

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND WATER (DECCEW), ACT

Winner of:

Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

The Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention Award recognizes achievement in community litter management and reduction including the undertaking of litter audits and litter education programs.

The award recognizes community litter management, reduction and education initiatives and their impacts.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water (DECCEW) of the Australian Capital Territory consistent with the objectives and intent of the Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention Award category presented an effective, event related, education program specifically focused on litter prevention, the Tropfest Short Film Festival.

Canberra's Tropfest screening is the second largest in the country, with crowds of over 23,500. As a means to raise awareness of recycling and Green Power, the ACT government through the organizers decided not to put any public waste bins at the venue. Attendees were asked to take their rubbish to a centrally located waste-sorting site. Waste volunteers helped guide the public in sorting their own waste into color-coded waste buckets. The buckets were then transferred by volunteers into larger storage bins. The initiative resulted in more than a ton of total event waste being redirected to composting or recycling depots, rather than the landfill.

Highly Commended

Heritage and Culture

A High Commendation for Heritage and Culture is awarded to the ACT government's innovative and collaborative approach to engaging local Indigenous People in natural resource management policies and programs in the ACT. The ACT government has built a strong partnership with the local Ngunnawal community towards a more sustainable community. The partnership resulted in the project 'Understanding the Land Through the Eyes of the Ngunnawal.' The project is an indigenous natural resource management curriculum program for schools in the ACT, the first of its kind in Australia.

Winner of:

Young Legends

The Young Legends Award recognizes environmental achievement by communities encouraging and promoting youth initiative and environmental education.

Through the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative-ACT (AuSSI-ACT), the ACT government helps schools save energy and water, improve waste management, protect biodiversity and cut greenhouse gas emissions. AuSSI-ACT provides advice and assistance to government and non-government schools participating in the program. 114 of the 127 schools in Canberra are ACTSmart schools.

The AuSSI program has yielded positive results, particularly in waste reduction and water conservation. Nine accredited Waste Wise Schools were able to collectively reduce the volume of waste they sent to landfills by 58%. In terms of water, 22 schools have been accredited as ACTSmart Water Wise schools. In total, these schools have reduced water consumption by 30,306 kiloliters or reduced costs by \$61,218 per annum.