

Media Release
Embargoed til 1pm
Tuesday 17 August 2010
(please do not contact the winners listed below til after the event 11-1pm)

Canberra Celebrates Local Leaders in Sustainability

Today, at a function at the Legislative Assembly, Minister for the Environment Simon Corbell MLA joined Keep Australia Beautiful representatives in celebrating the achievements of the participants in the sixth annual ACT Sustainable Cities Awards.

The awards are open to community, business and all levels of government in the ACT. The awards celebrate achievement in litter reduction and the broader sustainability agenda including water and energy conservation.

Chair of the Judging Committee Rolfe Hartley commented:

'As well as projects in individual categories, for the first time this year we have had a number of organisations who were able to lodge entries that addressed multiple categories. This demonstrates how these awards are growing and I look forward to receiving even more individual and multiple category awards next year.

This year the category winners included amongst others:

-The Australian National University for litter prevention, recycling and efficiently disposing of food waste across campus.

-Skipit solutions for the processing and recovery of concrete wash out water using portable, watertight skips and a unique filtering system which separates solids from the water which is returned to the truck and used in the next concrete batch.

-DECCEW for the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT which involves 114 out of 127 schools in the ACT. 9 waste wise schools achieved a 58% reduction in waste to landfill and 22 water wise schools reduced water costs by 37% per annum.

And the overall winner was the ACT Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water for the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT.

The overall winner in the ACT awards is now a finalist in the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards to be announced in Sydney on 1 November 2010.

Ends

Contact

-Rolfe Hartley, Chair, ACT Judging Committee, 0418 285 634
-Scott Lyall, Keep Australia Beautiful, 0419 016 401

About Keep Australia Beautiful in the ACT

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment.

The ACT Sustainable Cities awards aim to encourage, motivate and celebrate local community initiatives in environmental, social and economic sustainability. Full details and past examples at

<http://www.kab.org.au/sustainable-cities/what-we-do/act/>

Keep Australia Beautiful also offers the Waste Watchers program to ACT Schools

<http://www.kabnsw.org.au/OurPrograms/WasteWatchers.aspx>

and is providing direct financial support for Beverage Container Recycling

<http://www.kab.org.au/what-we-do/beverage-container-recycling-grants/>

The ACT Sustainable Cities Awards are judged by:

Rolfe Hartley	Engineers Australia
Su Wild River	ANU
Denis Wilson	Anson Meridian
James Andrews	Daryl Jackson Alastair Swayn
Andrew Smith	National Capital Authority
Drew English	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Kevin Green	ACT Territory and Municipal Services
Nyssa Skilton	Journalist
John Kenworthy	The Village Building Company

The ACT Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by:

- Grundfos Pumps, contact Anna Thyssen 0411 117 632
- The Village Building Company, contact Kim Hudson 02 6241 6844
- Australian National University, Energy and Sustainability Office, contact Su Wild River, 0422 167 867
- The Canberra Times, contact Ken Nichols 02 6280 2122

Other finalists in the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards include:

- Hornsby NSW
- Melton VIC
- Redland QLD
- Stirling WA
- Clarence TAS
- Darwin NT

**Keep Australia Beautiful ACT
Sustainable Cities Awards 2010**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Sponsored by</u>	<u>Won By</u>
Community Action and Partnerships	The Canberra Times	DECCEW for Banksia Street Wetlands
'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention		ANU for Public Place Recycling
Resource Recovery and Waste Management		Skipit Solutions for concrete wash out and recycling
Environmental Innovation & Protection	Australian National University, Energy and Sustainability Office	DECCEW for 'Understanding the land through the eyes of the Ngunnawal people'
Water Conservation	Grundfos Pumps	Project Coordination for CIT Bruce Horticultural Facilities
Energy Innovation		Scinergy and Select Structures for testing built structures to reduce energy use
Heritage and Culture		ANU for Mount Stromlo Observatory Restoration
Sustainable Buildings and Gardens – Residential	The Village Building Company	Project North for 2010 Residential Green Living Project
Sustainable Buildings and Gardens – Commercial	The Village Building Company	ANU for Lauras Wing, Ursula College
Young Legends		DECCEW for Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT
Overall Winner		DECCEW for Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT

Note: details of highly commended and other participants in winning entries will be available from <http://www.kab.org.au/sustainable-cities/what-we-do/act/>

Community Action and Partnerships

Banksia Street Wetlands

DECCEW

Banksia Street Wetlands is Canberra's first retrofitted Urban wetland to incorporate an ephemeral section which dries out in summer.

The wetland was planned by the community based catchment group with funding provided by the Commonwealth and ACT Governments. Construction of the wetland was organised by DECCEW who also arranged tree planting days with local primary school children and Indigenous at risk youth. The judges agreed that this entry clearly describes a community in action supported and enable by many partnerships.

Contact Anita Healy or Edwina Richardson, DECCEW, Ph 13 2281

'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

Public Place Recycling

ANU

The Australian National University (ANU) continues to implement a long-term program for community education, waste reduction and litter avoidance.

46 recycling bins in strategic locations throughout the ANU landscape are a key element of litter reduction strategies. Additionally, bins for food waste and other organics have now been installed at 6 university residences and 12 university departments and are a key element of litter reduction strategies.

The judges believe the initiative is a great example of how simple measures (such as the strategically placed recycling bins) can make a difference to waste, and it shows how other organisations can follow the ANU's lead to manage litter.

Contact John Sullivan or Barry Hughes, ANU, Ph 6125 5111.

Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Skipit Solutions

The threat to the environment of the disposing of concrete washout for trucks and pumps is growing and Skipit has invested in a system that is currently awaiting local and worldwide patents. It is estimated that 41 million litres of water a year is used to wash down vehicles which ultimately finds its way into the ground water and stormwater systems. The solution was to use portable, watertight skips that can be left on site for all washouts. The unique filtering system separates solids from the water which is returned to the truck and used in the next concrete batch. The remaining solids harden and can be lifted using an ingenious web under the filter and sent for recycling.

Contact Owen Weston, Skipit Solutions, Ph 02 6457 1030

Environmental Innovation

'Understanding the land through the eyes of the Ngunnawal people'

DECCEW

In September 2009, a week long workshop was held with local Ngunnawal Indigenous elders to develop in them a greater awareness and appreciation of their cultural sites, for the elders to share with others their Indigenous perspective on land, biodiversity and their relationship with people.

The development of primary school curriculum on indigenous cultural and environmental heritage is innovative in both principles and practice. It clearly covers community, flora and fauna, and in passing this learning onto primary school children, it works to protect assets in the long term.

Contact Anita Healy or Jo Donovan, DECCEW, Ph 13 2281

Water Conservation

CIT Bruce Horticultural Facilities

Project Coordination

This project includes the harvesting and use of surface storm water runoff and bore water for use in the horticultural section of CIT at the Bruce campus.

Components include a 5.2ML dam storage, reed bed filtration and rainwater tanks. It acts as a pollution control system based on natural processes, removes the need to use potable water from the community water supply system and provides an exceptional working educational tool for students. Close to the impossibility of "perpetual motion".

Contact Paul Murphy, Project Coordination, 02 6285 1555

Energy Innovation

Scinergy and Select Structures

Scinergy and Select Structures offer a new approach to reducing energy consumption. Their key innovation is testing built structures for air/ thermal leakage and providing solutions to reduce it. This approach, which makes use of different available technologies, can make a major difference in reducing energy consumption in new and old buildings in the long term.

Contact Jenny Edwards 0424 635 082

Heritage and Culture

Mount Stromlo Observatory Restoration

ANU

The Mount Stromlo Observatory is one of the oldest institutions in the ACT. Established as the Commonwealth Solar Observatory in 1924, Mount Stromlo is significant as the earliest example of Commonwealth scientific endeavor in the ACT. In 2003 the Mount Stromlo Observatory was devastated by bushfires. The judges recognised that changes in Astronomy since the observatory was established could cause the ANU to set aside cultural and physical heritage and chose not to re-establish an observatory close to an Urban Centre. The judges applaud the ANU's decision to rebuild the centre and quality of its subsequent restoration.

Contact John Sullivan ANU Ph 6125 5111

Sustainable Buildings and Gardens – Residential 2010 Residential Green Living Project

Project North

The project is situated on a block in Carwoola surrounded by bushland. The clients had a desire to create something that fitted with the environment with minimal impact on the site. From the thermally insulated slab edge to the solar panels on the roof, this residence has all bases covered. It features a self sufficient, low energy consumption on-site Biolitix black water recycling unit. Recycled timber has been used extensively for the pergola and carport. The Williams' residence not only includes a plethora of 'green' features but the construction process itself was environmentally conscious.

Contact Kath Williams Ph 6232 9691

Sustainable Buildings and Gardens – Commercial Lauras Wing, Ursula College

ANU

Student accommodation based on shipping containers. The design allows for construction of individual units offsite and then put in place on the campus. Occupant comfort is achieved through a combination of orientation, careful attention to ventilation double glazing (which also assists with acoustic performance) and draft control. Provision has been made for future use of grey water recycling. This project could be used as a role model for both student and affordable housing elsewhere and as such will probably become accepted as a landmark building in future years.

Contact Keith Walker ANU Ph 6125 5111

Young Legends

Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT

DECCEW

The Australian Sustainable School Initiative is a program funded by the Commonwealth, brokered by State/Territory Governments and delivered by schools. In the case of the ACT DECCEW is the responsible agency. The program involves the school community in developing and adopting energy, water, waste and biodiversity initiatives that are considered as a priority for that community. Presently 114 of the 127 schools in the ACT have signed up to the program involving 23,000 students. Their programs range from water, waste and energy audits, environmental centres, organic gardens and participation in conferences and special events such as Earth Hour and environmental expos.

Contact Anita Healy or Vanessa Whelan, DECCEW, Ph 13 2281