

President's Message

THE NORTHERN SYDNEY Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is comprised of seven councils (Hunter's Hill, North Sydney, Willoughby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde, Hornsby and Lane Cove) in the northern part of Sydney which have voluntarily come together to address regional issues, work co-operatively for the benefit of the region, and advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform our communities on a few of our joint initiatives as part of our undertaking to work strategically as a local government alliance for the benefit of our communities.

One of the major issues facing Australia at the moment is climate change. While there is a great deal of policy debate at the state and federal levels of government, councils and their communities have rolled up their sleeves and got on with it. For example, all the NSROC councils have introduced energy and water savings plans for their council buildings. The NSROC councils have also introduced a wide range of actions to reduce their carbon footprint including the purchase of hybrid vehicles, introducing new waste recycling measures, developing new technologies for watering and lighting their sportsfields, and working closely with their communities and local businesses on programs to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

The Northern Sydney region is home to some of the most beautiful locations in Australia but they will only stay this way if we all take responsibility for managing our environment. The projects identified in this newsletter are only a small sample of the activities that are happening in the NSROC region

and there remains ample opportunity for everyone to get involved. If you want to do something to help combat climate change and improve the environmental sustainability of the region, contact your local council for further information.




Pat Reilly
Mayor of Willoughby Council
PRESIDENT OF NSROC



PHOTO: MARGARET WATERS

Free Home Energy Savings Assessments for Northern Sydney residents

HOUSEHOLDS IN THE Northern Sydney region are set to become Sydney's most energy efficient thanks to free energy saving programs now offered by several councils belonging to NSROC. Hornsby Shire, North Sydney and Willoughby City Councils have teamed up with water and energy conservation companies to provide free Energy Home Assessments for their residents.

The program is available to an unlimited number of residents. It involves qualified assessors visiting residents' homes to assess their water and energy use and provide ideas on how they can reduce their consumption and save money. Assessors can also supply and install AAA-rated showerheads and energy efficient light globes for free. Residents can also ask for advice on solar power, insulation, rainwater tanks and appliances which minimise energy use.

Australian households spend an average of \$1,500 per year on energy. Ninety per cent of the country's electricity comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal, which releases

greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The average household can save up to \$100 on water and energy bills, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to one tonne annually just by installing one AAA-rated showerhead.

Fitting just one energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb will save around \$50 on electricity bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by half a tonne over the bulb's lifetime.

Hornsby Shire Mayor Nick Berman said, "The Home Energy Savings Assessment program is a fantastic opportunity for residents to help the environment. It offers free, expert advice as well as devices to help residents save more water and energy. Every resident living within a participating council area should take advantage of the program."

For more information or to find out how to take part in the free Home Energy Savings Assessments Program residents should contact their local council. Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, City of Ryde and Hunter's Hill Councils hope to offer energy assessments soon.

Ten Years of Local Action on Climate Change

ICLEI – Cities for Climate Protection Program



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY on 5 June 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the successful Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Australia Program. The seven councils of NSROC are proud to have all been a part of the Program during the decade of local greenhouse action.

CCP Australia leads the world when it comes to taking local action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is the world's longest running local government greenhouse program, now incorporating 218 local government organisations representing 82 per cent of the Australian population.

Over the past decade the Australian Government has provided \$20 million of funding to assist local government combat climate change. Local Government have since reported savings of more than 8.8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of taking more than two million cars off the road for a year. No other environmental program in Australia has run for as long and achieved as much.

All seven NSROC councils have managed to complete Milestone 2 or higher, committing to achieve significant greenhouse reduction goals aimed at

providing a vision for future action on climate protection. Through various actions such as community greenwaste recycling, pool blankets for swimming pools and the purchasing of GreenPower for streetlights, NSROC councils have managed to abate a total of 269,405 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to date, almost one third of which was achieved in the 2005/06 year.

NSROC's participation in CCP demonstrates that practical local action can result in significant achievements that set a positive example for the rest of the global community.

Northern Sydney Eco Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Council website
5 Sept	7pm-8.30pm	Australia's Inconvenient Truth	lanecove.nsw.gov.au/climateproject
8 & 9 Sept	10am-4pm	Sustainable House Day	sustainablehouseday.com
15 Sept	10am-4pm	StreetFair	willoughby.nsw.gov.au
22 Sept	10am-12noon	Hot Water Workshop	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
22 Sept	10am-4pm	Spring Sustainability Expo	ryde.nsw.gov.au
8 Oct	6.30pm-8pm	Heating & Cooling the Home	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
13 Oct	10am-12noon	Demystifying Solar Power	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
14 Oct	10am-4pm	Sustainability Lane @ The Lane Cove Village Fair	lanecove.nsw.gov.au/sustainabilitylane
25 Oct	6pm-8pm	Library Wine & Cheese Environmental Night	ryde.nsw.gov.au
27 Oct	10am-12noon	Hot Water Workshop	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
27 Oct	10am-12.30pm	Non Toxic Solutions for a Chemical Free Home	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
27 Oct	1.00pm-3.30pm	Compost & Wormfarming, from scraps to soil improver	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
27 Oct	10am-2pm	Children's Festival 2007 - Making our World Clean & Green	northsydney.nsw.gov.au
28 Oct	10am-11am	Convert your Pool into a Pond Workshop	kmc.nsw.gov.au
31 Oct	3.45pm-8pm	Green Plumbing Workshop - Solar hot water	northsydney.nsw.gov.au
3 Nov	9am-3pm	Boronia Park Public School Eco Festival	huntershill.nsw.gov.au
10 Nov	10am-12noon	Heating & Cooling the Home	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
11 Nov	7.30am-10am	Birdwatchers' Breakfast	kmc.nsw.gov.au
11 Nov	10am-12.30pm	Compost & Wormfarming, from scraps to soil improver	hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Feb - Nov	Weekly/Monthly	Bushcare	northsydney.nsw.gov.au

HORNSBY
Mayor Berman



Councillor Delegate
Felicity Findlay

HUNTERS HILL
Mayor Hoopmann



Councillor Delegate
Ross Sheerin

KU-RING-GAI
Mayor Ebbeck



Councillor Delegate
Elaine Malicki

LANE COVE
Mayor Longbottom



Councillor Delegate
Rod Tudge

NORTH SYDNEY
Mayor McCaffery



Councillor Delegate
Nick Ritten

RYDE
Mayor Petch



Councillor Delegate
Edna Wilde

WILLOUGHBY
Mayor Reilly



Councillor Delegate
Terry Fogarty



For more information on NSROC go to www.nsroc.org or contact your local council.