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# Sustainable Choice News

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Issue 14, June, 2016

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## Open for Nominations!

### Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

The 2016 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards are now open for nominations and we are again running the popular Sustainable Procurement Award. This award is sponsored by the Office of Environment and Heritage. Get your nominations in for any individual projects or holistic strategic changes your council has made, which showcases improvements and excellence in Sustainable Procurement. Nominating is FREE, entry is online, enter now by clicking [here](#) to access the nomination form.

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### Northern Rivers Sustainable Procurement Forum May 2016

On Wednesday 25 May, Tweed Shire Council hosted the first sustainable procurement forum of the year. This regional forum was attended by representatives from 6 regional councils.

Interesting case studies were delivered by Tweed Shire Council, Wollongong City Council and Canterbury-Bankstown Council. Dr Suzanne Grob presented on how to embed sustainability into the procurement process and Michael Robinson from Local Government Procurement presented on why and how they support sustainable procurement.

In addition to the informative presentations, the forum also provided an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing knowledge with colleagues from other councils. A speed dating session with sustainable suppliers was a productive and fun way to end the day.

If there is any particular topic relating to sustainable procurement that you would like to hear more about at future forums, please get in touch with the Sustainable Choice team [here](#).



## 2016 Annual Sustainable Procurement Survey

The 2016 Survey will be released in July with the questions sent to each General Manager. As part of program membership, Councils are asked to participate in the 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.

The survey questions will be consistent with those asked in previous years. A survey assistance tool outlining survey questions and providing guidance on how to complete the survey will be available in the resources section of our website once the survey has been sent out.

Remember that the survey is not designed to have input from just one person at council. One key person is required to coordinate responses however input is required from all business units. This group activity is best placed with your sustainable procurement working group.

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](#).

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### Useful links

The links below were provided by Dr Suzanne Grob as part of her presentation at the Northern Rivers Sustainable Procurement Forum on 25 May 2016.

Sustainable Procurement Product Guides:

[Sustainable Procurement Produce Guide - Office Paper - April 2011](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Product Guide - Cleaning Services - May 2010](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Product Guide - Business Machines - May 2010](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Product Guide - ICT Products - May 2010](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Product Guide - Print Services - May 2010](#)

Links relating to furniture:

[Sustainable Procurement Product Guide - Office Furniture - Dec 2009](#)

[AFRDI Green Tick](#)

[Good Environmental Choice Australia Environmental Performance Standard Furniture, Fittings and Foam \(Level A\)](#)

Assessing sustainable Suppliers:

[Assessing Supplier's Sustainability Credentials](#)

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## 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.

We are pleased to announce that we are in the initial stages of enhancing the database. Enhancement works will begin shortly and are expected to be completed by the end of 2016. The database in its current form will continue to remain available for use throughout the enhancement work. If you have any feedback around this or suggestions that you would like us to consider, please contact the Sustainable Choice team [here](#).

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## Sustainable Procurement Working Group

Working groups are important in an organisation to foster communication and engage employees on 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.

A Sustainable Choice member has suggested that it would be useful to hear about how other working groups are progressing, including lessons learned, successful projects undertaken and strategies adopted. As a result Sustainable Choice would like to facilitate cross-learning and/or joint working group meetings between members that are located nearby to one-another. If you feel that your working group could benefit from either of these approaches please contact us [here](#).

If your council is yet to set 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*

The Global forum for Sustainable Procurement was held on Monday 2 May at the Australian Technology park in Sydney. The forum was a successful event attended by 150 participants, and 8 speakers from 5 continents presented on a variety of topics around sustainable supply chains, social procurement and responsible sourcing. The forum provided a unique opportunity to share experiences and ideas. Participants also gained insight into ISO20400, the first international guidance standard on sustainable procurement.

Slides from the presentation can be found [here](#).

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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.

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