



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards 2023



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

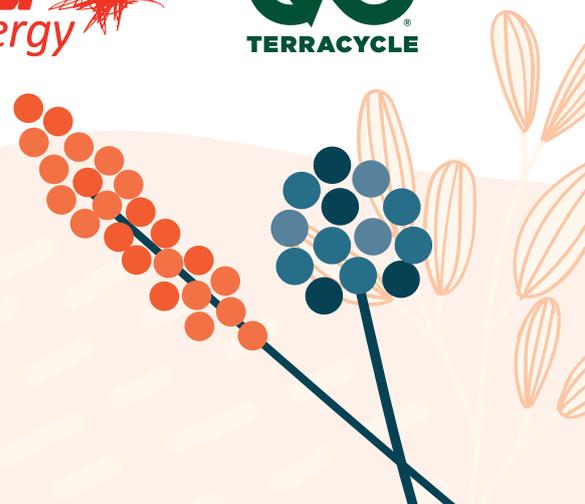


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Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

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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.

Cover image: 2023 Overall Sustainable Cities Award Winners - Penrith City Council



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales
and Mr Dennis Wilson**

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has been at the forefront of transforming our cities, towns and communities, making them more sustainable and beautiful places to live in, for the past 48 years. An important component in the success of this mission has been the prestigious Sustainable Cities and Tidy Towns Awards.

As Patrons, Dennis and I had the honour of congratulating Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, and its partner organisations - Councils, businesses, industries, schools and local community groups - at this year's 2022 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Gala Awards Dinner in Singleton. At this event, and during subsequent conversations, we had the opportunity to hear from those involved about how this program had contributed to healthier, happier and more vibrant communities.

The commitment that Councils and volunteers have made in improving local environments and community health is also seen in an increased number of high-quality Sustainable Cities and Tidy Towns Award entries, making judging both challenging and rewarding.

As environmental issues become ever more critical, and innovative technologies provide expanded possibilities, it is heartening to hear of the initiatives that are being explored by Councils, businesses and industries.

There is always more to be done, but as Keep Australia Beautiful NSW recognises Sustainable Cities and Tidy Towns Award-winners again this year, we can be thankful for the work of its founders, members, sponsors and volunteers over the past five decades to 'keep New South Wales beautiful'.

Congratulations to all Winners and entrants on your outstanding efforts to create sustainable cities and communities.

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

Mr Dennis Wilson

About the Sustainable Cities Awards

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KABNSW) Sustainable Cities Awards Program has been recognising and rewarding projects and actions in NSW since 1994 for metropolitan Sydney Councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals. The awards recognise projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the visual amenity and well-being of urban communities.

The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire councils and communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with a broad range of award categories with emphasis on partnership's between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.



About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) are the leaders in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

With a legacy of successful community engagement since 1975, our programs inspire individuals, students, organisations, businesses and government to actively care for their local environment.

Our flagship Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities awards programs have been running since 1981. They encourage, recognise and reward local communities, councils, businesses and schools for their outstanding efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and beautify and improve their local environment.

Our Annual Litter Congress is Australia's only dedicated litter conference that shares successful projects, research, knowledge and best practice in area of litter prevention, management and anti-littering strategies.

Our hugely popular EnviroMentors® sustainability education service is a mobile service to schools, reaching every corner of NSW and covering a full suite of environmental modules.

KAB NSW is an apolitical organisation – we are not activists, we work in partnership with local and state governments, industry, schools and the community to protect and improve our state environment.

We work closely with the NSW Government and partner with them on a range of programs to connect with communities across NSW at a grass-roots level.

Every year the NSW Premier hosts an annual charity dinner for KAB NSW which brings together business, local government, corporates, community groups and industry.

Message from the CEO

The Sustainable Cities Awards Program has been recognizing and rewarding metropolitan councils, businesses, communities, schools and individuals that are pioneering the path towards a sustainable future since 1994.. These projects not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities.

This booklet profiles the top 2023 entries and acknowledges their exceptional efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful. In sharing these projects we hope that others will find inspiration and ideas for new project and activities that they can utilize in their area.

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 congratulate all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.



Val Southam
Chief Executive Officer
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our 2023 Sustainable Cities Awards Partners and Sponsors



AWARDS CATEGORIES

Biodiversity Conservation



The Biodiversity Conservation Award is for projects which regenerate, conserve, or advance scientific understanding of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Circular Economy



Sponsored by



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.

Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation



Sponsored by



The Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Award is for projects that strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, reduce emissions, or sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

Liveable Cities



The Liveable Cities Award is for projects that contribute to the liveability of a particular area addressing areas such as accessibility, public spaces, social equity, health and wellbeing.

Local Legends



The Local Legends Award recognises individuals, schools or groups who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes in any of the other awards categories.

The Local Legends Awards has three sub-categories:

- Up to 25 years
- 25 – 65 years
- Over 65 years.

Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation



The Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation award is for projects or programs that conserve, recycle or minimise wastage of our everyday resources, which include water, food & organic materials, and waste materials.

Communication and Engagement



The Communication and Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action through education, media and community engagement campaigns.

Heritage, Culture and Community Spirit



The Heritage, Culture & Community Spirit Award is for community projects that both enhance and protect indigenous and non-indigenous built, natural, or cultural heritage and contribute to an inclusive and collaborative community spirit.

Litter Prevention



Sponsored by

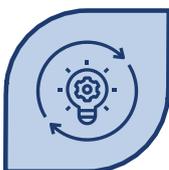


The Litter Prevention Award is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter, through education, enforcement, infrastructure, clean ups and partnerships.

The Litter Prevention Award has two-subcategories:

- Clean Communities - for land-based litter prevention initiatives
- Clean Waterways - for marine-based litter prevention initiatives.

Sustainability in Business



The Sustainability in Business Award is for a business or organisation that has implemented new practices and processes that improve the future sustainability of their regular operations.

Overall Sustainable Cities



The Overall Award is presented to a metropolitan local government area within Greater Sydney that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS



Layla McNeil

Waste and Resource Recovery
Coordinator, CSIRO

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.



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.



Paula Clasby

Senior Manager, Business
Development, TerraCycle ANZ

Paula is a creative, marketing, and business development professional with extensive experience supporting businesses to advance positive environmental and social change. She has worked in various sectors including health, marketing, design, print, hospitality, and over 10 years within sustainability and the built environment. Prior to TerraCycle, Paula worked with GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia), helping individuals and businesses to advance the circular economy.

Paula prioritises purpose in all her work, drawing on her passion to drive TerraCycle's mission in Eliminating the Idea of Waste®.



Ana Corpuz

Senior Policy Officer, Development
Water Infrastructure NSW, DPE

Ana has over 25 years experience in policy, regulatory review, project management, strategic planning, technical analysis, research and reporting, communication, stakeholder engagement, organisational systems, benchmarking and process improvement, governance framework setting and compliance monitoring.

Her areas of expertise include environment and sustainability, water and catchment management, air quality, climate change, waste management, mining and exploration, land use, zoning and redevelopment, transport, contract management and mentoring.



Jeanne-Vida Douglas

Marketing and Communications
Manager, TerraCycle ANZ

As an award-winning marketer, business journalist, and author, JV spent the first half of her career advocating for sustainable solutions within software start-ups, the media, and professional services. She transitioned to work directly for companies focussed on sustainability after witnessing the devastation caused by the 2019-20 bushfires.

JV worked in innovative renewable energy companies Nectr and 5B prior to joining TerraCycle, and is passionate about increasing access to, and awareness of, recycling solutions throughout Australia and New Zealand.



Dr Maryam Esfandbod

Manager, Business Development
& Global, CSIRO

Maryam is a Soil Biochemist with strong expertise and experience on remediation of contaminated sites, waste management and organic waste recycling. She plays a key role in linking key Australian industries in agriculture, recycling and environmental remediation to researchers and establishing long-term mutually beneficial relationships.

In addition to university research management and strategy development, Maryam's multi-sectoral career has also spanned applied research, public sector policy and investment roles.



Luciano Mesiti

CEO, Primary Industries
Education Foundation Australia

Luciano is the CEO of Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, whose aim is to promote food and fibre education in schools nationally. Prior to his appointment he was a high school teacher, teaching agriculture and technology.

Luciano has extensive experience in curriculum development in agriculture and technology and is a very passionate advocate of Landcare and sustainable land manage curriculum in schools. He has been a Tidy Towns judge and assessor for over 15 years and a great supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful.



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.



Tasneem Rangwala

PhD Aspirant, ISF UTS - *Developing Adaptive Planning Framework*

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

She is a dedicated leader driving change towards environmental enhancements. Her skills include environmental impacts assessments, project management, overseeing strategic regulatory programs, compliance audits and driving efficiency via enhancing quality of processes.

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



Matthew Taylor

Owner/Director, Heart HR

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, Matt runs his own HR consultancy to support small to medium sized businesses - including many not-for-profit organisations.



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

Manager, Skilled Workforce
Program, Regional Development
Australia & Publisher, Surfing
Roadies

Chris has had an active involvement with many organisations including Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

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).

AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS



Kristen Tola
Heritage Consultant
Artefact Heritage Services

Kristen Tola is a Heritage Consultant with experience working in both the commercial and government sectors.

Qualified in archaeology and Cultural Heritage and Museums Studies (Heritage Practice), she has extensive cross-disciplinary knowledge with developed practical skills in research, Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological assessments, and is experienced in museum interpretation, cultural tourism, strategy and policy development.



Richard Wiezel
Senior Coordinator Waste
Services, Blacktown City Council

Rick has had a varied career in the registered club industry, community development sector and local government leading Blacktown City Council's public place cleansing programs, graffiti removal and street sweeping programs. Rick currently leads Councils waste operations and is working towards FOGO for the City in coming years. Rick lives in the Lower Blue Mountains with his family and enjoys playing guitar, golf and volunteering for Keep Australia Beautiful NSW.



Nicole Wong
Community Marketing Associate,
TerraCycle ANZ

Nicole Wong is a communication specialist with nearly a decade of expertise in community engagement. She makes a difference by zeroing in on sustainable, for-purpose businesses, such as Soul of Chinatown and 107 Projects, helping them amplify their messages and impact.

Through her dedication and insight, Nicole bridges the gap between companies and communities, fostering relationships that drive positive change. Currently, Nicole spearheads the expansion of a network of recyclers for TerraCycle across Australia and New Zealand.



- ✓ NSW's leading incursion-based environmental education service since 1994.
- ✓ Curriculum-aligned content and hands-on learning for Primary Schools, High Schools, and now, Early Learning Centres!
- ✓ Passionate and experienced educators.
- ✓ Range of modules including litter reduction, diverting waste from landfill, and saving water.
- ✓ Complete package including school communications, scheduling, program delivery, follow-up resources, and a comprehensive report.

Contact Shani (spatel@kabnsw.org.au) for a quote!



2023 Overall Winner

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL



Multiple projects demonstrate Penrith City Council's leadership and collaborative spirit in its pursuit of remarkable sustainability outcomes.

The Council's long running commitment to recycling and FOGO stand out as initiatives that continue to encourage and educate residents, all while emphasising environmental benefits and fostering community engagement. The Recycled Coffee Cups in Road Base project, Textile Drop-off Day, and Recycle Your Bicycle - Bike Drop-off and Repair Event collectively reflect the Council's unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability.

Community spirit comes to life through WestCare's Christmas appeal, which provides joy and essential necessities to residents impacted by economic hardships and receives overwhelming support from various segments of the community. Additionally, Regentville Public School, cultivates a sustainability-focused culture among its students, with initiatives like Nudie Tuesdays and Waste Free Wednesdays leaving a positive imprint.

Overall, these stories underscore the dedication of both the Council and the broader community to sustainability and environmental stewardship, reflecting a shared commitment to creating a better, more environmentally responsible future.



2023 Overall Highly Commended NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

As a council, North Sydney excels at building meaningful partnerships.

There are numerous ways in which this collaboration occurs, including facilitating regional programs, harnessing the insights of university studies, and supporting outstanding community initiatives.

The Council also promotes bush regeneration volunteers and provides waste reduction and sustainable food cultivation resources. A notable example of this is how the Council has retrofitted a space that was originally a coal loader, paying homage to its heritage while seeking a more sustainable future.

With a strong focus on preserving bushland biodiversity, fostering regeneration, cultivating community gardens, and teaching sustainability, the Council is very proud of its green spaces. Council's success is the result of synergistic efforts between its professional staff and the supportive community, bolstered by an environmental levy that funds a variety of initiatives.



2023 Overall Finalists



Bayside Council

Innovative and leading, Bayside Council harnesses cutting-edge technology to promote sustainability and empower staff.

Through its illegal dumping surveillance trailers, recycled glass and tire road restorations, and the meticulous separation of diverse materials at its two permanent drop-off centers, Bayside demonstrates its commitment to implementing innovative solutions.

Collaboration is a priority for Bayside Council, which partners with SSROC, EPA, and manufacturers to deliver programs that are impactful. However, its most profound belief lies in its people, evident in endeavors like the Bayside Landscape Olympics and the innovative dog poo composting solution for parks and public facilities.

Bayside Council is poised to set a compelling example as it transitions to three bins, showing others what it takes to achieve sustainability goals.



Blacktown City Council

Situated in the vibrant heart of Sydney, Blacktown is a truly international and inclusive hub.

The Council takes great pride in its natural environment, heritage and the multitude of services available to residents. Notably, it was among the first Councils to declare a Climate Change emergency, with their delivery program for 2022-2026 including a comprehensive climate change adaptation and resilience program.

A commitment to Indigenous heritage is evident in every aspect of Blacktown's community life. From captivating artworks adorning the car parks to a playful representation of the river monster in a local park, the city embraces its First Peoples.

With its multicultural present, Blacktown embraces and incorporates the stories of its rich past. The Blacktown Arts' Elders in Residence program demonstrates this, as it creates an inclusive space in which these stories can be retold and cherished while honoring the past.

2022 Overall Finalists



Cumberland Council

Cumberland Council is dedicated to providing strategic leadership, development, and seamless integration.

Their various strategic initiatives, including the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (2018-2023), the Urban Tree Strategy (2020), and the Biodiversity Strategy (2019), are a reflection of this collaborative spirit. Staff engagement and internal barriers are broken down, resulting in achieving goals and targets.

Their well-regarded 3-bin system, their commendable efforts to combat illegal dumping, and their in-house collection services are just a few of the many proactive measures Cumberland Council takes. A landmark achievement among their numerous programs, the Renewable Power Purchase Agreement represents the Council's trust in their leadership and staff to lead a net-zero future.

Its commitment to the circular economy and urban greening is evident in initiatives such as Kitchen 2 Gardens and implementation of the Urban Tree Strategy. Additionally, the council's contributions to the Living Cities Project, the artistic walkway, and bike repair services reflect a council that excels at improving its community.



Ku-ring-gai Council

Ku-ring-gai's commitment to its residents takes center stage through its comprehensive sustainability program.

Under the overarching Loving Living Ku-ring-gai initiative, a plethora of programs are offered to the community. In the 2022/23 period, the results were nothing short of impressive, with 149,000 instances of community engagement, spanning volunteering, events, webinars, home assessments, webpage views, and 1,664 environmental actions aimed at energy conservation, waste reduction, improved transportation, water management, bushfire protection, and the cultivation of native and edible gardens.

Two noteworthy scientific initiatives - the Biodiversity Micro Bat monitoring program and the Be A Sport: Let's Stop Rubber Crumb Loss stormwater study, reflect Ku-ring-gai's innovative and leadership role in the field of environmental science.

Furthermore, Ku-ring-gai boasts a culturally rich initiative with an environmental theme, notably the highly popular Heritage Sculpture Trail. This program celebrates sustainable and repurposed materials transformed into art, with a keen focus on preserving the natural environment.



Strathfield Municipal Council

Strathfield City Council has a remarkable track record of implementing outstanding environmental programs, firmly backed by strong community and business support.

A prime illustration of this effective leadership lies in Strathfield City Council's holistic approach to combatting litter, exemplified in the Homebush West initiative. The Council's approach is a testament to its dedication in addressing litter concerns within the local community, with noteworthy participation from supportive businesses.

Additionally, the recycling depot that marked the commencement of Recycling Week deserves applause. The remarkable results achieved, including the collection of items such as mattresses, metals, bikes, household items, clothing, accessories, homewares, and electronic waste, not only reflect the community's dedication to recycling but also highlight the Council's passion and dedication.

The work at Coxs Creek Reserve Biodiversity Boost and the meticulously planned and inclusive Tree Planting Day event will leave a lasting, positive impact on the environment. They serve as shining examples of how collective efforts can bring about significant change within the local community and reverberate beyond.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 awards category finalists

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Plant with Us Program (Randwick City Council Plant with Us Team)
- Building Bridges to Boorowa (North Sydney Council & Boorowa Community Landcare Group)
- Bayside Biodiversity Program (Bayside Council)
- Connecting Camden White Gum (Camden Council)
- Living Seawall Habitat Boulders (Sydney By Kayak)
- Long Reef Coastal Walk Bush Regeneration (Bushlink)
- Microbat Monitoring (Ku-ring-gai Council Natural Areas Team)
- Building Biodiversity-Protecting Godwits (City of Canada Bay)

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Sponsored by NSW EPA

- Bayside: Paving the Way Crumb Rubber (Bayside Council)
- EduCycle Ewaste Revive (eWaste Sydney)
- Kitchen Gardens Pilot Project (Cumberland City Council)
- Recycled Coffee Cups in Road Base (Penrith City Council)
- Soft Plastics in the Circular Economy (Randwick City Council)

SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESS

- Protein Recovery's Sustainable Future (Bush's Proteins - AJ Bush & Sons (Manufactures) Pty Ltd)
- Zero-Waste Click & Collect (Manly Food Co-operative)

Biodiversity Conservation



WINNER



Building Bridges to Boorowa North Sydney Council and Boorowa Community Landcare Group

Founded in September 2000, Building Bridges to Boorowa is an annual urban/rural partnership event.

Landcare volunteers from Boorowa and Bushcare volunteers North Sydney plant native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers on rural properties, creating wildlife corridors and addressing erosion and salinity.

As a result of plantings, endangered species, such as the Superb Parrot, have had greater coverage and better habitat.

Over the past 29 years, more than 600 volunteers have planted in excess of 65,000 plants throughout the district and combined with the Landcare group's ongoing efforts, have contributed to tangible landscape-scale improvement

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Plant With Us Program Randwick City Council Plant with Us Team

With more than 72% of Randwick City Council residents living in apartments, the COVID pandemic highlighted the importance of individual health and wellbeing, participation in nature, and social cohesion, along with the benefits of utilising outdoor spaces for social and recreational activities.

Randwick Council's Plant with Us program encourages and facilitates residents, their families, and their friends to participate in urban greening and sustainability.

Over 15 months, more than 4,400 trees and 28,000 understorey plants were planted by more than 1,200 enthusiastic and supportive community members.

CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Circular Economy

Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER



Recycled Coffee Cups in Road Base

Penrith City Council

In order to reduce single-use coffee cup waste, Penrith City Council partnered with State Asphalts NSW, University of NSW and Closed Loop to explore innovative solutions.

In February 2023, Council resurfaced 740m of local roads with PAK-PAVE asphalt road base as part of an Australian first pilot project.

The mix contains 50% recycled materials, including fibers derived from single-use coffee cups.

The resurfacing project is an excellent example of circular economy - using 136,000 coffee cups collected from 11 Simply Cup collection points across the Local Government Area.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Soft Plastics in the Circular Economy

Randwick City Council

After RedCycle collapsed in November 2022, Randwick Council took quick action to address the lack of soft plastics collection.

Waste education officers actively sought alternative solutions and established a partnership with Plasmar, an established recycling company in Sydney.

Under this collaboration, soft plastics collected by Recycle Smart are bought into Council's Recycling Centre and re-manufactured by Plasmar to create various items like park benches, fencing, and bollards.

By purchasing and installing these recycled products, Council has created a circular economy for these soft plastics.

CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER



A Climate Resilient Blacktown City

Blacktown City Council

An adaptation and resilience transformation program is part of Blacktown City Council's Delivery program and Operational Plan.

It consists of two ongoing transformational projects: A net zero emission and resilient City and A carbon neutral, resource efficient and resilient Council.

For the period 2022/23, Council achieved its first carbon neutrality certification in operations, retrospectively for the 2021/22 year, secured a contract to procure 100% renewable electricity, operated cool centers for the community, planted 8,000 trees and completed a tree management plan, and retrofitted 98% of older streetlights to LEDs.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Racing to Zero: Net Zero Emissions Targets

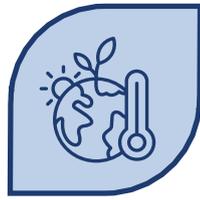
City of Canada Bay

The City of Canada Bay is well on its way to reaching Net zero by 2030.

Through corporate programs, operational emissions for the 2022-23 financial year were 77% lower than the 2017-18 baseline. The community target of net zero by 2050 is also part of racing to zero.

With initiatives such as the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and a FOGO trail introduced in 2022-23, Council is working strategically and practically to influence emissions-intensive systems like transport and waste.

Community emissions are also being reduced by targeted solar energy programs, community education, and promotional campaigns.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Renewable Power Purchase Agreement Cumberland City Council

For the last five years, Council has tried different approaches to get most of its electricity from renewable sources with a key opportunity arising in December 2022 when Council's contract was due for renewal.

Council engaged an energy procurement specialist to conduct tendering for a renewable PPA.

This first of its kind agreement, which is usually reserved for larger industrial energy users, opens the door to all types and sizes of businesses to utilise renewable technologies and energy agreements.

In the next 10 years, Council expects to reduce its carbon emissions by nearly 14,000 tonnes per year.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 awards category finalists

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Sponsored by Red Energy

- A climate resilient Blacktown City (Blacktown City Council)
- Community-led Resilience (Lane Cove Council)
- Racing to Zero: Net Zero Emissions Targets (City of Canada Bay)
- Renewable Power Purchase Agreement (Cumberland City Council)

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Fire Hazards Caused by Batteries (Bayside Council)
- 'I Care About a Clean Street' Campaign (Canterbury Bankstown Council - Sustainable Future)
- Loving Living Ku-ring-gai (Ku-ring-gai Council Environment & Sustainability Team)
- The Coal Loader Living Classroom (North Sydney Council)
- Wheelie Good Repair Skills (Penrith City Council)

HERITAGE, CULTURE & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

- Bringing Country Back to Wetlands (Wildflower)
- CONTEMPLATE - Public Artwork (Blacktown City Council)
- Designing with Country (Bayside Council)
- Elders in Residence (Blacktown Arts)
- Ku-ring-gai's Sculpture Trail (Ku-ring-gai Council)
- WestCare Christmas Appeal (WestCare Community Services)

Communication & Engagement

WINNER



Fire Hazards Caused by Batteries

Bayside Council

In 2022, Bayside Council encountered lithium-ion battery fires in collection vehicles involving various waste streams.

As a result of the first incident, one vehicle required extensive repairs and was out of service for three months.

To minimise negative environmental outcomes, damage to property, and harm to living species, Bayside Council needed to improve community awareness, provide education and train staff to identify and handle battery fire hazards.

Council's Media and Communications, WH&S and Waste & Cleansing Services teams, as well as external stakeholders Fire and Rescue NSW, Consultants, and Collection Contractors, were involved in providing holistic awareness/prevention solutions.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



'I Care About a Clean Street' Campaign

City of Canterbury Bankstown

'I Care About a Clean Street' is a communications and education campaign aimed at encouraging residents to book in household bulky waste rather than dump it illegally.

Education, engagement and enforcement elements work together to improve street amenity and help residents to book in their bulky waste clean-up.

The campaign has had a broad reach through outdoor and digital media, local news and community channels.

Key outcomes have been the 38% reduction of illegal dumping and around 30% increase in booked bulky waste clean ups in the program areas.



Congratulations to all of the 2023 awards category finalists

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Loving Living Ku-ring-gai Ku-ring-gai Council Environment & Sustainability Team

Over 16,000 households live near bushland in Ku-ring-gai, providing a front row seat to climate change.

Loving Living Ku-ring-gai empowers residents to build energy-efficient, low-cost, healthy homes and preserve their unique natural surroundings.

Council's environmental education team partners with the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, four libraries, Youth Services, and the Arts Center to deliver programs tailored to residents, schools, and businesses.

Initiatives take the community on a journey to understand the positive impact they can make in their home, lifestyle and the environment around them, creating connected, sustainable and liveable communities of the future.

LITTER PREVENTION

Sponsored by NSW EPA

Clean Communities

- Keep Homebush West Clean! (Strathfield Municipal Council)
- Love Your Home Ground (Inner West Council)
- Luv the Lake Litter Prevention Program (Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council)
- Nudie Tuesdays and Waste Free Wednesdays (Regentville Public School)

Clean Waterways

- Be A Sport: Let's Stop Rubber Crumb Loss (AUSMAP and Ku-ring-gai Council)
- Ocean Health Lab (Seabin Foundation)
- Sydney Harbour Conservation Project (Sydney By Kayak)
- Zero Litter in Georges River (Georges Riverkeeper)

LIVEABLE CITIES

- Blacktown City Cool Centres Program (Blacktown City Council)
- Wyatt Park - Lidcombe @ Night (Cumberland City Council)
- Sir Joseph Banks Park Adventure Playspace (Bayside Council)
- Landscape Olympics (Bayside Council)
- Harris Creek Reserve Fairy Glen Garden (Fairy Glen Committee and Liverpool City Council)



WINNER



Bringing Country Back to Wetlands

Wildflower

Part of the Botany Wetlands system, the Sydney Airport Wetlands include Engine Pond East and West, Mill Stream and Mill Pond. As well as being a source of biodiversity, they have historical and environmental significance.

This initiative partners with Sydney Airport to provide Aboriginal people with sustainable employment, develop skills, and enhance their sense of community and career direction.

In late 2022, Wildflower began work to regenerate a 100m stretch of Engine Pond East embankment, eradicating weeds from an area of over 500 m² and planting 2,000 native shrubs and grasses.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Elders in Residence Blacktown Arts

Developed in late 2020 in response to COVID isolation and local First Nations Elder request, the goal of Elders in Residence was to create a public program that engages the local community with culture and family connections.

Uncle Wes Marne, Uncle Greg Simms, Uncle Danny Eastwood and Uncle John Farrington welcome, teach, host, and listen to the community.

The Elders offer audiences and community the opportunity to learn, connect, and exchange cultural knowledge, bringing together traditional culture and art as well as family connections. More than 2,000 people participate in the program each year.

Liveable Cities



WINNER



Blacktown City Cool Centres Program

Blacktown City Council

In Western Sydney, 10-20 days exceed 35°C each year, and NSW Government research predicts that trend will continue.

With the Cool Centre program, residents of Blacktown City Council's Government Area are provided with safe, cool places to combat summer heatwaves.

During 2022/23, council engaged with five partners for cool centre participation, attended 21 activations and received feedback on how cool centres have helped to reduce electricity bills.

Going forward, Council will address accessibility constraints and deliver letterbox drops to vulnerable residents and high-risk areas.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Wyatt Park - Lidcombe @ Night

Cumberland City Council

Wyatt Park, Lidcombe was designed through community engagement around innovative public domain upgrades and placemaking initiatives to cultivate a sense of community and showcase an exciting and safe destination for Sydneysiders.

As well as strengthening community ties and spirit, the project engendered a sense of ownership over the park which had a direct impact on environmental cleanliness.

This resulted in increased the use of the park by families, the elderly and bike riders of all ages because of its new and comfortable pathway and link from Lidcombe to Auburn.

CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Litter Prevention: Clean Communities

Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER



Luv the Lake Litter Prevention Program

Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council

An effective litter prevention campaign was established at Lake Illawarra by Wollongong Council, Shellharbour Council and the NSW EPA.

The project engaged a Litter Officer to target three prominent littering and illegal dumping hotspots with each location reporting a 38-40% reduction in litter.

A range of approaches were implemented, including regular clean-ups, maintenance and a visible presence at each location, new signage and bins, radio and social media ads, and litter education at clean-up events.

The project also fostered collaboration with community groups to support ongoing litter reduction around the lake.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Love Your Home Ground

Inner West Council

The 'Love Your Home Ground' litter prevention project aimed at empowering local sports clubs to reduce litter on their home grounds (and subsequently the adjacent Cooks River) during game seasons.

Throughout the project, strong partnerships were formed within Council's internal teams and externally with local sports and recreation clubs.

The project goal was achieved with impressive results - litter in a key area was reduced by 95%.

The project has demonstrated that great outcomes can be achieved when communities are empowered and supported to take ownership of local litter issues.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Keep Homebush West Clean! Strathfield Municipal Council

In response to increased litter and illegal dumping around Flemington Station, Strathfield Council implemented the Keeping Homebush West Clean campaign.

Council used the NSW EPA's Don't be a Tossler! campaign to encourage businesses, residents and visitors to properly dispose of trash.

A 74% reduction in litter was achieved in the targeted areas through posters on bins, shopfronts, and public spaces, flyers, visits to businesses and education sessions. Positive partnerships were formed with local businesses who took on a leadership role by promoting communication materials.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 awards category finalists

LOCAL LEGENDS

≤ 25 years

- Environmental Leadership Group (Kegworth Public School)
- Sustainability (Ajuga School)
- Sustainability at IGS (International Grammar School)

25 – 65 years

- A shining example of inspiration & action (Peter Maganov)
- City of Newcastle Illegal Dumping Project (City of Newcastle and Newcastle Community Corrections)
- Mr Sustainability (Geoff Raymond)
- Paint to Donate Australia (Jemma Wlasichuk, Shed Eleven)

> 65 years

- APS North Shore Group Ku-ring-gai (Australian Plant Society NSW - North Shore District Group)
- Biodiversity Predator-Safe Pontoon (The Fix It Sister Shed)
- Recycling for our Community (The Auburn Hospital Recycling Team)

RESOURCE RECOVERY & WASTE MINIMISATION

- Correcting Waste Issues (Randwick City Council)
- Imperfect Low Waste Living Program (North Sydney Council)
- Recycle Your Bicycle (Penrith City Council)
- Strathfield LGA Recycling Day (Strathfield Municipal Council)
- Textile Drop-off Day (Penrith City Council)

CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Litter Prevention: Clean Waterways



Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER



Zero Litter in Georges River Georges Riverkeeper

To reduce litter entering the Georges River through stormwater, Georges Riverkeeper is working with six local councils, six primary schools, and their communities.

This project involved upgrading stormwater infrastructure at five sites, auditing 75 Gross Pollutant Traps to improve operations, and developing best-practice guidelines.

Education in schools and communities was essential, empowering primary school students to educate their communities about litter prevention with curriculum-aligned lessons, video messages, and anti-litter artworks.

Augmented reality experiences near artworks featuring 'Zero,' a long-neck turtle that is threatened by river pollution provided a portal to online information and educational videos.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Be A Sport: Let's Stop Rubber Crumb Loss

AUSMAP and Ku-ring-gai Council

Synthetic grass and rubber crumb infill are both pollutants of concern with potential health and environmental impacts.

By quantifying losses from Charles Bean Sportsfield, this project sought to assess the effectiveness of current mitigation measures.

According to preliminary results, 70,000 rubber crumb particles and 50,000 synthetic grass particles were captured in a single trap sample.

For other avenues of microplastic loss, downstream sampling and brush-off zone trials in collaboration with community stakeholders are ongoing.

The findings of this continuing study will inform management and a community education campaign.



WINNER



Environmental Leadership Group

Kegworth Public School

The Kegworth environmental leadership group seeks to maintain and improve the school's sustainability commitments and goals, such as reducing and sorting waste and increasing biodiversity. They achieved this by educating and supporting all classes and fostering good practices among younger students.

Among their initiatives are waste free lunches, worm farming, composting, planting, beekeeping, recycling appropriately, and actively reducing water, electricity, and paper usage. They also participate in citizen science programs, collecting data from the community.

Furthermore, when external initiatives are offered, these four students organise and stimulate interest by visiting classrooms to inform and encourage them.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Sustainability at IGS

International Grammar School

A student-led group, Sustainable Futures aims to make the International Grammar School (IGS) a lighthouse school for sustainability by making meaningful progress in six key areas: waste, energy, biodiversity, water, activism, and resources.

IGS is committed to sustainability, but students wanted to contribute to the solution to real-world environmental issues at school.

Using the Eco-Schools framework, they formed an eco-committee of students, teachers, parents, and other staff to fulfil their vision and have been awarded the Green Flag in recognition of their achievements.



WINNER



Paint to Donate Australia Jemma Wlasichuk, Shed Eleven

As a furniture upcycler, Jemma received regular calls from members of the community frustrated that charities refused outdated or slightly damaged furniture donations.

Knowing that this problem is not specific to one area, Jemma saw an opportunity for upcyclers to serve as a 'bridge' between the public and charities. In collaboration with Annie Sloan Interiors, Jemma created Paint to Donate.

In 2023, the Rotary Club of St Ives funded an upcycling project with volunteers for Hornsby Kuringgai Women's Shelter that upcycled 98 items of furniture and homewares.

Jemma hopes to expand the project internationally as it grows.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



City of Newcastle Illegal Dumping Project City of Newcastle and Newcastle Community Corrections

Since 2014, City of Newcastle and Newcastle Community Corrections have worked together to remove 180 tonnes of illegally dumped waste from local charities, kerbsides, and bushland.

The program initially started to tackle illegal dumping at charity bins and encouraged by the results of the pilot, both Council and Field Officers were eager to continue reducing illegal dumping sites, so the project was extended to include illegally dumped waste found on Newcastle's kerbsides and bushland.

A large part of the success of this program can be attributed to NCC Field Officers Ray Brooks and Gary Kennedy.



WINNER



Recycling for our Community
The Auburn Hospital Recycling Team

Over the past 17 years, the Auburn Hospital Recycling Team has been recycling for the local community, for the environment, and for the hospital itself.

Throughout the years, they have had to adapt to local and world events, including the global pandemic, the fires of NSW in 2019-2020, as well as the conflict in Ukraine.

Even with the events and challenges they have faced; they have never wavered in their commitment to grow their project and team.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Biodiversity Predator-Safe Pontoons
The Fix It Sister Shed

In Sir Joseph Banks Lagoon, black swans attempting to build nests and lay eggs and long neck turtles are threatened by predators.

After receiving requests from residents in the Bayside LGA, Mayor Christina Curry approached the Fix it Sisters Shed for assistance. With their numerous initiatives, the Fix it Sisters and their dedicated volunteers have consistently demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and the environment.

They constructed floating islands with welded frames and flotation devices featuring aquatic plants, hollow logs, and branches, improving the survival chances for both species. Besides improving water quality, the pontoon plants also absorb excess nutrients.



WINNER



Correcting Waste Issues Randwick City Council

In public housing and multi-units, existing methods to rectify waste behavior were showing limited success, so a project was developed to explore, apply and monitor innovative approaches to increasing waste recovery.

A total of 17 resource recovery points were set up across the LGA, mostly in MUDs, for items that require special recycling.

Recycle Smart was the main collector, taking the bulk of the waste to the Council Recycling Centre.

As a result of this project, over 1,000kg of difficult to recycle materials that would have gone to landfill were recycled.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



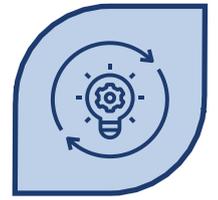
Imperfect Low Waste Living Program North Sydney Council

North Sydney Council's 'Imperfect Low Waste Living Program' aims to educate community members about sustainability and waste reduction.

Taking a bottom-up approach to reducing household waste in North Sydney, the program values human experience and ideas over information and outcomes.

Program participants are encouraged to leverage their beliefs, social norms, and create 'moments' for learning, sharing, and growing together to achieve the best results.

Following the intensive four-week waste reduction program in 2022, participants reported a reduction of 47% in household waste.



WINNER



Zero-Waste Click & Collect Manly Food Co-operative

The Manly Food Co-op acknowledges that it can be hard for members to find time to do their bulk food shopping and avoid waste. With their Click & Collect service, members can order via an app and pick up their shopping the next day.

In place of single-use packaging, the Co-op uses recycled containers to pack orders, such as cardboard boxes from deliveries and reusable and returnable jars for loose bulk foods.

The app continues to be developed to make zero-waste shopping easier than ever.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Protein Recovery's Sustainable Future

Bush's Proteins (AJ Bush & Sons (Manufactures) Pty Ltd)

Animal by-products are converted into high quality protein meals and tallow by Bush's Proteins. In their plant, wastewater is treated through anaerobic and aerobic ponds that function as mini ecosystems.

In late 2022, a project commenced to upgrade the ponds to mitigate odours and ensure they are healthy and functioning at peak efficiency. An engagement plan for the community was developed to ensure proactive communication was maintained throughout the project.

As a result, Bush's Proteins has become more visible within the local community increasing awareness of their sustainable practices.



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