

Sustainable Cities 2011 - Tasmania

Recipient: City of Burnie

Pop: approx. 20 000

Location: North West Tasmania

Category: Community Action & Partnerships

Highlights:

BURNIE is Tasmania's busiest container port which is made up of a thriving arts community, modern facilities and complemented by a range of wildlife experiences available within an urban environment.

The BURNIE City Council partners and consults its community to play an important role in protecting the local environment for the benefit of its citizens and the many thousands of tourists who visit each year.

The Produce to the People Tasmania initiative collects excess backyard grown fruit and vegetables and shares it with needy members within the community. Produce is able to be left at drop off points where it is collected by volunteers and distributed to families in need. Produce is also provided to the Salvation Army in BURNIE, Ulverstone and Devonport, Wyndarra in Smithton and St Vincent de Paul in East Devonport.

The BURNIE Challenge was an initiative developed through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health who provided funding under the Healthy Communities Initiative to support local government areas in delivering effective community-based physical activity and healthy eating programs, as well as developing a range of local policies that support healthy lifestyle behaviours.

The event provided the opportunity to form numerous partnerships with a variety of local businesses and organisations, including local primary and high schools as well as with fitness trainers and gyms within the region.

Many of the obstacles were made from recycled products, eg, from an old boardwalk, other obstacles were provided on loan from Cradle Mountain Water. The obstacles are also utilised by the PCYC and Hellyer College throughout the year, providing an excellent opportunity for children and teenagers to experience a wider range of physical activities.

Category: 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

Highlights:

Annual public bin purchase programs – placement of litter bins and twin sets, at new facilities included coastal pathways, and cooee toilets plus and additional bins to existing areas identified with high litter incidence.

Steel bins have also been installed to replace plastic wheelie bins in areas with high incidence of fire vandalism.

Cigarette butt bins have been placed at numerous new public building facilities.

Dog waste pickup bins and bags have been installed in designated dog walking areas including.

Clean Up Australia Day litter pickup service – Council provided a waste pickup service to numerous community organisations who conduct clean-ups.

Event waste bin service – As part of Reserves bookings, Council now requires event organisers to manage litter for events and can provide additional bins on request. Advice is also provided on where these bins should be located for maximum effect.

Reserves Permit Condition: *The area to be left in a neat and tidy condition, which includes all rubbish to be removed from the site in a proper manner. Arrangements for additional waste bins can be made with Council's Works and Services Department, by contacting Technical Officer, Emma Cumming (6430 5756). An additional fee may be applicable.*

Education - Don't Waste Burnie 'Do the right Thing' advertising campaign participation with stickers placed on numerous bins throughout the city. Don't Waste Burnie sign has been installed along the coast, most recently in the Cooee Beach area where new toilets are located.

Signs have also been placed on sides of waste trucks to promote litter and waste reduction messages.



Category: Resource Recovery & Waste Management

Highlights:

BURNIE Waste Management Centre resource recovery initiatives included:

- Recycling area where recyclable items can be dropped off for free.
- Tip shop for drop off and purchase of reusable items.
- E-Waste bins for electronic equipment including mobiles, computers, etc.
- Green Waste stockpile – community use of free Green Waste Vouchers.
- Other non-landfill stockpiles for building and demolition reuse materials including scrap steel, timber, concrete, brick, masonry, asphalt and soils/rock.
- ChemSafe household hazardous waste drop off service.
- drumMUSTER – collection and recycling of cleaned eligible non-returnable crop production and on-farm animal health chemical containers.
- ChemClear – an Industry funded national program for the collection and disposal of unwanted currently registered rural chemicals.
- After the introduction of 240 litre kerbside recycling collection, the Cradle Coast Authority supplied BURNIE with an additional 190 collections, many to businesses within residential areas. The average monthly collection increased to an average of 125 tonnes per month from an original 50 tonnes per month prior to September 2009.

Category: Environmental Innovation & Protection

Highlights:

Cradle Coast Authority is a regional body that hosts the Natural Resource Management organisation whose role is to manage the economic, social and environmental advantages gained from conserving natural resources and the protection of those resources for future generations. Projects undertaken include:

Farmer's Soil Condition Study that:

- Encourages improved land management practices to benefit soil conditions.
- Develops a culture of continuous improvement and learning about new farming approaches
- Assists farmers to develop skills in evidence based decision making.
- Promotes best practice and innovative land management methods across the region.

Coastal Weed Strategy

- A collaborative effort of weed control over 150 hectares and across 40 sites throughout the region's coastal zone. The works have been mapped and evaluated and outcomes integrated into the 2010-2015 Regional Weed Management Strategy.

Local Plants for local conditions

- A local planting guide has been created for each of the nine municipalities in the region listing indigenous plant species and highlighting those that are endemic to the municipality.
- Planting guides have been created for each of the councils within the Cradle Coast region.

Other projects include Friends of Burnie Penguin Interpretation Guides and habitat restoration, BURNIE and Parklands High School disengaged students removing sea spurge at Cooee/Camdale beaches, Cooee revegetation in penguin habitat, Shorebird monitoring, Coastcare Week Biodiversity Poster competition, BURNIE Surf Club Nipper sessions and Beach Detectives program.

Category: Water Conservation

Highlights:

BURNIE's stormwater network consists of open drains, kerb and channel, pipes to property connection points, underground reticulation, manholes, gully pits, pollution traps, and outfalls to oceans and streams. Stormwater assets within state controlled roads (eg Bass Highway) are maintained by DIER if within the median strip otherwise are Council maintained.

Improving stormwater quality is a long-term process that involves educating residents and businesses about preventing stormwater pollution at its source and treating stormwater before it enters waterways. The community is encouraged to undertake simple ways to reduce stormwater pollution, such as picking up litter and preventing spills on properties and in workplaces.

Other council water conservation approaches include:

- Installed underground watering systems at Wivenhoe Recreation ground, BURNIE Park and West Park.
- Installed water bores at Burnie Park, Wivenhoe Recreation ground and Ridgley Recreation ground as a water mitigation measure.
- Dual flush systems installed in most council assets.
- Envirocycle system installed at Fern Glade toilets to recycle and purify water.

Category: Energy Innovation

Highlights:

BURNIE City Council is consistently looking for alternative innovative energy efficiency measures. These include:

- Newly built facilities 'The Point' and 'BURNIE Greens' have double glazed windows to gain natural light.
- Trialling LED lighting technology in council facilities to determine power cost savings
- Installed solar panel lights and sky lighting at 'The Point', Makers Workshop and Yacht club.
- All new toilet facilities are equipped with natural light sensors
- Council cars have been switched from 6 cylinder to 4 cylinders.
- New coastal pathways and boardwalk to not only increase physical fitness and wellbeing but to lower carbon emissions.

Category: Heritage & Culture

Highlights:

BURNIE City Council's webpage provides easy access to the city's heritage and cultural attractions. Informative details about BURNIE's cultural history are provided with numerous interpretative images.

The Pioneer Village Museum, a c1900 Federation streetscape has been frozen in time. Visitors are able to experience how people lived 100 years ago with a street full of stores and rooms that provide a window into lives past. A time when BURNIE prospered and reaped the benefits of the mineral boom. Each of the stores in the street features a trade or profession important to the functioning of a pioneering community.

BURNIE's newest visitor attraction, Makers' Workshop, is a place that honours BURNIE's history, makers, innovators and artists. The contemporary structure is a new concept for BURNIE, part contemporary museum, part arts centre and busy information centre.

Category: Young Legends

Highlights:

YAY Events, coordinated by a group of young people aged between 17 and 24, organises music gigs and concerts for young people across the North West coast. All YAY events adopt a 'no drugs, no alcohol, no smoking' policy and are held from 3 – 7pm. The events focus on promoting original music by local and Tasmanian artists and contribute significantly towards a band's ability to raise a profile within the local, broader state and national music communities. YAY also provides Burnie's youth with the opportunity to support local bands in a safe, structured environment. YAY has a significant and loyal fan base with events attracting between 200 and 300 young people. The 'no drugs, no alcohol, no smoking' policy and afternoon time schedule is well respected and valued by YAY fans.

Youth Making Changes Around BURNIE (YMCAB) is for people aged between 14 and 25 living, studying or working in the area and who keen to be part making BURNIE a 'cool' place to live. YMCAB is a network of young people to have a say and get involved in what happens in BURNIE. YMCAB along with the BURNIE Youth Council is the key sounding board and brainstorming group for BURNIE's Youth Development Officer and Council with regard to youth matters.

BURNIE Youth Council has been running successfully for the past twelve years. It is a Special Committee of the City Council and is coordinated by the Council's Youth Services team.

Each year 2 students from each school in the municipality are nominated by their school to become a Youth Councillor. These representatives are asked to nominate for positions of Mayor, Senior and Junior Deputy Mayor.

Throughout the year Youth Council holds seven formal meetings and one excursion. The Councillors are asked to represent BURNIE at events such as Tasmanian Youth Forums, conferences and to assist with welcoming or showing around special visitors to the city.

Being a Youth Councillor provides young people with the opportunity to learn about how Local Government works, develop leadership skills, learn more about their local community and participate in a range of community projects.