



Sustainable Cities Awards 2020



Thank you to our awards supporters

nsw





Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

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www.kabnsw.org.au

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Disclaimer

The information in this booklet has been provided by the Award nominees and referees chosen by them. Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this booklet as accurately as possible.

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About Keep Australia Beautiful NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards
- Sustainable Cities Awards
- EnviroMentors®
- Annual Litter Congress

To find out more visit www.kabnsw.org.au

KAB NSW wishes to sincerely thank the 2020 Sustainable Cities Awards Judging Panel

Brian Birkefield

Danyelle Carter

Peter Clark

Ana Corpuz

Patrick Denvir

Hailey Durham

Marc Harper

Tasneem Kanpurwala

Doug MacDonald

Layla McNeil

Lynda Newnam

Nicole Palmer

Peter Ryall

Syd Smith

Jo Taranto

Matthew Taylor

Dr Trevor Thornton

Chris Tola



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales**

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has been encouraging and assisting communities to grow into sustainable and beautiful places to live for just on 45 years. Instrumental to their very visible achievements in our cities and our regional areas has been a successful program of community engagement that has led to a more 'environmentally responsible and beautiful New South Wales'.

On 18 May 2020, Dennis and I, as Patrons of Keep Australia Beautiful Council NSW, met virtually with Ms Val Southam, who brought us up to date with the 2020 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Awards Program.

This year's awards, in two categories: *Sustainable Cities* and *Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns*, recognise the initiatives taken by councils, businesses, communities, students and individuals to improve their local communities. Due to the impact of the drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19, now more than ever, our community is aware of our environment and the need to reduce pollution, waste, litter, water and energy use, and to increase the uptake of recycling and conservation efforts to enhance the environment, heritage and culture.

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, we congratulate all this year's entrants and the winners on their outstanding contributions to building sustainable cities and sustainable communities. Your achievements are especially appreciated and noted in a year in which we have all spent so much more time in our local communities.

This Program is a welcome recognition and reminder of the community spirit that continues to sustain us.

Warm best wishes for the annual Awards.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales**

Mr Dennis Wilson

ENVIROMENTORS EDUCATION PROGRAM

AUSTRALIA'S LEADING MOBILE INCURSION-
BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM, REACHING EVERY CORNER OF
NSW WITH SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

BENEFITS

10 educational modules meeting
objectives of:

- Litter reduction
- Bin contamination
- Organic recycling promotion
- Waste reduction
- Resource conservation
- Water specific conservation
- Sustainability

SERVICES

- School Workshops
- Community Workshops
- Corporate Programs
- Litter Audits
- Education Materials
- Community Displays



OUR TEAM

Our Sustainability Educators
are fully qualified primary and
secondary education teachers
with a depth of experience
in lesson planning and class
management.



Welcome to the 2020 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Cities Awards. The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is an environmental and community program for local councils and their communities.

Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised by awards through this program since 1994. The Sustainable Cities Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.

This booklet profiles the 2020 entries and acknowledges their exceptional efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners and congratulates all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.

Val Southam
Chief Executive Officer
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our awards supporters





LITTER CONGRESS 2021

LESS LITTER. LIVE BETTER.

20 & 21 April 2021
Aerial UTS, Sydney

www.littercongress.com.au

With an emphasis on thoughtful and research-based methods of inquiry and with input from a range of sectors, the Litter Congress is the opportunity for individuals and groups involved in litter management, prevention and reduction to assemble to jointly tackle littering and behaviour change in an interactive environment.

Proposals are now invited for panels, workshops, roundtables, debates, presentations and other interactive formats.

For further information visit www.littercongress.com.au

Hosted by:



Congress Partner:



CALL FOR PROPOSALS CLOSING FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2020

About the Sustainable Cities Awards



The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is a community and environmental awards program for metropolitan Sydney councils and their communities. Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised by awards through this program since 1994. The Sustainable Cities Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.

The Sustainable Cities Awards Program incorporates two levels of awards, the individual category awards and the Overall Sustainable Council Award..

These two levels recognise both individual and/or holistic projects and programs. Participants have advised us of numerous social, environmental and economic benefits of entering the program:

- Increased community pride and morale and physical, mental & social well-being;
- Social interaction & co-operation between council, community members, groups and partners;
- Strengthening of current partnerships or initiation of new ones between councils, community members and local groups and businesses. Permanent recognition for winners, creating excitement and motivation and valuable feedback on all award submissions;
- Networking opportunities between industry, state and local government, and environmental leaders and experts;
- Recognition of good governance in local government;
- Opportunities to showcase and celebrate the innovative work, expertise and vision of organisations or projects
- Increased valuable media exposure for the local area and community projects;
- Opportunity for knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas between different local government areas and their communities.

Overall Award – NSW’s Most Sustainable City for 2020



The Overall Award is awarded to a metropolitan council that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in at least four areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion. The areas covered are included in the following award categories.

Projects completed by outside organisation’s within the local government area will be considered as part of the four areas.

Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation Sponsored by NSW EPA



The **Waste Less, Recycle More** Award is for a project or program that tackles a range of waste and recycling problems through waste minimisation and reduction; effective and innovative waste and recycling programs or incentivising behaviour change.

Don’t be a Tosser! Litter Action Sponsored by NSW EPA



The **Don’t be a Tosser! Litter Action** Award is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. This could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.

Return and Earn Litter Prevention Sponsored by Return and Earn



The **Return and Earn Litter Prevention** Award is for a program or project that provides for and encourages the use of the Return and Earn Scheme in a local area through development and promotion of facilities, community engagement or innovative use of the Scheme to benefit a particular community or group.

Habitat and Wildlife Conservation



The Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award is for projects which create, restore and sustain biodiversity of our native flora and fauna in urban environments, creating wildlife corridors and encouraging habitat conservation.

Heritage and Culture



The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect our unique, and built heritage, including celebration of a region’s heritage.

Young Legend’s Environmental



The Young Legend’s Environmental Award recognises individuals or groups of people 25 years and under who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes.

School's Environmental Achievement



The School's Environmental Achievement Award is for New South Wales schools that can demonstrate outstanding sustainability achievement, sustainable practices, reducing their environmental impact and leading the community by example.

Environmental Communication



The Environmental Communication Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through raising awareness, developing and building partnerships to share of resources and creation of spaces and places for environmental education.

Recycled Organics



The Recycled Organics Award is for projects and programs that minimise the loss of organics to landfill and supports the community to avoid, reduce and recycle organics.

Coastal and Waterways Protection incorporating Clean Beaches



The Coastal and Waterways Protection Award is for programs and actions that create, restore and enhance our natural waterways and beaches, by advocating for coast and waterway protection, encouraging community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches and sustainable management of water resources.

Circular Economy



The Circular Economy Award is for operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.

Sustainable Projects



The Sustainable Projects Award recognises innovations in, and the application of technology to achieve improved environmental performance, within their spheres of influence.

Renewable Energy



The Renewable Energy Award is for progress and achievements in developing products or services associated with renewable energy.

Community Spirit and Inclusion



The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award recognises communities successfully addressing challenges through proper planning, community partnerships and real outcomes. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in'.

Response to Climate Change



The Response to Climate Change Award recognises actions taken by communities to tackle climate change through practical, long-term solutions and educating the public about the causes and effects of climate change and what individuals can do to take action.

Brian Birkefield

Brian hails from Taree in NSW.

After attending the University of Newcastle, Brian accepted a position with the institution and remained there for many years. Currently, he works in sales as a spare parts interpreter.

Brian has been a Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Tidy Towns assessor for more than 10 years, and a judge for three years.

For a number of years, Brian also served as a judge for the Clean Beaches Awards.

Danyelle Carter

Manager Local Government Programs, NSW EPA



Danyelle has nearly 30 years' experience in the environment sector in State and Local Government. Danyelle works in Circular Economy and Resource Management at DPIE to drive the implementation of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

In 2018, Danyelle won a Premier's Award for outstanding service in Keeping the Environment Clean. Danyelle has worked with Aboriginal communities and works closely with local councils in remote and regional NSW.

Peter Clark

Managing Director, Calleo Green

Peter operates a consultancy that offers services across a diverse range of areas including emergency management, incident training, bushfire risk assessment and environmental protection and assessment.

For almost two decades, Peter has served as an assessor for the long-running Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns program, and more recently the Sustainable Cities program.

For a number of years, he has also acted as an assessor and judge for the internationally renowned annual open space awards program, Green Flag Award.

Ana Corpuz

Policy Officer, Environment Protection and Land Management Branch, DPIE



Ana has almost 20 years' experience in technical, policy and operational work in State Government, local government, industry and the academe in the areas of environment, sustainability, natural resources, waste, water, air quality, land use, zoning, and development and regulatory and legislative review.

Patrick Denvir

Co-CEO, 100% Renewables



Patrick has 25 years' experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon management consulting across strategic, policy and technical areas.

Patrick co-founded 100% Renewables in 2015 to help leading organisations transition to clean energy and net zero emissions.

100% Renewables has worked with many local governments to help them set targets, develop plans and implement efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Tasneem Kanpurwala



Tasneem is a 2020 National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award winner for research achievements.

She is a dedicated leader driving change to support the public good to develop and enforce policies and procedures designed for environmental protection.

Tasneem has over 25 years' experience working across a range of industries including Environmental Consultancy, State Government authorities and the Biomedical Engineering field.

Doug MacDonald

Doug has experience across a broad range of fields, including Civil Engineering, specialising in design and construction, as well as Landuse Planning.

He has also specialised in sustainable urban development, with a focus on low impact development, energy efficient transport and waste management and recycling.

Additionally, Doug has lent his professional dexterity streetscape improvements and bushland management and maintenance, including bushfire mitigation and rehabilitation.

Lynda Newnam

Principal, Citizen Science Partnerships



Lynda has extensive project management experience in higher education as well as environment and 25 years in volunteering, from environment to heritage and tourism.

She is qualified in primary school teaching, has undergraduate degrees specialising in linguistics, anthropology and politics, a Master's in Environmental Management, and is currently writing a doctoral thesis on the potential role of citizen science within the planning regime.

Layla McNeil

Environment Advisor, Sydney Trains

Layla has experience in environmental strategic policy development, project and contract management, program delivery, EMS auditing, stakeholder facilitation.

She has knowledge and expertise in developing and delivering strategic environmental and communication plans, cooperative agreements and contracts with multi stakeholders; educational and behaviour change campaigns; environmental auditing, waste and resource management planning; to creating, implementing, reporting and evaluating a variety of sustainability programs.

Nicole Palmer

Visitor Information Officer & Library Assistant, Water NSW & Camden Council



Nicole works at the Warragamba Dam, educating members of the public and schools about water catchments, water wise activities and the history of Warragamba dam.

She is a community advocate for better waste facilities and litter reduction in her local area and is the former Secretary for Buxton Community Association (2017-2020), which implemented waste free community events and a food waste collection system at the local community hall.

Nicole is the Winner of Wollondilly Councils Australia Day award for Environmental Citizen of the Year in 2019.

Peter Ryall

Casual Academic, University of Newcastle



Peter is a retired secondary school history teacher, having taught in NSW state high schools, South Africa, Brazil and Canada.

Currently, Peter works as a casual academic at the University of Newcastle's School of Education.

He is a community volunteer for various local organisations, including past secretary of Halliday's Point Landcare Group. A special interest and experience in heritage and indigenous issues gained from over 30 years' teaching these facets of history.

Syd Smith BA MEd MACE

Syd is a private education consultant who has taught in primary and secondary schools, served as a curriculum consultant with the NSW Department of Education and was promoted to a Director's position on the NSW's Central Coast.

He now specialises in Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Joanne Taranto

Director, Good for the Hood



Joanne is a sustainability communicator and litter and waste reduction educator. She co-founded community waste campaign, '5 for Ryde' in 2017 and now works as Director of Good for the Hood.

Good for the Hood has worked on behaviour change campaigns with ABC television, not for profits, corporates and a large number of councils around Australia. Jo's passions are community development, thrift shopping, sustainability engagement, litter management, communications and coffee.

Matthew Taylor

HR Manager, Kleinfelder



As a former CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. Matthew brings over 7 years' experience from his time managing the organisation, including the Tidy Towns program.

Since leaving KAB, Matthew held a number of roles but his passion for the environment has remained.

Currently, he works for an environmental consultancy involved in both ecology and contaminated land issues.

Dr Trevor Thornton

Senior Lecturer - Hazardous Materials Management, Deakin University



Trevor is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University and also consults widely on processes to develop and implement programs to reduce environmental impacts for a broad range of industry sectors.

Trevor has a wealth of experience, particularly in areas associated with waste management.

Trevor has been working in various aspects of the waste management industry for over 30 years as a regulator and consultant.

Chris Tola

Grants Officer, City of Newcastle, Publisher – Surfing Roadies & Yahoo! Surf Awareness School



Chris has had an active involvement with organisations such as Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, Coastcare, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

Currently, Chris holds the role of Grants Officer with the City of Newcastle and is the Publisher of Surfing Roadies.

Since 2002, Chris has periodically been the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge National Assessor and State Judge, and the Tidy Towns Assessor; and was the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) Program Manager for Clean Beach Challenge and the Tidy Towns Program (2002 – 2005).



Northern Beaches Council

Northern Beaches Council has excelled in presenting a diverse and exciting array of projects highlighting a very strong commitment to developing and implementing sustainable practices and building a sustainability ethos across the region. Council's 'Protect. Create. Live. Northern Beaches Climate Change Strategy 2040' is key to many of Council's most significant and effective sustainability programs.

Council engages successfully with youth on a number of crucial projects. Its excellent collaboration with the education sector, for example, helps build a network of strong sustainability advocates and promotes intergenerational change.

Recycling, waste reduction and reuse initiatives are strongly supported and implemented on a broad scale across the LGA. 'Tastes of Manly' is an exciting initiative which further illustrates the Council's focused and very successful engagement with the community in developing programs showcasing sustainable practices and innovation.

Perhaps the most significant project with far reaching benefits is the rollout of an organic waste management system across the entire LGA. Involving the upgrading and introduction of 600,000 bins, Council will soon collect organic waste from every household, redirecting significant volumes of otherwise valuable organic material from landfill.

Another significant and exciting program that sets Northern Beaches apart is the excellent research collaboration with Macquarie University to identify sources and manage micro plastics impacting the Dee Why Lagoon and catchment. This project has far reaching positive benefits for the environment and communities by eliminating micro plastics at source.

Council is very actively engaged with the community, business and industry, the broad education sector and youth in identifying and promoting issues, developing solutions and implementing active, effective and sustainable policies and programs.

Randwick City Council



Randwick City Council has developed an excellent suite of dynamic sustainable projects, activities and events complimented by sound policies and protocols.

The Council is very engaged with its community and are highly effective in harnessing the energy, commitment and drive of its members.

Randwick City Council's new program – 100% Renewables and Zero Emissions Roadmap for Council and community – is an excellent initiative featuring collaboration and engagement focused on a well-considered and communicated sustainable future. Ambitious yet realistic and achievable, the comprehensive roadmap guides Council in the management of all its activities toward achieving outstanding sustainable outcomes.

One major project that achieves a few of the roadmap's objectives is the capture of stormwater runoff for reuse on sports fields, parks and other public lands. Council has invested considerable funds and includes the construction of two underground 1,000,000 litre stormwater reservoirs to store and distribute captured water.

Bayside Council



Bayside Council has proven over a number of years its very strong commitment to sustainable management through a highly effective program of diverse and innovative projects and working towards creating a 'community' sustainability ethos.

Projects highlighting Council's well considered and professional approach to excellence in sustainability include 'The Road to a Circular Economy' and Bayside's excellent and innovative COVID-19 response initiative 'Innovation, Essential Services and Community Spirit through a Crisis'. This initiative comprehensively and effectively addressed the way in which Council managed waste and essential services throughout the busy Bayside community under pandemic conditions.

One of Bayside's most significant sustainability focused projects is the Holistic Management of Illegally Dumped Material Using Smart Data program, which has seen significant reduction in illegal waste in identified hotspots across the LGA.

Bayside has shown leadership in identifying and developing solutions, ultimately implementing active, effective and sustainable policies and programs across the LGA.

Cumberland City Council



Last year's Sustainable City of the Year, Cumberland, has again undertaken a handful of outstanding projects with a strong focus on enhancing sustainability and protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

The City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2019 is a very welcome and important plan that assists Council, other Government and NGO agencies and the community to protect the area's vitally important biodiversity. The strategy has many measures that enable protection of natural resources and significant environmental elements across the LGA.

Perhaps Cumberland's most exciting project this year is the excellent collaboration project 'Benchmarking Heat Across Cumberland' which aims to identify 'heat hot spots' and implement strategies to assist with moderating and reducing temperatures to acceptable levels.

Auburn Hospital's excellent recycling program 'Cans For Kids' continues to redirect very significant quantities of aluminium cans from the waste stream to benefit children's health programs.

Strathfield Council



Strathfield Council is very proactive with a strong focus on sustainability practices and initiatives.

While relatively compact, Strathfield is a diverse and complex environment encompassing a range of residential communities, significant public parks and reserves, numerous environmental features with important biodiversity elements, industrial areas and business communities.

Illustrating Strathfield Council's commitment to enhancing sustainability and environmental protection are well developed, dynamic community programs such as Drew Street Sensory Garden and Bressington Park; as well as sustainable practices such as Strathfield Car Park CDS, MUD's Waste Reduction and Better Recycling Program.

Council's focus on biodiversity protection and environmental protection in the Powell's Creek wetlands and waterway is also an excellent example of sustainable practices in action.

Inner West Council



Inner West Council, a previous Sustainable City, has an enviable record of very proactively identifying and enhancing sustainability opportunities and options across the LGA through strong community, Ngo and business connections and collaborations.

Strong leadership by Council has seen the community and NGOs like Addison Road Community Centre actively embracing sustainability principles and practices in many aspects of their businesses and focus. An excellent example of this is The Hollow Tree project at Addison Road Community Centre that provides habitat opportunities for local native arboreal wildlife otherwise devoid of nesting sites.

The 'Rethinking the Urban Forest Conference', attended by more than 200 urban planners and practitioners, is a benchmark in managing urban forest issues.

Other great examples of sustainable practices include the wonderful Inner West Tool Library, which embraces and showcases sustainable practice at a grass roots level; and the Dulwich Hill Public School Sustainable Canteen initiative.

JOINT WINNER

Smashing the Trash - Recycle, don't bin and we win!

Auburn Hospital Recyclers



At Auburn Hospital, cleaners recognised that there was a waste problem and decided to make a difference.

These humble, quiet achievers set up a system to sort out the salvageable, useable, recyclable from the waste and redirect it to where they could be used to improve lives – human or animal. For example, two carloads of out of date bandages and dressings were sent to a wildlife sanctuary during the bush fire crisis to be used to treat burnt wildlife.

This project reduced the harm one hospital was doing to the environment, also helping to improve health outcomes in the developing world as well as contributing to conservation efforts and charities at home.

The success of the project and the money it has saved the organisation has caused a major rethink at management levels.

JOINT WINNER

The Cloth Nappy Project
Sutherland Shire Council



The Cloth Nappy Project is a Sutherland Councils Children's Services initiative to minimise the use of disposable nappies across eleven early childhood centres. This project is provided free of charge and is optional for parents to participate. The centres utilise a private cloth nappy laundering service which provides environmentally friendly laundering off-site.

The Cloth Nappy Project has already shown and will continue to contribute to long-term waste reduction in the community through the continued use of cloth nappies at childcare centres and at home by driving behavioural changes in Sutherland Shire families toward a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Over the last five years, Sutherland Shire Children's services have successfully diverted over an estimated 85 tonnes nappies going to landfill.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Get Rid of It Right - Recycling Improvement in Apartments Waverley Council



Apartments have traditionally been challenging to achieve recycling and resource recovery outcomes, as high-density living is correlated to high contamination rates.

As the second most densely populated LGA in NSW, Waverley Council has implemented a Recycling Improvement Program that has delivered substantial decreases in the contamination of the recycling streams along with increased engagement with residents and property managing bodies.

Council worked closely with internal and external stakeholders to deliver the program, including council's operations and planning teams to improve processes for existing and future apartment building design and waste management, and external stakeholders including strata managers, building managers and residents to provide the educational resources, infrastructure and tools required.

The program has been delivered to 2,660 households equating to almost 9% of all households in the LGA. Overall, the program achieved reductions in contamination of 53% reduction in the container recycling bin and 55% in the paper and cardboard recycling bin.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

RecycleSmart App and PickUp Service Sutherland Shire Council



Sutherland Shire Council is empowering the community by providing them the tools to improve their recycling practices at home, to be more sustainable and work towards becoming a zero-waste community.

In May 2019, Council introduced the free RecycleSmart waste app, which provides specific and localised information on how to correctly dispose of waste items, check local waste collection days and inform about waste events.

In March 2020, Sutherland Shire Council extended their partnership with RecycleSmart by introducing an on-demand waste collection service called 'Pick-Up'.

Residents collect unwanted items and book a \$2 per bag pick up. Through this service, items that don't belong in the yellow or red bins, are recycled in the appropriate channel.

This Pick-Up service is a convenient, easy and cost-effective way for the residents to play their part in protecting the environment and local communities.

WINNER
Seaside Scavenge
Seaside Scavenge (Cronulla)


Seaside Scavenge aims to educate communities about waste to change consumer culture. This is achieved through Scavenge events where participants exchange trash for cash.

Attendees collect litter from the festival location, then sort the items correctly in return for tokens to spend at the donated second-hand goods market.

To date, Seaside Scavenge has inspired 7,546 participants to remove 13,450kg of litter and 196,766 cigarette butts. Additionally, 9,395kg of second-hand clothes donated by communities have been redistributed.

HIGHLY COMMENDED
What a load of rubbish" – Say no to single-use plastic
Northern Beaches Council


Recognising the long-term impacts of litter, Northern Beaches Council set a stretch target to wipe out single-use plastics.

Through the ongoing efforts of Council and resident and environmental community groups, including data collection of macro and micro litter, there is a greater awareness supported by local champions striving for solutions.

Northern Beaches Council's new waste service also presented an opportunity to rethink waste management. A suite of creative communications supported the transition.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Being Litter Smart in Bondi Waverley Council



The “Being Litter Smart in Bondi” Project has reduced takeaway packaging litter at four hotspots in Bondi through an integrated program of community events, businesses engagement and capacity building.

Bondi Beach is a major tourist destination, with implications for littering when more transient communities are not as invested in street cleanliness and are not aware that littering is an offence.

The program involved a business engagement plan that included face to face discussions with businesses to identify the key barriers to sustainable waste practices to prevent litter from entering the environment. Broad community engagement was also achieved through two highly successful community events over summer, that saw between 400 and 700 people attend. Additionally, Council worked in collaboration with internal stakeholders to develop a Waste in Public Places Policy and Guideline.

This integrated approach has resulted in cleaner, more beautiful streets for Bondi.



WINNER

Cans for Kids

Auburn Hospital Recyclers



The Auburn Hospital Recycling team, led by Alex Roberts, were returning and earning for charity, through their Cans for Kids project long before Return and Earn. Not even a global pandemic has slowed them down.

The team established can and bottle collection points throughout the hospital with a 'recycle champion' overseeing each area. They also collected cans and bottles from home, community events, family events and other businesses. The team's mantra is "20 cans or bottles will vaccinate a child for life, three will provide a starving child with vital vitamins and 100 will dig a well to provide clean water for an entire village".

In addition to being good for the environment and Save the Children, the project has delivered additional benefits to the hospital by reducing waste management costs, building morale and encouraging interdepartmental co-operation.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Strathfield Car Park CDS

Strathfield Municipal Council



Strathfield Council has taken a strong approach in achieving higher diversion rates by initiatives such as providing extra green and yellow bins and services to their residents. The next step to achieving landfill diversion, as well as combat plastic litter, was the introduction of the container deposit scheme for all those that have access to the LGA.

Since the beginning of the Program, Strathfield has seen the immediate positive impact the scheme has on eligible containers. Extensive communication through Council's official digital channels such as website, e-news, Facebook and Instagram, as well as advertising on Inner West Courier printed version helped engage community.

From March 2018 to June 2020, the Reverse Vending Machine collected a total of 13,364,577 items, becoming second in volumes collected across all Councils.

WINNER**69 Redmyre Road Strathfield**
"Halloween House"
Strathfield Municipal Council

69 Redmyre Rd, Strathfield was built in 1887 as a residence for the Town Clerk of Strathfield Council. It is listed in the Strathfield LEP Heritage Inventory as Halloween – Victorian House.

The Cottage is a fine example of late Victorian period architecture constructed c1887. The building has been subject to deterioration over time and Council wanted to repair, maintain and make use of the building, integrating it to the rest of the Council buildings.

Through the use of consistent colour schemes and the choice of finishes, including the new slate roof, re-establishment of the front verandah and use of appropriate tiling the building has been restored demonstrating Council's commitment to the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage.

The project has brought a previously highly compromised and unloved element within the Redmyre Road Heritage Conservation Area back to its former glory, re-establishing the historic connection between "Halloween" and the Sulman-designed Town Hall building.

WINNER*Creating Habitat for Camden White Gum*

Camden Council



The 'Creating Habitat for Camden White Gum' project restored the Endangered Ecological Community, River-flat Eucalypt Forest along the Nepean River at Camden Town Farm. This was achieved through removal of four hectares of woody weeds and replacement planting with 22,000 native grasses, shrubs and trees, including 200 Nationally Threatened and iconic Camden White Gums.

This project effectively created and restored biodiversity of native flora in a high-profile site within the heart of the Camden Town Centre. A strong focus of this project involved engaging the community of the Camden LGA, with seven events held throughout 2018 and 2019.

The Miss Llewella Davies Pioneer Walkway was also constructed, providing the community with an important recreational trail that connects the Camden Town Centre with the Nepean River, and the agricultural heritage of the area.

The program was funded through the Federal Government's 20 Million Trees Program, commencing in February 2018 and completing in June 2020.

HIGHLY COMMENDED*The Hollow Tree at Addison Road*

Addison Road Community Organisation (Marrickville)



The Hollow Tree is a beautiful and inspiring children's book that tells the story of a bold project to turn a 'dead' Sydney blue gum tree into an urban wildlife hotspot. The story is told from the perspective of the tree itself, as it observes both its gritty urban surrounds and the variety of birds, bats and insects that come to visit the tree seeking food, shelter and a place to raise young.

Illustrated by school students from five local schools, it is the result of a series of excursions and workshops that engage students in learning about urbanisation and its impact on native species, and strategies to create and preserve habitat and wildlife.

The Hollow Tree is also a reflection of ongoing initiatives in habitat conservation and monitoring by Addison Road Community Organisation which was created in 2015 – only the second of its kind in NSW. It is now one of more than 100. The pioneering tree represents increasing efforts to promote wildlife in urban areas and to develop ways for human settlements to better accommodate natural systems and native species in their midst.

WINNER

Reducing Litter in the Dee Why Lagoon Catchment, Solutions for the future

Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP)



Dee Why Lagoon, on Sydney's northern beaches, is a recognised habitat of critical importance for many species.

Following AUSMAP surveys undertaken by the Coastal Environment Centre and local high-school students, it was identified that the lagoon was a microplastic hotspot. Tracking of macro and micro litter was undertaken by netting stormwater outlets draining into the Lagoon, measuring how much debris was making its way via these drains, and pinpointing potential locations or origin.

Results indicated that microplastics type reflected surrounding land use, with some litter originating from sporting activities in the area, while other from industrial zones.

The partnership with AUSMAP, the Coastal Environment Centre and Waste Education Team at the Northern Beaches Council, enables educators to relay the information back to communities via the AUSMAP webpage, social media and online interactive hotspot map.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Operation Straw
Operation Straw (Manly)



Operation Straw started as a clean-up initiative designed to tackle the prolific amount of plastic found in Manly Cove, a hotspot for plastic pollution.

Volunteers from across the Northern Beaches gather on Saturday mornings to jump in the ocean for a Strawkle – a snorkel for straws. Volunteers have collected more than 3500 plastic straws from Manly Cove, along with hundreds of kilograms of other marine debris. The findings from the project have helped to inspire more than forty businesses in the local area to say 'see-ya' to single-use plastic straws.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Waterways Litter Prevention & Beach Clean Up Alliance Bayside Council



In 2019/20, Council expanded its Beach Litter Prevention Program to tackle recalcitrant litterers by collaborating with the community, the police and other organisations via further awareness, education, patrols and beach clean-up events.

In sixteen weeks over summer, Council education officers provided face to face community education, handed out 'Don't Be Tosser' bags and provided litter advice to beach and picnic-goers. In addition, Council regulation officers and off-duty Police Officers were hired to conduct patrols, which also included education and providing advice.

In 2019/20, Council promoted 10 beach clean-up events, collecting approximately 485kg of litter. Council also utilises the Georges River-keeper program, whereby the Department of Justice & NSW Corrective Services provide participants to pick litter along the Bayside Georges River catchment area; as well as the Cooks River Alliance, whose 187 program participants have thus far collected 300 bags of litter along the Cooks River.

WINNER*Closed Loop Organic Recycling Program***Northern Beaches Council**

As a leafy and green community, Northern Beaches Council (NBC) has large volumes of vegetation, with residential waste audits showing that typically 40% of a red garbage bin is made of up of food organics.

When creating the new waste system, which commenced in July 2019, Council looked holistically at waste management. A new resource recovery contract provided a technical solution to recover recyclables and organics from the red general bin while maintaining the high quality and value of the separately collected garden vegetation, paper and mixed containers recycling. Maintaining the integrity of vegetation enables council to effectively 'close the loop' by processing it into high grade, in-demand compost and soil conditioners that can be readily sold into agriculture and horticulture markets.

All households were provided with two 240L dedicated vegetation bins collected by Council fortnightly. In addition, combined with workshops, Council distributed close to 4,000 compost bins and worm farms to households providing them with the opportunity to home compost their food organics.

WINNER***100% Renewable energy by 2025***
Georges River Council

In November 2019, Georges River Council set a target of achieving 100% renewable energy and provided in-principle support for a net zero emissions target by 2025, or as soon as practicable, through implementing a framework to reduce carbon emissions based on mitigation initiatives and innovative technology.

In one year, the enthusiastic team achieved incredible results for a constrained resourced Council by implementing approximately 60% of the initiatives described in Council's Energy Management Plan (EMP); duplicating solar panels on Council facilities; including two electric vehicles for the Council fleet; joining the accelerated conversion of LED Street Lights Program with Ausgrid and securing a 23% of installations from the EMP in this FY; developing financial instruments to secure funding such as the Revolving Energy Fund for renewable and energy efficiency projects; and most importantly, embedding the concept of working towards net zero carbon and 100% renewable energy in all Council departments.

HIGHLY COMMENDED***Hawkesbury City Solar Program***
Hawkesbury City Council

The Hawkesbury Solar Program is part of the Western Sydney Regional Light Years Ahead program, an energy efficiency initiative helping Western Sydney Councils invest in energy saving and renewable technologies such as LED street lighting, solar panels, HVAC systems, insulation and energy saving appliances.

Once completed, the Hawkesbury City Solar Program will involve the installation of approximately 2,780 solar panels equating to 720KW of solar power across 12 Council sites in the Hawkesbury LGA, providing cost savings of \$190,000 in energy bills each year for the community.

This program demonstrates the Council's lead on climate change to help create a sustainable Hawkesbury by saving 800 tonnes of carbon emissions annually, while providing cost savings for the community and paving the way for other solar investment across Western Sydney.

WINNER***Swap for Good***
Northern Beaches Council

The Swap for Good business program encourages businesses to transition away from single-use plastic items including plastic bags, coffee cups, straws, containers, cutlery and water bottles. Resources include an information trifold and guides for Behaviour Change, Sustainable Procurement and Marketing. A customer-facing poster was developed to promote the business's sustainable practice. To activate change, the team developed Action Plans and Supplier Lists, making it a holistic program where changes were easy to implement.

The engagement model has been multifaceted. Businesses were engaged and connected through events, face-to-face engagement, Council website, phone consults, Facebook, LinkedIn, emails, Electronic Direct Mail, Council newsletters as well as indirectly through capacity building and collaboration with local community groups.

From June 2019 to January 2020 over 400 business representatives attended events and over 100 businesses signed up to the program.

HIGHLY COMMENDED***Blacktown's Community Stormwater Education Program***
Blacktown City Council

Blacktown City Council implements an ongoing stormwater education program to increase community awareness of stormwater issues and facilitate improved water sensitive behaviours.

Council's Environment section leads the program, partnering with internal and external stakeholders on a variety of projects that target different community segments, with a focus on increasing community knowledge of the negative impacts of litter on the quality of stormwater running into creeks, rivers and oceans and the effects for fish and wildlife.

The strong partnerships forged with stakeholders assist in ongoing community stormwater education and will provide one of the foundations for the proposed community 'riverkeeper' program.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

*Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden
COVID Response @Home
Programs
Ku-ring-gai Council*



In response to COVID-19, the team at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden jumped into action to produce a range of @Home programs including the Junior Rangers @Home weekly program and developing a brand new suite of DIY nature-play activities, 'Kids Wild @Home'.

Zoom sessions enabled wonderful things to happen that were not previously possible. For example, a Junior Ranger, who had relocated to Tasmania, leading a virtual tour of the Serpentina in St Helens; other Junior Rangers sharing their pets and the wildlife they encountered at home. Rangers also took the children 'virtual bushwalking' amongst the snowgums at Charlotte's Pass in Kosciuszko National Park and climbed the Half Dome at Yosemite.

The 'Kids Wild @ Home' program engaged members of the Ku-ring-gai Visitor Experience and Events Departments to design and test nature-play activities to share online to encourage connection with nature, keep kids active, improve mental health and engage the community in environmental education.

WINNER*Seaforth for the Sea - Kitchen Garden Program*
Seaforth Public School

“Seaforth for the Sea” in the Kitchen Garden extends the school’s existing kitchen garden program. It provides authentic sustainability learning experiences through a series of activities in the garden setting. Students are enabled and empowered to make decisions and take actions that contribute to creating a sustainable society and ecosystem.

More than 500 students at Seaforth PS participate in the Program, with each student attending weekly lessons in the garden for two terms, followed by a weekly lesson in the kitchen for one term.

In 2018, the Seaforth Principal identified the need to upgrade the program. The new program includes actions that students can do to improve their local environment, feel more connected to the land and have a better understanding and appreciation for Indigenous heritage.

The program has resulted in a multitude of highlights and achievements for the staff and students.

HIGHLY COMMENDED*Aquaponics for the Environment*
Chifley College, Bidwill Campus

To expand their understanding of the use of aquaculture in the growing of food, students at Chifley College, Bidwill Campus created two aquaponics systems producing sources of protein and vegetables by cycling nutrients within a semi-closed system.

The first system contains around twelve thousand litres of water and utilises fish as the source of nutrients for the plants. The second unit is based on a much smaller 900 litre reservoir and incorporates guinea pigs as a nutrient source.

They have focused on leafy greens like lettuce and water cress and recently trailed different types of mints.

These plants have been used as part of environmental regeneration of the School's farm dam and used as part of soil stabilisation and habitat creation.

To reduce costs and to gain an additional benefit, recycled and re-purposed materials were used in the construction.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Recycling Project

Northern Beaches Secondary
College, Cromer Campus P&C
Association



NBSC Cromer Campus only had open rubbish bins around the school and all of their waste was going to landfill. The open bins meant that wind and birdlife would move rubbish around the school.

The Student Representative Council (SRC), P&C and Principal all felt it was essential to put recycling bins throughout the school and reduce litter.

The school collected quotes and detailed information from bin enclosure and collection vendors to develop a design for the Bin Enclosures with opening styles, colours and signage and to ensure their co-mingled items were being sent for recycling.

Following installation of their new bin enclosures, the SRC team were involved with communications, ensuring all students and Teachers are fully utilising these enclosures.

The school is also the recipient of funds donated through the local Return and Earn depot. These funds go towards the SRC Team Communications Project.

WINNER

Hannah Chalmers
Rodd Point



Since the age of seven, Hannah Chalmers – who is now 10 – has shown a passion for addressing environmental issues with innovative solutions.

In 2017, she designed a solar power alarm clock and in 2018 developed an idea for an app called Green Elephant. The app (which is available in the app store) alerts shoppers with a reminder to bring their reusable bags as they leave their house or approach their local shopping centre. Hannah worked closely with Harris Farm store and founder, Tristan Harris to make sure the project helped his shoppers.

From her two inventions, Hannah has gone on to twice win the STANSW Young Scientist Awards Models and Innovations Competition.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Appin Scouts Bushcare & Community Garden Group
1st Appin Scout Group



The 1st Appin Bushcare Scout Group is a youth-based group with “serving the community” as a long-standing aim. They aim to create an environmental and sustainable community group that cares for the bush in their local area.

The area of Appin is undergoing major housing development and many within the community wish to learn about gardening. To address this, the Group has developed a Community Garden which includes educating community members about seed saving, plant propagation, soil preparation and growing plants.

The Appin area borders an environmentally sensitive location next to the Georges River and Crown Land and borders one of the last remaining parts of the Cumberland Plain Woodlands. The group concentrates on rubbish removal from the waterways and fire trails, weed removal, planting native trees, including food trees for their breeding colony of disease-free koalas, as well as creating native bee hotels and habitat boxes for another endangered species – a microbat colony.

WINNER

Love Minto - Erica Lane
Campbelltown City Council



The beautification of Erica Lane was a combined Council and community effort. Works included the completion of two large-scale wall murals and a floor mural trailing along the main road outside of the laneway, the installation of festoon lighting providing a safer passage for community members and creating an atmosphere in the laneway, new planter boxes and improved landscaping, platform seating and Minto's own 'Hollywood Sign'.

In addition, Council and Uniting Minto came together to deliver the multicultural event 'Light Up the Lane' in Erica Lane. More than 1000 people attended over the course of the evening with highlights including multicultural performances from the Bangladesh, Nepalese and Pacifica communities, a kids' art competition, and various stallholders selling traditional wares, clothing and food.

WINNER

Incubator for Innovation
Hunter's Hill Council



The new pop-up library and community space on Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill (scheduled to open in late-2020), will feature a range of furniture, building materials and decorations made from waste plastic, glass, corflute and textiles sourced from local supply chains. These products and materials will be showcased to demonstrate to visitors how waste materials can be reformed and repurposed into useful and valuable materials and products.

By demonstrating that these outputs have practical use, therefore commercial and industry interest, shows that waste to product transformations are scalable, replicable, and potentially commercially viable.

This project also provided inspiration for other local projects carried out through social enterprises at community gardens and education sites.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Road to a Circular Economy
Bayside Council



Bayside Council has broadened its vision from its initial Reconophalt trial (the use of soft plastics, glass and toner from used cartridges to make asphalt), and has significantly expanded and improved the Community Recycling Drop Off program to increase service levels and introduce innovative technology.

The Recycling Drop Off program now accepts many more materials such as those commonly found illegally dumped and/or unsuitable for Council's kerbside bin system; and has increased opening hours.

In 2020, Council has installed a Motor Oil Storage Machine, a Hazardous Waste Storage Container and also a condensing expanded polystyrene machine, providing an innovative solution for material unsuitable for garbage bins.

WINNER*Randwick's Best Gift Sustainable Christmas market (and campaign)*
Randwick City Council

Early in 2019, Council made the decision to take its November Best Gift in the World sustainable Christmas market to the iconic Coogee beach, aiming to greatly expand and extend the Best Gift in the World message to all those visiting this very popular beachside park.

One-hundred and eighty local artisans, producers, makers and creatives of all types were invited to hire a market stall to sell locally made, sustainable or environmentally friendly gifts ahead of the Christmas rush, whilst sharing their sustainability story. In response to the marketing and promotion, 12,000 residents and visitors filled the market space on the day creating a spectacular and special event.

In addition, 60 suitcase rummage spaces adjacent to the market were provided for locals to upcycle and sell second-hand goods. With workshops on reducing waste and family entertainment including a visit from Randwick's own 'Green' Santa, the event was a huge success.

JOINT WINNER

Implementing Randwick's 100% Renewables and Zero Emissions Roadmap for Council and its Community
Randwick City Council



Since 2019, Council has been developing and implementing its 100% Renewables and Zero Emissions Roadmap.

To achieve roadmap implementation, Council has substantially invested into programs and measures including: achieving carbon neutral accreditation for Council operations; declaring a Climate emergency; commencing a PPA for 20% of Council's electricity; doubling electric 'pool' bikes and cars for staff use; LED lighting upgrades for Council sites; additional and upgraded solar PV on all Council solar sites; additional public EV charging stations.

Real-time monitoring is integrated in systems capable of reporting both simplified and more detailed information for both community and operational purposes.

Savings of more than \$150,000 over 2019 have been confirmed from investments in smart air conditioning and building controllers, rooftop solar and over 1,650 LED upgrades across Council sites. This is equivalent to savings of just under 800 tonnes of CO2-equivalent. Additional projects underway will generate an additional \$100,000 savings annually.

JOINT WINNER

Protect. Create. Live - Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040
Northern Beaches Council



The unique natural environment of the Northern Beaches features rare plants and animals, coastal beaches and extensive bushland. The newly formed Council set out to create a united vision for how to protect their natural environment and shape a bright environmental future.

Working extensively with the community, Council developed the fresh and engaging Protect. Create. Live – Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040. It links community vision for Environmental Sustainability and Environmental Protection to actions that will direct Council to achieve its goals.

In developing the Strategy, Council struck a balance on competing priorities, gave youth a voice, fostered community champions and set industry leading aspirations and commitments for both community and for Council. This resulted in overwhelmingly positive community feedback and unanimous Council support.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Benchmarking Heat Across Cumberland Council Cumberland City Council



Being at the heart of Western Sydney, Cumberland City experiences hotter and more extreme heat days than eastern parts of Sydney. For these reasons, the urban heat island effect has a more pronounced effect on health, infrastructure and biodiversity in Cumberland City.

In 2018/19, Cumberland City became one of the first councils in Australia to map its thermal outdoor environment at the street level by using specially designed heat sensors to collect air temperatures over the summer months and build a detailed and accurate heat map.

This information was used to identify micro heat islands, develop focussed cooling interventions and develop new maps to inform planners, utility and emergency services.

This presents Council with the opportunity to create policies and take actions that keep residents cool and safe; properly coordinate future developments and planning controls; and understand the impact of heat on people's movements and use of public spaces.



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