

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009

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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, 10 November 2009 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor, J Procopiadis, Andrews, Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Notley-Smith, 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 - 13 October 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. E23/09



Subject: 3-Council Sustainable Business Project Update
Folder No: F2008/00383
Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the recently commenced 3-Council Sustainable Business Program.

Issues

As a result of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program between Randwick, Woollahra and Waverley, Sydney Water has provided funding for a two year Sustainable Business Program.

A Project Officer has been recruited with the position hosted at Woollahra Council. This project aims to complete at least 60 comprehensive energy and water assessments of small to medium businesses, approximately 20 in each Council area.

Eligible businesses will receive the following on-site assistance:

- Free water use assessments aimed at increasing water efficiency
- Subsidised energy assessments aimed at reducing energy bills
- Financial incentive to respond to both the energy and water assessments
- Assistance with cost effective options for reducing business waste

Businesses will also benefit from a program of networking and marketing opportunities with other businesses across the eastern suburbs.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 8: A Strong Local Economy.

Direction 8(b): Vibrant town centres that adequately serve the community and foster support for local business activity.

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

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

10(d) Sustainable alternative waste technologies and environmentally sound collection systems are identified and implemented.

10(f): A total water cycle management approach including water conservation, reuse and water quality improvements is adopted.

10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Financial impact statement

Funding from Sydney Water totals \$110,000 with includes the first year salary including all costs associated with employment and \$30,000 for incentives to implement water saving initiatives across the businesses participating in the program.

The second year salary costs (\$78,000) are funded through the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program.

E23/09

Conclusion

Sydney Water is providing sustainable business funding for 12 Local Councils as part of this pilot program. This project aims to strengthen the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program engagement with local businesses. Council will be kept up to date on the progress of this initiative.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E23/09

Environment Report No. E24/09



Subject: Workplan for Council's new Sustainable Transportation Project

Folder No: F2009/00455

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report provides an outline of the work plan priorities for Council's new Sustainable Transportation project.

Issues

Council's Sustainable Transportation project funded by the NSW Government's Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) commenced recently following the appointment of our new project officer.

This 12 month project has 4 key activity areas funded by DECCW, namely:

- Finalisation of Council's Workplace Travel Access Plan and its distribution as a template for other businesses or organisations to utilise;
- Improving cycling and walking education and opportunities for residents;
- Developing an incentive scheme to encourage active transport outcomes including cycling and walking; and
- Extending car share opportunities across the municipality.

A Steering Group to oversee this project comprises staff from Council's Sustaining our City team and Integrated Transport as well as DECCW representatives. The project needs to be finalised by around August 2010 to allow separate evaluation of the results by a consultant appointed by DECCW.

One of the first tasks currently underway is to complete a travel survey of staff as a way of identifying sustainable transportation opportunities and barriers for staff. These survey results will be collated and used to guide the development and prioritisation of future tasks. Outcomes of these tasks will be reported on a regular basis to Council.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 9: Integrated and accessible transport.

Direction 9(b): The community is informed, educated and encouraged to use sustainable transport.

Financial impact statement

Funding provided by DECCW for this project includes project officer salary and costs for 12 months plus approximately \$200,000 to achieve the project outcomes set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between Council and DECCW.

Conclusion

Randwick Council is the sole recipient of funding for the 12 month sustainable transportation project with DECCW keen to use project outcomes as a potential model for other local government areas around NSW.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E24/09

Environment Report No. E25/09



Subject: Additional update on Randwick's role leading the development of the NSW Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme (LGETS)

Folder No: F2006/00626

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report details matters relevant to delivering on trading arrangements for the NSW Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme (LGETS).

Issues

On 24 October 2006, Council resolved to develop and implement the first local government carbon trading scheme with interested Councils in NSW (Mayoral Minute 84/2006 refers). Funding for continuing development and implementation of this project has been approved in the new 5-year environmental levy program and Council's budget for 2009-10.

As a follow up to the April 2009 update to Council on LGETS (E9/09, 14/04/09 refers), the 12 participating Councils are continuing to refine and practice trading arrangements based on the greenhouse gas emissions register which was completed earlier this year.

Trading amongst the group is affected by the number of Councils either in need of purchasing, or capable of selling carbon units. For 2007-08, the first trading year Randwick Council was 500 carbon units in deficit and almost 200 units in deficit in 2008-09, our current trading year.

To achieve the reduction required under LGETS, Randwick has undertaken the purchase of carbon offsets through the LGETS budget established within the new 5-year environmental levy program. Due to the rules established by the LGETS group of Councils and the lack of a carbon trading framework in Australia the offsets can only be purchased for overseas renewable energy projects. Due to an oversight this purchase has not been reported to Council. The offsets become assets which Council is permitted to trade within LGETS and which it receives certification for from the issuing offset provider.

The offsets purchased are aimed at placing Randwick in a positive trading position within LGETS in the 2009-10 trading year.

A briefing of LGETS Councils is to be organised for the first half of 2010 in order to bring new Councillors up to date and as part of the invitation to be extended to other Councils to join and participate in LGETS later in 2010. If appropriate, a briefing for Randwick Councillors will be held prior to this date to enable Councillors to better understand the operation of the LGET scheme.

An information sheet on LGETS has been prepared and will be distributed to local government in NSW (copy attached).

E25/09

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

The offsets purchased are for the 3 different areas of Council's operations which are the subject of the local government carbon trading scheme. These operational areas include Council's corporate energy consumption, fuel used in Council's vehicle fleet and street lighting energy costs paid by Council. The total cost of the carbon credits purchased is \$19,200. This cost is allocated to the LGETS budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

The 12 participating LGETS Councils, including Randwick as the Council leading its development, are increasing their understanding and application of carbon trading principles as they continue to refine LGETS trading arrangements. Although each of the Councils agreed to participate on the basis of working to keep LGETS low-complex, low cost, voluntary and flexible, there has been a high learning curve for each of the staff from the Councils involved.

LGETS continues to attract a high level of interest from organisations nationally and internationally and in light of the likely outcomes of negotiations between Governments in Copenhagen in December, the LGETS group of Councils are continuing to lead by example in the development and application of carbon trading within Australia.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted and further monitoring of progress and updates on LGETS will be reported to Council.

Attachment/s:

Nil