

## Sustainable Cities 2011 - South Australia

**Recipient:** City of Charles Sturt      **Pop:** approx. 110 000

**Location:** 4kms west of Adelaide

**Category:** Community Action & Partnerships

**Highlights:**



*'Towards One Planet Living: Greening the Western Suburbs'* is a five year plan that identifies strategies and actions under four key themes of climate change, water biodiversity and waste. The initiative has reinvigorated discussion between Council, its community and other stakeholders about the environmental future to be created for the City of CHARLES STURT.

Prepared with reference to community views expressed during the preparation of the Community Plan, with direct involvement from external stakeholders, the draft plan was presented to the community for consultation in 2008.

The City of CHARLES STURT is committed to providing ongoing opportunities for residents to stay involved with *'Towards One Planet Living'* as the plan is implemented. To date, follow-up events have included World Environment Day awards and the *'Towards One Planet Living: One Year On'* workshop conducted in July 2010.

At each of these events, residents and stakeholders are provided with an update on the implementation of the plan, a list of achievements to date, and update on projects planned for the coming year. Many of those who attend and participate at these workshops also take the opportunity to contact relevant Council staff between events to discuss specific projects and provide feedback and ideas for consideration.

**Queen Street Precinct** - The retro shopping district at Queen Street, Croydon is a leading example of community-driven main street revitalisation. Led by community group, Hindmarsh Greening, this precinct has emerged from economic decline to a lively and profitable main street precinct.

Council has supported Hindmarsh Greening throughout the improvement of the precinct, and continues to do so. Council has completed a wide range of streetscape upgrades, including kerbing, paving and street lighting, to support local property owners and lift the appearance of the street.

**Coast Park Pathway project** - With 12 kilometres of coastline to manage, the City of CHARLES STURT is a major contributor to the design and construction of the Coast Park Pathway project, which includes a continuous shared use path that extends along the entire metropolitan coast.

Since 2005, Council has designed and constructed a total of 4.2 kilometres of pathway. The path is designed and constructed in stages. Each stage is designed in close consultation with the local community, often with multiple options and designs considered and modified in response to feedback and ideas received.

**Graffiti removal** - Council is committed to providing a clean and safe environment for its residents. Unsightly graffiti occurring on private and public property is reported to Police and then removed as quickly as possible by volunteers. Rapid removal has been proven to reduce the likelihood of graffiti reoccurring. Council provides volunteers with required training, equipment, uniforms and insurance. By working together, Council, residents, ratepayers and the Police can achieve the goal of a 'clean city'.

**Category:** 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

**Highlights:**

- Over 1 100 litter bins are located throughout streets, reserves and foreshores for the convenient disposal of litter and waste in public places. The frequency of the collection of the public litter bins varies in response to seasonal conditions, ie more frequent in warmer weather.
- To promote responsible dog ownership and assist with the management of faeces, the City of CHARLES STURT offers as an additional service dog waste bag dispensers along the foreshore of CHARLES STURT and within popular Council reserves where high usage has been identified. In total Council has 38 dog waste bag dispensers most of which are regularly refilled by Animal Management volunteers.

- Council's street sweeping program aims to collect any road-borne litter and other material from side streets on a 6 weekly basis and main roads are swept on a weekly basis. The frequency of sweeping is increased when street trees are seasonally dropping fruit.
- Should any litter or other material enter the stormwater system, Council's own Drain-Vac system removes them systematically from the system city-wide for appropriate disposal.
- Cigarette butt litter is targeted in the municipality and offenders are expiated under the provisions of the Local Government Act. Cigarette butt bins are widely spread throughout the City and butt littering awareness campaigns are conducted seasonally.
- Council's Rapid Response Team is charged with the responsibility of removing and disposing of illegally-dumped materials in the City and data is being collated regarding 'hot-spots' for better control measures.
- Education campaigns run throughout the year focus on various target audiences and types of litter - eg beach litter reduction in summer, sweep up fallen leaves in autumn and KESAB's *Butt it, then Bin it* program.
- Council's building compliance officer is responsible for ensuring building sites and developments have appropriate measures in place to control and contain litter, waste and stormwater pollution. Any breaches detected are expiated.
- Council participates in, and supports Clean-Up Australia Day each year by organising groups of staff and volunteers to collect litter. Council also collects and disposes of the waste at the conclusion of the event.

**Category: Resource Recovery & Waste Management**

**Highlights:**

With so much development currently underway within CHARLES STURT, the incorporation of waste and recycling services into new developments was identified by Council as a high priority and requiring attention.

As a result, a *'Waste and Recycling Guide for new developments'* guide has been developed to clarify for developers how to provide for recycling, and how much waste and recycling capacity is required for developments of different kinds. Formally endorsed by Council in December 2010, this guideline is the first of its kind for South Australia.

*Towards One Planet Living* set the target of recycling or composting 65% of all material presented at kerbside, and allowing for the inclusion of food scraps in kerbside organics collections. Food waste trials commenced in February 2009 with 3 500 households across the City delivered a kitchen bench-top container to collect food scraps for composting. This project was run jointly with Zero Waste SA.

The trial was very successful, and since that time Council has resolved to promote food waste recycling to all residents across the City of CHARLES STURT.

A major communications campaign has been developed jointly between the City of CHARLES STURT, City of West Torrens and Zero Waste SA. The campaign has commenced with the start of Council's new kerbside waste and recycling contract in 2011.

New waste and recycling collection trucks have been painted to promote recycling messages to the community. All greenhouse gas emissions from these new vehicles are being offset, using carbon offsets that are accredited under the National Carbon Offset Scheme.

**Fruit fly outbreaks** - There were 3 fruit fly outbreaks in the City of CHARLES STURT in 2010. In combination, these three quarantine areas covered over 10 000 of households.

At the time, it was policy of the State Government that all organic material collected from within these quarantined areas should be directed to landfill, and not composted as would be the usual practice. As a result, Council sent almost 4 000 tonnes of otherwise compostable material to landfill attracting \$100 000 in extra landfill levies.

Council approached the State Government to review this practice, and to seek a refund of the waste levies paid by the community. A number of other affected Councils came on board to raise similar concerns, and a review of this issue was commenced by the State Government.

That review led to a deeper consideration by State Government of ways to manage green organic material during fruit fly outbreaks. It is likely that, in future, organic material from fruit fly areas may be able to be accepted for composting in South Australia, resulting in a significant reduction in waste disposal to landfill.

**Review of hard waste services** - A major review of hard waste services invited all residents to consider the best way to manage hard waste, including the possible introduction of a new recycling service for old TVs and computers.

**New waste and recycling calendar** - With assistance from KESAB, the City of CHARLES STURT developed a new waste and recycling calendar for residents. The calendar provides a comprehensive resource to residents, and answers most common questions about waste and recycling in CHARLES STURT.

The booklet features a range of services available to residents. The new approach has proven very popular with residents, and will be continued. In early 2012, a strong focus will again concentrate on hard waste and e-waste services, with a focus on promoting food waste recycling.

**Category: Environmental Innovation & Protection**

**Highlights:**

Tennyson Dunes are the most significant remnant native ecosystem that remains in the City of CHARLES STURT. A management plan for this area was finalised in collaboration between the Tennyson Dunes Group, the City of CHARLES STURT and the SA Urban Forest Biodiversity Program. Council contributes to the implementation of the plan, and assists in the regular planting and maintenance of this important remnant ecosystem.

Strong support within the community encouraged formal protection be secured for the Tennyson Dunes system. A coalition of the Coastal Protection Ecology Group, the Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association, the Tennyson Dune Group, the Semaphore South Dune Care group and Friends of Gulf St Vincent contacted Council to request that this matter be a focus of efforts.

In 2011, Council formally resolved to support the nomination of the Tennyson Dunes as a State Heritage Place under the Heritage Places Act, and to prepare and forward a nomination to the state Heritage Branch.

**Revegetation along the Coast** - Council currently manages approximately 550 hectares of dune vegetation along the coastal strip. Vegetation Management Plans have been prepared and adopted by Council for the entire length of the coast. With these plans as a guide, Council and the community extensively plant out local native species and target and control pest plant species, including woody weeds and others.

In addition to planting and weed eradication programs, Council also works with school groups and local dune groups to involve them in helping to maintain these systems. Regular mailouts go to coastal residents, to advise what is happening and to encourage help to care for the dunes. Council also convenes a Community Coastal Reference Group to provide a forum for the regular exchange of ideas and information about the dunes and their care.

**'Living Green' program** - The *'Living Green'* program has generated considerable interest in the community indicating that there are significant opportunities for Council to influence and lead the residents in implementing sustainable lifestyles which will benefit current and future generations. In addition to direct environmental outcomes, the majority of initiatives have social and economic benefits, key components to true sustainability.

**Adopt a Tree program** – Recent years of drought and ongoing water restrictions have affected local trees. The Adopt a Tree program encourages residents to care and assist in the establishment of street trees.

Each adopted tree is identified and registered. Residents who sign up to adopt a tree are given information about their street. The program has been well received by the community, with over 70 households registered. Over 40 of these have had new street trees planted, and in excess of 30 have started caring for their existing street trees.

**Training and education** - Staff have been trained on the preparation of annual greenhouse gas inventories, and inventories prepared to end 2009 - 2010.

Staff and Elected Members have also received training in the implications for Council of the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, and will receive supplemental training on the implications of a Carbon Tax once finalised by the Commonwealth.

**Category: Water Conservation**

**Highlights:**

The City of CHARLES STURT has been working on a major water reuse and flood mitigation project for a number of years. *'Waterproofing the West'* is moving forward with a major emphasis on construction during 2011 and 2012.

Major initiatives within the scheme include:

- a new wetland and Aquifer Storage Recharge system constructed in stages
- a lilac pipe network of pipes and pumps to link wetlands and aquifer storage and recharge systems to water users, including selected new developments and Council parks and reserves
- major flood mitigation works, to reduce stormwater damage to infrastructure and adapt to climate change

Not only does this project improve water management and reuse within the City, it is also a major initiative in Council's response to climate change.

**Water conservation promoted as part of the 'Living Green' program** - Council has also placed a major emphasis on water conservation in its community education programs offered through its 'Living Green' program. This program is entirely funded by Council, and aims to educate residents about things they can do to reduce environmental impact.

Council's depot staff identified a water-saving opportunity in 2008, which makes use of the water held in stormwater 'wet systems' and tanks located at different locations within the City.

Council's water trucks operate year-round, delivering much needed water to younger street trees and vegetation planted in non-irrigated Council reserves.

**Central Irrigation Controller** - Council purchased a computerised Central Irrigation Controller in 2006 and has been working through a program of connecting sportsgrounds, major parks and reserves to it since that time. 60 sites are now connected to the system. The system also allows for the immediate identification of leaks or faults, and automatically shuts down sites where problems occur.

Partnerships have been formed with the Royal Adelaide Golf Course and the Grange Golf Course, with wetlands now installed and operational at both sites providing a watering source of reclaimed water from nearby urban runoff.

**Category: Energy Innovation**

**Highlights:**

**Green buildings program** - The City of CHARLES STURT established its Green Buildings program in 2009, following the establishment of 'Towards One Planet Living'. This program is funded on an annual basis and ensures that all Council building plans, for new buildings or major renovations, are subject to a comprehensive sustainability review.

To date, sustainability reviews conducted through this program have included reviews of public toilet buildings, Council Depot and Town Hall. A number of community centres and sporting clubrooms and other facilities have also been reviewed to identify water and energy saving initiatives that can be incorporated into their upgrades.

The Green Buildings program has had a major positive impact on Council's capital expenditure for buildings.

**Energy efficient public lighting** - While a number of trials of energy efficient public lights had taken place in South Australia prior to 2008, ETSA, the state's electricity provider, had not approved these lights for more broad-scale use. In particular, they had not offered a maintenance tariff for energy efficient lights – a critical issue for many Councils.

In 2008, Council entered into negotiations with ETSA to establish such a tariff for energy efficient lighting. ETSA agreed to offer a tariff compact fluorescent lighting – a first for South Australia.

Since then, ETSA has offered a number of other tariffs for compact fluorescent lights, and made these options available to all South Australian Councils for the first time.

Council now requires all developers to install energy efficient lighting.

LEDs are continually being installed with upcoming installations at numerous locations throughout the municipality.

**Solar and Living Green Expo** - This expo was promoted widely across the City and held in early 2011. Solar suppliers were invited to hold stalls and provide information to residents about the range of solar systems available. The event was attended by several hundred residents with positive feedback received both from stallholders and residents.

**6 steps to a 6 star home** - Effective from September 2010, building code requirements for new homes were raised from requiring a minimum of 5 stars for energy efficiency, to requiring a minimum of 6 stars. Council has supported this move, and taken steps to promote its benefits to residents.

One of these was the preparation of an information booklet called '6 steps to a 6 star home'. The booklet promotes the range of benefits to the homeowner of having a quieter, more comfortable home that is cheaper to run.

**TravelSmart** encourages staff to walk, cycle and use public transport - The City of CHARLES STURT has conducted 'Ride to Work Day' events since 2008. Starting in 2011, a series of initiatives is being offered to encourage more Council staff to choose public transport, walk, cycle and carpool in place of using a personal or fleet vehicle.

**Category: Heritage & Culture**

**Highlights:**

The City of CHARLES STURT has a rich history, with strong links to the state's early development. Much of this history can be seen today in many buildings, sites and monuments that remain as reminders of the past. Council is committed to protect and enhance these icons for current and future generations. They connect the community to its heritage and identity and contribute to the character of the City.

Recent consultation, as part of the development of Council's Community Plan, identified that the preservation of the City's heritage is important to the community.

**State Heritage Places** – Places that are significant to South Australia's heritage. There are over 50 sites in the City that are State Heritage listed. There are also over 80 sites that are currently registered as Local Heritage Places.

**Historic Conservation Policy Areas** – These areas are a form of zoning that aims to protect and enhance the distinctive historic character and streetscape within the municipality. There are over 20 zones within the City that reflect individual aspects of the City's heritage and development.

Council's Heritage Incentive Scheme has been introduced to assist and encourage owners of heritage places to conserve and maintain their properties. The scheme recognises that there is a community interest in the retention and conservation of privately owned heritage places and provides support and financial assistance to enable this.

The Heritage Incentive Scheme offers a Heritage Advisory Service, Heritage Conservation Grants program and Planning Assessment lodgement fee concessions.

**Category: Young Legends**

**Highlights:**

Each year Council conducts school planting and weeding days. This year, Woodville, Findon and Nazareth senior schools, Grange, Fulham North, Fulham Gardens, West Beach, Blackfriars, West Lakes Shores, Star of the Sea, and Henley Beach primary schools participated in the program.

Council staff provide plants, materials and equipment and nominate suitable locations for plantings. Students are trained and supervised by Council staff, and Council follows up with maintenance of these areas to improve survival rates of the newly vegetated areas.

Findon High School has also recently been involved in planting and weeding days along the River Torrens, at a biodiversity site.

Council also works closely with the Marine Discovery Centre, part of the Star of the Sea School, to develop interpretive signage for the coastal dunes.

Council's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) provides Council with a youth perspective on general community issues. It provides young people the opportunity to have a voice and discuss local issues, consult with other young people and provide advice to Council on issues that impact on youth.

The committee meets monthly and members receive information and training on council meeting procedures, local government, public speaking and event management. Membership is open young people aged 12-24 that live, work or study within the City of CHARLES STURT.

Council offers a variety of services and activities for young people from homework help and social support to fun activities. Great example is Youth Central which is located in Woodville and home to numerous programs that interest members of the community aged between 12 and 25 years as well as parents and teachers.