

Sustainable Choice News

Issue 3, November 29 2013

Welcome New Members

There are now 84 Councils across NSW who have publicly committed to Sustainable Procurement. Members who have joined over the past couple of months are:

- Wollondilly Shire Council
- Eurobodalla Shire Council

Welcome our new members as they embark on their sustainable procurement journey.

This Newsletter is sent to our members only, however if you have a colleague at another council who may not currently be a member; however you think may be interested, feel free to forward the Newsletter and our contact details to them

Survey Results and 2013 Scorecards

Thank you for completing your annual survey which was a little different this year. We cut the number of questions almost in half and changed the format, and as a result we have more comprehensive data and can provide an accurate picture of the trends. Scorecards are in development and we are on target to meet our ambitious schedule of delivering these to you as an early Christmas present. Scorecards will be sent directly to your General Manager and we'll add a note in the 'What's New' section of the website [here](#) when it happens.

Last webinar for the year "How to make informed decisions"

Your Local Government NSW training unit, Learning Solutions are presenting their final webinar for the year on the 2 December 2013 from 3pm - 4.30pm AEDST. You will learn various decision-making techniques which will enable you to minimise impediments and maximise informed decision-making in your council.

Click [here](#) to register and for further information.

GRANT FUNDING ALERT - There are 7 categories within the NSW Environmental Trust grant funding programs currently open for submissions in the Waste Less Recycle More Initiative, for further information click [here](#) and for tips for a successful application click [here](#)

2013 Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards

The 2013 Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards are just around the corner. Have you booked your ticket yet? This year, we will be running an information forum in the morning and the award ceremony will be over lunch. [Book your tickets](#) today for the morning presentations or the awards or both! We're looking forward to hearing the results for the Sustainable Procurement Award category. More information is on our website [here](#)

NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT
**EXCELLENCE IN THE
ENVIRONMENT**
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Further information regarding the Sustainable Choice program, membership, commitment requirements or information on how to join is available [online](#). Sustainable Choice is a partnership program between the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Local Government NSW.



2013 NSW Government Green Globe Awards

The Sustainable Choice team attended the NSW Green Globe Awards held on 24 September at Parliament House and hosted by the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage, Hon. Robyn Parker MP. These awards are open to all businesses and government departments in NSW and competition is strong. We're pleased to showcase that many of the winners and finalists were from the NSW Local Government sector and were also Sustainable Choice members! Congratulations to the following leading councils as winners and finalists for their achievements in sustainable outcomes for their councils:

- **Bankstown City Council, WINNER**
Category: "Waste and Recycling Award" for their wheelie good compost and mulch giveaways
- **City of Sydney, WINNER**
Category "Local Government Sustainability Award" for their Smart Green Business program
- **Waverley Council, FINALIST**
Category "Water Efficiency"
- **Tumut Council FINALIST**
Category "Local Government Sustainability"
- **Warringah Council FINALIST**
Category "Local Government Sustainability"

Click [here](#) to see all the winners, categories and case studies.

NEWS - Jody Houston delivered a presentation on Sustainable Purchasing at the 2013 Local Government Procurement (LGP) conference at the Sydney Masonic Hall, details [here](#)

Procurement News - LGP Sustainability Criteria

Green washing is not only hitting individual councils but also Local Government Procurement (LGP). Many companies are claiming their products and services are ethical or sustainable but upon a closer check by Sustainable Choice have been found to be less than so. Sustainable Choice and LGP have collaborated to set up a new procedure that requires any company putting forward a tender and claiming they are "sustainable" that they must be on the Sustainable Choice website. So you can be assured that any new suppliers on LGP contracts who claim to be sustainable have been checked by Sustainable Choice. For more information on this and other sustainable claims vetting processes, please contact the Sustainable Choice team today.

Merry Christmas!

Keep in mind the principles of quadruple bottom line at Christmas time, here are a few tips for a sustainable Christmas:

- Buy only what you need
- Consider gift cards or vouchers
- Support locally made products
- Support fair trade gifts, i.e. Oxfam
- Avoid cheap overseas "disposable" gifts
- Give a plant
- Choose a live Christmas tree, i.e. scouts
- Reuse gift paper where possible
- Consider decorations that can be re-used
- Remember to recycle
- Send organic waste to chooks, compost or worm farm
- Left over untampered food can be donated to [OzHarvest](#)
- ENJOY AND BE MERRY



Northern Inland Tour

On Wednesday 9 October 2013 the Sustainable Choice team together with Local Government Procurement and NAMOI ROC held the Northern Inland Sustainable Procurement Forum at Tamworth Regional Council and with 35 attendees made up of mayors, councillors, operational staff and executive staff from the region it was a great day. During the tour we visited the following councils:

- Walcha Shire Council
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Armidale Dumaresq Council
- Uralla Shire Council

Click [here](#) for more information or to find out about our upcoming tours, workshops and forums and remember visits by our expert staff are part of your membership service and FREE so invite us to your next working group meeting.



Contact the Sustainable Choice Team Today

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