



Sustainable Choice News

Issue 10, June, 2015

Open for Nominations!

Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

The 2015 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards are now open for nominations and we are again running the popular Sustainable Procurement Award. 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.

Southern Sustainable Procurement Forum

On 8 May 2015, 28 Council officers attended a Sustainable Choice forum at Wollongong City Council. 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 the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), Local Government Procurement, Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Wollongong City Council, Fairfield City Council, industry representatives and the Sustainable Choice Program Manager. 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, duration, high calibre of presenters and the contribution of participants ensured that the event was a resounding success. Overall, 92% of participants considered it good or excellent. The Sustainable Choice program team are now using the lessons learned and participant feedback to guide and inform future events and activities.

A copy of the Evaluation Report is available on our website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Stay tuned for details of future events.

Sustainable Choice and Fit for the Future

Do you know that sustainable procurement can contribute to your council's sustainability?

The NSW Government's Fit for the Future program requires councils to assess their scale, capacity and performance and prepare plans to ensure their 'sustainability'. Although the assessment focusses upon councils' financial sustainability, the initiative is an opportunity to reflect on the benefits, particularly financial, that sustainable procurement can provide councils.

In general terms, sustainable procurement means making sure that the products and services purchased are as sustainable as possible: purchasing only those that are necessary and appropriate, and whose production, use and disposal both minimise negative impacts and encourage positive net outcomes for the environment, economy and society.

The adoption and active implementation of a sustainable procurement policy by councils can contribute to their financial sustainability by considering more than the mere transactional cost. Purchasing decisions encompass the full spectrum of considerations; that is, undertaking upfront a whole of life, best value for money assessment against price and quality as well as extrinsic cost and benefit considerations to the community and environment. An application of sustainable procurement principles can directly support economic outcomes by procuring goods and services that:

- Reduce overall consumption e.g. re-examining needs and requirements or through reuse
- Provide a real cost and return on investment
- Are more efficient and thus cost less to operate and maintain
- Have reduced end of life disposal costs and impacts
- These benefits are in addition to the wider benefits to councils, society and the environment which can produce indirect financial outcomes.

Sustainable Choice can assist councils make better informed purchasing decisions. The Sustainable Choice database lists products and services (for 17 key categories subdivided into the main types of products commonly purchased by councils) that have been assessed, verified and approved against a number of sustainability indicators. Products and services can be compared to identify those with better environmental performance throughout their life-cycle that can deliver the same or better function, quality and end-user satisfaction compared to standard products or services. Products and services can also be searched and mapped based upon proximity to a user nominated location (and purchasing local improves supply chain efficiency).

If you would like more information on sustainable procurement principles and the benefits that can accrue to councils, please contact the Sustainable Choice team.

Case Studies

Sustainable Choice supports councils by conducting research, developing fact sheets and seeking case studies on interesting projects that other councils could benefit from. There are a number of these documents on our files as far back as 2006 and a selection of those that we see as relevant today are on our website. For case studies click [here](#). For fact sheets click [here](#). If you have an interesting case study to share please give us a call.

2014 Annual Data and Evaluation Report

The Sustainable Choice annual survey assesses the nature and level of sustainable procurement across local councils and provides recommendations to enhance the delivery of services provided under the Sustainable Choice program. It also provides benchmarking data for member councils of their performance against members as a whole.

Member councils were provided with their individual Scorecard and associated summary report in December 2014. The annual data report which analyses all data has been completed and will be made available under [Resources](#) on the Sustainable Choice website shortly.

Regional Clean Energy Program (RCEP)

The RCEP creates opportunities for communities throughout New South Wales to fully participate in local renewable energy initiatives. Working closely with industry, local governments and other stakeholders, the program ensures these communities receive the necessary knowledge to understand and evaluate renewable energy options for their long-term social, economic and environmental benefit.

Aside from promoting the technology and advantages of wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, wave, tide and other clean-energy sources, the program provides funding to develop community based projects. To obtain advice about support and opportunities for your council through the RCEP, contact your region's dedicated Clean Energy Coordinator by clicking on your region [here](#). You can also sign up to the RCEP newsletter to receive information on upcoming workshops for local government and businesses in 2015/16.

Working Group

Is your sustainable procurement working group meeting regularly???

Working groups are important in an organisation to foster communication and engage employees with certain issues. Working groups collaborate and explore cross sectional opportunities for sustainable procurement and savings. The working group will also assist in completing the annual survey for this year, which will be issued in July. The results from the 2013/2014 Sustainable Choice Annual Survey showed that those councils with higher sustainable procurement culture scores all had established working groups, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a working group within your council to successfully integrate sustainable procurement across your organisation.

A set of working group guidelines is available via the link in the [Resources](#) section of this newsletter.

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](#). If you need any further information about the process, please contact us.

Introducing.....

Stephen Summerhayes, Sustainable Choice Program Manager. Stephen started with Sustainable Choice in May and will share the role of Program Manager with Tania Lalor. You will catch Stephen in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Stephen has a background in law, sustainability and training and assessment. Amongst the day-to-day management of the Sustainable Choice program, Stephen will also be reviewing and further developing Sustainable Choice training offerings. Welcome Stephen!!

Events

**2015 Local Government NSW
Excellence in the Environment
Awards**

Registrations are now open!

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

Resources

**Sustainable Procurement Resource Centre
Sustainable Procurement Working Group
Guidelines**

Contact the Sustainable Choice team today

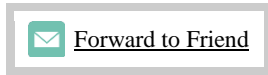
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The Sustainable Choice program is a partnership between Local Government NSW and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.



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