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# Sustainable Choice News

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Issue 9, April, 2015

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## **Southern Sustainable Procurement Forum**

The first sustainable procurement forum for 2015 will be hosted by Wollongong City Council. The forum will match expert presenters, suppliers and relevant information regarding strategies, case studies, innovation and resources for sensible, sustainable procurement. There will also be opportunities to network with your colleagues and to connect with suppliers and environmental innovators. Click [here](#) for more information, programme agendas and to register.

## **Case Studies**

Sustainable Choice supports councils by conducting research, developing fact sheets and seeking case studies on interesting

## **Fit for the Future**

To achieve financial sustainability for your council, long term profit should take priority over any short term savings. Procuring sustainable goods and services that are more efficient to operate will reduce energy, water and time costs. Some products that appear more expensive upfront may in fact provide a more financially sustainable product in terms of whole-of-life. This saves further expenditure on waste disposal and maintenance, as well as encouraging supply chain efficiency and market competitiveness.

National and international research has shown that organisations with a healthy quadruple bottom line are more likely to be financially sustainable in the future. As a member of Sustainable Choice your Council has shown that it is committed to improving its QBL through the implementation of sustainable purchasing and embedding a sustainable procurement culture throughout your organisation.

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## **Wollongong achieves Australian first with Green Star rating**

Congratulations to our newest member, Wollongong City Council! Council's administration building has become the first building in Australia to achieve a 5 Star Green Star - Performance Rating, signifying 'Australian Excellence' and the highest Green Star - Performance rating achieved to date.

projects that other councils could benefit from. There are a number of these documents on our files from 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 a suggestion for research that is not currently showcased on our website, please give us a call.

Over the past 10 years, Council has introduced a range of building upgrades and management practices to improve their administration building's sustainability performance, replacing ageing equipment to meet modern building compliance standards. The upgrades and altered practices have resulted in energy efficiency gains of 55% and water efficiency gains of 85%. Council estimates that the energy efficiency gains alone in the building are saving \$200,000 in electricity costs each year when compared to 2007-2008 consumption. Find out more [here](#).

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### Working Group

2015 is progressing quickly, but it's never too late to add a resolution to actively progress sustainable procurement in your Council. Has your working group scheduled its first meeting for the year? If so, remember that the Sustainable Choice Team is available to provide assistance and guidance when needed.

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 survey for next year. 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.

## 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.

An example Scorecard can be found on the Sustainable Choice website [here](#). We understand that tracking sustainable expenditure may be challenging for some councils. The Sustainable Choice team is available to answer any questions your council has regarding your Scorecard results or the next Annual Survey.

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**Reduce your Council's energy bills!** The NSW government subsidises Energy Saver training courses for councils and businesses. Gain hands-on experience in energy management and learn how to implement projects to reduce your energy costs and improve your Council's sustainable excellence. Access training and support for as little as \$100 per course in Sydney and \$50 in regional NSW. Courses can even be tailored for your council. Learn more and book now at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/train](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/train)

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## Events

### South Coast Sustainable Procurement Forum

Date: Friday May 8 2015

Where: Wollongong City Council Administration Building, Burelli St, Wollongong

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

## Resources

[City Switch Sustainable Purchasing: Quick Guide](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Working Group Guidelines](#)

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## Contact the Sustainable Choice team today

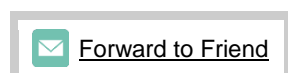
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The Sustainable Choice program is a partnership between Local Government NSW and the NSW C of Environment and Heritage.



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