

Sustainable Choice News

Issue 7, October 9, 2014

Sustainable Choice Training



Congratulations to Tweed Shire Council, Dubbo City Council, Hurstville City Council, Marrickville City Council and Rockdale City Council which have all undertaken Sustainable Choice training during 2014.

Hurstville and Marrickville were treated to our new intensive sessions. North Sydney is next, scheduled for a targeted refresher training to outline goals and move further along the road to where sustainable procurement becomes "normal" procurement.

View our new range of training options [online](#) and follow the prompts to book yours today.

Sustainable Procurement Forum Success

Sustainable Choice held the Riverina and Murray Sustainable Procurement Forum in Albury on

Recycled plastics - now along the Mighty Murray River

Congratulations to Murray Shire Council who have joined the recycled plastics in public assets raga. Now, dotted throughout NSW, you can see recycled plastic community assets. Recycled plastic technology certainly stacks up as a sustainable purchase and investment.

REPLAS claim wooden installations can fail after 4-5 years, recycled plastics offer a sustainable, durable and long lasting alternative with many uses:

- tables and benches
- foot bridges
- board walks
- bollards
- various outdoor recreational uses
- boat ramps, and many more!



Murray Shire Council: Swifts Creek boat ramp, Mathoura.

CASE STUDIES - more case studies on sustainable procurement are available in Resources under the [Case Study Tab](#). We know there are other projects and programs out there that are case study worthy. Contact the Sustainable Choice Team for the case study template and share your experiences today. It's easy!

Continued...

Tuesday 15 July.

Cr Graham Docksey of Albury City Council opened the forum, which was held at Council's administration building. The forum was a success and attracted attendees from numerous councils throughout the region. The forum included six speakers presenting on sustainability and sustainable procurement initiatives, with a focus on roads and general sustainable procurement. Contact the Sustainable Choice Team for a copy of the presentations.

There were also a number of sustainable suppliers showcasing available innovation and technologies. This Forum wraps up Sustainable Choice events for 2014.



Survey Time!

Thank you to all who completed the 2014 Sustainable Choice Annual Survey. It was issued to all council General Managers in early August and is now officially closed. We can't say it enough, thank you to all who participated in the survey! We know it can be a challenging task; however the information is certainly a powerful resource. Our approach this year was the same as last year, sending the correspondence to all General Managers with a copy of the questions that appear in the online survey, grouped within standard service units so the survey questions can be given to each service unit then collated by one person who will complete the survey online. However, we know this sounds simple in theory yet can be a challenge in reality. Given it's difficult for any one person to have knowledge or access to all procurement activities across council, we hope this approach will help collate the best information from your organisation, giving you an accurate score for your scorecard.

The survey is designed to help evaluate sustainable procurement practice within your organisation, and to improve the Sustainable Choice program to better service our members. It provides you with the opportunity to give feedback about implementing sustainable procurement and collect data on the types and amounts of products and services being procured.

Future Surveys? The sustainable choice survey occurs annually at the same time every year, released early August and closing at the end of September. The questions asked are in relation to the immediate past financial year and go into the annual data report as well as providing an individual scorecard for your council.

There are no other surveys of this kind and no other research into the complexities that are council operations and capital works spend. We do have a program awaiting approval to research and pilot an alternative to the survey system. However, for now, we truly appreciate your input. The Sustainable Choice team is now busy analysing the results and aim to have a Scorecard to you by Christmas.

2014 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

Nominations for the 2014 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards are now closed. Thank you to all councils who submitted nominations, we had a record number of nominations overall. The judging panels are now convening and finalists will be notified in October. The awards ceremony will be held on 2 December at Aerial UTS function centre, Sydney. Further details are [online](#).

Drive Green Calculator

The DriveGreen Calculator is an online tool created by the NSW Government Roads and Maritime Services. This tool is designed to calculate the amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted from your vehicle each year. You can calculate your vehicle's carbon footprint [here](#), and a series of carbon offset initiatives will be provided for you to choose from.

Online Supplier Database



Following a number of enhancements of the Sustainable Choice database in 2013, we will be concentrating on further improvements over the coming months. Watch this space! Thank you to all the councils who have informed local suppliers about this service. Please continue to tell suppliers in your community about Sustainable Choice. It is a free sustainability verification service for Local Government. Our assessment process is explained in the [icon explained](#) section and suppliers simply register through the [website](#), providing evidence to support claims of proposed use of each icon.

Events and Training

[The LGNSW Annual Conference](#) will be held on Sunday 19 – Tuesday 21 October 2014 at the Coffs Ex-Services Club in Coffs Harbour. All 152 councils from NSW will come together to debate issues important to their communities. Register online [here](#).



Further events will be held in early 2015. If you would like to host the next forum, please contact the team as soon as possible, we are looking for expressions of interest for the following:

- Metropolitan Forum - March
- Regional Forum - May

To register your interest in hosting or attending, please email the team at sustainablechoice@lgnsw.org.au

Contact the Sustainable Choice team today

Jody Houston, Program Manager (Mon-Wed)
Tania Lalor, Program Manager (Wed-Fri)

T: 02 9242 4000
M: 0437 303 244

E: sustainablechoice@lgnsw.org.au

W: www.lgnsw.org.au/sustainablechoice