



Sustainable Choice News

Issue 16, December, 2016

LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards 2016

The Local Government 19th annual Excellence in the Environment Awards ceremony was held on 29 November 2016.

Congratulations to Marrickville Council (now Inner West Council) who took out the overall winner of the Sustainable Procurement Category for their ***Embedding sustainability into 'value for money'*** project.

Marrickville Council adopted a new Sustainable Procurement Policy and Procedures that focused heavily on sustainability, good governance and probity. Following this they implemented a sustainable specification library that is contributed to by project managers, sharing their bespoke specifications that can be used and modified in future procurement.

Furthermore a new procedure is now in place which prevents tenders being released to the market until they are reviewed by the legal, sustainability and procurement teams.

Congratulations to all the nominees and finalists for 2016.

To view other award categories and winners, please click [here](#), photos are also available [online](#).

New and improved Sustainable Choice database goes live!

This week marks the launch of the newly enhanced Sustainable Choice database. After a lot of research, planning and listening to feedback from Sustainable Choice members and suppliers an enhanced more user-friendly tool is now available. Some of the new features include up-to-date and advanced searching capability and more streamlined registration process for suppliers. Check it out [here](#)!

Thank you also 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](#).

Sustainable Procurement Forum - Parramatta

On 9 November 2016, 27 council officers attended a Sustainable Choice forum at Parramatta Town Hall. The forum allowed councils to present and explore strategies, innovation, resources and case studies to promote sensible, sustainable procurement.

Participants were treated to presentations from Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Local Government Procurement, City of Parramatta Council, Tweed Shire Council, Good Environmental Choice Australia, Social Traders and the Sustainable Choice Team. A trade show and 'meet the suppliers' discussion and networking session was a fun and productive way to engage and connect participants in a relaxed and casual setting.

The content, structure, presenters and the contribution of participants ensured that the event was a resounding success. Overall, 100% of participants considered it good or excellent. The Sustainable Choice Team is now using the lessons learned and participant feedback to guide and inform future events and activities.

Stay tuned for details of future events.



Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of sustainable procurement

In September 2015 the global community came together as part of a United Nations initiative to develop universal targets for sustainable development. As a result this global community committed to 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (aka the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). These goals form the cornerstone of the UN's global development agenda till 2030.

Each of these 17 goals has a number of targets that set ambition for action to achieve the goal and then a number of indicators to measure progress against the goal globally.

Australia has signed up, which means that Australia needs to develop and implement a strategy to meet the targets within these goals. As with all national agendas you can expect that obligations relating to achieving these goals will flow down through the different levels of government and local government will be affected.

Sustainable procurement, particularly sustainable public procurement, can contribute significantly (either directly or indirectly) to ensuring that a large number of the targets outlined within these goals are met. Embedding sustainability into all purchasing decisions will lead to environmental, social and economic outcomes, which will address a large number of these targets.

This highlights how very important the adoption of sustainable procurement practices by councils is to this global agenda. For help to improve sustainable procurement practices within your council visit the [Sustainable Choice website](#) or contact the team.

LGP Conference

Sustainable Choice were present at the annual LGP conference on the 17-18 November. Thank you to those who came and had a chat at our exhibitor stand. We had some good interest from councils and also made some great contacts with potential new suppliers for our database. Tania Lalor presented together with Jean-Louis Haie from Planet Procurement on the importance of sustainable procurement and the upcoming ISO20400 guidance standard on sustainable procurement. It was a great opportunity to meet with so many procurement professionals.

Brick Rescue saving heritage bricks

Every day as old brick structures are demolished for new building projects, hundreds of thousands of pre-1950's historic bricks are crushed for road base. Crushing historic bricks ignores the heritage significance of the bricks.

BRICK RESCUE harvests these historic bricks from demolition sites. The bricks are rescued, cleaned and graded for reuse in new building projects. Councils can take action to ensure the preservation of heritage bricks when old brick structures are demolished as part of the Development Application process.

Councils can contact Brick Rescue for a free site inspection prior to issuing development approval to find out whether the bricks can be rescued for reuse. For more information please contact Brick Rescue on 0417 255 037.

Resources

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has released the following report: [Promoting the participation of Small and Medium Size Enterprises \(SMEs\) in Green Public Procurement](#).

The NSW OEH has released a short video that promotes the benefits of social enterprise. View it [here](#).



Merry Christmas!

The Sustainable Choice team would like to wish you a very happy and safe Christmas. We look forward to working with you in 2017!

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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