



**Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
Sustainable Cities® Program 2009**

SUBMISSION

Overall Sustainable Council Award

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Award Objective: to encourage and recognise council initiatives within their community to implement sustainability focussed programs which will provide positive environmental outcomes across the locality.

Authorisation:

I, Petrina Nelson (applicant) am authorised to submit this document on behalf of City of Canada Bay Council (council) and I have read, understood and accept the Conditions of Entry.

1. PROJECT TITLE

City of Canada Bay - Sustainable City Program

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

- Provide one paragraph to summarise council's area. This should include a brief explanation of council initiatives.

The City of Canada Bay Council Sustainable City Program is the backbone for the implementation of an ambitious, yet achievable strategy to toward substantially reducing the city's carbon footprint. The program strives towards minimising carbon emissions, while also incorporating new technologies to minimise potable water consumption and increase water reuse, whilst maintaining a high level of services to our community.

The Sustainable City Program is also a precursor to Council's FuturesPlan20 developed in 2008. FuturesPlan20 is a 20-year plan for the City of Canada Bay, it acknowledges the role of our City in a global community, and recognises the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for the next 20 years.

3. AIMS & OBJECTIVES (5%)

- Briefly describe the broad aims and objectives in addressing issues of sustainability in council's locality.

Council aspires to becoming an environmentally sustainable city and encouraging local business and residents to follow by Council's example.

The Milestones of the Sustainable City Program are to:

- 1: Establish a multi-sector stakeholder group, consisting of representatives from all sectors of the community, to oversee the process, and be formally involved in the development and implementation of all action aimed at achieving objectives.
- 2: Undertake a sustainability audit considering social, economic, and environmental conditions and trends in the community.
- 3: Adopt a sustainable community vision based on a review of the audit, and an assessment of priorities.
- 4: Implement an action plan, which identifies goals, priorities, measurable targets, roles and responsibilities, funding sources and work activities.
- 5: Establish monitoring, annual evaluation and progress reports on the implementation of the action plan, using appropriate indicators.

The Sustainable City Program includes the Sustainable City Committee formed in 2002 as part of Milestone 1, the Green Business Program, Education in Schools Program and Staff Sustainability Team. These branches of the program intertwine to provide a well established Sustainable City Program that is recognised as a model program.

Council's Sustainability Team developed the following guiding principles which reflect Council's comprehensive approach to sustainability. The Sustainability Team strives to develop greater environmental, economic, social and ultimately financial sustainability across Council through the following approach:

- To provide an opportunity for multi-discipline communication, which provides direction to achieve a sustainable outcome in accordance with the City of Canada Bay Council's vision and mission statement
- To incorporate sustainability throughout each member's position and department, and finally throughout our community.
- To identify future projects which can be jointly implemented between departments utilising broader skills and knowledge while pooling resources.
- To educate all staff throughout the Council so that sustainability becomes an integral part of how the community and staff live and work.

4. PLANNING (5%)

- **Include time frames, resources and funding.**

The City of Canada Bay FuturesPlan20, was prepared with the community for the community, the plan includes a vision and targets for the future and covers all areas including the environmental, economic and social sustainability in the City of Canada Bay. This vision recognises our responsibility as a community to protect the environment and preserve it for future generations. A green city is both a challenge and a priority for us as an urban area, establishing a balance between the natural and built environment is critical to the success of this vision.

An extract of the FuturesPlan20 Summary is provided as an attachment which outlines the targets set for 2028.

Council continues its commitment to the following programs and projects as part of the Sustainable City Program which will assist with meeting the targets in the FuturesPlan20.

- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) - Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy, addressing global climate change issues by the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions. City of Canada Bay Council was the first NSW Council to reach Milestone 5 of CCP and actively participate in resource sharing as well as providing leadership to other councils.
- ICLEI Water Campaign TM, Sydney Water Every Drop Counts Program focussing on water conservation, reuse and recycling on a corporate and community level.
- Prepared comprehensive Energy and Water Savings Action Plans, identifying energy and water savings projects
- Green Business Program encouraging sustainability in local businesses
- The Draft Financial and Sustainability Action Plan establishes a series of sustainability targets in the workplace such as:
 - double-sided printing as default;
 - incorporating ESD principles for redevelopments of Council buildings; and
 - developing a full maintenance plan of parks and gardens taking on board drought resistant materials.
- In 2007 the Procurement Policy was reviewed to include green purchasing objectives. (See attached supporting information)

A list detailing the grant funding secured which supports the City of Canada Bay Council's allocated budget for these projects is outlined in the attachment to this submission.

5. PARTNERSHIPS (10%)

▪ Who are the key partners in the project?

Key partners in the City of Canada Bay Council Sustainable City Program are:

- Staff Sustainability Team - consisting of representatives from every Council directorate who implement and build on Council's sustainability commitments. The Sustainability Team also plays an important role in the induction of new staff by new employees to Council's sustainability mission and encouraging the adoption of 'sustainability at work' principles.
- Council staff - by adhering to the Procurement Policy which prompts consideration of environmental factors such as greenhouse gas emissions in purchasing products and services, and for participating in Green Fleet and offsetting emissions of 50 passenger vehicles.
- Sustainable City Committee consisting of Council staff and management, community representatives and elected members who address local environmental issues through education and lobbying.
- Over 3,000 local school students who learn about sustainability through Council's environmental and waste education program e.g. kNOw Waste Education Program and National Recycling Week Competitions.
- Local sporting groups and schools who participate in the Sportsfield Rating System to better manage Council's sporting facilities.
- Winners, entrants and 188 guests who participated in the 2008 Sustainability Awards
- 60 active bushcare volunteers involved in Council's bushcare regeneration program including representatives who attended the 'Bushcare Essential' course in 2008.

The following organisations partner Council;

- The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives;
- Australian Greenhouse Office;
- NSW Cancer Council;
- Federal Department of Environment and Water Resources;
- NSW Department of Planning, Department of Water and Energy
- Rotary
- NSW Health;
- Sydney Water;
- Energy Australia;
- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Authority;
- Department of Environment and Climate Change; and
- NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

6. COMMUNITY AWARENESS (10%)

- How has council informed the community of its activities?
- How has council encouraged behavioural change in regard to sustainable living (provide examples)?

- Over 5,000 people participated in the City of Canada Bay Wellbeing Festival: a community celebration and promotion of environmental, social and personal wellbeing on 4 May 2008. Launching the City's annual Wellness Week program of events, the festival offered the community opportunities to learn about the latest trends in healthy and sustainable living, attend sustainability workshops and participate in bushcare community plantings to rehabilitate the area and improve catchment biodiversity as part of the broader Iron Cove Catchment Management Project. At this event and other events such as Bay Day, Council encourage attendees to walk, cycle or use public transport to the event. (See attachment)

- Council's key communication tool used to convey environmental and sustainability information to the community is the 'News on a Better Environment' newsletter. This quarterly publication reports on Council's environmental management in Canada Bay, provides environmental tips, and, is a conduit between Council's Sustainability Team, and the community. The publication features articles prepared by members of the Sustainability City Committee who act as advocates for behaviour change and promote sustainable living. (see attached Bayside Brief/News on a Better Environment)

- The new Concord Library and Wellbank Children's Centre Facility and the redeveloped Cabarita Pool were designed on the principles of ecologically sustainable development which include solar passive design, energy efficient considerations, water conservation features and waste minimisation and is a demonstration of the application of good sustainable design.

- Interactive educational displays in Council libraries, customer service centres, community street fairs and workshops provide a useful forum to disseminate information on Council's environmental initiatives.

- To reward the City's environmental advocates, in 2008 Council continued its Sustainability Awards to reflect increasing environmental stewardship by the local residential and business community. The Awards attracted over 188 participants and is anticipated to grow in 2009. (See attachment)

- For the fourth year, the Green Business Breakfast was held in 2008. Attracting over 80 businesses, participants were encouraged to embrace sustainability in the workplace and over 200 environmental commitments to the environment were made by guests at the event.

- 2008 National Tree Day involved the community and pupils from seven schools who planted over 1,600 trees in McIllwaine Park and in local schools. (See attachment for photos)

- Council staff have recently formed a Bicycle User group and led by example in using sustainable transport to commute to and from work. The group formed following a great interest at the 2008 Ride 2 Work Day. (See attachment for photos)

7. COMMUNITY EDUCATION &/OR PARTICIPATION (20%)

- **How has Council involved different community groups and sectors?**

The following opportunities have allowed City of Canada Bay to reach various groups of the community:

In April 2009 City of Canada Bay hosted a walk'n'talk Urban Nature photo safari to raise the awareness of Parramatta River Catchment health and biodiversity, while also encouraging cultural development, the session was attended with great interest (See attachment for photos)

Throughout 2008 an extensive community engagement process was used to prepare the FuturesPlan20 including developing the Green City objectives. This included the consultation sessions being attended by four bushcare volunteers, which promoted bushcare works and encouraged community members to join the program.

Council's educational website profiles projects such as the Fridge Buyback program, tips on waste minimisation and living in an earth-friendly home which is suitable for all sections of the community to learn more about waste.

Two workshops delivered in January 2008: Meet the Hungry Helpers workshop attended by 20 school children and Natures Recyclers workshop attended by 8 adults, were designed to provide education on worm farming.

National Recycling Week Postcard Competition to build awareness of waste avoidance strategies and resource recovery opportunities attracted over 600 entries. This equates to a response rate of approximately 2.9% of all households in the City of Canada Bay.

During International Composting Awareness Week in May 2009 Council held workshops with the community and also staff to encourage and educate the importance of Composting on the home and workplace. (See attachment for flyer)

In 2007 a comprehensive secondary school waste educational program was developed by Council to provide information on topics such as wastescapes; worlds of waste; materials matter; earth systems; and bin wise. (See attachment)

Council is delivering waste workshops for targeted culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community groups in the City. Council's first two CALD Waste and Recycling Education Workshop were held in 2007 with a bilingual educator from the Department of Environment and Climate Change Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project delivering a presentation to 20 Italian-speaking residents and six Chinese-speaking residents at a second workshop. These workshops will continue to educate and encourage participation by members of other CALD groups as identified in the 2006 Census.

Environmental Services and Community Services are undertaking a program in conjunction with Rotary to build wheelchairs for amputees and disabled people in third world countries using disposed bicycles.

Annual community festivals and consultation sessions such as Ferragosto and Concord Carnival provide a unique opportunity to communicate and engage with various members of the community.

8. INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABILITY (20%)

- How has council addressed sustainability in its locality?
- Provide examples in the following:

a. Sustainable management of the natural environment, including biodiversity, air, water and soil?

Council has recently installed innovative bike racks in village precincts to encourage the community to cycle and shop. This follows another Sustainable City Initiative, the walk shop and wheel promotion to encourage local communities to walk and shop locally. (See attachment)

- Habitat Restoration Strategy developed in 2007 (Mower Reduction Strategy), reduces park management costs, fuel consumption and greenhouses gases produced while forming wildlife corridors.

- Bushcare volunteers contributed to the planting of over 4,500 local provenance native tube-stock plants as part biodiversity renewal projects in 2007/08. (See attachment)

- Councils Water Savings Action Plan, Rainwater Reuse Policy and Greywater Reuse Guidelines and Policy are anticipated to reduce water consumption in the City by 40%.

Projects include (refer to attached Project Fact Sheets for further detail):

- The Cintra Hockey Water Recycling Project saves 4,500,000 litres of drinking water each year by using run-off to irrigate a synthetic water based hockey pitch.

- Canada Bay's Water Mining for Irrigation Project treats wastewater to a high quality for the irrigation of golf courses, playing fields, garden beds and for street cleaning.

- Powell's Creek Reserve Stormwater Harvesting for Reuse Project uses permeable pipes to treat and store collected stormwater for reuse in irrigation

- The irrigation of golf courses and playing fields in the area is controlled by state-of-the-art weather stations which prevent sprinklers operating unnecessarily such as during times of rain. In 2009 this will also be linked to sportsfield lighting to save energy

- A 100kL rainwater tank has been installed to save on potable water used for irrigation at Concord Oval.

- The new Concord Library and redevelopment of Cabarita Swim Centre include rainwater reuse, waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and push button taps.

Council Energy Savings Action Plan indentified a major energy performance based project for five of its main building. Introducing solar hot water, advance air conditioning control and lighting improvements.

- Council's Procurement Policy guides the purchase of products and services that reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions from waste and the burning of fossil fuels.

b. Evidence of reducing waste through energy and resource-efficient building, businesses and practices.

Council Operations:

- 4,500 tonnes of road profilings reused
- 3,500 tonnes of concrete recycled
- Council events have been made more sustainable by:
 - the purchase of 50 bin caps to highlight garbage and recycling bins
 - banning polystyrene foam items
 - Use of Biodegradable Banners for the promotion of events

Recycling and Waste Collection:

Total recycling undertaken between July 2008 to April 09 represents the following savings:

- Greenhouse benefits equivalent to removing 864 cars permanently off the road
- Water savings equal to 47 Olympic sized swimming pools, and
- Energy savings equal to the annual electricity requirements for 55 blocks of 100 households.
- Recycling Audit undertaken in March 2007 revealed an 8.7% contamination rate in the City (bordering Councils had 40% contamination rate). Further audit conducted Nov 07 saw the contamination rate drop to 6.87%

In 07/08 14503 tonnes of garbage, 8902 tonnes of recycling, 4830 tonnes of garden organics and 209 tonnes of metals were collected from approx 30,380 properties. An increase of 630 residential premises on the previous year.

Other initiatives include:

- Food Recycling and Processing trial (07/08) - The 12 week comprehensive trial included approximately 1000 participating properties, including 150 Multi-Unit-Developments (MUDs).
- Bicycle Reuse and Recycling Project produces wheelchair frames from discarded bicycles which are constructed by a local Rotary Club and donated third world countries.
- Council funds the provision of a sharps disposal service at 3 local chemists
- Annual Chemical Cleanout - Hosted by Council, designed to assist residents in disposing of household chemicals in the appropriate manner. 2008 saw 603 people attend with 18.5 tonnes of chemicals collected.
- Recycling service for Mobile phone and printer/photocopier toner bottles and cartridges available at Councils libraries and administration centre.
- Body Corporate/Strata Management Guide developed, outlining all resources available to MUDs to ensure maximum recovery of recyclables. (See attachment for further detail)
- Fridge Buy Back Program - Total fridges collected to date 215. (See attachment)

c. Conservation of heritage items for future generations, be they precincts (main streets and other conservation areas), industrial heritage sites, historic gardens and parks, archaeological sites, cemeteries, Aboriginal sites and/or movable items.

Council's Heritage Advisor provides a free advisory service for residents wishing to work on heritage items, building conservation areas or buildings in the vicinity of a heritage item, professional advice to Council's assessment staff on heritage matters and promote high quality design outcomes for proposed work on heritage items, buildings in conservation areas and buildings in the vicinity of heritage items. As well as a large number of notable distinctive buildings, parklands and gardens, Canada Bay has over 500 listed heritage items and 20 heritage conservation areas.

During 2008 two new programs celebrating the unique character of the local area were successfully launched which recognise and protect local heritage: Local Heritage Assistance Fund and Heritage Awards Program. The fund provides financial assistance to private owners of heritage properties or properties within a heritage conservation area for small heritage conservation projects. The Awards Program commends property owners or groups for their valuable work in conserving and maintaining heritage in the City of Canada Bay.

The main issues having an impact upon the preservation of local Aboriginal heritage in the Canada Bay LGA continues to be urban development and increasing urban population growth. The process of remnant Aboriginal site protection also requires continuous monitoring to ensure that these relics remain intact for future generations.

At Council's 2008 Sustainability Awards a special Heritage Conservation award was given to a street in the form of a recognisable street sign. (See attachment for photos)

d. A safe and healthy environment, playing a significant role in people's physical, mental and social well being.

The Sustainable City Program and associated Sustainability Levy enables Council to fund a range of sustainable social, economic and environmental initiatives and deliver against the objectives of the Local Agenda 21 program which Council committed to in 2002. The purpose of the levy is to maintain and sustain the local community's quality of life now and in the future which has been achieved in 2007/08 through:

- Wellness Week 2008 offered free MP3 players loaded with audio walking tours were available to Wellness Week participants while the program's inaugural Wellbeing Festival incorporated:

- Activity Zone where meditation, massage and gymnastics were conducted;
- Learning Zone encouraged learning about environmentally-friendly cleaning, healthy eating and reducing your carbon footprint; and
- Green Zone invited participants learn about catchment awareness and biodiversity through planting activities.

Wellness Week also incorporated the opening of the new Concord Library and the Wellbank Children's Centre providing services in family support and encouraging literacy.

- Council conducts a program of Public Health Forums throughout the year which in 2008 have included an examination of Obesity, Sleep, Skin and most recently the Emotional Wellbeing and Depression Management.

- Council supports a practitioner's network for those people involved in promoting health and wellbeing involving local businesses, professionals and community groups.

- Council's Lets Play Playspace Strategy coordinates the in outdoor play spaces in a bid to tackle childhood obesity and provide open space for people living in high density accommodation and with limited access to private open space. (See attachment)

9. INNOVATION (10%)

- **What makes council's approach to addressing the issues of sustainability unique?**

Canada Bay's integration of sustainability across the board of Council's operations through the Sustainability Team helped determine the extent of capital works projects, which has included the following current projects:

The Water Mining for Irrigation Project will be a major capital works project for Council and demonstrates an innovative approach to water management. This project will see up to 180 million litres of drinking water saved each year and sustainably provide green open spaces for the community.

The Drummoyne Oval Precinct upgrade will include a stormwater harvesting component to provide water for irrigation reducing our demand on potable supplies. Stormwater and potentially groundwater seepage will be collected for reuse.

The Sustainability Team steered the following projects to ensure sustainable measures were incorporated into designs:

Wareemba Shopping Centre Precinct Upgrade, which was designed to deliver community benefits with minimal impact on the environment.

- Permeable paving allows rainwater to be harvested from the footpath and water the soil and street tree root system below;
- Concrete and road base materials were excavated and recycled; and
- Drought tolerant native trees were introduced

Cabarita Swim Centre refurbishment included:

- Rainwater reuse for toilet flushing and washing down the concourse and pool equipment
- Flow-reducing taps, fitting and waterless urinals to reduce water consumption;
- Self-cleaning ceramic tiles (thereby reducing water consumption);
- Solar E-Plus glass will be used to limit heat gain, partially recycled carpet and
- Timber decking and seating sourced from a plantation, finished with a Environment friendly product derived from lanolin.

Wellbank Centre - Library and childcare centre incorporated rainwater tanks, waterless urinals, water efficient fittings, night purge cooling system and low carbon recycled product carpet.

The Sustainability Team also set up a green ideas email to encourage staff to contribute their green ideas for consideration. The new incentive offers prizes to staff who submit their ideas for discussion at the monthly Sustainability Team meeting.

10. OUTCOMES (20%)

- Are the aims and objectives measurable, and have they been measured?
- What are the follow-on effects from council's achievements?

Council's mission to comprehensively apply sustainability throughout all of its operations is continually measured and reassessed. The Water and Energy Savings Actions Plans which manage the two most significant of Council's sustainability objectives are assessed regularly by dedicated Environmental Officers. To date the estimated savings achieved by these plans are:

Water Savings Action Plan (reported every four years but is internally audited quarterly)

1. Cintra Hockey Water Recycling Project - 6.5 million litres (over 18 months)
2. Water Mining for Irrigation of City of Canada Bay Parks and Golf Course - (at Tender stage)
3. Powell's Creek Reserve Stormwater Harvesting for Reuse Project - 1,500,000L saved in six months
4. Weather stations for Irrigation and Smart Irrigation Management System - Expansion underway - Estimated 15% savings on normal use
5. Concord Oval Rainwater Reuse - 500,000L saved in first six months

Information on these projects is provided in the supporting information attachments

Energy Savings Action Plan (inventory of greenhouse gases saved occurs annually - refer to attachment)

1. Council's top 5 energy using buildings.
2. Cut energy costs/operating costs of the building.
3. Provide detailed Energy Audits of the Council's properties.
4. Provide energy saving strategies examples which can be promoted across Council and private buildings.
5. Provide savings on Greenhouse gas emissions which will be able to be quantified annually.

Apart from environmental savings, the indirect result of Council's environmental initiatives are best demonstrated by the achievements and recognition Council has received. (Please see attachment for full list of awards City of Canada Bay has received)

Submissions must be provided electronically.

EITHER:

Mail your submission on a CD to:
Sustainable Cities Submissions
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
1/83 Marion Street
Harris Park NSW 2150

OR

Email to: rhadaway@kabnsw.org.au

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS: **FRIDAY JUNE 5 2009**

PLEASE SEND PRIOR TO THAT DATE IF POSSIBLE.

Thank you
Rosemary Hadaway
Programs Manager

Supporting materials, publications and/or photos may be inserted or attached here (please ensure photos are minimised and no more than five photos are included):

The following attachments have been provided as supporting and further information:

1. CCBC_Supporting_Attachment_KAB_09
2. Combined Project Factsheets
3. Bayside Brief - Green Edition - July 2008
4. Bayside Bushcare Newsletter - Autumn 2009 Edition
5. Encouraging Correct Use of Waste and Recycling Services in Multi Unit Developments