

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting held in the Conference Room, Operational Services Area, Level One of Civic Centre,
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES

- PRESENT: Crs D Mutton, A Smith and I Von Stanke
- APOLOGIES: Nil
- NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Cr B Shearing
- PRESIDING MEMBER: The Environmental Sustainability Officer invited nominations for the position of Presiding Member for this Sub-Committee.
- Cr Smith nominated Cr Von Stanke as Presiding Member.
- There being no further nominations Cr Von Stanke was nominated Presiding Member for this Sub-Committee.
- COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer
Team Leader - Administration (Operational Services), Sally Wilson
- COUNCIL MEMBERS
AS OBSERVERS: Cr M White

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THIS LAND.

- MINUTES: Cr Smith moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 17th December 2013 be taken as read and confirmed.
- Cr Mutton seconded Carried
- QUESTIONS: (a) With Notice - nil submitted.
(b) Without Notice - nil received.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Renewable Energy Options Investigation - Ref. AF11/407

Goal: Environment
Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) One of the Environmental Sustainability Programs tasks is to conduct a Renewable Energy Options Investigation. The purpose of the report is to investigate various renewable energy options in a holistic sense, and outline Council's options with regards to utilising renewable energy for all or part of its electricity use. The intended outcomes of the investigation include:
- Financial savings on energy costs;
 - Insulate Council from further rises in energy costs;
 - Gradually increase Council's utilisation of renewable energy;
 - Move Council towards true sustainability in line with the Natural Step Framework.

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This investigation is now complete and the report was attached to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee agenda;

- (b) at the 20th May 2008 Council meeting, Council formally adopted the Natural Step Framework (TNS). The TNS system conditions indicate that Council should reduce, and eventually eliminate, its contribution of substances into the environment that do not break down quicker than they are contributed. This includes greenhouse gases. The majority of Council's electricity comes from power plants that burn either coal or gas, generating greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) when considering utilising renewable energy the first step is to improve energy efficiency, to reduce reliance on electricity. Energy use should be reduced as much as reasonably practicable, then the balance provided by renewable energy. In 2011 Council had energy audits done on most components of its major buildings, with the largest omission being a technical analysis of the Civic Centre HVAC systems. A number of the actions highlighted in the 2011 audits are still outstanding.
- (d) the second step is to reduce reliance on fossil-fuelled electricity. Council currently purchases 20% green power. Council paid \$8,016 in 2012-2013 for green power. If Council wishes to increase its percentage of green power then under the current contract with the supplier it would cost an extra 50% for every 10% increase in green power. For example, if Council chose to purchase 40% green power then it would cost approximately \$16,000 per year. If Council wished to purchase 100% green power it would cost five times the amount that Council currently pays, hence it would cost approximately \$40,000 per year. Green power rates tend to rise in the same manner as conventional electricity, and there is no payback period;
- (e) the main alternative to purchasing green power is for Council to install its own renewable energy systems - solar, wind or biomass. The benefits of this approach include a payback period and long term financial savings, as well as publicly demonstrating to the community that Council supports and utilises renewable energy;
- (f) the most likely Council site for solar is the Library. Due to the pattern of use and the configuration of the roof, almost all of the electricity generated would be utilised in the facility. It is a high profile site, and the most highly patronised community facility. A display screen could be incorporated with the installation, which would display current and historical electricity generation and usage, providing a community education component;
- (g) a solar system on the Library could cost from \$8,900 for a small 5 kW system, up to \$105,000 for a larger 60 kW system. The payback period depends on the capital costs and size of the system, but could be as low as 7 years. In terms of financing the capital costs there are two options. One is outright purchase, the other is a lease arrangement. With the lease arrangement there is no upfront capital cost, the system is leased for 5-10 years and then owned by Council, essentially a kind of lease-to-own arrangement. This arrangement could deliver a net financial savings as quickly as year two after installation, with no expensive capital outlay;
- (h) regarding generating electricity from wind, a wind turbine may not be appropriate in amongst buildings, due to turbulence issues, but may be suitable to be placed on reserves with adequate clearance. Council has a number of reserves where a small wind turbine could be situated with minimal disturbance. Council could investigate whether it would be financially viable to install a wind turbine on one of Council's reserves. TAFE SA could be invited to be involved in this investigation;
- (i) when current hot water systems reach their end of life and are required to be replaced, renewable alternatives should be investigated - including solar, heat pump, or biomass systems.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) commencing in the 2014-2015 financial year, Council endeavour to establish an annual budget item of \$50,000 for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. These funds should be used for actions focused on delivering the greatest financial savings, in the shortest time period. Energy efficiency measures should be considered first;
- (c) the outstanding actions from the 2011 energy audits be completed, and a technical audit of the HVAC systems of the Civic Centre be undertaken. These actions are to be funded from the budget item referred to in recommendation (b);
- (d) subject to an allocation in the 2014/2015 adopted Budget, Council release a tender for the installation of a possible lease arrangement solar power system on the entire roof of the Library;
- (e) when current hot water systems reach their end of life and are required to be replaced, renewable alternatives are to be investigated;
- (f) investigate whether it would be financially viable to install a wind turbine on one of Council's reserves, and invite TAFE SA to be involved in this investigation.

Cr Smith seconded

Carried

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Aquatic Centre Biomass Boiler Case Study - Ref. AF11/407

Goal: Environment

Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) In September 2013 Council's contractors installed a new biomass boiler at the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre. Council has been a leader amongst local government in terms of utilising renewable energy to generate heat. The biomass boiler at the Aquatic Centre utilises biomass to create heat, which in turn heats the water for the pools. Utilising biomass to heat the pools not only supports local industry and is carbon neutral, it also has significantly cheaper operating costs than a gas boiler;
- (b) there has been significant interest in the project from other local governments and other organisations. In order to showcase the project a case study has been written about the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre biomass boiler installation (copy was attached to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee agenda). This case study can be put on the City of Mount Gambier website and promoted to interested parties.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) Council approve the publishing of the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre Biomass Boiler Case Study on the City of Mount Gambier website and promote.

Cr Smith seconded

Carried

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Reports for information - Ref. AF12/377*Goal: Environment**Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation*

The Presiding Member reported the following for information:

(a) Workshop: Identify Common Weed Species and Native Plants

The City of Mount Gambier is partnering with Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) for the delivery of a workshop being run by Neville Bonney. The workshop is an Introduction to Identifying the Ferals of the Bush in the South East of SA. Participants will be able to view specimens and be shown the botanical differences. What is a Native Plant, What is not. A useful workshop for those interested in Native Seed collection, Local and State Government employees who carry out weed control programs, Native Plant Identification, or those just wanting to learn more about the health of our Natural Bushland. Details of the workshop are below:

Identify Common Weed Species and Native Plants

Date: Saturday the 22nd of March

Time: 9:00am to 12:30pm

Where: NGT Community Nursery, Vansittart Park, Mount Gambier

RSVP by 19th March to: Ken Baker, NGT Community Nursery Co-ordinator, ken.baker@natureglenelg.org.au, 0437 597 685

Cr Smith moved it be recommended:**(a) The report be received and item (a) above be noted for information.****Cr Mutton seconded****Carried****(b) Environmental Sustainability Program 2014 - Project Progress**

The current table outlining projects for 2014 is attached to the agenda for Members information.

Cr Smith moved it be recommended:**(a) The report be received and item (b) above be noted for information.****Cr Mutton seconded****Carried****MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Nil**

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2014.

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PRESIDING MEMBERThe meeting closed at 8:17 a.m.