



Sustainable Choice News



Ready to Join?

If your council is not yet a member of Sustainable Choice and is ready to move forward with sustainable procurement, please contact Jacqui Lachmann, Project Manager, on jacqui.lachmann@lgsa.org.au or (02) 9242 4053. Membership is free!

Member Benefits

- Phone and email support
- Sustainable procurement training
- Tools & resources
- Annual scorecard
- Host expos and forums

GREENING UP OUR PARKLANDS

In July Sustainable Choice put on two themed forums - 'Greener Park Design' and 'Greener Park Maintenance'. These proved to be popular, with 75 staff from 22 councils coming along to learn about creating healthier spaces with less environmental impact.

Greener Park Design

Permeable paving, stormwater harvesting, recycled materials, social impact assessment and plant species selection were just some of the design measures used at the parks showcased at this forum as being leaders in sustainability:

- Canton Beach - Wyong Shire Council ([learn more](#))
- Railway Park - Auburn Council ([learn more](#))
- Redfern Oval - City of Sydney
- Prince Alfred Park - City of Sydney

Spotlight: Canton Beach All Access Playground, Wyong

This unique playground provides exceptional social and environmental benefits.

The playground is designed to provide wheelchair bound users access to 80% of play equipment, while the majority of the play items also include interactive elements that provides for visually impaired users. Additional social benefits



About

[Sustainable Choice](#)

Sustainable Choice is a sustainable procurement program for NSW Local Government, developed through a partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Local Government and Shires Associations (LGSA).



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were achieved by engaging local artists and wood-turners to create attractive features and play equipment.

Environmental benefits were obtained through utilising reused or recycled materials and products, including tiles, old wharf timbers, rubber from used tyres and recycled glass paving.

Click [here](#) for more information about Canton Beach.

Greener Park Maintenance

The Greener Park Maintenance forum was held at Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre, Terrey Hills. If you are looking for inspiration on reusing materials in building and landscaping, Kimbriki's Eco House & Garden in northern Sydney is a great place to start! From a salvaged burnt-out boat to VW Beetle mudguards, it seems anything can be put to good use.

It's All About Our Soil!

The key to maintaining healthy parks? It's all in the soil! This was the theme that emerged from the experts presenting at the Greener Park Maintenance forum.

Kimbriki's Ecologist Peter Rutherford shared his simple formula: **compost = healthy soil = healthy people**. To achieve this, he uses the ADAM Principles:

- Aliveness
- Diversity
- Aeration
- Moisture

Read more about these principles for soil health in Peter's [presentation](#) and [handout](#). If you would like to learn about Kimbriki's commercial composting facility, view presentation [here](#).

We also heard about maximising playing time whilst minimising maintenance on sports fields from Dr. Mick Battam. Once again, the answer is in the soil - incorporating composted organics can do the trick. View Dr. Battam's presentation [here](#).

2011 ANNUAL SURVEY

It's that time of year! The 2011 Sustainable Choice Annual Survey has been sent out to member councils. The results will be used to provide councils with their individualised Sustainable Procurement Scorecards, which will provide recommendations on areas of sustainable procurement to work on and help councils to measure their progress in sustainable procurement over time. The survey is also an opportunity to give feedback on the Sustainable Choice program.



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