

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 14 JULY 2009

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7 July 2009

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, 14 July 2009 at 6:30pm.

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 - 9 June 2009

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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Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

Closed Session

Nil

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E16/09



Subject: Presentation to August Environment Committee

Folder No: F2004/08350

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report seeks the support for the Environment Committee to hear a short presentation from representatives of Randwick's Eco Heroes Club in August.

Issues

Randwick's Eco Heroes Club is an initiative of library staff which arose out of the 2008 Summer Reading program. Two groups of children in the 7 to 9 year old age group now meet on a monthly basis to learn about sustainability issues. In conjunction with Council staff and the children's parents, the club members have planted trees for Schools Tree Day, taken part in composting and worm farm workshops at Council's Community Nursery, designed their own environmentally friendly city, learnt about reducing their ecological footprint, visited Centennial Park to learn about water conservation and bats and much more.

In July, club members are making their own 2 minute video on the local environment. It is proposed that a number of representatives from the Eco Heroes Club attend the Environment Committee to present their short DVD and some of their environmental views for the information of Councillors.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.

Direction 3(c): A community involved in shaping and enhancing our City.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

This visit and presentation from members of Randwick's Eco Heroes Club provides an important opportunity for Councillors to hear the views and ideas of young children from the local community.

Recommendation

That the Committee agrees to the brief presentation of Eco Heroes Club members at the August Committee meeting.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E17/09



Subject: Following up the conclusion of Randwick's Sustainable Home Makeover energy and water saving rebates for residents

Folder No: F2008/00578

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report details a proposal for Council to continue its leadership role in supporting energy and water saving actions for Randwick residents.

Issues

On 30 June 2009, Randwick concluded its Sustainable Home Makeover energy and water saving rebates for residents. Council has provided householder rebates since late 2006 under two separate programs for the installation of a range of measures including rainwater tanks, solar hotwater systems, greywater treatment and energy efficient downlights. A total of 355 rebates have been provided over the two programs at a cost of \$260,000.

These results are remarkable for a local government organisation and reflect a positive change and interest from the community over the 2 years the rebates have been available. With the rebates ending, a number of submissions have been received proposing that Council continue its rebates on an indefinite or short term basis.

One of the main reasons for Council ending its existing householder rebates program has been a change in budget allocation for the rebate program in the new environmental levy. Total energy efficiency programs are budgeted at \$84,000 which covers education and incentive programs aimed primarily around special events such as Council's annual environmental festival, Earth Hour and World Environment Day. For every 100 solar hotwater services receiving rebates the cost to Council has been \$50,000, for every 100 rainwater tanks up to \$90,000 and for every 100 insulation installations, \$30,000. To continue servicing the householder rebates against the environmental levy would leave less levy funding for the other approved levy projects and programs.

The Commonwealth rebates provide up to \$1,600 rebate for both insulation and solar hotwater while the NSW Government continues to provide up to \$1,150 for rainwater tanks, \$1,200 for solar hotwater and \$300 for insulation. It would seem more cost effective for Council to communicate and facilitate rebate take-up for its residents through these existing rebate programs.

It is apparent that Council's own rebates for residents contributed to the remarkable take-up of energy and water saving measures of Randwick householders up to June 30. However by then, staff were responding to approximately 50 inquiries a day on the range of rebates available, a high number of these relating to the Commonwealth and NSW Government rebate programs.

With the new environmental levy and the commencement of the very extensive Commonwealth energy and water saving rebate program it is appropriate that Council's programs re-focus our efforts to assist householders and other sectors such

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as businesses and schools achieve further reductions in energy and water consumption. The following areas of activity have been identified as new ways to assist in achieving these outcomes.

Overview of new approach

Main task	How to deliver
Proactively communicate and encourage community take-up of the available Commonwealth and NSW Government energy and water saving rebates.	<p>Rebate Roadshows: Council staff to promote and create opportunities to visit local streets, neighbourhoods and precincts to explain, encourage and facilitate take up of householder energy and water saving rebates.</p> <p>Cost: <i>within existing resources.</i></p>
Develop and make available to residents contact details of qualified, registered and insured trades people, particularly plumbers and electricians with demonstrated experience in installing these measures into homes and units and who have an understanding of current grant conditions	<p>Contact a 'tradie': As conducted by a number of other Council's, Randwick would conduct a process to invite suitably qualified and experienced tradesmen to register with Council for communicating to residents. Council's Public Officer has confirmed this can be achieved with no liability for Council. (This may be extended to suppliers if they can demonstrate installation by qualified, competent and reliable installers)</p> <p>Cost: <i>within existing resources.</i></p>
Support increased awareness and opportunity for energy and water saving measures across local businesses.	<p>Business water and energy audits Call for expressions of interest for local businesses to receive water and energy audits and follow up plans on actions they can take.</p> <p>Cost: <i>project officer and implementation funding via external grant</i></p>
Provide financial support for local schools installing rainwater tanks in schools	<p>Rainwater tanks in local schools Providing up to \$2,000 for schools installing their own rainwater tanks (one per school only).</p> <p>Cost: <i>approx \$12,000 from environmental levy program</i></p>
Retain some scope to provide some incentives as part of specific promotional programs or events e.g. World Environment Day and Earth Hour	<p>Looking at the measures which are gaps in the Commonwealth or NSW Govt rebate programs e.g. energy efficient downlights or greywater treatment systems, 'smart' meters for homes and units.</p> <p>Cost: <i>approx. \$84,000 from environmental levy program.</i></p>
Seeking large scale external grants to support and extend the above opportunities.	<p>Via agencies advertising external funding opportunities</p> <p>Cost: <i>within existing resources.</i></p>

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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(e): A total water cycle management approach including water conservation, re-use and improvements is adopted.

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

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

The results of Randwick's Sustainable Home Makeover are remarkable for a local government organisation and demonstrate the strong interest of residents to take up the measures when the rebates are available. With rebates and programs underway from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments the opportunity is for Council staff to promote these rebates to residents and assist them access these rebates at low cost to Council but support continuing initiative to increase energy and water savings across the community.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E18/09



Subject: Update on Cities for Climate Protection Program
Folder No: F2005/00324
Author: Bronwyn Englaro, Senior Sustainability Officer

Executive summary

On 11 June 2009, Council was congratulated by ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, on the successful completion of Milestone 5 of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program. The Milestone 5 was awarded to Council at the ICLEI recognition event held at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra on Monday 22 June 2009.

The recent Milestone 5 process involved three key elements:

- i. Re-inventory of council's corporate and community Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ii. Quantification of GHG emission reduction measures implemented by Council in 2006/2007.
- iii. Completion and approval of a Milestone 5 report, which analyses the results and progress from the implementation of projects and makes recommendations for future greenhouse actions.

Background

Randwick City Council joined the CCP Program in September 2003 with Milestone 1 of the Program awarded to Council in December 2005, which involved the development of an emissions inventory for both Council and the community.

To meet Milestone 2, targets for 2012 were set shortly after, being a 20 percent reduction goal for greenhouse gas emissions from Council (from a baseline level for 1998/99) and for emissions from the community sector (from 1996 being the census period).

In April 2007, Council endorsed a Local Greenhouse Action Plan (LAP) for greenhouse gas reduction. This strategic plan outlined the actions and initiatives to be implemented by Council to achieve the reduction goals. This plan and progress towards the target led to achieving Milestone 3 and 4 in 2007.

Overall Results

Council is proactively implementing a wide range of actions identified in the LAP, with the total corporate abatement achieved by 2007 from all implemented actions equalling 1029.87 tonnes for carbon dioxide equivalent units (CO₂-e), and community abatement from all implemented actions equalling 28,441 tonnes CO₂-e. This is equivalent to taking 240 cars off the road permanently from Council actions and 6614 cars off the road from community actions. Numerous energy saving measures have been implemented, with the majority of corporate abatement coming about through energy efficiency upgrades at various Council sites including the Depot, Des Renford aquatic centre, Bowen Library and beach facilities. Community abatement was mainly attributed to recycling and reuse programs.

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Conclusion

Council is well on the way to meeting the CCP targets for 2012 being a 20% reduction (measured separately for Council and Community). The Milestone 5 report shows increases in Council emissions based on 1998/99 baseline year. However, this was not representative of all Council's facilities which were fully accounted for in the 1999/2000 data. Thus, while overall corporate emissions increased by 32 per cent, from 9,720 tonnes CO₂-e in 1998/1999 to 12,798 tonnes CO₂-e in 2006/2007, Council's Administration centre, Depot, Des Renford Aquatic Centre and Bowen Library were included fully in 1999/2000 and a more accurate comparison of energy consumption was measured for 1999/2000 baseline year.

Corporate emissions decreased by 6.5 per cent, from 13,680 tonnes CO₂-e in 1999 to 12,798 tonnes CO₂-e in 2007. This is an excellent result given that Council services, staffing and population we serve have all increased over the timeframe including the Bowen Library expansion, dedication of Bundock Street Community Centre, expansion of fleet including additional street and beach cleaning vehicles.

Community sector emissions have increased by 31 per cent between the baseline and reinventory years, from 1,037,939 tonnes CO₂-e in 1996 to 1,356,049 tonnes CO₂-e in 2006. These increases can be attributed to changes in population socio economic/affluence characteristics in the local government area over the time period. In addition, greenhouse gas reduction programs based on community awareness are invariably difficult to quantify, however the environment levy will be used to better quantify emission reduction efforts in future programs.

Future Actions

Through Council's endorsed Energy Saving Action Plan, Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Council's internal Energy and Water Working group, Council will continue to implement actions towards Council's City Plan Outcome 10 of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Such actions include expansion of the photovoltaic system at the depot, further retrofits on the Bundock Street Community Centre, roll out of solar hot water at Council and community facilities, investigation of cogeneration at the Des Renford aquatic centre and the installation of small scale wind turbines at demonstration sites. In addition Council is continuing to administer the Local Government Emission Trading Scheme which is adopting a 5 year emission reduction target through a detailed emission forecasting and abatement evaluation analysis.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

Direction 10g: Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

By achieving Milestone 5 Council has successfully completed the Cities for Climate Protection Program as committed to in Council's City Plan. After twelve years of supporting ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program, the Australian Government has advised that funding ceased at the end of the 2008/2009 financial

year. Unfortunately this means ICLEI Oceania will end its CCP milestone support program and projects on 30 June 2009. Nevertheless, ICLEI is continuing to operate a CCP partners program providing information sharing and networking services to senior managers and elected representatives. Council as a program partner and will be participating in these services.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report and Council's achievement of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Milestone 5.

Attachment/s:

1. ICLEI letter of Congratulations

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ICLEI Oceania

Level 4, 287 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia
Ph: +61 (0)3 9638 8668 Fax: +61 (0)3 9638 8677
Web: www.iclei.org/ocp-au

Randwick City Council

19 JUN 2009

11/06/2009

Account's Received

Cr Bruce Nolley Smith,
Mayor
Randwick City Council
30 Francis St
Randwick NSW 2031

Dear Cr Nolley Smith,

Milestone 5 Achievement

Congratulations! Randwick City Council has completed Milestone 5 in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Australia Program.

This is an outstanding achievement and Randwick should be congratulated for the commitment it has shown to CCP and for the significant greenhouse reductions achieved to date.

In Australia, more than 230 local governments, representing over 84% of the country's population, have committed to reducing their emissions through the CCP Program. More than half of these CCP councils have completed Milestone 5 and restated their commitment to their greenhouse programs.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Bronwyn Englaro and other Randwick City Council staff in the preparation and completion of this Milestone. Council will be recognised for this achievement at the next CCP Recognition Ceremony which will be held in Canberra on 22 June. Details of this event will be sent to Council.

Achieving Milestone 5 provides a great opportunity to create media interest in your local area about your efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions. Support materials on promotion through your local media can be found at www.iclei.org/ocp-au. If you would like more information please contact your CCP State Manager.

We again congratulate you on completing Milestone 5 and wish you success in your future work to address climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Riddle

CCP Australia Program Support Manager
CC

Mr Ray Brownlee, General Manager
Sima Truvert, Director City Planning
Mr Peter Maganov, Sustainability Manager
Ms Bronwyn Englaro, Senior Sustainability Officer
Karen Armstrong, Manager Strategic Planning

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability was founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. ICLEI Oceania is legally represented by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - Australia/New Zealand Limited, ABN 60 089 146 430.

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Environment Report No. E19/09



Subject: Results of Sydney Water's Water Assessment Program for Randwick Council

Folder No: F2004/06495

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability; Bronwyn Englaro, Senior Sustainability Officer

Introduction

To report on the 2009 Water Management Assessment of Randwick Council by Sydney Water.

Issues

Sydney Water provides a free water management assessment to organisations participating in their Every Drop Counts Business Program.

As a member, Council received its last water management assessment in 2006 where our water saving actions were rated 2 out of 5.

The results of our 2009 assessment reflect the efforts underway since 2006 and move Council to a 4 star rating out of 5.

Council's total annual water charges, via Sydney Water meters, are currently \$358,000. This equates to annual water consumption from Sydney Water meters of approximately 166ML, a 16 percent reduction from Council's consumption since our last assessment.

Over that time, new investment in stormwater harvesting and other water saving projects through Council's environmental levy program is providing further water savings in the order of 100ML per 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(f): A total water cycle management approach including water conservation, re-use and quality improvements is adopted.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

The results of Sydney Water's water management assessment of Randwick City Council, confirms the cumulative benefit of projects carried out via the environmental levy program. Staff will use this analysis as a means of adjusting and fine tuning priority projects to continue generating positive water saving results for Council.

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Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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