

Sustainable Choice News

Issue 5, April 9, 2014

Sustainable Choice

Members

Do you know how many councils in your region are members of Sustainable Choice? With over 50% of Councils across NSW that have publicly committed to Sustainable Procurement your neighbouring council may be involved too!

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) consists of 16 councils and all are members of Sustainable Choice. The Sustainable Choice team works with SSROC to promote and enhance sustainable procurement from a regional perspective.

This Newsletter is sent to our members only, however if you have a colleague at another council who may not currently be a member, and you think they may be interested, feel free to forward the Newsletter and our contact details to them. Working together is key to bulk buying power and encouraging local economies.

Sustainable Roads Forums Success

The first in a series of regional Sustainable Roads Forums run by Sustainable Choice was held in Lismore on Tuesday 11 February. Cr Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore City Council, opened the forum which was held at Council's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). The forum was a success and coincided with the launch of Lismore City Council's new glass recycling facility, due to open within a couple of months. The forum included three keynote speakers and a number of sustainable suppliers showcasing available innovation and technologies. The Forum also received media coverage, making it onto the local news. Click [here](#) to view the news item.

The second forum in the series was held in Dubbo on the 3 March with over 40 participants. A lively Q&A session provided for a thorough exploration of sustainable roads. The third and most recent forum was held in the Hunter at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre.



The forums match expert presenters, suppliers and relevant information for each region regarding strategies, case studies, innovation and resources for sensible, sustainable procurement with one of councils' highest costs – roads. The speakers have been hand-picked to discuss certification, standards and compliance and forums will be run throughout the State. Click [here](#) for more information, programme agendas and to register.

Upcoming Forums - [Registration OPEN](#):

Mid North Coast: 8 May, 2014, Coffs Harbour
Sydney: 3 June 2014, Penrith City Council

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.



Sustainable Choice Training

Training was recently held at Tweed Shire Council and Dubbo City Council. Tweed Shire had a real focus on buying local. The participants explored how to get from the goal of QBL to real sustainable purchasing decisions. Dubbo City explored their procurement practices and opportunities for improvement in greater detail. Great attendance and participant feedback at both! Training spots for 2014 are booking up fast, so as a member take the opportunity to book a Sustainable Choice training session that is tailored to meet the needs of your Council. Click [here](#) for further information.

CASE STUDIES - We have brought back the case studies, with more added each week. Be sure to see if there is something to help you. Just look under Resources for the [Case Study Tab](#). Following the Fleet Forums of 2013 there are fleet-related case studies, particularly related to biodiesel that are now available. Do you have a case study to share? Contact the Sustainable Choice Team for the case study template, it's easy!

2013 Scorecards and Annual Data Report

2013 Sustainable Procurement Scorecards and the Sustainable Choice Annual Data Report have been published and are being sent directly to your General Manager. To view the Annual Data Report, look in the resources section of our website [here](#). This year marks a maturing age and turning point for Sustainable Choice, which commencing in 2006. The survey methodology was reviewed in 2013 and as such the results for 2013 should be taken as a benchmark starting point. The survey will not change for 2014; the same questions will be asked so start thinking about gathering this information now for the best results. Get ready for the reporting period of August and September, preparation is the key!

Recycled Mixed Plastics - Purchasing Toolkit

Eco-Buy has developed a toolkit to provide buyers with independent information on the feature, uses and specifications for recycled plastic products. The toolkit provides information on the environmental and cost benefits and also how to get the best results when using the products. Local Government have increasingly been purchasing recycled plastic products as alternatives for public facilities such as soft fall in playgrounds, bollards, boardwalks and framing supports. Recycled plastics is a

Other Workshops and Forums

Free workshop for setting up EPS Recycling Services. The EPA invites you to attend a free workshop on setting up Expanded Polystyrene Recycling in Randwick on Thursday 10 April. More information is available [here](#) in the Local Government Weekly. Information on General Grants and Funding from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is [here](#). Information on the various grants, funding and scholarship opportunities offered through the Department of Primary Industries is available [here](#).

growing Australian manufacturing industry, creating local jobs and economy. Given plastics is something that we consider a waste product, it's re-use provides for excellent economic and environmental sense. The Toolkit includes the following:

- How recycled plastics can save \$\$
- How to design successful projects
- Toxicity and environmental benefits
- And much more

You can access the Toolkit and download the factsheets and other resources online [here](#).

Online Supplier Database

The online database is here to stay. At a recent presentation to our colleagues within the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, the database enhancements have been well received. Therefore, we will be concentrating more on making the database even better with added resources the database is proving that the sky is the limit!

We do need your help though, thank you to those members who have sent in local suppliers for us to assess for display on the website, please keep them coming and if you need any further information about the process please contact us. It is free for suppliers to display so long as they meet the criteria; more information is available in the [icons explained](#) section.

CURRENT GRANTS

NSW Trade and Investment

[Regional Industries Investment Fund](#) - ongoing

[Aboriginal Business Development](#) - ongoing

Waste Less Recycle More

[Litter Prevention](#) - closing 18 April

How to apply and an overview on all EPA Waste Less Recycle More grants is available [here](#).

FUTURE GRANTS

Proposed grants, start preparing now:

[Heritage management](#) - opening in late 2014

Happy Easter from Sustainable Choice!



Contact the Sustainable Choice team today

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