

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 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, 7 December 2010 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor (M Matson), Belleli, Hughes (Chairperson), Matthews, Smith, Tracey, White and Woodsmith (Deputy Chairperson).

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 November 2010

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

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E27/10



Subject: Go Solar update
Folder No: F2010/00267
Author: Genevieve Wilson, Sustainability Officer - Energy

Introduction

To provide an update on Go Solar, the 3-Council solar incentive program promoting a streamlined service for discounted solar power and solar hot water systems to residents and businesses.

Issues

The Go Solar program forms part of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project offering residents and businesses a streamlined service for information, workshops, free site inspections and quotes and installation of high quality, discounted solar systems from the Council's preferred suppliers, as well as assistance accessing NSW Government and Australian Government rebates and credits.

Following commencement of the Go Solar incentives program for residents and businesses (E7/10, July 2010 and EN1/10 September 2010 refers), active promotion of the access to discounted solar power and solar hot water systems has resulted in more than 330 registrations over the four months from July to October 2010.

A series of Go Solar workshops have been well received with over 160 attendees to date providing positive feedback. These workshops have provided the opportunity for residents and businesses to find out about how solar power and solar hot water work as well as how to take advantage of Government incentives and Go Solar discounts. Recent local workshops included a solar workshop for 45 apartment owners at Coogee Bowling Club on 31 October and another for 18 house owners at the Prince Henry Centre on 11 November.

These Go Solar workshops and incentives have resulted in 37 solar power and 3 solar hot water installations by Council's preferred suppliers to the end of October 2010, equating to an abatement of 136.8 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually. Feedback suggests that additional installations have occurred via other solar providers, who seeking to leverage from Go Solar promotions, have provided competitively priced solar power and solar hot water systems to local residents and businesses. Generous Government incentives have encouraged the uptake of solar power, at the expense of solar hot water installations.

Since the October announcement by the NSW Government to amend the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme from 60 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) to 20 cents per kWh, registrations and workshop attendances have declined. It is anticipated that solar power installations through Council's preferred suppliers will increase over November and December 2010 as a result of the rush of applications processed prior to the amendment. Other initiatives are currently being investigated to encourage further energy saving by residents and businesses.

E27/10

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. The Go Solar program is funded to approximately \$120,000 under the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project funded via the NSW Government's Environmental Trust.

Conclusion

The Go Solar program being conducted across the Eastern Suburbs through the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project has successfully overcome many of the barriers for residents and businesses to install solar power and solar hot water by offering a streamlined service with discounts provided by Council's preferred suppliers. Despite a strong start to the level of inquiry and installation, the program expects some adjustments due to amendments to the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme. Additional opportunities are currently being investigated to encourage uptake of energy efficiency measures by residents and businesses.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes this report.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E27/10

Environment Report No. E28/10



Subject: Results of the latest household chemical collection held at Heffron Park in October.

Folder No: F2008/00194

Author: Talebul Islam, Coordinator Strategic Waste

Introduction

To provide Council with an update on the most recent chemical collection results for Randwick residents held at Heffron Park in October.

Issues

Each year Council organises two household hazardous chemical collections in partnership with the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) and industry partner, Chemsal.

The second household chemical collection for residents was held on 9 October this year at Heffron Park. The event was advertised in the Southern Courier with a brochure also distributed via Council's counter staff at various locations.

Hazardous household waste items able to be disposed of included unwanted medicines, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, un-used or leftover paint, etc. Chemsal, a qualified hazardous chemical management contractor, managed the collection process on behalf of Council and DECCW.

Participation and amounts collected

Over 700 residents visited the collection site on the day to drop-off their unwanted household chemicals. About 61% of those residents used this service for the first time and 39% have taken the opportunity to drop off unwanted chemicals on previous occasions.

More than 22,000 kg of household chemicals were collected. Of this material, 43% was water-based paint, 24% oil-based paint, 11% used oil, 6% batteries, 4% gas bottles, 8% others and 2% unwanted garden chemicals.

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(b): Environmental risks and impacts are strategically managed.

Financial impact statement

The event was funded by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. There is no financial impact on Council.

E28/10

Conclusion

The household hazardous chemical collection helps reduce the risk of such chemicals entering waste streams including the disposal of hazardous materials into domestic landfill sites. Further chemical collections will be scheduled for Randwick in 2011.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E28/10

Environment Report No. E29/10



Subject: Compost Revolution - Development of an online tutorial
Folder No: F2008/00385
Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

This report provides an update on the expansion of the food waste reduction program: 'Compost Revolution' through the development of an online tutorial.

Issues

Following the successful completion of the Compost Revolution trial (E25/10, November) and modelling from Hyder Consulting on the environmental and financial savings if expanded across 20-40% of households. The 3-Councils plan to establish the foundation to expand the Compost Revolution to a wider audience through the development of an online tutorial to compliment the existing facilitator led workshop approach.

An online tutorial would allow for a wider audience to participate in the Compost Revolution to be hosted on the existing 3-Council website - www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au.

The 3-Council website was developed following a Formal Quotation process in April 2009, a design agency (Digital Eskimo) was subsequently selected to research and build an online communication and community engagement program for the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project. This work comprising the original brief is now complete and the site functioning (www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au).

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

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

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

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

Financial impact statement

The quotation for the development of an online tutorial is reasonable at \$18,500 together with an additional \$8,415 for marketing and collateral design. All costs will be funded by the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Project through external funding provided from the NSW Environmental Trust.

Conclusion

The development of an online tutorial provides the opportunity to engage the wider community and provide ongoing information and education.

E29/10

Recommendation

That Council engage Digital Eskimo in the development of an online tutorial to be added to the 3-Council website that they have already successfully developed.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E29/10