



Sustainable Cities 2012 –Queensland

Recipient: Redland City Council

Population: approximately 139,000 people

Location: 40km south east of Brisbane, along the southern coast of Moreton Bay

Category: Community Action and Partnerships

Redlands 2030 Community Plan provides a long-term plan for creating a better future for its community through partnerships and contributions from local residents, businesses and organizations. The plan expresses shared visions and values and the intention of the plan is to guide the decisions and actions of Redlands City Council (RCC) and inform ongoing reviews of strategies and services over the next 20 years.

Key project, programs and initiatives include:

- The Community Gardens initiative provides support to community groups wanting to start up a community garden in their local area. The revised Open Space Plan (still in draft) will identify sites across the city suitable for community gardens and encourage communities to get active and involved.
- The Council partners with members of the community who work together to achieve coordinated conservation outcomes on Council land through the Community Bushcare Program. There are 43 individual Bushcare groups with over 300 participants.
- Council have dispensed 7213 plants through the Habitat Protection Program, registered 31.42 hectares of new Land for Wildlife habitat through partnerships with private landholders and businesses, and cleared many hectares of weeds. There are 507 current agreements in place with landholders to enhance environmental outcomes within Redland City.
- The Donald Simpson Centre - A facility for Over 50's owned by RCC and operated by an independent not for profit company that receives some assistance from Council in terms of an operating subsidy. Staff members are assisted by over 140 volunteers
- Redlands 24 hour Wildlife Rescue - RCC manages and coordinates a 24hr wildlife rescue service for the Redlands community. This service is operated by volunteers and includes a fully funded wildlife ambulance for rescues during the night and a phone service to link up members of the public with qualified wildlife carers.
- Koala Watch - The community are able to provide their daily sightings of koalas either by phoning the information in to IndigiScapes or entering the data directly onto the RCC web database.
- Wildlife School Programs - RCC wildlife officers visit local schools for students of different ages to appreciate understand and help monitor the local koala population.

Category: 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

The Council aims to develop positive relationships and behaviour change within the community through its promotion of new recycling initiatives and advertising. Through its support of Clean Up Australia Day, RCC has developed strong partnerships with Keep Australia Beautiful Australia and the

wider community, including local school and youth groups and community volunteers including many Bushcare groups.

Key programs include:

- Council helps to coordinate Clean Up Australia Day locally with the provision of bulk bins, local events and fee exemptions for volunteers throughout the community.
- RCC helps reduce illegal dumping around charity bins through the provision of Recycle World reuse shop. Residents can dispose of saleable items at the two mainland transfer stations for free that are then available for people to purchase. Management for this service goes to tender and is currently run by a local business. Household recyclables can also be disposed of for free at Councils' transfer stations.
- Council provides numerous dog off-leash areas throughout the Redlands. Residents who use these facilities are provided with bags to clean up after their pets.
- RCC arranges additional servicing of bins throughout peak periods such as the Easter and Anzac Day. RCC is in the process of rolling out new Public Place Recycling (PPR) bins throughout the Redlands. There are recycling facilities in many of the RCC parks and foreshores, but in line with RCC's Sustainable Resources from their Waste Strategy, we will see many more being rolled out in the coming years.
- Council trialled and installed 8 public place recycling (PPR) bins and signage throughout the Cleveland village streetscape as "Cluster One" of the funding arrangement. During 12/13 approximately 10 more PPR bins will be installed throughout various streetscapes and parks to encourage visitors to dispose of waste correctly.

Category: Resources Recovery and Waste Management

Key actions include:

Recycling

- Implementation of a mattress recycling trial with a local mattress manufacturer diverting approximately 45 mattresses per month from landfill.
- Over 62% of material bought in to the Transfer Stations is sent to recycling or reuse.
- RCC is collecting polystyrene at two locations for recycling.
- The Council has introduced a new kerbside greenwaste collection for residents collecting approximately 1100 tonnes of greenwaste through a fortnightly collection. Over 5600 households (10%) have opted to have a greenwaste collection.
- Development of internal waste minimisation project – assessing and initiating a recycling service for Council's external workforce capturing greenwaste, tyres, scrap metal and other recyclables, phasing out of under desk bins and installation of a "bin station" which includes recycling options, sending all Council hardfill/builders rubble materials to a local recycling plant.
- To increase away from home recycling throughout parks and streetscapes in the Redlands a further 10 bins and 6 waste enclosures have been planned under the Public Place recycling program.
- Production of an information flyer for residents and visitors at North Stradbroke Island for peak holiday (and peak waste generation) periods.

Hazardous Waste

- The RCC holds four hazardous waste collection days each year where residents can dispose of their hazardous waste for free. Hazardous waste such as motor oil and pesticides can be recycled for free all year round at Council transfer stations.

Waste management

- Development of a 10 bin menu option for residential properties. Residents have the choice to downsize waste and recycling bins, or to upsize their recycling bin dependant on their own needs. Over 6,200 households have made a bin exchange.
- Rebranding of waste collection trucks to match bin lid colours and for ease of identification for residents.
- Rollout of National Standard (AS4123.7-2006) bin lid colours in order to increase recognition of recycling and waste bins for the transient populations.

- Ongoing contracting of Recycle World, the “tip shop” a service that saves approximately 1200 tonnes per annum of materials from landfill.
- RecycleWorld (Council’s “tip shop”) has diverted over 1200 tonnes of reusable material from landfill.
- RCC has partners with and developed closer working relationships with recyclers including Action Plastics and Mr Mattresses.

Category: Environmental Innovation and Protection

Redland City Council is committed to protecting the natural environment. It acknowledges that the environment does not recognise property borders and only through partnerships with private landholders and businesses can Redlands achieve desired environmental outcomes. The level of partnership between Council and the community has allowed Redlands to achieve innovative environmental actions and outcomes in south-east Queensland.

Key programs and actions include:

Redlands IndigiScapes Centre

- Redland City Council provides support for the IndigiScapes Centre located at Capalaba which opened in 2000. This centre is an environmental education hub for the Redlands and showcases local native plants of the Redlands through its landscaped botanic gardens and bushland tracks.
- The Council provides high quality environmental education programs at the centre.
- Through extension programs run from the IndigiScapes centre, the Council have achieved extensive bushland maintenance and restoration on both council and private properties. This work has enhanced wildlife corridors, coastal and riparian areas and reserves.
- Recent projects include:
 - An audio tour based on the lives of koalas and bandicoot aimed at 6-12 year olds.,
 - As part of the playground redevelopment, a ‘flying-fox walk’ is designed with stepping stones that provide fun information about flying-foxes. Children can finish off by ‘flying’ on the actual flying-fox playground equipment.
- The Redlands IndigiScapes Centre has been providing wildlife conservation training/education with visiting Japanese University students (veterinary, research and zoo keepers). These visits are in conjunction with the Australia-Japan Wildlife Conservation and Education Foundation (AJWCEF).
- The Redlands IndigiScapes Centre is also entering into a partnership to provide a native bush tucker lunch, wildlife conservation presentation and wildlife tour of the Redlands for 51 students and 3 staff from Nippon Vet and Life Science University organised by the University of Queensland Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ).
- IndigiScapes has also participated in a pilot two-way broadcasting education program with students at Kani Technical High School. This project is an environmental and social study programme using foreign languages for primary and junior high school students via two-way live internet broadcasting between Australia and Japan.

Environmental Extension Programs

- The Habitat Protection Programs work with over 507 RCC landholders to achieve significant environmental outcomes in the Redlands. In the last year we have dispensed 7213 plants through the programs, registered 31.42 hectares of new Land For Wildlife (LFW) habitat and cleared many hectares of weeds. The six programs target different areas of the Redlands (urban and rural) and tackle different environmental problems (such as weeds, waterways health and erosion).
- Redland City Council’s Bushcare Program partners with members of the community who work together to achieve coordinated conservation outcomes on Council land. There are 43 individual Bushcare groups with over 300 participants.
- The Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue program is a rescue service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, dependant on volunteers and financial support from RCC.

Category: Water Conservation

Innovative water conservation initiatives undertaken by Council include:

Irrigation

- Council has upgraded its irrigation systems for parks and sports fields. Irrigation can be operated remotely which enables better management of water usage and savings, and the immediate turn off of reported leaks..
- Council is installing underground moisture sensors so that they are able to improve their information on soil moisture levels. This measure will be used to manage irrigation as well as a baseline for the when the fields are too wet to play.
- All new public toilets are installed with water tanks, plumbed back into the toilets.

Council buildings

- Council has retrofitted dual flush toilets in all RCC building's including public amenities. All buildings including public amenities with urinals operate under Water Efficiency Management Plans (WEMP).
- An on-going program of installation of water tanks at key sites has led to significant reductions in water usage across the city;
 - A 30,000L rainwater tank was installed at Council's vehicle washing facility, rainwater is harvested from the roof, making the vehicle wash 99% self sufficient since installation and saving 185kL per annum.
 - 2 rainwater tanks have been installed at RCC's Environmental Education Centre to utilise at the nursery and toilets. IndigiScapes has been fitted with water efficient devices throughout, including rain sensors for plant watering in the nursery
 - Three 4,000L and one 3,000L bladders are used to harvest rainwater from the Administration Building roof and the water is pumped by solar power to the air conditioning chiller plant room for use during the hottest month of the year, and then feeds the toilets on the second floor for the balance of the year, saving 115kL per annum.
 - Council is currently installing six 7,000 litre water tanks at the Animal Pound for use in cleaning the kennels – anticipated saving 188kL per annum.
- A hybrid chiller has replaced the air conditioning water cooling towers at the Council administration (air cooled for the majority of the year and then supplemented by water for the peak months)– saving 1.5mL per annum.
- Monitoring and reporting occurs at 3 main Council building to ensure efficient building operation.
- The combined results of the water saving initiative in the main administration building at Cleveland are estimated to be saving 6.0ML per annum at that site alone.

Category: Energy Innovation

Council is committed to addressing energy innovation and operational changes are implemented when upgrades are required to buildings.

Key initiatives regarding its buildings include:

- Council installed voltage reduction units in the Cleveland Library Building, to reduce power to fluorescent lighting. An improved version of this technology was installed in the rest of Council's main buildings. Once lights are switched on the voltage reduction unit reduces power to the lights by up to 30%.
- Air conditioning chillers have been replaced at several Council buildings with energy efficient model and the run times of the air conditioning plant has been reduced in line with RCC core hours.
- Motion sensors have been installed in meeting rooms in the main administration building. LED lighting is currently being installed in low occupancy buildings such as the Island depots and public halls.
- Council has installed one on-demand and one heat pump. All other units in main buildings have been installed with a timer to control when water heats.

- Council is benefiting from several years of initiatives and this has resulted in a significant decrease in total kWh in electricity used across all of its buildings.

Category: Heritage and Culture

Redland City Council is proactive in its support for cultural projects in the city, and is guided by the Cultural Plan for the Redlands which is a ten year strategy to forge connections between the cultural domain, and the wider civic and community development responsibilities.

Initiatives in support of this program include:

- Council support for the Redlands Art Gallery and Redlands Performing Art Centre, two institutions that are important to the cultural life of the Redlands and prioritise works by local artists. The Redlands IndigiScapes Centre also runs specific outdoor art projects in its botanic gardens throughout the year.
- RCC has working relationships and provides in-kind support and financial support mainly in the form of grants to community heritage groups including:
 - Redlands Museum
 - North Stradbroke Island Museum
 - Russell, Karragarra, Lamb and Macleay (RKLM) Heritage Group
 - Coochiemudlo Island Heritage Group
 - Southern Moreton Bay Island Museum
- The Redlands has 3 heritage trails: Cleveland and Ormiston, North Stradbroke Island and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands – Coochiemudlo, Lamb, Macleay and Russell islands.
- There is a strong partnership and respect between Council and the North Stradbroke Island indigenous community. The Indigenous Land Use Agreement was signed with the Quandamooka people, setting out broad principles and mechanisms for how the parties will work together and meet responsibilities for mutual benefits.
- The local cultural community, including the arts community of the Redlands are very well interconnected and are encouraged. Council initiatives build partnerships and provide targeted support.

Category: Young Legends

- The Council IndigiScapes Centre at Capalaba offers a diverse range of environmentally focussed Young Citizen Programs designed to be flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of teachers and students. A selection of programs include bushcare awareness, endangered species, environmental issues, tree planting, bird friendly gardens and bushfood and medicines. Programs can be held in-school, at the centre or out on field excursions.
- One of the IndigiScape Centre programs is the Indigi Kids Club for kids aged 8 – 12 years who have an interest in the environment. Members get to participate in all kinds of fun activities and workshops based around learning about and helping to care for the Redlands environment. 34 kids are on the list. Activities so far have included an initial planning session and propagation activity; Ocean Life Education talk; Wildlife Take; weeding and planting activity; screen printing of Indigi Kids t-shirts; running a plant a seed stall at the Indigi Day Out weekend festival.
- Council implemented a 'free trees for schools' program which allocated budget for 100 free, locally native plants to each school in the Redlands. Council also provided expert free advice in implementing planting programs and managing the plants. The program resulted in over 2500 locally native plants going directly in the ground of local schools. The schools had complete freedom as to when they got their plants and how many at a time they took, so they could manage their maintenance in the most appropriate way.
- Council has an ongoing environmental education program with 91 visits to schools, or schools visiting IndigiScapes, and 3,351 student participants. Most of these activities are hands-on, designed to engage students with their environment far beyond the classroom.
- Council has developed strong partnerships with local private and public schools and 29 schools and 11 childcare centres in Redlands have partnered with Council in the past year for environmental education and tree planting activities.