

23 March 2011

Council's move to sustainable assets

Shoalhaven City Council is launching a new project to assess a selection of its buildings to identify opportunities for improved water and energy efficiencies.

A range of buildings such as public halls, youth centres, libraries, surf clubs, early childhood centres, aquatic centres, work depots and sporting facilities will be assessed over the coming months.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said that Council continues to work towards a sustainable Shoalhaven.

"Incorporating water and energy efficiencies in all our public buildings is an important step in reducing our environmental footprint as well as helping Council to reduce its operating costs," Cllr Green said.

"Council is now planning to work with community groups who are using Council buildings to include in their asset management plans any capital improvements, operational requirements and other desired enhancements that relate to energy and water efficiencies."

Once these sustainability assessments are complete, Council will use the information to prioritise projects using criteria based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

This information will allow Council to support submissions for funding made by community groups. In July last year Council supported an application for funding from the Ulladulla Children's Centre. The Centre was successful in gaining a \$22,000 grant from the State government for ESD retrofits including solar hot water, rainwater tanks, insulation and dual flush toilets.

"It is also a great advantage if groups have their own funds raised and ready to put toward any funding programs that become available," Cllr Green said.

Funding for the assessments over five months has been made available from the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water through the Local Council Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payments program. This program aims to assist councils invest in additional actions and programs that improve waste and sustainability outcomes across their local government areas.

For further information on the sustainability assessments, you can contact Council's Ecologically Sustainable Development officer on (02) 4429 3467.

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