



Sustainable Cities 2012 – South Australia

Recipient: City of Tea Tree Gully

Population: approximately 96,000 people

Location: 15 km north-east of Adelaide

Category: Community Action and Partnerships

The City of Tea Tree Gully embarked on a consultative process to develop its Strategic Plan (SP) and the City Master Plan (CMP) in 2009. Council initiated a project called *create20forty* which is intended to shape the City of Tea Tree Gully over the next 30 years.

Highlights include:

- The 'Live Life Modbury' project which is an example of an urban renewal precinct; the vision being - *A Modbury precinct that is a vibrant, active, attractive and accessible place for people to work, live and visit.* Modbury sporting/recreational hub precinct is an example of a clustering of facilities including 8 sporting clubs, 3 community groups, Council's WaterWorld Aquatic Centre, Road Safety Centre and Tails trail dog park..
- A Reconciliation Sub-Committee (RSC) was established in 1998, membership includes elected members, local residents, service providers (both government and non-government) and staff. Issues relating to the health and well-being of local ATSI residents have been addressed through various means including the establishment of a HACCC* funded program to address the needs of elderly and frail (*Gully Winds*) and young adults with intellectual disabilities (*Young Dreamers*).
- A Reconciliation Feature Garden was developed on Civic Park in Modbury with partial funding received from a State Government *Places for People Grant*. The RSC was the key reference point for Council during its development which included participation by residents.
- Council also works collaboratively with the community to develop and monitor plans including its DDA Access Action Plan and Ageing Strategy by using a bottom-up approach seeking community and service provider participation at all stages including during the implementation and monitoring phases.
- Council has undertaken a collaborative approach to its youth centre and has achieved positive community outcomes. 'HIVE' is a means to connect young people to their community and raise the profile of young people through the provision of exciting and innovative arts and cultural experiences throughout the City of Tea Tree Gully. This year HIVE worked in collaboration with Valley View High School, YWCA Street Team and the North East Vocational College to bring to the community "Creative Detonations" SALA exhibition through the city's first community 'paste-up'. The collaborate effort included the paste-up being installed to the external wall of the HIVE building by students from the North East Vocational College undertaking a Pre-Apprenticeship Kick-start program in Construction Pathways. On the night of the exhibition launch, YWCA Street Team catered and served our guests who were also entertained by the talented acoustic guitarist and vocal duo from Valley View High.
- Council is also committed to The North East Development Agency -a not-for-profit association involved in a variety of economic and community development activities of benefit to

residents. Current initiatives include economic synergies between a Vocational College specialising in Construction Industry and Business training, and a Business Enterprise Centre to assist many small and medium businesses and businesses created by graduates of the College.

Category: 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

The City of Tea Tree Gully has a number of litter management and reduction strategies, including an orderly planned street tree program, well-placed street furniture and signage to encourage the community to become involved.

Initiatives and programs include:

- Numerous street litter bins and cigarette butt bins installed around the City at strategic locations, including shopping centres and parks, which are regularly serviced by Council's operational staff.
- A street sweeping program where streets are swept every 6 weeks.
- Gross pollutant traps installed on the outlets of its drainage infrastructure preventing litter from entering into the natural creek environment.
- A graffiti removal program resourced through a volunteer program.
- Collaboratively working with Zero Waste SA on their Zeus Program where data about illegal dumping of litter is quantified and mapped back to them before being removed.
- Two regional dog-friendly parks containing litter and dog waste bag dispensers. These services are replicated along the linear park network and within popular reserves.
- Litter education programs delivered in partnership with KESAB to schools within the municipality.
- A combination of programmed and reactive cleaning of pits and drains contributing to the maintenance of the drainage system, helping to reduce the incidence of blockages that cause flooding and asset damage.
- Ongoing education regarding the reduction of litter to residents, businesses and schools. CTTG provides community education through a variety of litter prevention activities including:
 - CTTG hosted a number of 'puppet shows' to the local primary schools encouraging composting and litter reduction and educating students to the environmental damage that can be caused by littering.
 - Waste free lunch pack day was also encouraged through this forum.
- Council's building officers are responsible for ensuring building sites and developments have appropriate measures in place to control and contain litter, waste and stormwater pollution.
- Council participates in, and supports Clean-Up Australia Day each year by organising groups of staff and volunteers to collect litter. Council also collects and disposes of the waste at the conclusion of the event.

Category: Resources Recovery and Waste Management

The City of Tea Tree Gully is committed to reducing its waste environmental impact by assisting the community to minimise waste production, increasing recycling and organic waste diversion rates, finding alternatives to landfill disposal and meeting statutory requirements. Council works closely with several prominent South Australian organisations to ensure effective recycling services are available to residents, businesses and council operations alike.

Initiatives, programs and partnerships include:

- Joint contract documentation with adjacent Councils for the waste/recycling program of the kerbside collected material, reducing documentation costs, ensuring best practice and market share to obtain competitive pricing.
- Implementation of a cost-efficient three-bin waste management system to address issues including contamination rates, capacity and user friendliness.
- Implementation of a kitchen organics collection program in conjunction with the green organic program, capable of achieving the State Government's target for diversion rates from landfill.
- Providing advocacy and leadership to contain and manage waste generation at its source.

Waste Infrastructure

- Council hosts E-waste Collection Days and 2010, a record 65 tonnes of computer, home entertainment and other equipment was collected to be dismantled into recyclable components through Council's partnership with Zero Waste SA. Council also runs a subsidised E-waste collection for its residents through E-Cycle Recovery.
- City of Tea Tree Gully partners Aussie Recycling Program (ARP), enabling residents to recycle their unwanted mobile phones. More than 1,000 phones have been collected by CTTG since commencing in November 2005.
- Residents benefit from a fortnightly green organics service and a free fortnightly 'Envirocare Sunday' for the disposal of large volumes of green waste. Green material is then processed into mulch and distributed across the city for verges, landscapes and reserves for soil moisture conservation and weed suppression.
- The City of Tea Tree Gully provides a residential at-call hard waste collection service by appointment requesting a pick-up of metal and other hard waste from their properties.

Waste Education

- Partnering with KESAB (a not-for-profit organisation), Council offers educational seminars on waste through KESAB enabling residents and council staff to participate in its popular education program which provides tours of waste management facilities.
- The 2012 waste collection calendar also introduces the option for food and pet waste disposal through the green organics kerbside service.
- A booklet for residents about correct green/recyclable/waste disposal was created in partnership with KESAB, Cleanaway and the City of Tea Tree Gully.
- KESAB's 'Wipe Out Waste' has also enjoyed another successful year with CTTG by way of 14 schools/preschools participating in programs including papermaking, visits to State-wide recycling, school staff training and recycle relays.

Integration and Partnerships

- The City of Tea Tree Gully partners with Zero Waste, E-Cycle Recovery and Jeffries (compost, soil and mulch experts) where residents can purchase products at a discounted rate.
- The City also sends paper and cardboard waste collected from residents to Integrated Waste Services, for processing by Visy Recycling.
- Council also has recycling services in place for the collection of paper and cardboard from the Civic Centre, including the library and learning centre complex, some community centres and other sites.

Category: Environmental Innovation and Protection

The City of Tea Tree Gully's value of the environment is reflected in the City's 30 year master plan. Reserves, wetlands and habitat areas were identified as a primary theme and 33 reserves are identified as sites of high ecological importance. The Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2015 and supporting Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2015 set the management direction for the protection and enhancement of the City's biodiversity. Key programs and initiatives include:

Biodiversity initiatives

Actions completed since the adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy include:

- The 2011 Botanical Survey of Tea Tree Gully Conservation Sites and initiating the native plant information brochures for community education on local plants.
- An ongoing works plan of revegetation work along its major creek lines and escarpments with extensive plantings occurring each year along Dry Creek, Cobbler Creek and the River Torrens.
- The City of Tea Tree Gully was instrumental in the development of the Native Vegetation Marker Scheme in partnership with the Local Government Association of South Australia, The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the City of Burnside. This scheme has since been adopted by a number of metropolitan Adelaide councils.

Community Engagement

Partnerships between the community and Council regarding environmental actions include:

- Promoting the unity of Earth Hour to the community
- The Planet Ark National Tree Day is open to all members of the public to join together and get hands-on for the environment
- School children planting for UNEP World Environment Day
- Toddlers are experiencing and learning about biodiversity with native animals from Zoos
- The local plants for local gardens initiative – which promotes the use of endemic plant species for private gardens with a subsidised plant purchase
- Better Earth Project is a partnership with conservation volunteers – trainees will plant 650 plants in the reserve prior to the Planet Ark National Tree Day event
- Ardtornish Primary School and the establishment of a butterfly garden on Gifford Reserve
- Creek project in Gifford Reserve – removal of willows and ash trees along the creek edge and planting reeds and sedges creating basins or waterholes for amphibians and water birds.

Category: Water Conservation

Based on the strategic directions set six years ago with regard to a long term water use reduction, the Council of Tea Tree Gully has implemented an Integrated Water Resource Management Strategy as part of a corporate process to ensure its water security. Council has achieved its primary water security goals and is well progressed in maturing its water management network in an operational sense. This strategy has favourably placed Council in a position where it has reduced its water use from approximately 900Megalitres per annum (MLp/a) to approximately 450MLp/a.

The recycled water (stormwater and treated waste water) generated from these activities now gives Council access to in excess of 1000MLp/a of water for use by Council, local schools, future developments, sporting groups, businesses and other councils who may wish to source additional water supplies.

Key initiatives include:

- Reducing water use through efficiencies, technology, replacement and upgrading of water infrastructure, while at the same time replacing potable (mains) water with alternative water sources.
- A number of the water security initiatives have provided multiple benefits for the community such as the creation of wetlands for collection and treatment of stormwater, creation of new water features, improved biodiversity and habitat and provision of enhanced open space amenity as well as passive recreational activity opportunities.
- The construction of 8 wetlands, 10 managed aquifer recharge schemes and 33 km of ring main to collect and distribute recycled stormwater.
- The development of a sewer mining and treatment facility to produce Class A recycled water. Council has established very significant waste water treatment infrastructure to not only receive common effluent from non-sewered residential areas, but can also tap into mains sewerage to further bolster the volume of water that can be treated to generate additional water supplies (this capacity will reduce the load on the SA Water sewer network).
- Undertaking water efficient measures at all its community buildings which include dual flush toilets and flow restriction washes in all taps.
- Converting all the toilets in the Civic Centre to rainwater by collecting roof runoff, storing it and then returning it to the building.
- The upgrade and modification of the depot wash bay to treat and recycle the water used at this facility.
- Implementing a strategy of water efficient landscapes for all rectification works, reserve upgrades and new reserve developments.
- Encouraging Water Sensitive Urban Design within all new developments.
- Replacement of existing irrigation infrastructure with sub-surface irrigation as well as all new installation.

The City of Tea Tree Gully has worked hard to become a 'Water Sensitive City'; that integrates water supply, wastewater, storm water and the built urban environment to become a sustainable community.

Category: Energy Innovation

The following innovative energy initiatives have been undertaken by Council:

Renewable Energy Initiatives

- The installation of solar panel arrays on a number of Council facilities such as the Golden Grove Recreation and Arts Centre, as well various Community Centres.
- Council has installed a vertical wind turbine which is connected to a local community building producing approximately half its energy needs.
- Council generates energy from landfill gas which is connected straight to the grid through a partnership with EDL and is looking to supply to one of Council's main operation centres by this means.
- At Council's WaterWorld aquatic recreation centre, swimming pool water is heated by solar energy as it passes through 56,908 metres of black rubber tubing on the building rooftops..
- Other recent projects which benefit both residents and the environment include a changeover of CRT computer monitors to LCD screens (reducing energy use by two-thirds) and retrofitting the lighting system at the Civic Centre and community facilities.
- VODs (voltage optimisation devices) have been installed at both the civic and art centres, which has the potential to save around 10% on energy consumption at these community facilities.
- The "Solar Easy Program" allowed residents of Eastern Region Councils to participate in a bulk solar panel purchase ensuring competitive rates with assured quality.
- Council has also undertaken a number of energy audits of its facilities to better understand the opportunities for renewable and energy efficiencies at these sites.

Energy and Climate Change Education

- Partnership with the Australian Government's Solar Cities Program has allowed residents to trial a range of energy-saving products and to benefit from special offers such as smart meters, reduced tariffs on home energy use and energy-efficiency home assessments.
- The Civic Centre, has a photovoltaic (PV) installation on the roof of its Learning Centre. Solar energy generation and savings achieved can be viewed by the public on a real-time screen.

Category: Heritage and Culture

Key initiatives and highlights include:

- The Tea Tree Gully Township Project is consulting with the community about ways that will best preserve and highlight the district's most coherent historical precinct including the district's rich Aboriginal history.
- The Tea Tree Gully and Districts Historical Society were formed in partnership with the City of Tea Tree Gully Library ten years ago.
- Built heritage is an important part of the City of Tea Tree Gully's heritage and signage explaining their historical importance is on many of the significant buildings. The Council have also renovated the former Council Chambers, a building which is both architecturally and culturally significant.
- The community of the City of Tea Tree Gully take part in many celebrations of historically significant events. These include a very high and growing participation in ANZAC Day Dawn services each year. The Local History Service at the Council Library is partnering with the Historical Society, and a local school on a project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of ANZAC in 2015.
- The Highercombe Hotel Museum is an example of the community coming together to protect and preserve significant buildings. The building was threatened with demolition in the 1970s and concerned community members rescued the building and have maintained it through a team of dedicated volunteers. The Highercombe Hotel Museum records and displays culturally significant artefacts and works proactively with other cultural institutions such as the City of Tea Tree Gully Library.

Council's annual Reconciliation Week activities incorporated a range of free events, cultural performances and activities including:

- Discussion groups (held on National Sorry Day) during which Indigenous people provided insight into their lives and the impact of colonisation on their families and communities. Speakers have included members of the Stolen Generation.
- A flag raising ceremony for the Aboriginal flag (which now flies permanently at Council's Civic Centre).
- Art exhibitions featuring traditional and contemporary works created by local artists with proceeds from sales going to the artists.
- An exhibition of banners and T-shirts from the Mari Yerta Men's and Young Men's Aboriginal Corporation related to the Just Too Deadly Awards (annual awards recognising ATSI students graduating from years 7 and 12).
- Weaving and painting workshops for all ages at various locations led by Aboriginal artists from Marra Dreaming (a local Indigenous art co-operative).
- A free film day which included a showing of Rabbit Proof Fence.

Category: Young Legends

Highlights include:

- The City of Tea Tree Gully celebrates, encourages and promotes the positive profiling of its young people through the City's Youth and School Industry Awards which are in their fifth year. The Awards cover 9 categories and recognise the important role that young people play in the community and the development of positive links in learning and earning.
- The City of Tea Tree Gully also conducts school planting days throughout the year. Students from local schools are supervised by Council staff to plant shrubs and trees at various locations throughout the City.
- Council's library runs a number of programs aimed at primary school students:
 - With a focus on sustainability, library staff will highlight picture books that emphasise water as a precious resource. Looking at the water cycle and conservation and how school children can help their family and community by saving water. (Junior Primary & Upper Primary)
 - A look at life on the farm, with a focus on South Australian produce, sustainability and impact.
- Outdoor Environmental Classroom programs include:
 - Council officers worked in collaboration with primary schools adjacent Wynn Vale Dam to establish an outdoor environmental classroom.
 - Council donated macro-invertebrate kits consisting nets, binoculars, trays, bug viewers and other equipment to 5 local primary schools to promote young people's involvement in biodiversity observation data collection. Data collected will then be shared between participating schools to build a bigger picture of their site, catchment or region.