



## **Sustainable Cities 2012 – Western Australia**

**Recipient:** City of Cockburn

**Population:** approximately 90,000 people

**Location:** 24 km south of Perth

### **Category: Community Action and Partnerships**

The vision for City of Cockburn is to be the 'best place to live, work, visit and invest in. A key component of achieving the vision is to establish numerous partnerships which include the community, residents, schools, businesses, state government authorities, NGOs and numerous volunteers. The Strategic Community Plan 2012 – 2022 will guide sustainable development of the City through Governance, Environment, Society and Economy, which is supported through the City's integrated reported platform

The City has developed a wide range of tailored programs to empower the Cockburn community to improve their health and well-being and to develop a connection to the natural environment, the local community and encourage sustainability. Community partnership projects include:

#### **Health and Wellbeing (Partnerships identified in brackets)**

- Health Wellness & You Project (Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program / Sector Development Division CommunityWest)
- Healthy Communities Program (Australian Government; six community partners)
- TravelSmart program with the Department of Transport aims to reduce the number of cars on the road. A TravelSmart Officer works with a number of different departments within the City of Cockburn to enable travel behaviour change for residents, visitors, workplaces, schools.
- Living Smart Course (Living Smart)
- Staff Empowerment Program (One Million Women)
- Garden Wise Seminars with Beyond Gardens. Beyond Gardens workshops are good for beginners and experienced gardeners alike. The community learn about garden design, greywater, rainwater tanks, irrigation, plus many tips from the experts.
- Design a Sustainable Home Workshops (EcoAdvance)
- Sustainable September Events and Eco Fashion Workshops (Jody Pearl)
- Community Landcare Education Program (APACE Nursery, Regen4, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre (CWEC), Natsync, Greenskills)

#### **Educational Resources**

- In addition to Policy information, 19 brochures listed on the Council website at [http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Council\\_Services/Environment/Documents\\_Publications\\_Plans\\_and\\_Brochures/default.asp](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Council_Services/Environment/Documents_Publications_Plans_and_Brochures/default.asp) and [http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Council\\_Services/Environment/Environmental\\_Education/default.asp](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Council_Services/Environment/Environmental_Education/default.asp)

#### **Capacity building**

- A Better Tomorrow Sustainability Grants program targeting schools, NGO's , small businesses and households in the development and implementation of a range of sustainability projects.
- Formal agreement with Murdoch University's Social Sustainability Institute to supervise two students annually.
- Community Landcare Project (Department of Corrective Services Section 95) - 320 volunteer hours completed.

### **Community Grants and Rebates (Total over \$1M)**

- A Better Tomorrow Sustainability Grants program targeting schools, NGO's , small businesses and households • Environmental Education Initiatives Grant
- Community/ Cultural Grants, Donations, Sponsorships, Sustainable Events, Sporting Assistance, ALCOA / Fremantle Ports programs, Free Home Energy and Water Audits (Environment House)

### **Events and Celebrations**

- International Families Day - >250 attendees
- Coogee Beach Festival
- World Environment Day Schools Festival
- Festival of the Lakes Community Fair
- Cockburn Rotary Manning Park Spring Fair
- One Million Women SAVE campaign
- Inspirational Volunteer of the Year Awards

### **Partnerships with NGOs**

- Wetlands Education Precinct – (CWEC), Native ARC & 1st Bibra Lake Scouts - > 24,000 volunteer hours annually
- Conservation Volunteers Australia - 300 participants - > 1500 hours annually
- Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc (Annual WA Wetlands Management Conference)

### **Business and Industry**

- Hands on Wetlands - (Cockburn Gateways Shopping City) - 90 corporate volunteers, 110 students, 600 volunteer hours.
- Hamilton Hill Revitalisation Strategy – (Urban Development Institute of Australia and Planning Services)
- Businesses and Sustainability Workshop (Melville Cockburn Chamber of Commerce)
- Drive through Art – City wide
- Hits to the City's website have increased tenfold over the last 12 months, new programs are often oversubscribed and the City ensures its documentation is relevant and up to date.

### **Category: 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention**

The City's litter prevention and collection program is aligned with the City's strategic Sustainability Action Plan and is based on the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle. Educating the community has been identified as being key to encouraging waste minimisations and recycling. Throughout the City 80 volunteers contribute >200 hours in litter prevention and collection within the last year.

Examples of Councils actions and programs include:

- Tasking two Road Department staff with litter prevention and collection as their responsibility, Parks and environment teams have litter prevention and collection in their operations portfolio and the City manages a coastal Summer Litter Collection program.
- Partnering with agencies and local groups such as:
  - Hosting annual clean-up sites on Clean Up Australia Day and supporting community groups to run their own Clean-up days.
  - Supporting KAB Adopt a Spot Program and currently Council links nine groups to nine reserves, including provision of bins, and advocating the program through education initiatives such as Environmental Education Initiatives for Primary Schools Program
  - Promoting Clean Marine Program via the City's Adopts Beach Program

- Celebrating Keep Australia Beautiful Week
- City of Henderson Waste Recovery Park runs guided school tours where students learn about onsite litter management and the role of litter within boarder waste managements strategies.

### **Category: Resources Recovery and Waste Management**

The City of Cockburn takes a holistic approach to waste avoidance and reductions through multiple strategies. The “waster is a Resource” program is coordinated in partnership with many service units. Delivered by Environment and Waster Education Officer, initiatives include:

- Weekly recycling introduced in 2011, has resulted in the recovery of recyclable collected increased by 20.6 % and a decrease in the weight of waste to landfill by 6%
- *The Which? Bin* Campaign promotes the use of a two-bin system to reduce contamination and increase recovery. Education programs have been put in pace by means of a demonstration video on You-tube, interactive displays in shopping centres, school presentations.
- Reducing fabric in landfill through the Reinvent Workshops, where community participants learn to reinvent and swap clothing.
- A subsidised package offered to residents including educational workshops for the Worm Shed.
- Library Recycling Hubs have undergone a makeover to improve waster resource recovery. Dedicated hazardous household waste drop-off points exists at all Cockburn libraries and 2 local shopping centres.
- The Henderson Waste Recovery Park hosts a number of associated facilities including a domestic transfer station, recycle shop, methane capture plant, green wast to free much , steel, wood and white good and e-waste recovery by means of an MOU with the state. 6000 tonnage/year saved from landfill
- The waste recovery park provides free tours for schools and community who are interested in waste minimisation. More than 20 school tours, 6 community tours
- There are a number of new projects coming on line such as the renewable energy artwork with the Central Institute of Technology, kitchen recycling trials, public place recycling trial, wood waste to biomass project and the commercial materials recovery facility.

### **Category: Environmental Innovation and Protection**

The City of Cockburn has made a significant investment in a range of initiatives to promote the protection of fauna and flora. There are over 1000ha of natural areas that the City manages it manages. Council policy is to develop strong partnerships with community members to deliver education and training to increase skills.

Initiatives and programs are divided into three main areas covering community programs, education and research initiatives and include:

#### **Community Programs**

- Community, School and Corporate Planting Days: with 48 events and 1500 participants.
- Landowner and Biodiversity Conservation Grants to 35 participants. Landowners can attend workshops on weed control, plant propagation, seed collection and Dieback control.
- Turtle Watch Program, where community study how to protect Oblong Turtles. Activities include community workshops and night stalks.
- Native Seed Collection Workshops comprising 100 hours.
- Residential Native Plant Subsidy Scheme, with 200 resident participating and 3500 plants.

#### **Education and Research**

- “Feed A Bird, How Absurd!” Campaign to discourage community from feeding wild birds from the local wetland– partnership with Murdoch university student.
- Adopt a Beach School Program with Coastcare/UN Sandwatch. This activity includes in class learning, on-ground action and links with school in Kiribati
- Fauna Movement Study partnering with Curtin University.
- Suburban Gardens as Fauna Refugia which identifies gardens as important refuge areas for local fauna

- Coastal Environments Bandicoot Refuge Project, which provides artificial bandicoot refuge burrows.

### **Management**

- Council has produced a Draft Natural Areas Management Strategy 2012 -2022 as a management framework
- The annual revegetation program of 2011 incorporates 7ha of revegetated areas with over 82,000 plants
- Bibra Lake Oblong Turtle Climate Change Adaptation Study where community members report observations of key fauna and flora and monitors turtle movements and inform of possible impacts from climate change within key wetlands. Community members call a hotline and report turtle movements. This informs management actions for this species.
- Construction of living streams to create habitat and reduce nutrient flow into wetlands through the Local Wetlands Living Stream Development Project
- Dieback management which includes aerial treatment by helicopter and installation of signage and PhytoFighter 1000 trial, including workshop for community.
- Rabbit exclusion fencing and feral animal control through the Feral Animal Control Program.
- Watering points established for native animals in reserves that have rabbit exclusion fencing.
- Underground burrows established to act as refuges, in the event of fire, for native animals.
- Nesting Box Renewal Project: 50 bat and bird nesting boxes installed across reserves, monitored by fauna specialist and community members.

### **Category: Water Conservation**

Cockburn's inland lakes form two unique chains of wetlands running from north to south through the heart of the City. Since 2007 the City of Cockburn has been a participant in the ICLEI Water Campaign, a voluntary capacity building program which assists local governments in reducing water consumption and improving local water quality. The City has developed a Water Conservation Plan, Irrigation Operating Strategy and a Local Water Action Plan to guide action in water conservation and water quality management.

Under these plans and strategy the City has been able to undertake unique initiatives that not only encourage water conservation but also inspire community action and provide valuable education.

Initiatives include:

#### **Infrastructure**

- Stormwater Harvesting on City and/or partnership buildings.
- Rainwater Tank Modelling – a feasibility study for rainwater tanks at the administration complex.
- Waterwise Building Retrofits installation of low flow rate taps and waterless urinals in administration centre.
- Bore Flowmeters, ongoing installation with intent to monitor and manage ground water extraction.

#### **Design**

- The City has set water management targets to help reduce water consumption and improve water quality.
- The City works with developers to promote water sensitive urban design in subdivisions and have several developments that have incorporated these principles including installation of gross pollutant traps and a nutrient stripping basin
- Hydrozoning has been implemented in all City parks and reserves.

#### **Education**

- Free water and energy advisory visits are provided for 50 households annually. The 2012 program has expanded to include water-wise retrofit households.
- Over 85 participants attended workshops on using fertiliser wisely, water-wise gardening and soil improvement as part of the Beyond Gardens Workshops program. The program is supported by the City's Resident Native Plant Subsidy Scheme.

## **Category: Energy Innovation**

The City's Energy Management Program incorporates a combination of initiatives including investment in renewable energy, establishing partnerships, trialling new technology, energy monitoring, audits, retrofits and campaigns to raise awareness on sustainable energy options.

The City has taken a strategic approach to energy management with the adoption of the following strategies, policies and funding sources to support future action to embracing a new energy future in Cockburn:

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Strategy 2011 - 2020
- Greenhouse Action Fund
- Renewable Energy Policy ADP63
- Climate Change Community Awareness Strategy

This program is unique in that it combines research, technology and policy to inspire sustainable thinking and enables action among the community, council and staff. Many of these initiatives are the first of their kind in WA and go beyond statutory requirements which enable the City to lead by example. Current projects include:

### **Understanding Energy Usage**

- 'Real time' monitoring installed in 8 facilities to help managers identify energy saving opportunities.
- Inspection and analysis of all major facilities on energy consumption use through the Energy Audit Program
- Training managers on energy monitoring and how to plan an energy efficiency project.

### **Walking the Talk**

- Solar Photovoltaic Installations - 455 solar photovoltaic panels installed across 9 community buildings.
- In collaboration with Murdoch University Research Institute of Renewable Energy a small wind turbine testing facility is currently being hosted by the City.
- Energy Efficiency Retrofits which includes LED lighting at the Spearwood library and sensors at the Seniors Centre.

### **Creative and Innovative**

- Renewable Energy Art A - artistically-designed park lights. Each 'leaf-shaped' structure features a LED light powered by solar.
- Wind Mapping - Available online through the City's website to help residents determine the viability of wind turbines.
- Waste Gas to Energy - Partnership with Waste Gas Resources to convert landfill gas to electricity

### **Community and Staff Education**

- Cockburn Virtual Power Station Interactive website with live data feeds to the City's solar systems.
- Sustainable Living Online Home - Interactive virtual tour of an energy efficient and sustainably designed home.
- 'Is solar energy right for you?' - Educational brochure featuring one of the City's solar installations
- Household Energy Audit Program Free advisory visits for 50 households. Oversubscribed in 2012.
- Staff Solar Discount Scheme. Part of the One Million Women Program (1st local Government in Australia to run this staff empowerment program)
- Community Awareness Strategy Guides educational and awareness raising activities

### **Planning for the Future**

- Feasibility Studies include a recently commissioned Co and Tri Generation Investigation.
- Establishment of the Greenhouse Gas Action Fund to fund energy management initiatives

## Partnerships

Many partnerships have been formed to deliver these projects including City of Mandurah, Greensense, Western Windpower, Windpods International, Research Institute for Sustainable Energy, Starr Structures One Million Women, and Environment House.

## Category: Heritage and Culture

The City of Cockburn is committed to acknowledging and promoting its indigenous and European heritage and as a result has developed the City of Cockburn Reconciliation Action Plan and the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Policy SC44 to encourage the promotion of Indigenous culture through the City resulting in the provision of Indigenous employment opportunities and partnerships as well as education programs.

The City's approach to incorporating and raising awareness of Aboriginal and historical connections will result in a sustainable social framework for the future.

City has an Aboriginal Reference Group and Aboriginal Community Development Officer who work closely with community on a range of aspects including sharing information and supplying approval for projects.

Programs and initiatives include:

- Guided indigenous walks- Community members participated in a series of walks with local Nyungar people who shared stories about Nyungar traditional use of the land, their connection to country and the value of ecosystems such as wetlands within Cockburn.
- Partnership with Halo- The City engages with young Aboriginal men through dance and natural resource management activities.
- Indigenous Traineeship Program-The City has committed to providing a traineeship through Central Institute of Technology focussing on natural resource management. The trainee learns valuable skills towards their Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management.
- Indigenous Education for Kids (Get Wild about Wetlands)-this program engages Aboriginal educators who take students through a series of fun activities linked to cultural awareness.
- Beeliar Boodjar Brochure –detailing oral histories from local Cockburn Nyungar people. Produced in conjunction with the Aboriginal History Steering Committee and Aboriginal Reference Group and is being used in schools to introduce students to their local Nyungar history and culture.
- Azelia Ley Museum- dedicated to the history of early settlers in the Cockburn Township. Situated in Hamilton Hill, the Museum showcases a unique collection of artefacts and photographs that reflect the many aspects of Cockburn's social and cultural history.

## Category: Young Legends

The City of Cockburn is committed to providing opportunities for its youth and children to ensure a sustainable future for young people; demonstrated through the development of a Youth Services Strategic Plan 2011-2016 and Children's Services Plan 2010-15. Youth initiatives and environmental education are promoted within a number of the City's departments and a significant proportion of the programs are suited to the local natural. Programs have been designed to encourage teamwork and passions, facilitate a sense of belonging and empower young people.

Programs and initiatives targeted to youth include:

- Froggy's Fun on the Green- FREE mobile outdoor play sessions for children aged 0-5 years, connecting playgroups and parents through Parenting by Connection.
- A free education for sustainability program providing activities and resources to schools in Cockburn in areas of Resource Use, Biodiversity, Liveable Communities and Greenhouse (750 students in 2012) including Revegetation for Habitat Creation Schools Program.
- Youth Centre Outrage School Holiday Program provides a variety of challenging activities during the school holidays with Centrelink rebates to ensure opportunities for everyone (operates 90% capacity).
- Deadly Tucker Program (Southern Metropolitan Public Health) provides an opportunity for local indigenous youth to learn about bush tucker, its applications and cultural relevance in today's society.

- Chick Chat Program provides a support network for young females in Cockburn offering advice and opportunities to learn about essential life skills and living sustainably.
- Cockburn Wetlands Precinct Partnerships
  - Get Wild About Wetlands - A family-based school holiday program that promotes environmental education through interactive activities (Participation 2008 – 174; 2011 – 864).
  - World Environment Day Schools Festival - Annual event providing local schools the opportunity to explore our natural environment (210 students participate).
- Department of Corrective Services Youth Diversion Partnerships
  - Deadliest Catch Program - Promotes sustainable fishing whilst providing an opportunity for skill development and social integration.
  - Bibbulmun Trail Treks - Promotes sustainable bush walking promoting appreciation of the land while providing social integration through team building, trust and cultural awareness.
  - NEW Youth Services Kitchen Garden - Provides opportunities to up skill in design through to construction of a garden, providing participants with certification in Horticulture and Leadership. Anticipated produce will be used in centre cooking classes.