the second, to prepare a more detailed approach to mitigate or minimise these potential risks.

GHD consultants have been appointed to prepare these plans for Council. Their approach includes briefings with Council staff and the application of GHD's Semi Quantitative Risk Assessment process to undertake the in depth risk assessment for Randwick City. An option also exists to tap access new sea level rise and extreme event modelling available from the Bureau of Meteorology. It is intended to keep these reporting documents focussed on the practical needs of Council and its residents.

A number of workshops are planned for Council staff with the project due to commence formally early next year for completion by June 30, 2009. These plans are expected to inform and support the range of existing Council strategies and plans including City Plan, Council's Energy and Water Saving Action Plans and the Local Greenhouse Action Plan.

Further information will be reported to Council and invitations to attend the relevant workshops as part of the process of preparing these plans which will be completed by June 30, 2009.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering sustainable practices.

Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Financial impact statement

This project will be undertaken with the \$50,000 external grant applied for by Council and provided by the Commonwealth Government's Local Adaptation and Pathways Program.

E26/08

Conclusion

Randwick was fortunate in receiving one of only 50 of these adaptation and mitigation plans provided by the Commonwealth Government. It is important to ensure a practical and pragmatic application of the findings to Council and its operations.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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