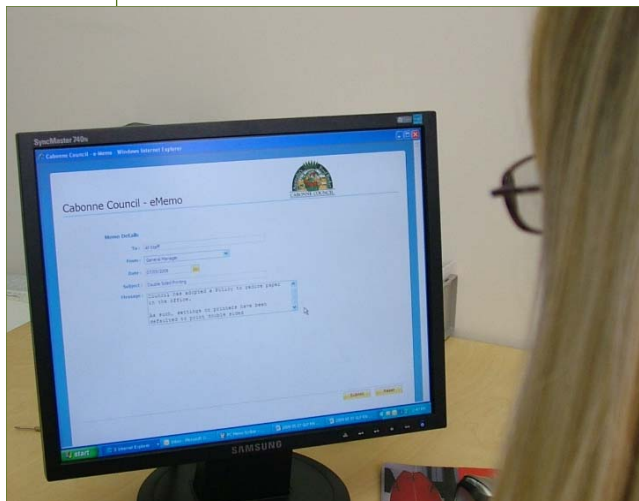


Feature Issue

Sustainable Procurement in the Central West

Councils in regional NSW are embracing sustainable procurement as a way to save water, reduce waste, cut costs and support their local communities. This feature issue of Sustainable News gives a brief snapshot of some of the initiatives underway in the Central Western district of NSW.



Cabonne Council's eMemo

Greening the Office at Cabonne Council

Cabonne Council is gradually reducing the volume of paper used in their office and administration areas. Paper consumption has fallen by approximately 33% from the previous year. Initiatives underway include:

- Double sided printing
- In-house printing of letterhead
- eMemo to replace paper memos
- 100% recycled Australian copy paper and Post-it notes
- Electronic records system
 - paper documents are scanned for storage, and outgoing documents are registered by the users so no paper copy is required
- Electronic Business Paper system, replacing the need for repeat scanning of annexures
- Councillors and staff are encouraged to receive Meeting Business papers electronically
- Where possible, documents are shared electronically via the records system and Intranet to avoid printing multiple copies for distribution to staff.

The next initiative is to develop a process so that incoming faxes are not printed but electronically assigned to the intended recipient. This should result in further reductions in paper use and associated costs.

In addition to paper reductions, less printing also means less consumption of ink and toner cartridges.

"While we have achieved environmental benefits, there are also efficiency improvements and financial benefits," said Cabonne's Administration Manager Gerard Aguila. "We are expecting Council's stationery and printing budget to be considerably lower for the coming financial year," he said.

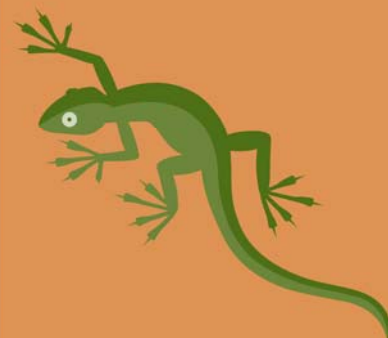
In this Issue:

1. Greening the Office
2. Stormwater Harvesting
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4. Renovating Pools
5. New Paper Guides

Upcoming Events:

1. Tendering for a Sustainable Future. Parramatta. 1 July
An information day hosted by LGP and Sustainable Choice
2. CENTROC Sustainable Procurement Training
Orange - 23 June
Young - 24 June

All welcome. RSVP with Rachel Young at CENTROC. Ph 63336559



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www.lgsa-plus.net.au/subscribe

Stormwater Harvesting at Orange Council

In 2008 Sustainable News reported a range of successful initiatives at Orange City Council to reduce water consumption. We can now report on the next phase of Orange's water management program – increasing supply.

In April 2009 Orange Council released the first batch of harvested stormwater into the city's drinking water catchment. This is the first large scale direct-to-potable stormwater harvesting project in NSW, and when fully operational will be able to supply up to 40% of the city's water supply.

The project draws heavily on sustainable procurement principles by;

- Utilising existing storage infrastructure by capturing water close to the main reserve, Suma Park Dam
- Utilising locally sourced rock and gravel during construction
- Wherever possible utilising existing pipes, drains and infrastructure
- New steel pipes made from 100% recycled steel
- Ozone treatment of water with biologically activated carbon filtration
- Installation of gross pollutant traps in high visibility locations in the city, helping to improve public awareness and community



The stormwater harvesting outlet at the edge of Suma Park Dam

engagement. These traps help stop suspended solids from entering the creek (35 tonnes in the first major storm

- Reduced peak flow rates reducing erosion and flood risk.

Traditionally, Orange's water consumption has been around 7000 megalitres per year. This was reduced to around 5000 megalitres through a range of community based water conservation measures. (see September 2008 issue of Sustainable News for details).

The first stage of the stormwater harvesting project can now provide 1300 megalitres per year – demonstrating that water conservation programs combined with innovative supply side options can help off-set the need for new dams and expensive infrastructure.

Harden/Sutherland Council's Staff Exchange

Harden and Sutherland Shires have a sister city arrangement that incorporates staff exchanges to help swap expertise and facilitate professional development. Initial swaps involved engineering staff who helped implement Harden's recycling program, worm farm and compost bin initiatives.

In recent times, Harden Shire has granted consent for two mud brick buildings and staff from both councils were involved in developing construction guidelines.

Like many rural towns, Harden is also grappling with how to utilise and restore heritage buildings. In the main street of Murrumburrah the old Post Office has been turned into a café based around the produce of a local beekeeper, and plans are afoot to further expand this to a honey museum. Council is currently negotiating change-of-use for an old bank building, and several proponents have asked about reinstating missing verandahs and street fenestrations (windows and doors).

Staff involved in the Sutherland exchange have helped to develop guidelines to optimise the reuse of old buildings - ensuring they comply with modern building standards while still retaining their heritage character.

Renovating Swimming Pools



Just about every town in rural NSW has a public swimming pool. Most were built in the early 1960's following a wave of swimming enthusiasm after Australia's success in the pool at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Australia's love of swimming is as strong as ever, but the same can not be said for some of the pools. Many of the facilities are now outdated and cracks and leaks are a major problem.

Across Central Western NSW councils are addressing this with a wave of pool renovations. Coffs Harbour company Swimplex Aquatics have renovated pools in Cobar and Forbes and are currently upgrading the pool at Young.

The company uses new technology to re-line the existing pool structure with PVC-coated stainless steel and reinforced PVC membrane. Where possible, existing structures and pipes are utilised, with new pump and filtration systems also helping to reduce water loss.

"It is not uncommon for old pools to lose over 150,000 litres per week, says Swimplex Director, Geoff Leaver. "In addition new filtration systems use approximately 40% less water for backwashing, and some councils are

now capturing and diverting this for grey water recycling," he said.

Young Shire Council is renovating their pool this winter. The old tiles and concrete have been removed and this material has been saved for reuse as crushed concrete in landscaping.

The new pool will be open in the spring and Council is expecting substantial water savings.

The major goal of any upgrade is to improve the social amenity of the pool and this is only limited by budget and imagination. Disabled access ramps, heated lesson areas, dedicated lap lanes, children's play areas, solar screens and even 'thrill attractions' for teenagers are all possible.

"The way the community uses swimming pools today is quite different to the 1960's and 70s" said Geoff Leaver. "Today, pools are used less for sun bathing and more for a wide



The Forbes Pool. Before (above) and after (top)

range fitness, health and recreation activities."

Kristy Hartwig, Manager of Commercial Enterprises at Forbes Shire Council who renovated their pool in 2007 confirms this. "Since we upgraded our pool its been much busier," she said. "The response has been fantastic and its now used by a broader spectrum of the community."

SustainableNEWS showcases green purchasing initiatives being undertaken in councils throughout NSW.

Please call Seb Crawford on (02) 9242 4053 or email seb.crawford@lgsa.org.au if your council has a story to tell.

New Paper Guides

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) have updated their paper guides “Know Your Paper” and “Know Your Printing Paper”

Demand for paper remains high with Australians using 1.72 million tonnes of printing and writing paper during 2006/07.

Councils are becoming increasingly aware of the need to consider the environmental impact of their purchases and practices. With high paper usage in Australia, all levels of government can create meaningful environmental savings and benefits by making informed purchasing decisions and choosing recycled products.

Know Your Paper is the fourth addition of this popular guide, and assists anyone wishing to purchase recycled content office paper for their copiers and office printers.

Know Your Printing Paper will help council staff discuss recycled content printing paper with their graphic designer or printer. Councils produce a large amount of educational and promotional printed material for local residents and businesses, therefore this presents an opportunity to reduce our environmental impact.

These updated guides have been revised to reflect changes in paper products, environmental issues and

the industry. The guide shows local councils where to buy recycled paper and provide information about different types of recycled content paper and the environmental labels and certifications that the papers carry.

Paper is the largest type of waste generated by offices. Over 700,000 tonnes of paper is sent to landfill in NSW each year and this represents a huge waste of resources and a heavy burden on our landfill sites.

Paper disposed to landfill is also a significant contributor to methane - a powerful greenhouse gas. Recycled content paper diverts waste from landfill by creating a demand for waste paper, consequently ‘closing the loop’ on recycling.

Councils that have tried recycled paper in the past and found that it did not meet their standards should try it again. The product has improved in recent years and there are now many high quality recycled content papers on the market.

***Know Your Paper* and *Know Your Printing Paper* are available electronically at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/officewasteguides.htm>**



For more information and a printed copy of the *Know Your Paper* and *Know Your Printing Paper* guides - which include samples of all the paper listed in the guides, contact the DECC on:

Phone: (02) 8837 6000

Email:

sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au

Installing Rainwater Tanks

Harden Shire residents have shown considerable interest in the DECC's Rainwater Tank Rebate, and in order to qualify for the full rebate many tanks are being connected to laundry and toilet flush facilities. Harden Shire provides reticulated water to rural properties and in order to ensure water supply at times of no rain, tanks need to be topped up from time to time using the potable reticulated system. To protect this system from potential contamination of untreated tank water, a back flow prevention device is required. Council staff have been working with the community to inspect these devices, ensure they are installed correctly, and offer advice and education on general health issues relevant to rainwater tanks and grey water recycling.

Local Government
Association of NSW



Shires Association
of NSW

Department of **Environment & Climate Change** NSW

