

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2011

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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, 12 April 2011 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 – 7 December 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. E1/11



Subject: Additional 10 kilowatts of solar panels installed on the Administration Building

Folder No: F2005/00230

Author: Choonghan Yeo, Sustainability Project Officer

Introduction

To update Council on the extent of solar panels installed on Council buildings.

Issues

In keeping with our 20 year City Plan and Council's commitment to a 20 percent reduction target in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, the Council has continued its program of installing solar (photovoltaic) panels on Council buildings.

The most recent installation underway is 10 kilowatts of solar panels on the roof of the Administrative Building. This brings the total amount of solar generation installed on Council sites to 70 kilowatts. This total equates to approximately:

- 112 Megawatt hours of electricity generation per annum (equivalent to approximately 10 percent of the Administration Building's energy requirements);
- 115 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided;
- removing 35 cars off the road per annum;

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

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

Financial impact statement

The cost of the 10 kW system on the Administration Building is approximately \$45,000 including the discount from the solar credits. This is being paid from the Climate Change budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

Since the Council's involvement with the Cities for Climate Change Program (CCP) in 2003, solar photovoltaic panels have been installed across a range of Council's facilities such as the Depot, Nursery, Barrett House, Prince Henry Community Centre and the Depot. The installation of this new 10 kW Solar Panel at the Administration Building ensures Council's sustainable leadership continues amongst local

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government in NSW and increases our renewable energy capacity for the benefit of our environment and local community.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E2/11



Subject: Common area sustainability assessment trial for Multi Unit Dwellings

Folder No: F2008/00383

Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

To inform Council of a trial program to improve the sustainability performance of common areas of units and apartments as part of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils.

Issues

Residential Multi Unit Developments (MUDs) make up around 50 percent of the building stock in the Eastern Suburbs. Recent findings have shown that the common space areas of many apartments are enormously energy intensive, in some cases using up to 75 percent of the total energy use of the building.

It is often more difficult to improve the environmental performance of MUDs due to the legal and practical constraints of working through strata managers, owners corporations, tenants etc. Therefore there are enormous gains – both environmental and financial – that can be achieved in increasing the sustainability performance of these buildings.

An energy assessment of MUDs on a trial basis, as part of the 3 Council Ecological Footprint project, will identify the opportunities for the following improvements to MUDS across the 3 Council areas utilising qualified assessors to visit a specific number of these type of dwellings:

Reducing energy use via:

- Efficient Lighting
- Car Parking Lighting
- Sensor or timed lighting
- Solar hot water/heat pumps (where applicable)
- Heat pump or instantaneous gas hot water (where applicable)
- Hot water re-circulators to reduce both energy and water usage.
- Insulation of common areas
- Improved heating and cooling/Power Factor correction
- Green Power

Reducing water use via:

- Water harvesting for outdoor use and toilets/laundry areas
- Water efficient appliances
- Leak detection

Improved waste management:

- Source separation education and behaviour change
- Communal composting/worm farming

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- Reduction in illegal dumping (typically from high proportion of transient rentals in the region)

This trial will undertake common area sustainability audits of a small number of MUDs in each Council area. Where practicable, participating owners will be asked to demonstrate a financial willingness to implement some or all of the audit recommendations, to help improve their energy, water and waste efficiency. Outcomes will be publicised to encourage wider learning and the opportunity for further take-up by other owners and strata managers of MUDs.

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 cost of the assessments will vary based on the size of the common areas within participating MUDs. Quotes will be obtained from suitably qualified and experienced Sustainability Assessors. The budget allocated from the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project is in the region of \$20,000.

These costs will be funded through the 3-Council project provided by the NSW Environmental Trust through its Urban Sustainability Program.

Conclusion

This is an important trial project targeting a difficult area but where energy, water and waste efficiencies provide important opportunities to increase sustainability outcomes across the community.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Environment Report No. E3/11



Subject: Green Money Recycling Reward Scheme
Folder No: F2004/07280
Author: Talebul Islam, Coordinator Strategic Waste

Introduction

At its meeting on 22 February Council resolved, "that Council investigates the Green Money Scheme, an innovative approach to encouraging residents to further increase their level of commitment to diverting household recyclables away from landfill. That a report outlining the investigation's findings be brought back to the relevant council committee (Notley-Smith/Woodsmith)."

This report outlines the findings of an investigation on the Green Money Recycling Rewarding Scheme.

Issues

Background

An Australian company, Green Money, has approached Randwick City Council to trial a recycling reward scheme adapted from similar programs operating in the United Kingdom and USA. The scheme aims to motivate residents to improve recycling behaviour at home by rewarding them financially through a points program they are able to redeem through local businesses. The company's intention is to offer a six to 12 month trial of the scheme for up to 10,000 households.

Recycling reward scheme

The recycling reward scheme has been developed as a means of facilitating behavioural change for the residents. Householders are able to earn points by the amount of material recycled through Council's kerbside recycling service. Participating households will be able to redeem reward points negotiated with local businesses by the scheme's operator.

Council introduced a service monitoring system utilising a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag specifically to improve waste and recycling collection services and resource recovery initiatives. Green Money has chosen Randwick City Council for this pilot program as the RFID system will contribute to implementation of its recycling reward system.

Green Money has proposed a trial period of 12 months. If the pilot is successful, Council has an option of extending the program across the city.

Privacy issues

Council's RFID tag system currently does not link residents' personal details with collection or service data. It only collates property address and collection information which is used for the purpose of improving service delivery – timely collection, reducing missed bins, waste education, etc.

This programme will require linking residents' personal details with the recycling bin weight to reward residents. Should Council decide to participate in such a program, to overcome any privacy issues, residents' written agreement will be required. The scheme has such a plan in place.

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Potential benefit to council

Randwick City Council currently collects about 14,000 tonnes of recyclables per year. A 2008 waste stream audit confirmed approximately 86.3 percent of recyclables are currently recovered and 13.7 percent of recyclables are disposed due to contamination at landfill with the garbage collected in red-lidded bins. The proposed recycling reward scheme has the potential to improve the recovery rate and recover up to 2,000 tonnes of additional recyclables if the scheme is successful and implemented across the city.

According to the 2008 audit, Randwick residents were found to place non-recyclable items in the recycle bins resulting in contamination of the recycling stream by about 5 percent. Successful implementation of recycling reward scheme has the potential of reducing contamination by a minimum of approximately 2 percent, resulting in turn to an increased resource recovery and reduced landfill disposal cost.

Cost of Pilot

During this pilot trial Green money will bear the cost of bulk promotion including:

- Community consultation
- Design of all marketing material
- Website development and maintenance
- Public relations

Green Money has proposed Council to bear the cost of:

- Postage of letters
- Printing of promotional material
- Launch event

Estimated cost to Council would be \$10,000. Also, the trial will require additional staff-time.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10a: A healthy environment

Direction 10e: Our community is encouraged to implement waste minimisation strategies.

Financial impact statement

Should Council agree with this proposed trial, a financial contribution of \$10,000 is required. It is proposed to fund this from the waste education budget.

Conclusion

If the Green Money proposed recycling reward scheme is a success it will undoubtedly lead to an increased recovery of household recyclables which in turn will contribute to reduced landfill disposal cost for Council.

Recommendation

That:

- a) Council agrees to support Green Money recycling reward scheme for a period of 12 months subject to an appropriate agreement between Green Money and

Council;

- b) Council agrees to allocate up to \$10,000 from the waste education budget to support the trial; and
- c) Reports be provided to Council on a regular basis throughout the trial outlining relevant issues and progress of the scheme.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E4/11



Subject: New funding approved for stormwater re-use projects in Randwick

Folder No: F2004/06495

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

To advise Council of additional funding approved for stormwater re-use and recycling projects in Randwick.

Issues

Council has demonstrated a strong commitment to reducing its water consumption at Council sites particularly via the recycling and re-use of stormwater run-off. In total, Council's water saving projects have reduced our potable water demand by approximately 350 million litres of water per annum (equivalent to around 350 Olympic-sized swimming pools a year).

Council has recently been advised of 3 successful funding applications from the NSW Office of Water for additional stormwater saving projects including:

- \$364,000 toward the cost of stormwater harvesting at Chifley playing fields;
- \$419,500 toward the cost of stormwater harvesting at Yarra Bay; and
- \$20,000 to promote stormwater harvesting projects completed in Randwick.

The additional stormwater projects, when completed by June 2012, will add a further 50 million litres of water saved at Council sites.

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-se and water quality improvements is adopted.

Financial impact statement

Matching funds will be provided for the above stormwater harvesting projects from the water conservation budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

These projects will extend Council's water conservation efforts into new areas of the City and contribute further to the water savings occurring at Council sites.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

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Attachment/s:

Nil

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