



CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

AWARDS 2019

Winners and Finalists E-Book



Welcome



David Craven
Director, Cities Power Partnership
Climate Council

It's hard to believe that in just two years, the Cities Power Partnership has grown to become the largest and most active climate change program for local government.

Representing over 100 trailblazing councils from around Australia, we have seen tangible action and exciting projects taking place in small rural shires and capital cities alike.

The Cities Power Partnership annual national climate awards recognises the hard work local governments are doing on the climate change frontline, and the calibre of climate solutions this year is staggering.

The finalists were selected from a record number of entries submitted by diverse communities in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and community engagement and project financing.

From Cool Roofs in new buildings supporting residents to live more comfortably and efficiently, to public on-street electric vehicle charging stations, its clear Cities Power Partnership Awards finalists are leading the way with practical local climate solutions.

I am honoured to celebrate and congratulate these local champions stepping up to the climate challenge and helping their communities to drive down local greenhouse gas pollution.

A special thanks to our judges for taking the time to participate in the awards. I hope you are as impressed and inspired by the award winners and finalists as I am.

**Cities and towns
across Australia are
surging ahead with
emissions reduction
plans**

About the Judges

The Cities Power Partnership Awards are judged by the external CPP Advisory panel which consists of leaders in climate and energy policy, local government, climate advocacy and sustainable transport.



Verity Morgan-Schmidt CEO, Farmers for Climate Action

Originally a farm girl from the sheep and wheat country of Western Australia, Verity has witnessed firsthand the impact that climate change is having on Australian farmers. Before becoming CEO of Farmers for Climate Action, Verity managed the Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF) response to both the introduction of \$1 milk and the live exports ban, rallying farmers and rural communities to make their voices heard. She has also been heavily involved in advancing sustainable and regenerative agriculture on the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

Verity previously worked for Elders Ltd, including a stint at the National Wool Selling Centre in Victoria. She is the former Executive Officer for Country Noosa, an organisation linking hinterland producers to coastal communities in South East Queensland.

Verity holds a Master of Arts (Politics) in Sustainability and Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Politics and Global Studies.



Professor Karen Hussey Climate Councillor & Director, Centre for Policy Futures, University of QLD

Karen took up her position at the University of Queensland in July 2017. Trained as a political scientist and economist, Karen undertakes research in the field of public policy and governance, with a particular interest in public policy relating to sustainable development. Her recent research has focused on water and energy security, the role of the state in climate change mitigation and adaptation and, the links between international trade and environmental regulation.

Karen is a Chief Investigator on the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project 'Policies, Institutions and Governance of Natural Hazards'. Prior to taking up her position at UQ, she was Associate Professor in the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU, where she now holds an Adjunct Professorship.



Mayor Damien Ryan Mayor Alice Springs Town Council & Board Member Australian Local Government Association

Elected as Mayor of Alice Springs in March 2008, Mayor Ryan is passionate about promoting and working for the Alice Springs community and is strongly committed to the sustainable development and advancement of Alice Springs.

Mayor Ryan is also NT Grants Commissioner, Deputy Chair of the Outback Highway Development Council and Board Member of the Finke Desert Race.

Alice Springs was one of the original Commonwealth Solar Cities program members and has installed 575kW of solar PV to date.



Geoffrey Rutledge Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment, ACT Government

Geoffrey is responsible for delivering the ACT Government's ambitious renewable energy and greenhouse gas targets, including 100% renewable electricity by 2020. Building a sustainable city is a key priority for the ACT Government. Canberra has positioned itself as a leader in renewable energy with the second highest concentration of renewable energy jobs in Australia.

Prior to joining the ACT Government, Geoffrey provided research and advice to elected representatives in the NSW Parliament, the Senate and the ACT Legislative Assembly. Geoffrey's qualifications include a Masters degree in Policy Analysis, and an Executive Masters in Public Administration.



Claire Painter EQ Infrastructure Readiness Manager, Mercedes-Benz Australia

Claire is the EQ Infrastructure Readiness Manager at Mercedes-Benz Australia, contributing to an overarching strategy for the Australian and New Zealand markets, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure and services.

Prior to joining Mercedes-Benz Australia, Claire was an Implementation Manager at ClimateWorks Australia. Claire managed efforts to reduce emissions across the transport and energy sectors. In the transport sector program, Claire led projects that focused on best practice vehicle emissions standards, supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and net zero emissions strategies. Claire played a key role in the establishment of the Electric Vehicle Council, and authored the June 2018 second edition of the State of Electric Vehicles in Australia report.

Awards Overview

The judging panel was looking for demonstration of leadership and innovation, outreach and communication and project results for the four Achievement Awards and Project Financing Innovation award entries. The Ambassador Award's key criteria was advocacy and media coverage with the Champion Award assessed on advocacy and participation.

Achievement Awards

This category recognises excellence in council projects, programs and policies that work to reduce carbon emissions across four categories:

- > Renewable energy
- > Energy efficiency
- > Sustainable transport
- > Community engagement

Project Financing Innovation Award

This award recognises new or innovative funding approaches to get council or community emissions reduction projects off the ground.

Champion Award

This award recognises individual performance of committed council employees in contributing to carbon emission reductions within council or the broader community.

Ambassador Award

This award recognises individual performance of committed council employees in contributing to carbon emission reductions within council or the broader community.

The project received funding from ARENA as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

The Cities Power Partnership and Climate Council would like to thank Cities Power Partnership member City of Sydney for sponsoring our venue hire for our 2019 Awards night.

The Cities Power Partnership would like to thank Azility for their generous sponsorship of our awards night.

SUPPORTED BY





ACT Next Generation (Next Gen) Energy Storage Program

As a world leader in action on climate change, the ACT Government's Next Generation Energy Storage (Next Gen) program supports the roll-out of up to 36MW of solar battery storage in up to 5,000 homes and small businesses. The number of systems installed to-date is around 1,200.

Data collected from the 'smart' batteries installed under the program opens significant research and development opportunities which, together with the ACT's other energy investments, ensures the ACT continues to be at the centre of the global renewable energy revolution.

The Next Gen program, with its smart requirements, enabled a world-first virtual power plant, grouping together individual solar battery systems to sell energy back to the grid when it's needed most.

The Next Gen program is funded at no cost to the ACT Budget using a \$25 million 'energy storage contribution' from successful bidders in the ACT's 2016 wind auction. As well as delivering renewable electricity at record low prices, our auction program leveraged, and continues to deliver, significant local benefits.

The Next Gen program is part of a wider range of ACT sustainable energy programs, supporting collaborative approaches between industry, householders and Government.

**"An innovative project that utilises a 'revenue neutral' funding approach, to deliver new technology to the community while reducing energy prices."
- Judges comment**

Next Gen battery system





Highly Commended

Shoalhaven City Council - Charging Ahead with Renewables

Shoalhaven City Council has recently adopted a Sustainable Energy Policy which sets out targets to generate or source renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. The Policy extends to developing actions to transition towards electric vehicles, battery storage and upgrading to LED street lighting.

Establishing an internal Revolving Energy Fund (REFund) as a mechanism to generate funds from energy efficiency project savings to support future renewable energy initiatives has

also been adopted. A number of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have been installed and/or approved in 2018/19, including a large 81kW solar array on the iconic Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre. The Berry Wastewater Treatment Plant now has a 22.5kW solar PV system ground mounted on a diused Passveer channel, coupled with a 20kWh storage battery to optimise the variable electrical loads of the plant.

Team members
Darren O'Connell, Energy Management Coordinator
Andrew Truran, Business Analysis Consultant
Carmel Krogh, Shoalhaven Water



Noosa Shire Council - Renewable Energy for ZEN



Noosa Council has a very ambitious target for its operations to be Net Zero Emissions (ZEN) by 2026. Noosa Council commenced this journey by calculating its carbon footprint. Noosa Council focussed on its electricity consumption and emissions from the grid. To determine the most cost effective ways to reduce emissions, Council commissioned a Level 2 Energy Audit of its highest consuming buildings.

To determine the priorities for Council budget over the coming years a marginal abatement cost curve (MACC) was developed. Since May 2018, Council has progressively installed 377 kW of solar PV across 9 Council buildings. The annual generation is expected to be 579 kWhrs per annum, enough electricity to power to power 100 homes and saving 457 tonnes of CO₂e.

Team members
Annie Nolan, Carbon Reduction Project Officer

Nambucca Shire Council - Renewable Energy Action Plan

Nambucca Shire Council had a commitment to transition to renewable energy, but needed a clear direction and plan as to how to achieve maximum results for their community - both with respect to timeframe and cost. Council took the step of having a Renewable Energy Action Plan formulated showing short, medium and long term actions, expected financial benefits and emissions reductions. The plan has now been finalised and adopted by Council and our first project, installing a 50kW system on Council's administration building, is currently underway.

Funds have been budgeted in their Environmental Levy to enable actions to be carried out, plus a financing plan will be formulated to ensure the REAP is carried out with maximum benefits. It is hoped that part of this will include a Revolving Energy Fund. If all actions are undertaken, Council will install over 263kW worth of solar systems on Council's assets.



Finalists



City of Warrnambool – Green Warrnambool

The Green Warrnambool Plan reflects the community aspirations for the City – that Warrnambool will be the most sustainable regional city in Australia. The plan takes strategic steps to address specific issues confronting the municipality but also global issues such as climate change.

Green Warrnambool is a highly aspirational strategy which will lead actions towards improving sustainability performance for Council operations and the City. This initiative includes several actions to be completed by Council and

the community in order to achieve the sustainable and environmental goals. This plan provided the strategic direction for several projects to be instigated and implemented.

Team members

Juan Donis, Sustainability Officer

Lauren Schneider, Natural Environment

Coordinator

Jodie McNamara, Manager City of Strategy and Development



Hawkesbury City Council – City Solar Program



The Hawkesbury City Solar Program involves the installation of approximately 2,780 solar panels equating to 720KW of solar power across 12 Council sites. It will provide cost savings of \$190,000 in energy bills each year for the community. This program demonstrates that Council is taking the lead on climate change to help create a sustainable Hawkesbury by saving 800 tonnes of carbon emissions annually while also providing cost savings for the community.

The Hawkesbury City Solar Program is part of the Western Sydney Regional

Light Years Ahead program coordinated by the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Light Years has already replaced over 20,000 high energy street lights with more efficient LED technology with projected savings of over \$25.4 million in energy bills and 120,000 tonnes of emissions.

The Hawkesbury Solar Program is the first renewable energy project under Light Years Ahead and will pave the way for other solar investment across Western Sydney.

Georges River Council – Hydropanel at Hurstville Aquatic Centre

The projects implemented at Hurstville Aquatic Centre have included actions such as installing a BMS System that will create opportunities to track down data and find energy savings by changing operational activities and settings as well as updating LED lights and sensors.

One of the main achievements on this facility so far, was to successfully have installed hydropanel on the roof of the Centre in December 2018 and to have launched the first Hydropanel array in Sydney. The array consists of eight panels on the roof of the Hurstville

Aquatic Centre in Penshurst. This renewable energy innovation does not require connection to either a water source or electricity making it totally self sufficient.

This collaboration project with Blue Fit is what inspires staff for continuous improvement in internal operations and the energy efficiency of having all solar systems at their full capacity has already met one of Council's sustainability goals.



Finalists



City of Ryde – Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre Solar PV System

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre Solar PV system was installed in August 2018. The 300.33 KW system is estimated to save over 315T of greenhouse gas emissions and reduce electricity consumption by 366MWH per year producing an approximate annual saving of \$35,000.

This project compliments the range of other renewable energy projects towards increasing council's investment in cleaner energy solutions. This includes divesting from fossil fuels, participating in the 19 council SSROC power

purchase agreement (PPA) and community education programs.

Residents can join Council's free 'Home Waste Sustainability Advisory Service' which provides sustainability advice. Council also joined APVI's SunSpot solar tool providing residents access to assess their own home's suitability for Solar. Most recently Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' endorsing a statement that climate change represents one of the greatest threats to humanity and civilisation.



Logan City Council – 3 x 100 kW Solar Systems

Did You know?



250 solar panels help to power Logan Metro

"Embrace Innovative Renewable Energy Technology" has been adopted as a strategic objective of the Logan City Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan. This document also sets a 2022 carbon neutrality target for Council's operations. An action delivered to achieve this goal is an assessment of Council's major facilities to prioritise the best sites for solar PV installations with respect to economic, environmental and social outcomes.

In the last year alone, three large Council facilities have had 100 kilowatt

(kW) rooftop solar installations resulting in annual electricity savings of almost \$60,000 and a reduction of 332 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually. Council has also installed an Australian first leading edge off grid power solution at the Round Mountain water reservoir. The Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan not only provides a holistic framework to achieve carbon neutrality but also articulates real world actions to achieve its goals with a focus on community engagement and being a role model for the broader community and business network.



ACT Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme

The Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS), established under the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012, requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in households and businesses.

EEIS is a key mechanism for delivering on the ACT's emission reduction targets, provides leadership on energy efficiency and delivers targeted assistance to low income households. Since 2013, the EEIS has delivered 1.3 million innovative energy-saving solutions to 74,000 households and businesses, which is nearly half of Canberra households, including more than 18,500 low-income households. Households and businesses are expected to save \$360 million off their energy bills over the lifetime of energy saving items installed.

EEIS has achieved 6.5GJ of lifetime energy savings and lifetime emission reductions of over 487,000 tCO₂e, equivalent to taking approximately 161,000 cars off Canberra roads for a year.

Current activities include the Big Business Light Switch program, Fridge Buyback scheme and rebates to replace poor performing heaters and hot water systems with high efficiency models.

An independent review in 2018 confirmed that EEIS has been efficient and effective in tackling its original policy problems and objectives.

Team members

Antonia Harmer, Director, Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme

**"An energy efficiency program, targeting low income households, to deliver significant emissions reductions and energy savings."
- Judges comment**

*Hugo Temby, Antonia Harmer
and Gene McGlynn*





City of Armadale, City of Gosnells and Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale – Switch Your Thinking Cool Roofs project

The three WA councils have partnered to deliver the Cool Roofs project; a research and communication campaign to drive the installation of light coloured roofs in new homes.

Houses built today will last for another 50 years. Improving thermal performance of new buildings will support residents to live more comfortably and efficiently for decades. As Perth's climate warms, the number of heat wave related deaths in Perth is predicted to double by 2050, thus building climate ready homes is both imperative and cost effective.

The project uses devices to capture the temperature inside two similar homes, differing in roof colour. The information is streamed as graphics and short, punchy messages to a digital billboard in real-time. The project uses data to educate residents and address a gap in local research that makes change possible.

The gripping findings, that homes with light coloured roofs are healthier, more comfortable and more energy efficient at crucial periods of peak demand, will give policy makers pause for thought and local government reason to act.

Team members

Jessie Parrish, Smart Cities Project Advisor

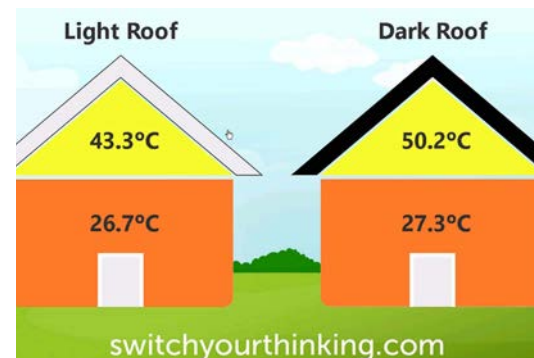
Switch your thinking

Julie McMinn, Project Coordinator

Switch your thinking

Shane Hunter, Program Officer

Switch your thinking



Building Futures is a free Council program helping selected medium-large strata buildings improve environmental performance and save thousands in energy costs, by providing support over a 12-month timeframe.

Waverley Council – Building Futures Program

The program works with selected buildings to easily identify and implement cost-effective solutions to: reduce common area energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; reduce water use and improve waste management.

Each participant building receives: free expert energy assessments; NABERS rating; Waterfix program (high users); costed energy efficiency upgrade recommendations (e.g. lighting, solar); waste advice; matched funding and expert support to implement changes; training/networking opportunities, awards and recognition.

In its pilot year the program has successfully worked with 10 selected strata buildings in Bondi Junction achieve a shared goal of 20% average reduction in common area energy use. On average, participant buildings are expected to save over \$10,000/year on electricity bills with a payback period of 2.5 years. Some projects will pay off in as little as a few months.

Team members

Nicola Saltman, Senior Sustainability

Engagement Officer

Emmanuelle David, Sustainable

Precincts Coordinator



City of Newcastle – Smart Moves Newcastle Program

The City of Newcastle has implemented a wide range of innovative transport solutions, projecting Newcastle towards its aim to be a smart, liveable and sustainable global city.

Through close collaboration with government agencies at both State and Federal levels, along with a large number of businesses, community groups and local stakeholders, the City of Newcastle has applied leading edge technology and innovative thinking to support integrated transport networks with a focus on last-mile solutions. Projects delivered include:

- The transformation of a CBD-fringe carpark into an E-transit hub.
- Deployment of a public EV charging network and transition of Council fleet to EV
- Renewably powered electric bikeshare docks
- Deployment of an autonomous shuttle

connecting the Light Rail to city and beachside destinations.

- On demand public shuttles in the city centre integrated with the Newcastle Transport network and designed as a first/last mile solution to promote public transport patronage and reduce private car use
- Installation of digital bus timetables at key bus stops; deployment of intelligent radars that collect data on traffic, bike and pedestrian travel; and delivery of a smart parking application.

Team members

Adam Clarke, Program Coordinator

James Vidler, Smart City Analyst

Micky Pinkerton, Innovation Ecosystem Facilitator

Nathaniel Bavinton, Smart City Coordinator

Steele Adams, Program Coordinator

David Craven, Adam Clarke and Brett Smith



"An overarching sustainable transport strategy with practical projects, which address key barriers to transport mode shift. Outlines the Importance of working across all levels of government, and with broader stakeholder groups and industry."
- Judges comment

Finalists



City of Canterbury-Bankstown – Charging Ahead at CBCity

Canterbury-Bankstown is the largest Local Council (by population) in NSW. This provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership towards a more sustainable and climate responsible future for our community by supporting and promoting the introduction of lower emission electric vehicles as an alternative to fossil fuel vehicles.

Council has initiated the introduction of electric vehicles into its operational fleet with 3 Pool Fleet EVs commencing operation in early 2019 with an additional 7 on order. All new EVs will be carbon emission neutral via Councils renewable energy contracts and purchased offsets where needed. As these highly visual

branded operational vehicles move around the Local Government Area, we will be promoting this technology as the best new standard.

Council is also on track to promote EV technology to our community by installing 6 'free to use' EV charging facilities. Community usage and energy demand will be monitored to inform the need for Councils participation in this space into the future.

Team members

Warren Mashford, Manager Fleet

John Turcato, Team Leader Fleet Management

Charlie Wilson, Environmental Project Officer – Sustainability

Shaun Naidoo, Manager Works and Projects

Lauren Tesolin, Media Advisor

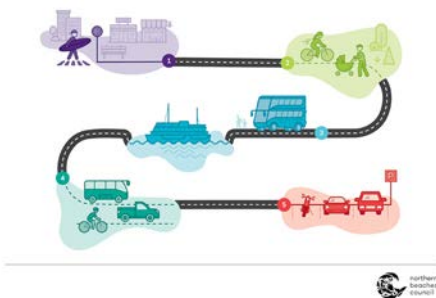
Edwin Gani, Coordinator Technical Support

Helene Forsythe, Team Leader Sustainability



Northern Beaches Council – Move Northern Beaches Transport Strategy

Move - Northern Beaches Transport Strategy 2038



Move – The Northern Beaches Transport Strategy sets an ambitious path forward for our community to improve the way we travel around. Its 20 year vision is to “enable freedom of movement to, from and within the Northern Beaches using a safe, smart, efficient integrated and sustainable transport network”. The strategy addresses the issues of reducing congestion, provision of convenient, fast and reliable options for public transport and supports and encourages safe walking and cycling around the area. It imagines a future where cars no longer dominate our roads.

The Move Strategy is complimented by the Northern Beaches Walking Plan which is a 4 year action plan aligned to the Transport Strategy objective around the footpath network and connectivity. Further action plans are being developed, such as the Bike Plan and Parking Plan.

Team members

Michelle Carter, Active Travel Officer

Phil Devon, Manager Transport Network

Michael McDermid, Manager Corporate Strategy

Randwick City Council, Waverley Council and Woolhara Municipal Council – Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network

Launched on World Environment Day 2019 this public on-street electric vehicle charging network comprises seven charging stations located in key destination hotspots across Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Now EV drivers can charge their cars whilst shopping in Double Bay, beachside at Bondi, attending sporting games at Coogee oval and events at community facilities.

This pioneering Tri-Council project aims to make the eastern suburbs 'EV-ready', by addressing two main barriers to EV uptake: access to charging infrastructure and drivers' range anxieties. It's a key part of the 3-Councils' plans to reduce the region's carbon emissions with innovative 'smart city' solutions. The charging stations are powered by 100% renewable energy.





Moreland City Council – Transition to Zero Emissions Fleet

Moreland City Council adopted a new vehicle policy in 2018 that for the first time mandates a zero emissions procurement priority. This new policy follows seven years of actively implementing and supporting a growing network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the municipality. This began with the installation of Victoria's first EV fast charge station and integration of electric vehicles into Council's fleet following a comprehensive EV feasibility study in 2014.

All of Moreland's 10 recharging stations are available free to use 24/7 to support and encourage uptake of electric vehicles.

Team members

Stuart Nesbitt, Climate Change Technical Officer

Mario Sansotta, Fleet Coordinator

Alan Erpi, Digital Media Officer

Michaela Skett, ESD Unit Manager

Dimity Gunn, EA Director Engagement and Partnerships

Toyota Advanced Planning Group

Olivia Hart, Manager City Change

Jospeh Tobacco, Director Engagement and Partnerships

Ana Rachman, Coordinator Applications and Database

Andrew Dodd, Acting Manager Roads, Fleets and Waste





City of Port Phillip – The Butterfly Effect

The City of Port Phillip, together with Albert Park Kindergarten, have developed a partnership that has delivered outstanding results. These include becoming the first certified carbon neutral Early Childhood Education and Care Service (ECECS) in Australia, a finalist in both the 2018 Victorian Premiers Sustainability Awards and the 2016 Victorian Worksafe Health & Wellbeing Awards, a collaboration with Boon Wurrung Foundation, a reduction in gas usage by 100%, electricity by 59%, water by 71% and waste by over 50%. Albert Park Kindergarten also achieved an 'Excellent' rating from national authority ACECQA.

The impetus for the above results began in 2012 with the launch of council's program 'Seedlings – Early Years Education for Sustainability' a sustainability initiative for ECECS. Our main challenge was figuring out how to get more City of Port Phillip residents

engaged and active with global warming. This application features just one of the 26 highly successful participants as an example of what is possible when Council and community work closely together. Albert Park Kindergarten believed that they could be the little butterfly that would flutter its wings and change the world. This application celebrates their 6-year journey to become certified carbon neutral.

Team members

Brett Hedger, Greenhouse Programs Officer
Verity McLucas, Sustainability Education Officer
Lisa Paton, Sustainable Programs Team Coordinator
Jenny Whelan, Administrative Director, Albert Park Preschool



"A wonderfully effective (and cute) initiative. Harnessing the enthusiasm of families and their children, the early childhood sector and demonstrating to all the importance of emissions reduction. The water savings were outstanding, and disconnecting from gas is what we all need to do before mid-century. Great community leadership."
– Judges comment

Finalists



Highly Commended

City of Sydney: CitySwitch national green office program

The national CitySwitch program delivers a high-value low-cost sustainability service for governments and commercial office-based businesses. Founded 14 years ago to address the carbon impact of office tenancies, CitySwitch has built a highly respected, impartial and trusted sustainability and emissions reduction program, with voluntary targets for members and robust evidence of achievements.

CitySwitch is a successful model of national collaboration by city governments. A national steering

committee provides strategic input to ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of participating councils and members. The program now boasts over 900 workplaces and over 4 million square meters of commercial office space – approximately 16% of commercial office space in the country signed up and measuring through CitySwitch.

Team members

Emma Baird, CitySwitch Program Manager

Zoe Baker, CitySwitch Program Manager

Esther Bailey, Sustainability Engagement Manager

Cameron Elis, CitySwitch Program Coordinator



City of Canning – #carbonoff: Opt in to Offset

#carbonoff: Opt in to Offset is a unique, voluntary program that allows staff and councillors to offset the emissions from their private vehicle use or household energy use, through a simple salary deduction program. For less than the cost of a coffee per fortnight, City of Canning staff can contribute to accredited, gold standard carbon offsets.

The tax deductible donations go towards rehabilitating degraded Western Australian farming land, decreasing drought, improving biodiversity and creating habitat corridors, in

collaboration with the Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund (CNCF). The project was designed by the City's Sustainability Team, but required cross-organisational collaboration to implement. It is the first time in WA that such a program has been offered to local government staff through a payroll deduction program.

Team members

Melanie Bainbridge, Team Lead Sustainability

Clare Barnes, Sustainability Officer

Kim Byrnes, Sustainability Officer

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River – Climate Action Summit

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River, allied with the community as represented by the 'Climate Action Augusta Margaret River' group, and hosted a one day Climate Action Summit. The summit was held in partnership with Surfing WA and the World Surf League.

The Summit attracted more than 130 attendees, representing all facets of the community including youth, community groups, local and state politicians and subject matter experts. The Summit's focus was on 'climate change mitigation', with a second summit planned for

2020 dealing with climate change adaptation.

The purpose of the Summit was to raise awareness regarding the climate change realities for our community and to arrive at a consensus regarding appropriate actions, which can be taken at the local level.

Team members

Matt Cuthbert, Acting Manager Planning and Development Services

Jared Drummond, Sustainability Planning Officer



Project Financing Innovation Winner



Blue Mountains City Council – Carbon Revolving Reserve

In anticipation of the Carbon Tax, Council had built a reserve of money to contribute towards future liabilities for landfill gas. When the carbon tax was scrapped, it was recognised that Council had a unique opportunity, as a result of the carbon reserves, to become a leader in carbon reduction.

This started with the creation of a Carbon Abatement Action Plan (CAAP) which set out a 5 year strategic vision, highlighting organisation barriers to action, hotspot areas and project boundaries. One of the key barriers identified by staff was lack of funding for carbon reduction initiatives. The creation of a \$1.6 million dollar Carbon Revolving Reserve (CRR) was an essential step in overcoming the key barrier.

Since its inception the CRR helped commit \$1.7 million dollars of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, with 2019–2020 projects accounting for \$1.1 million. The projects have or will deliver combined annual savings of \$300,000 and they have attracted \$300,000 of grant and co-funding.

The combined ROI after deduction grant funding is 5 years. This will enable a further \$1.5 million of investment over the next 5 years. The CRR has been instrumental in achieving our 20% absolute reduction target 3 years ahead of schedule.

Team members

Robert Morrison, Sustainability Advisor

Rebecca Tempest, Program Leader Waste and Sustainability

Blue Mountains City Council team with Deputy Mayor Cr Chris Van der Kley and Cr Brent Hoare



“A great innovation. The Carbon Revolving Reserve provides the right mix of incentives – emission reduction, cost reduction and demonstrating to the community of the Council’s leadership.”
– Judges comment

Ambassador of the Year Award



Mayor Tony Wellington – Noosa Shire Council

Mayor Wellington is passionate about his home of Noosa and the environment which has long been protected by previous and current Council and community activists. Commencing mayoral duties in March 2016, tackling climate change has been at the forefront of Tony's priorities. Tony recognised early on that Council had to take a leadership position for the Noosa community by reducing Council's own emissions.

In May 2016, the Noosa Council implemented its Emission Reduction Policy and in October 2016 Council endorsed the Zero Emissions Noosa (aptly named "ZEN") Strategy that committed Council to achieving the very ambitious goal of net zero emissions by 2026. Tony has advocated for, and ensured the required resources to achieve this goal. Tony has been the driving force to achieve this target.

He has participated in numerous media events to promote Council's targets and progress. Tony recognised it was a "no brainer" for Noosa to join the Cities Power Partnership as a founding member. He has engaged with other mayors tackling climate change and adaptation. He has participated in numerous Cities Power Partnership events and actively promotes Councillors and staff attendance at the program's webinars. He regularly discusses the Cities Power Partnership throughout his media and speaking engagements.

"Mayor Tony Wellington's strength to ensure his council meet their target of net emissions by 2026 is commendable. It is hard to imagine a more committed, consistent and passionate climate ambassador than Mayor Tony Wellington. He was an early champion of climate change and hasn't wavered since."
- Judges comment

Mayor Tony Wellington



Climate Champion Award Winner



Adam Clarke - Program Coordinator City Innovation and Sustainability, City of Newcastle

Adam develops and implements projects for financial and environmental returns for the City, including MW-scale solar, street lighting upgrades, rooftop solar, electric vehicle and battery storage. He is also responsible for managing and analysing energy and resource use across Council.

Projects of note include leading the Energy Hunter program, which assisted 500 Hunter businesses to reduce their electricity consumption and receive over \$1.1m in annual savings. The program was awarded the NSW Green Globe for Climate Change. Adam also led the installation of a 100kW solar system on the State Heritage listed Newcastle Museum. He is responsible for developing Council's landmark 5MW solar farm project and delivering a range of

smart city projects including smart street lighting, a city-wide fibre and WiFi network, autonomous and electric vehicles and renewably powered public EV chargers.

Adam is also on the technical panel for the Business Renewables Centre Australia. Prior to joining Council in 2012, Adam worked at Low Carbon Australia on its Energy Efficiency program, a role which encompassed developing innovative finance models to increase investment and uptake of energy efficiency in the commercial sector.

"Adam Clarke is clearly a standout. Adam's skills and expertise have been well recognised by his peers as part of the CPP network. His generosity of time and leadership is of great value to the CPP. Well done Adam."

- Judge's comment



Finalists



Highly Commended – Ambassador

Cr Pam Townshend – President, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Shire President Pam Townshend is the Shire's champion for sustainability. Through her leadership, the Shire became a member of the Cities Power Partnership in 2018. Pam was one of fifteen Mayors from the Cities Power Partnership, to demand more Federal support for local work on climate change, commitment to a national 100% renewable energy target and rapid phase out of fossil fuel subsidies.

Pam is one of the 20 "Hub" members of Transition Margaret River, consistently contributing to ideas, discussions and projects that progress the Transition aim of 'Building resilience, sustainability

and community in the Margaret River region'. Pam represents the Council on Giant Light Steps, an initiative that is bringing key industry groups, government and community together to form an environmental stewardship alliance.

Pam completed training through the Al Gore Climate Reality Leadership Corps, held in 2019. Pam is also a founding member of the Climate Action Group who recently held a Climate Action Summit in May 2019.

Pam has also supported the Shire's Local Energy Action Plan which seeks to reduce both corporate and community emissions.



Champions

Sustainability Team – Northern Beaches Council



Team members

Kirstie Richardson-Bull, Monique Nichols, Katy Christian, Jacqueline Grove, Melanie Thomas, Kara Taylor, Emily Christiansen and Ed McPeake

The team develop and influence strategies, policies, planning and projects. Over the past year alone this team has:

- Won the Response to Climate Change Award for Building Resilience into Infrastructure Assets.
- Assisted Council to achieve Bronze status as part of OEH's Sustainability Advantage Program
- Continued work to embed sustainability throughout the organisation
- Installed 144kW of solar panels on Council facilities

- Completed energy and water audits and solar feasibility studies to guide future works programs
- Administered the Energy and Water Efficiency Working Group
- Worked with key internal stakeholders to deliver capital works including pool pump upgrades, street and internal lighting upgrades and HVAC energy efficiency upgrades which have generated over 3,000 ESCs to date.

Finalists



Highly Commended

Sam Kelley - Sustainability Projects and Reporting Officer, Randwick City Council

Building Futures is a free program helping selected medium-large strata buildings improve environmental performance and save in energy costs. Sam has been in this role for 18 months and has made this role responsible for a comprehensive approach to energy conservation, efficiency and generation and monitoring of renewable energy.

This takes in all aspects of advocacy, planning, budget oversight, design, implementation and review of all energy related projects that Council is involved. Sam's focus has been to reduce energy

consumption, increase efficiency, measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as install additional solar, in particular across Council operations as well as influence opportunities to reduce energy consumption and achieve emissions reductions in residential dwellings, schools and local businesses.

Sam has demonstrated a willingness to persist and go beyond basic requirements to tackle, identify and implement solutions.



Brendan Ling - Senior Environment Officer, Logan City Council



Brendan oversaw the development of Logan City Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan which was endorsed by Council in January 2018. The document sets Council an ambitious 2022 carbon neutrality target for Council's entire operations and outlines the specific actions that Council will take in order to meet the target.

Several of the actions have already been delivered by Brendan specifically

or others across the organisation including annual carbon accounting, installation of energy sub meters at high energy using sites, investigation of the business case of power factor correction and solar PV, and the utilisation of power saver settings on Council computers. The largest of the projects delivered under the Carbon Reduction Strategy so far are the three x 100 kilowatt solar PV system installations; these systems will generate an estimated \$60K and 332 tonnes of CO₂ emission savings annually.

Lisa Hall - Technical Officer Development and Environment, Nambucca Shire Council

Lisa is passionate about helping Nambucca Shire Council move toward a more environmentally sustainable future and has achieved the following:

- The adoption by Council of a Renewable Energy Action Plan, which has set actions for the installation of solar panels on council buildings, plus targets for renewables and the reduction of carbon emissions. It has also looked at using unused Council managed land for renewable energy.
- Installation by Council of two Electric Vehicle charging stations

- Assisted with the running of the Festival of Solar, in conjunction with Coffs Harbour City Council and Bellingen Shire Council. This was designed to assist the community understand the latest in solar and battery technology.
- Serviced Council's Clean Energy Committee, a committee of three councillors and four members of the community as they seek to make recommendations to Council to increase Council's clean energy use.

Lisa's next aim is to install solar systems on Council's community halls.



2020 Cities Power Partnership National Summit and Awards

We are excited to announce that the Cities Power Partnership 2020 National Summit and Awards will be hosted in sunny Queensland.

The Summit will incorporate the third annual Cities Power Partnership Awards so start thinking about any projects that might see your council celebrated on a national stage.

Stay tuned for more information on dates and which Queensland council will be our host.



Participants at the Cities Power Partnership National Summit 2018 in Kiama, NSW

Thank you for your supporting the Cities Power Partnership and the Climate Council.

The Climate Council is an independent, crowd-funded organisation
providing quality information on climate change to the Australian public.

Cities Power Partnership

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