

21st June 2011

Bay and Basin Leisure Centre sustainability funding

The Bay and Basin leisure Centre has been successful in securing funding of 70 thousand dollars to upgrade its energy efficient processes.

The funding stems from the Waste Service Performance Improvement Payment program that assists councils to improve waste and sustainability outcomes within their local government areas.

Heating water and running air-conditioning systems are the most expensive energy uses in our homes. Council's leisure centres are heating millions of litres of water for 24 hours a day and running air conditioning units for 14 hours each day, so improvements to the way leisure centres use energy is a continual and vital process.

This is part of council's over all vision of reducing its carbon foot print and energy consumption in order to protect our natural resources and to show leadership in ecologically sustainable development and living.

Over the past five years, Council aquatic facilities have been working on their environmental strategy in offsetting the demand for heated water gas and electricity and water.

Stage one of the process was the installation of solar heating such as evacuated cells which heats water for pool water and heating for the showers.

Stage two was the implementation for rainwater harvesting to use as a top up for councils pool water. This offsets the huge amount of council water usage, as one backwash of the filtration system uses in excess of 20 thousand litres of water. The rain water harvesting tank holds 160 thousand litres.

Stage 3 is site power generation with photovoltaic solar cells. The current system recently installed at Bay and Basin Leisure Centre is 14.1 kilowatt system, which will further reduce energy need for Bay and Basin Leisure Centre

In the upcoming years Council will be building on this system to double it capabilities in attempt to further reduce council's carbon footprint. These energy efficient and sustainable practices are planned to be implemented at all of council's year round facilities over the next few years implementing similar systems at Ulladulla Leisure Centre and Sussex Inlet Aquatic Centre.

For further information on Council's Aquatics manger Kevin Norwood, on (02) 44293538, or visit Council's internet site at www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au.

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