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# Sustainable Choice News

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## Northern Rivers Sustainable Procurement Forum May 2016

The first sustainable procurement forum for 2016 will be hosted by Tweed Shire Council, on Wednesday 25 May. The forum is an excellent opportunity to network with your colleagues and to connect with suppliers and environmental innovators. There will be a presentation on efficient ways to incorporate sustainability into procurement processes, with particular focus on evaluating sustainability in tenders, which has become a very popular topic. Wollongong City Council will treat us to a case study presentation on their Green Cleaning Contract project which won them the 2015 Sustainable Procurement Award at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards. Tweed Shire Council will share their experiences incorporating sustainability into construction contracts. Canterbury City Council will deliver insight into implementing sustainable procurement through Council policy and procedures. Additional presentations include sustainable road base solutions and Sustainable Choice program updates. You will also have the opportunity to chat to sustainable suppliers and browse their products and services.

For more information and to register click [here](#).



## Scorecards

As part of program membership, Councils are asked to participate in an annual sustainable procurement survey. The survey is designed to gain feedback about the Sustainable Choice Program and information about how member councils are progressing in sustainable procurement. The results of the survey are analysed and put into a confidential Scorecard report for each participating council to highlight areas of focus for the following year. Sustainable Choice relies on this information to continue delivering the program in a way that is relevant and useful to councils across NSW.

All members who completed the 2015 survey received their sustainable procurement scorecards at the end of last year. The 2015 Sustainable Choice Annual Data Report, which provides the survey results at state-level, is now available here [here](#).

## Sustainability in Tenders

Sustainability is increasingly being included in tenders but a question that frequently arises is how to evaluate sustainability criteria in tenders. Bid evaluation is a critical part in the tendering process - it will determine which supplier will win the contract and how sustainable the contract will be in practice. It is also a procurement stage that is most open to corruption and it is therefore important to have a structured and careful approach to evaluation.

Below are some links to useful information that can help develop a workable approach for your council:

Guide 4 to Sustainable Procurement – Define specification and invite tenders

<http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement/pdf-library/agencies/Guide4.pdf>

Guide 5 to Sustainable procurement – Evaluate Suppliers and Award

<http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement/pdf-library/agencies/Guide5.pdf>

Building Sustainability into Tendering

<http://library.sps-consultancy.co.uk/documents/guidance-policy-and-practice/sustainable-procurement-toolkit.pdf>

## **Database**

Thank you to those members who have referred local suppliers for us to assess for inclusion on the Sustainable Choice database. We always need your help to increase the number of sustainable suppliers listed in order to improve our service. If you need any further information about the process please contact us. It is free for suppliers to display their products and services so long as they meet our criteria. More information on the criteria is available [here](#).

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## **Working Group**

Working groups are important in an organisation to foster communication and engage employees with certain issues. In terms of sustainable procurement, a working group can collaborate and explore cross sectional opportunities for sustainable procurement and savings. Interestingly, the results from the 2014/2015 Sustainable Choice Annual Survey showed that those councils who had an established working group that was meeting on a regular basis provided tangible outcomes more efficiently than those that were meeting irregularly.

This result stresses the importance of an establishing and maintaining a working group. If your council is considering setting up a working group and needs any guidance or advice, please take a look at the Working group guidelines available [here](#) or contact Sustainable Choice.

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## **Global Forum - Sustainable Procurement *Innovative Success Stories from 5 continents***

Come and hear some of the world's foremost sustainable procurement practitioners at a truly unique event for Australia!

What you buy, how you buy it and who you buy it from is changing. Environmental and social concerns, such as modern slavery, carbon footprint, local sourcing or supplier diversity are now firmly on the business agenda. The upcoming publication of ISO20400, the first international guidance standard on sustainable procurement, shows that this is a global movement.

Through a series of short and powerful presentations, you will hear from Australian and International sustainable and socially responsible procurement organisations and supply chains on their practical experiences with sustainable procurement, and receive insights on ISO20400.

**When** - Monday 2 May 2016, 6-9.30PM

**Where** - Australian Technology Park, Redfern, NSW

[Register here](#)   [More info](#)

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## **Contact the Sustainable Choice team today**

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The Sustainable Choice program is a partnership between Local Government NSW and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.