



MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2010

Fantastic news for the Shire of Melton in Victoria.

It has won the Energy Innovation Award at the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards.

Representatives from the Shire of Melton received the award at a special presentation ceremony today in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, The Hon Tony Burke MP.

Sean Rooney – who judged the awards – said the project was remarkable and highlighted the fantastic work being done to keep cities sustainable as pressure on the environment continues to grow.

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Cr Kathy Majdlik, Deputy Mayor, Shire of Melton received the award at a special presentation ceremony in the presence of Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, The Hon Tony Burke MP.

The award was presented at a ceremony in Sydney hosted by last year's winner, the City of Canada Bay on Monday November 1st.

Sean Rooney – who judged the awards – said the project was remarkable and highlighted the fantastic work being done to keep cities sustainable as pressure on the environment continues to grow.

Sean Rooney said “This Council has found all sorts of ways to reduce energy use as well as generating power from renewable sources and showing how to reduce carbon emissions. Its Big Roofs project is identifying large roofs in the area for the installation of solar panels. They are developing guidelines for building owners to explain the potential for energy generation and water capture. They’ve mapped out sites for wind turbines. They are exploring the potential for wind solar and biomass based energy generation.”

“In an Australian first, Western Water is using new technology to transform sewerage gases into 100 percent renewable energy, ultimately producing carbon neutral recycled water at a treatment plant in Melton Shire.”

“The \$2 million cogeneration facility opened in June 2010. The plant has the dual benefit of capturing methane emissions, while creating 100% renewable energy to power the Class A recycled water plant. The methane gas is captured and then burnt inside a micro-turbine that produces electricity for use on site.”

“Waste heat from the process is also captured and used to assist in the anaerobic digestion process that produces the methane. Recycled water from the treatment plant is then piped to the new township of Eynesbury where it is used in households to flush toilets, water gardens and wash cars.”

The Shire of Melton has already highlighted it is deeply concerned about protecting its precious environment and creating a sustainable city. The Shire of Melton is literally booming and includes Caroline Springs (19 kms from the CBD) and Melton (35 kms from the CBD).

The Council is very proud of its sustainability policies which include extensive work with the local environment and landcare groups.

Keep Australia Beautiful Executive Officer Scott Lyall said, “The Shire of Melton is remarkable. Sustainability is a critical issue for all cities as the world becomes more and more urbanised. We all know there are massive pressures on our cities. Cities make up just 2% of the earth’s surface but now actually account for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions.”

The Shire of Melton also:

- Has an extensive educational program for teachers and students to learn about recycling in the area which includes tours of the recycling facilities.
- An environmental educator carries out initiatives with schools on recycling. It is based on the Australian Sustainable Schools’ Initiative.
- The Council provides free recycling services for schools that become part of “Waste Wise”.
- It is creating wildflower grasslands at schools.
- It is protecting endangered bird species.

- It has trialled a hard waste service for every householder in the Shire, which in just the first month resulted in 50% of material collected then being either reused or recycled. (Contractors are using a purpose built collection vehicle, with materials collected in separate compartments.)
- Since establishing the resale centre at the Melton recycling facility, over 21,000 items have been re-sold.
- The Pinkerton Landcare and Environmental Group is protecting endangered grassland and woodlands in the area including protecting endangered white-breasted sea eagles.
- One of the Melton residents – Gavin – has created an enormous blog which has had 110,000 page views and he's established the Melton Sustainable Living Group with 15 members.
- The Shire of Melton's Melton Waves Leisure Centre has worked with managers to slash water usage by more than 50% since 2007. Annual water usage has now dropped from 6.1 million litres to 2.6 million litres.
- The massive Festival of Flight brings the entire Shire together including work on reserves and parks and a special monument to celebrate 100 years of Australia's first powered sustained flight by Harry Houdini.
- The Friends of Melton Botanic Garden has more than 130 members developing and protecting the garden.
- The Melton Shire Council has won numerous awards for its environmental work in the Dame Phyllis Frost Award, the Victorian Community Pride Award and the Victorian Bio-diversity and Conservation Award.
- A survey carried out in 2009 discovered 13% of households in the Shire of Melton now have a professionally installed grey water recycling system, which is more than twice the metropolitan average and 38% of households have rainwater tanks (Melbourne's average is 26%) and 6% of homes in the Shire now have solar hot water systems (the metropolitan aver is 2%).

A range of top organisations is supporting the Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Awards including Packaging Stewardship Forum; Sinclair Knight Merz; Grundfos Pumps, and ToysRUs. The Energy Innovation category was presented by Barry Hughes of the ANUgreen program at The Australian National University.

**Media enquiries to: Ross Woodward or Homira Samadi on 03 9769 6488
Sean Rooney Scott Lyall and Shire of Melton representatives are available for
media interviews**

About the Supporters

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by:

'Do the Right Thing' Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Australian Food and Grocery Council

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, works with partners to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs on behalf of its members, who consist of Australia's major beverage companies and their packaging suppliers. The Forum's highly successful *Do the Right Thing* anti-litter campaign has proven to be a strong litter prevention message, with more than 80% of people recognising that *Do the Right Thing* means put your waste in the bin and more than 300 towns and cities around Australia taking the *Do the Right Thing* message to their communities
Contact: Jenny Pickles 0418 558 311

Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM)

SKM is a leading engineering, sciences and project delivery firm. Its purpose is to deliver a positive and enduring impact on the world. They work in close partnership with key clients in the public and private sectors, providing independent technical, strategic and commercial advice to deliver a wide range of projects globally.

Contact: Jessica Hyams, 03 9248 3036

Grundfos Pumps

As a world leading pump and pumping systems manufacturer, Grundfos Pumps has joined with Keep Australia Beautiful to help all Australians achieve improvements in water conservation.

Contact Anna Thyssen, 08 8461 4611

ToysRUs

A leading retailer of toys and educational items for young Australians. They recognise the need to reduce their environmental footprint and are taking steps to reduce plastic bag usage by customers. They have chosen to partner with the Young Legends category of the Sustainable Cities Awards to help acknowledge the environmental achievements of young Australians and to use these case studies as an inspiration to others.

Contact Katarina Wos or Kristen Pelletier, 02 9794 8999