

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2012

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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, 14 August 2012 at 6pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor (S Nash), Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Smith, Tracey, White and 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 – 8 May 2012

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. E7/12



Subject: Randwick Council's Eco Living Fair, to be held on Sunday, 16 September from 10.30am to 3.30pm

Folder No: F2006/00246

Author: Helen Morrison, Sustainability Project Officer

Introduction

Randwick Council's annual Eco Living Fair, now in its eighth year is a major fixture in Randwick's calendar of environmental events. It continues to be amongst the most successful environmental fairs or festivals held across the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The Eco Living Fair is again being held at Randwick's sustainability education 'hub' at the Randwick Community Centre in Munda Street from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Sunday, 16 September 2012.

Issues

This year's Eco Living Fair includes a range of new and popular activities for local residents and their families. As well as outdoor stalls promising eco products from across the Eastern suburbs and wider Sydney region, there will be a range of family and children's entertainment, wildlife on display for youngsters to learn about the importance of biodiversity and sessions on how to save on householders' energy and water bills.

Following the success of last year's event, there will be another food demonstration and panel discussion around sustainable food, and how to buy, store, grow and cook local produce and food and avoid the volumes of food waste going to landfill.

A new feature of this year's Eco Living Fair includes walk-through rooms of a sustainability house with special tips and tours on saving energy by well known environmental educator and presenter Ms Lish Feyer. Visitors will also be able to sign up on the day to initiatives supported by Council including the Green Money Recycling Rewards scheme and Compost Revolution.

Other popular events on the day include Council's Garden Awards, cycling activities and free bicycle maintenance workshops, tours of the Randwick Environment Park and "ask the experts" sessions on planting out native trees, sustainable composting and sustainable gardening.

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 needs.
- Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.
- Direction 3(c): A community involved in shaping and enhancing our City.
- Outcome 10: A healthy environment.
- Direction 1(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

E7/12

Financial impact statement

An amount of \$50,000 has been allocated in the 2012-13 Budget for the annual Eco Living Fair, through the community education budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

While there continues to be opportunities for local residents and their families to find out about actions they can take to help protect the environment, at the same time as saving money around the home, school and workplace, Randwick's Eco Living Fair aims to ensure a maximum level of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

Recommendation

That the date and time for this year's Eco Living Fair be noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E7/12

Environment Report No. E8/12



Subject: Successful funding application to deliver the Food Waste Challenge across the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program

Folder No: F2008/00385

Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

Food waste is increasingly becoming a big issue with more than 800,000 tonnes of food thrown away each year by NSW householders, equivalent to approximately \$2.5 billion worth of edible food a year.

Randwick City Council, on behalf of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program, has been advised of its successful funding application of \$14,500 by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

Issues

This grant is provided to fund the "Food Waste Challenge", a behavioural change program developed exclusively by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) aimed at educating households on how to reduce the amount of edible food wasted each day. The Food Waste Challenge aims to build the skills and capacity of individuals through a series of practical and engaging workshops on important topics related to buying, cooking and storing food.

The funding will enable the workshop series to be delivered in each of the 3-Council areas at different times over the next 12 months and filmed for ongoing reference and learning by householders.

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.
Outcome 10: A healthy environment.
Direction 1(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact in this matter as the \$14,500 funding from OEH enables delivery of the Food Waste Challenge across the 3-Council areas.

Conclusion

The project continues to demonstrate the close working relationship between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils on environmental issues and also builds on previous initiatives of the 3 Councils engaging our residents on issues related to reducing food waste from households.

E8/12

Recommendation

That Council notes this innovative project funded by the NSW Government and endorses the delivery of the Food Waste Challenge by the Nature Conservation Council as part of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint collaboration with Waverley and Woollahra Councils.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E8/12

Environment Report No. E9/12



Subject: Externally funded SAVE program results for Randwick Council

Folder No: F2011/00516

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

Randwick Council has been participating in the SAVE Program funded over the past 3 years by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust. Three other Councils (Canterbury, Marrickville and Sydney) have been participating with Housing NSW and Randwick for the purposes of ensuring sustainability initiatives are made available to low income, Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Issues

Thirty two projects were funded across the four (4) local government areas, with just over a quarter of them funded in the Randwick LGA. Of those in Randwick, five (5) involved establishing small scale, community gardens in different areas of the City including:

- Yarra Bay House, La Perouse;
- Kooloora Community Centre, Malabar;
- Somme Way, Soldier Settlement;
- Namatjira Place, Chifley; and
- Jensen Place, South Coogee.

As well as funding support for each of these community gardens, the diverse group of local gardeners have been able to access additional support from Community Greening staff from the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust while Namatjira Place has gained additional support from community project staff located at the University of New South Wales.

Other projects funded included targeted sustainable living workshops for residents through community networks at Kooloora Community Centre, in addition to a sustainability retrofit of the Centre, as well as catchment and biodiversity tours for different language group communities incorporating Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Greek, Arabic and Russian speaking residents.

The other major project funded in Randwick was the commencement of the La Perouse bicycle recycling and repair project from Yarra Bay House delivered with strong support from Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation and La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council.

The SAVE Program has developed a range of information videos, reports and tool kits to ensure an ongoing legacy from the positive projects completed over the programs' 3 year duration. A number of these videos and project were highlighted at a finale event attended by around 200 local government and community participants at the beginning of May. These resources will be accessible via the SAVE website being developed as they program winds up over the next two to three months.

It is proposed that a brief tour of the above community gardens be extended and organised for Councillors later in the year.

E9/12

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 needs.
- Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.
Direction 3(c): A community involved in shaping and enhancing our City.
- Outcome 10: A healthy environment.
Direction 1(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter as funding was provided by the SAVE program over the duration of these projects including substantial project officer support and via a program manager engaged by the City of Sydney.

Conclusion

A number of important collaborations were strengthened or established over the three (3) year time frame of the various SAVE projects carried out in Randwick. There were also extensive shared learnings and experiences gained from the similar projects conducted across the other participating Council LGA's. There were also strong and positive relationships built with Housing NSW staff over this time.

Efforts are underway to ensure a level of continuation of these positive on-ground results as well as the partnerships and shared learnings developed over this time.

Recommendation

That:

- a) the report be received and noted; and
- b) a short tour be organised, of the SAVE Program funded community gardens, for Councillors later in 2012.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E9/12

Environment Report No. E10/12



Subject: Term 3 sustainability courses for Randwick residents

Folder No: F2012/00263

Author: Fiona Campbell, Sustainability Education Officer

Introduction

To provide an update on sustainability courses provided for residents over Term 3.

Issues

The following courses and workshops are being provided to residents over Term 3 at the Randwick Community Centre, Bowen Library and Barrett House:

Composting and worm farming	Weekend workshop (July 21/22)
Saving on energy and power bills	2 sessions (August 1 and 8, 2012)
Organic gardening	over 5 afternoons (Aug 11 to Sept 1)
Sustainable futures	over 5 afternoons (Aug 11 to Sept 8)
Reducing your footprint	2 sessions (Sept 5 and 12)
Permaculture workshops	each month (July to Nov)
Open house	monthly at Barrett House (Aug to Nov)

These courses are provided free of charge to Randwick residents and continue to be booked via the City East Community College and advertised via Mayors column, e-news and facebook.

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

These courses are provided to residents through the community education budget of Council's environmental levy program.

Conclusion

These courses continue to be popular with residents and have now generated a group of volunteers who are currently assisting with ongoing development of Council's permaculture interpretative garden at Randwick Community Centre. The garden's benefits and achievements have recently been recognised with a highly commended for community gardens in the 2012 Sustainable Cities Awards.

E10/12

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E10/12

Environment Report No. E11/12



Subject: Household Clean-out Events 2012
Folder No: F2008/00413
Author: Guada Lado, Waste & Sustainability Education Officer

Introduction

Household hazardous waste like medicine, insecticide, pesticide, herbicide, paint, etc., puts waste collection staff and landfill operators at risk when disposed of with general waste or clean-up materials destined for landfill.

To provide the residents an opportunity for safe disposal of such chemicals Council, jointly with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (formerly know as Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)), organizes two household Chemical CleanOut events each year within Randwick City.

The purpose of this report is to inform council on the amount of chemical collected and participation of residents in the last two events.

Issues

Chemical Clean Out events:

The last two Chemical CleanOut events were held on:

- 8 October 2011 at Heffron Park car park, Fitzgerald Ave, Matraville
- 5 May 2012 at Clovelly Beach car park, Clovelly Rd, Clovelly

The events were advertised in the Southern Courier, Council's website and e-newsletter. Flyers were distributed via letterbox drop, Council's Customer Service Centres, Recycling Centre, Council's libraries and local hardware stores.

Chemsal, a qualified hazardous chemical management contractor, engaged by the EPA, managed the collection process.

Participation and amounts collected:

Both events were well attended, with over 800 residents dropping off chemical waste at each event. In May 2012, there were more first time users (56%) compared to October 2011 where the majority of users (61%) had previously used the service. The amount of chemicals collected was slightly less in May 2012 (28,776kg) compared to the October 2011 event (31,256kg), with paints making up the largest proportion of items collected, as shown in the table below.

	8 October 2011	5 May 2012
<i>Number of residents that visited the collection site:</i>	845	878
<i>First time users:</i>	39%	56%
<i>Previous users:</i>	61%	44%
<i>Total amount of household chemicals collected:</i>	31,256kg	28,776 kg
<i>Most common items collected:</i>	Paints – 71.4% Oil – 6.0% Batteries – 5.3% Gas cylinders – 3.88%	Paints – 68.31% Hydrocarbons/fuels – 5.1% Oil – 5.1% Batteries – 4.4%

E11/12

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 Office of Environment and Heritage. There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Household hazardous chemical collection helps reduce the risk of such chemicals entering waste streams. During the last two Chemical CleanOut events, over 60,000 kgs of household chemicals were collected and more than 1700 residents participated in the event.

The next Household Chemical Clean-out day for Randwick residents is Saturday 6 October 2012 from 9am - 3.30pm at the Heffron Park car-park in Maroubra (enter from Fitzgerald Ave).

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E11/12