

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 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, 13 November 2012 at 6pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor (T Bowen), D'Souza, Matson (Deputy Chairperson), Moore, Nash, Neilson, Roberts, Seng & Shurey (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 - 14 August 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. E12/12



Subject: **Electronic Waste and Extended Polystyrene Recycling Facilities at the Recycling Centre**

Folder No: F2008/00413

Author: Matshepo Molala, Waste & Sustainability Education Officer

Introduction

Council continues to work towards increasing resource recovery and providing opportunities for residents to dispose of their household waste in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. To achieve this Council has entered into new agreements with Infoactiv and New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority respectively, to provide facilities for the recovery and recycling of electronic waste and extended polystyrene.

This report is to inform Council of the new electronic waste and extended polystyrene recycling facilities which are now available at the Randwick Recycling Centre at 72 Perry Street, Matraville.

Issues

Electronic Waste Recycling

Through the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme, Council has entered into an agreement with Infoactiv who represents Australia and New Zealand Recycling Platform (ANZRP) – a product stewardship organisation formed under Product Stewardship legislation. Under this agreement householders and small businesses will have access to recycling services for televisions, computers, printers and peripherals at no cost.

This initiative is estimated to contribute to the collection and recycling of 350 tonnes of electronic waste in the first year of operation, lifting e-waste recycling rates nationally from below 17% to above 80% by 2021-22. It will also contribute to the recovery of valuable materials and appropriate handling and disposal of hazardous materials which are contained in electronic goods.

Over the last two calendar years, Council has provided residents with two e-waste drop off events each year at the Recycling Centre with 25 tonnes of e-waste collected in 2011 and 26 tonnes of e-waste collected in 2012. The cost of these e-waste collections held this year was \$26,000.

Randwick Council is currently the only Council in New South Wales to have this on-going e-waste recycling service available to the residents, placing Randwick at the forefront of e-waste management.

Extended Polystyrene Recycling

Through a grant of \$32,000 from the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (NSWEPA), Council has purchased, installed and commissioned a polystyrene processing machine enabling drop-off and recycling of polystyrene packaging. This machine reduces the polystyrene volume by 90% and converts into a product that can be used for various purposes. The NSWEPA also provided training for Council staff at the Recycling Centre to operate the machinery.

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Disposal of polystyrene to landfill is not desirable as it takes valuable landfill space and contributes to litter in the environment posing a threat to animals and marine life.

This initiative will contribute to council's landfill diversion target and will benefit local businesses through savings in waste management costs.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment

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

Direction 10(e): Our community is encouraged to implement waste minimization strategies.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Council continues to seek and provide opportunities for residents to manage waste sustainably and increase opportunities for resource recovery.

These two initiatives will make a very positive contribution both financially and environmentally and complement existing services at the Recycling Centre, all at no additional cost to residents.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E13/12



Subject: GoGet Community Carshare -
Randwick Update

Folder No: F2012/00053

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to update Council with the usage data for GoGet community car share across Randwick.

Issues

Council commenced the support of community carshare vehicles for Randwick residents late in 2006 (MM 75 / 2006 refers). The community carshare concept aims mainly to enable households to share a car rather than purchase a first or second vehicle and avoids them paying the associated running costs, insurances etc and to minimise the frequent difficulties of parking in inner urban areas.

Carshare members generally choose the type of joining fee that suits their regular or occasional use and then they pay a usage rate for the time they operate the carshare vehicle.

The current membership of GoGet carshare in Randwick is 925, comprising 810 residents and 115 corporate members, a rise of almost 50 percent since the last reporting period. There are also 38 carshare vehicles for Randwick members to access.

A survey of members shows that 51 percent have chosen not to have a vehicle at all, 74 percent of these would purchase a car if they didn't have access to carshare vehicles and 67 percent would need to park on the street if they owned a vehicle.

On this basis the physical reduction of vehicles in Randwick are equivalent to:

- 644 fewer vehicles owned by Randwick residents; and
- 583 fewer vehicles parked on Randwick streets.

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

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Community carshare access is a positive choice that residents can make to reduce their costs and use of private vehicles. This provides an alternative approach and

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response to traffic related issues in Randwick as well as contributing broader outcomes including cost savings for residents and benefits for the environment.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E14/12



Subject: Update on Fridge Buyback program in Randick

Folder No: F2012/00255

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to update Council on residential participation in the fridge buyback scheme supported by Local Councils and NSW Government.

Issues

Since 2006, Local Councils in the broader metropolitan area have been supporting the Fridge Buyback scheme operating under funding support from the NSW Government.

Council has promoted the scheme directly to residents on a number of occasions with the scheme offering a \$35 rebate to householders agreeing to give up their second fridge and complying with a number of criteria relating to the age and size of the fridge and the degree of difficulty accessing individual properties.

Older style fridges are one of the biggest energy users in the home, consuming up to three times the energy of new fridges. Running a typical second fridge adds an average of \$300 a year to a householder's energy bill and adds one tonne of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Free collections are organised and the fridges are professionally de-gassed with metals recycled.

Since commencement a total of 619 second fridges have been collected from Randwick homes achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 5,050 tonnes and contributing to savings off household energy bills of \$185,000. Fifty five tonnes of metal have been recycled from these collected items.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: Looking after our environment.

Direction 10(d): Environmentally sound collection systems are identified and implemented.

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

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Fridge Buyback operates independently from government but relies closely on marketing, promotion and information sent to residents from Local Councils. Estimates indicate the number of fridges collected from Randwick to date amount to around 10 percent of the second fridges in Randwick homes. Council will continue to

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promote Fridge Buyback to residents as one way of contributing to positive cost savings and environmental outcomes.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Subject: 3-Council Sustainable Business Program Update

Folder No: F2009/00494

Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

This report provides an update on the 3-Council Sustainable Business Program.

Issues

As a result of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program between Randwick, Woollahra and Waverley Councils, Sydney Water awarded funding for a 2-year Sustainable Business Program with a dedicated Project Officer hosted at Woollahra Council.

Due to the high level of engagement and savings made with local businesses across the 3-Councils in the first 2-years, Sydney Water provided additional funding to continue the project for another 2-years until October 2013.

The aim is to continue to work with small-to-medium water using businesses and schools that use between 10,000 – 80,000L/day. The Project Officer approaches businesses to undertake a detailed audit including the placement of data logging equipment to monitor water use over a number of weeks. At no cost to the business this audit helps better understand water use, identify leaks and opportunities for making savings.

The results of the project to date:

- 124 businesses and schools currently engaged
- 407,184 Litres/day of water savings identified
- 308,211 Litres/day of water savings implemented
- Water bill savings to businesses of \$452,239

Other than installing low cost tap aerators and flow restrictors all other costs associated with implementing the savings are carried out by the businesses themselves.

Businesses and schools can register for the Sustainable Business Program on the 3-Council website www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au

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: Looking after our Environment.

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

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

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

Financial impact statement

Support funding from Sydney Water totals \$103,500 which includes the first year Project Officer salary including all costs associated with employment and \$20,000 for incentives to implement low cost water saving initiatives across the businesses participating in the program.

The second year salary costs are funded through the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Program.

Conclusion

The results of this program continue to generate substantial cost savings for local businesses as well as substantial savings for the environment. Council will be kept up to date on the progress of this initiative.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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