



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **OzHarvest Canberra earns High Commendation at the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2009**

OzHarvest Canberra, a part of Communities@Work, has earned a High Commendation in the Resource Recovery & Waste Management category at the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Sustainable Cities Awards.

The winners were announced by Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens, and Keep Australia Beautiful National Chairman, Don Chambers at Parliament House in Canberra last night.

**According to the Australian Sustainable Cities Judge, Sean Rooney**, who is also the Sustainability Program Manager at Sinclair Knight Merz, said OzHarvest's food 'rescue' service provides multiple environmental, social and economic benefits within their local community.

"Sourcing food from over 50 donors and delivering it free of charge to around 40 local charities, OzHarvest delivers around 1,500kgs of food per week. This not only reduces organic food waste from ending up in landfill, but also supports people in need in the Canberra region. It also frees up funds previously spent on food by community service groups for other vital activities", Rooney added.

**Jenny Pickles from the Packaging Stewardship Forum**, sponsors of the Resource Recovery Award, said OzHarvest's work produces positive environmental and social outcomes.

"By recovering this food and delivering to local charities in need, OzHarvest is providing a sustainable alternative to keeping the food waste out of landfill. This results in long term environmental benefits by avoiding the methane gas emissions that would otherwise be produced by the food in landfill."

"It's an excellent example of how both environment and society can benefit through sustainable initiatives", Pickles added.

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards recognise efforts by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies to protect and enhance their local environment to ensure its long term sustainability at all levels. The Awards are sponsored by Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program; Grundfos Pumps; Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) and ToysRUs.

The overall Australian Sustainable Cities 2009 winner was City of Canada Bay, NSW.

Further information about the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards can be found at [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)

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- Australian Sustainable Cities Judge, Sean Rooney on 0422 161 410
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## Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Awards Recipients 2009

Category	Winner	Sponsor
<b>Overall Winner</b>	<b>Canada Bay, NSW</b>	
<b>Community Action &amp; Partnerships</b>	<b>Winner - Hobsons Bay, VIC</b> Highly commended - Palmerston, NT	
<b>'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention</b>	<b>Canada Bay, NSW</b>	
<b>Resource Recovery &amp; Waste Management</b>	<b>Port Adelaide Enfield, SA</b> Highly commended: OzHarvest, ACT	Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program
<b>Environmental Innovation &amp; Protection</b>	<b>Winner - Ipswich, QLD</b> Highly commended - BRRAG, WA	Sinclair Knight Merz
<b>Water Conservation</b>	<b>Canada Bay, NSW</b>	Grundfos Pumps
<b>Heritage &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Launceston, TAS</b>	
<b>Young Legends</b>	<b>Port Adelaide Enfield, SA</b>	Toys R Us
<b>Energy Innovation</b>	<b>Canada Bay, NSW</b>	

Full details for each entrant can be found at  
<http://www.kab.org.au/programs/sustainable-cities/>

### **About the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards**

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. It does this through research, communications programs and awards programs.

Its national awards are known as the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards which consist of the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards. Each awards program commences with state and territory awards and culminates in a national grand final.