

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2010

Administrative Centre 30 Frances Street Randwick 2031
Telephone: 02 9399 0999 or
1300 722 542 (for Sydney metropolitan area)
Fax:02 9319 1510
general.manager@randwick.nsw.gov.au
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au



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, 13 April 2010 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 - 9 February 2010

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

Environment Reports

E4/10	"Food Connect" project in Randwick.....	1
E5/10	Opening of the Barrett House Sustainability Demonstration Project for Eastern suburbs residents	3
E6/10	New solar streetlight technology on trial in Randwick	5

Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

.....
Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E4/10



Subject: "Food Connect" project in Randwick
Folder No: PROJ/10386/2008
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report seeks Council's support for a local "Food Connect" community enterprise in Randwick for residents.

Issues

One of the emerging sustainability issues related to the concepts of "Resilient Communities" and "Transition Towns" raised previously by a number of Randwick Councillors is the issue of food security or locally grown, organic or ecologically sound food from local sources.

These concepts relate to supporting and encouraging urban communities to purchase quality organic food produce from local or regional farming communities that minimise the food miles or carbon footprint associated with transporting produce, excessive chemical or fertiliser usage, and equally, creating stronger community understanding and support of regional farming practices and farming communities.

A new form of community enterprise known as "Food Connect" commenced in Brisbane in 2009, where quality organic agricultural produce is purchased from local or regional farming communities and is supplied to residents in urban areas on a weekly or sometimes fortnightly basis. As with a number of the food cooperative initiatives underway, local residents buy the weekly supply of organic produce, whereas the Food Connect model encourages consumers to get to know the farmers supplying their produce through tours and workshop sessions in the urban and farming areas.

As a result of the strong interest and support of Food Connect Brisbane, Food Connect Sydney recently commenced operation and is looking for a number of strategic food distribution points to offer the supply of organic farming produce to local residents. Food Connect is currently working with Hawkesbury and Sydney Basin farming communities to provide a reliable supply of high quality organic produce for this initiative.

With the commencement of the sustainability education 'hub' at Randwick Community Centre, there is an ideal opportunity to pilot a Food Connect distribution point at the Community Centre for the benefit of interested local residents.

The pilot project would result in residents becoming Food Connect members and agreeing to purchase small, medium or large boxes of organic produce using the Randwick Community Centre as a base for delivery and distribution of these boxes. Delivery and distribution is completed over approximately 2 to 3 hours with some set up and tidying up required. Food Connect has contacted the operators of the market gardens at Yarra Bay to test their willingness to supply produce but the market gardeners have advised they don't have capacity to supply beyond their existing markets.

E4/10

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.

Direction 2(b): Enrich our range of community services that meets our community's needs.

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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

Financial impact statement

Although the meeting rooms at the Randwick Community Centre are not fully utilised every week the costs on an hourly rate for a community based organisation are in the order of \$200 per week or \$800 per month, which over a 3 month trial period would be in the order of \$2,400.

The bond is around \$150 and rubbish removal if required is around \$70 per visit.

If required, the funding to support this trial could be part or fully funded from the environmental levy program, primarily through the community gardens budget area of the levy program.

Conclusion

This 'community supported agriculture' enterprise provides benefits for local residents as well as the farming communities they establish partnerships with. The model applied by Food Connect Sydney enables urban and regional communities to support each other in ways that also contribute to sustainable outcomes particularly related to food security and sustainable farming practices. The model also translates to taking action to influence the local ecological footprint of communities in the eastern suburbs by making the 'footprint' a concept that can be understood at the local level.

Recommendation

That Council support the establishment of a "Food Connect" distribution point for a period of 3 months as part of the Randwick Community Centre sustainability education hub project.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E4/10

Environment Report No. E5/10



Subject: Opening of the Barrett House Sustainability Demonstration Project for Eastern suburbs residents

Folder No: F2008/00384

Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the opening of Barrett House as the Sustainability Demonstration House for Eastern suburbs residents.

Issues

A major project of the 3 Council Ecological Footprint project between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils was the Barrett House Sustainability Demonstration project. This small cottage bequeathed to Council by the estate of Harrie "Todds" Barrett has been retrofitted with a comprehensive range of energy and water saving measures to enable residents to visit at certain times and learn how they may be able to make similar changes around their own home or garden. Funding for the retrofit has come from the 3 Council Ecological Footprint project and includes a number of educational elements giving the house a wider appeal to both householders and a younger school-sized audience.

The house is providing a venue for a number of community workshops including local group sessions on establishing Sustainability Street neighbourhood groups, Permaculture East who is in the process of designing a small scale garden area at the house, and a number of sustainable living workshops.

Further short talks will be organised at the house providing technical information on how residents can install solar, rainwater or greywater around their homes. The house remains open on occasions to commemorate the pioneering cinematography carried out at the house by Franklyn and Mable Barrett. Two sessions are organised in April during the National Trust Heritage Festival.

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 water quality improvements is adopted.

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

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

This project provides a strong legacy for the 3 Council Ecological Footprint collaboration between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils for the benefit of Randwick residents and residents across Sydney's Eastern suburbs.

E5/10

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

ES / 10

Environment Report No. E6/10



Subject: New solar streetlight technology on trial in Randwick

Folder No: F2010/00078

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a new solar streetlight technology being trialled in Randwick.

Issues

Randwick Council has been approached to provide two sites for the trial of a new solar streetlight technology. The solar lights have no solar panels as with traditional solar lights, instead gaining their energy from ultra efficient solar film placed around the pole. This is the first application of this form of technology in NSW and only the second in Australia.

The first solar streetlight has been installed at Maroubra beach adjacent to the carpark area while the second light will be installed shortly in Bicentennial Park at Yarra Bay. The placement of the two solar lights is for a 3 month period. Regular monitoring will be carried out on their performance with a final report brought back for Council's information.

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

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Streetlighting makes up approximately fifty percent of Council's energy bill. The solar streetlight trial provides a positive opportunity to explore ways in which future costs may be lowered with its associated environmental benefits.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E6/10