

Hello All,

Due to technical difficulties, I was unable to send the May 2008 e-newsletter. I have compensated by providing more content than usual this month.

Congratulations to all Councils who are members of Sydney Water's award winning Every Drop Counts Program. Through water saving initiatives and water restrictions, Sydney councils have collectively cut their water use by almost 20 per cent since 2003. Standout councils were Rockdale City Council and Hornsby Shire Council, who are the first Government organisations to receive five-star ratings using Sydney Water's One-2-Five Water management diagnostic.

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/WhoWeAre/MediaCentre/MediaView.cfm?ID=459>

If you aren't already a member of Every Drop Counts, follow the link to learn more or register today:

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/InYourBusiness/EDCBusinessProgram.cfm>

Urban Sustainability Program Grants are open again and until 20 June 2008 (refer Section 6.) Anyone interested in developing WSUD or sustainable urban water management projects and who are in need of partners to strengthen their application should contact me as soon as possible. I am more than happy to provide comment on draft applications, though please give me a few days notice. Please also refer to Section 5 to find out more about WSROC's research proposal and call for partners.

It has been pretty hectic over the last two months arranging and finalising two events in Sydney and applying for grants from the NSW Environmental Trust (Stormwater Management Web Calculator and WSUD Short Course); and ARC Linkage (WSUD Life Cycle Cost Analysis). Thank you to project partners for all your efforts in finalising grants. Thank you also to Ryan Kane, a Student who has been working with me part time for the last two months while studying Masters of Planning (Focus - Environmental Sustainability) at UNSW.

The first event, which received an overwhelming response, was the Advancing the Design of Rain Gardens which will be held next week from 10th to 12th June 2008 at the Waterview Convention Centre in Bicentennial Park. I still have three places left in the 2nd Workshop (12 June 2008). First in best-dressed, payment can be provided after the event. For further information, refer

http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/index.php?option=com_attend_events&task=view&id=130&Itemid=37

The second event is the 2008 Sustainable Water Challenge. Award entries opened last week and will close on 08 August 2008. The awards celebrate leading NSW Councils who demonstrate innovation and commitment to sustainable urban water management and/or water sensitive urban design. Further information about how to enter is included in Section 1 below. I have introduced two new categories this year:

- Financial Incentives – for example internal revolving funds, regional tendering, subsidised resident loans (eg. no or low interest loans), community grant programs, residential rebate schemes, levy or tariff funded initiatives etc;
- Research Projects – projects which must promote cross sectoral partnerships (Government, Industry and Research) and tangible practical outputs (eg. guidelines, checklists, models, reports etc).

Regards, K.

Kate Black
Program Manager

The **May 2008 (No. 48) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) Sustainable Water Challenge 2008 (2.) FAWB – Practice Note (3.) NSW SIA – Stormwaternet (4.) City of Melbourne – Stormwater Targets (5.) EDO Scientific Experts Register (6.) Research Linkages & Opportunities (7.) Grants & Rebates (8.) Events Calendar (9.) Websites of Interest.

1. Sustainable Water Challenge 2008 – Entries Open

Entries have opened to submit projects to the 2008 Sustainable Water Challenge (SWC). The SWC is an opportunity for New South Wales (NSW) Councils to showcase local projects and gain recognition for their hard work and innovation. Projects must be undertaken directly or commissioned by councils situated in NSW only. All must demonstrate council's commitment to the sustainable management of water and/or wsud. There are two new categories this year – Financial Incentives and Research Projects. The SWC and the Site Visits will be held on the 18th and 19th September 2008. Registrations will open in July. In the meantime, please submit entries in accordance with the details at <http://www.wsud.org/swc.htm>

2. FAWB – Practice Note

The Facility for Advancing Water Biofiltration (FAWB) has prepared a Practice Note for the In Situ Measurement of Hydraulic Conductivity to assist practitioners with the assessment of the hydraulic performance of bioretention systems. The test method is designed to complement FAWB's Guidelines for Soil Filter Media in Bioretention Systems and is accompanied by a set of example calculations

(<http://www.monash.edu.au/fawb/products/obtain.html>). For the Practice Note, refer <http://www.monash.edu.au/fawb/products/index.html>

3. NSW SIA Stormwaternet –Email Chat Group

Last month, the NSW Stormwater Industry Association launched an email chat group for Council Officers, Consultants and Manufacturers. With over 132 members and growing, this is a fantastic resource that can be used by everyone associated with the Stormwater industry to ask questions, get advice and virtually network with members of the stormwater community. To Join refer

<http://groups.yahoo.com/search?query=stormwaternet> To learn more about the SIA go to <http://www.stormwater.asn.au/nsw/> or contact Bronwyn Davies, Administrative Officer on 1300 761 122.

4. City of Melbourne – Stormwater Quality Targets

Ever an environmental leader, City of Melbourne (CoM) should be commended for their work on developing a guideline for achieving stormwater pollutant reductions via WSUD. During the developmental process, CoM:

- Designed a fantastic communication tool (a ready reckoner points system) that helps staff and community to understand Total Suspended Solids when considering design and funding of WSUD works
- Set a target that will shape their "soon-to-be revised" WSUD Guidelines
- Recognised the water quality benefits that arise from water conservation works and which would be expanded upon in their 'City as a Catchment' project.

The reduction model is the first of its kind internationally and will be reviewed and updated after 18 months. City of Melbourne has even encouraged other Councils to replicate their work in the hope of gaining regionally significant benefits. Refer http://www.clearwater.asn.au/resources/663_1.pdf for a copy of the targets and/or the full council report at

http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/opm/bc/CTEE/meetings/EC_55_20080506.pdf

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority via the WSUD in Sydney Program is very interested in pursuing similar approaches within Sydney. I have already received interest from several councils, if anyone else is interested; please send me an email.

5. EDO – Scientific Experts Register

The Environmental Defender's Office is seeking scientific and technical experts with 10 or more years experience and PhD students in a range of technical fields to join the EDO Expert Register. Experts must be willing to assist the EDO and its clients on public interest environmental matters on a pro-bono and ad-hoc basis. Of particular interest are experts in surface and groundwater hydrology; water, noise and air pollution; aquatic ecology; public health; planning; and economics. Refer www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/science_expert.php.

The EDO is also seeking to develop relationships with research organisations and environmental consultancies interested in doing pro-bono work. Please contact Tom Holden, the EDO's Scientific Director on (02) 9262 6989 or at tom.holden@edo.org.au

6. Research Linkages & Opportunities

Opportunities to be involved in the development and/or delivery of research related projects are as follows. This is a great chance to expand individual and organisational networks and capacity through experience.

1. WSROC (<http://www.wsroc.com.au>) would like to develop a project that assesses the benefits (including performance) of stormwater and/or WSUD infrastructure. They are seeking partners from Government, Industry and Research Institutions who would like to be involved in the development of a regionally significant project scope. A proponent is also required to seek Urban Sustainability Program grants. **Please contact** Kate Black on (02) 9895 6206 or via kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au **by COB Monday, 09 June 2008.**
2. *Leadership* - The LGSA in partnership with Monash University is researching leadership authenticity in Australia, and common leadership interventions. They are offering NSW Councils an opportunity to receive Local Government specific information about our industry. There is no cost to council except time. Benefits include:
 - Gain valuable strategic information of key factors in leadership and cultural outcomes enabling you to plan leadership development more rigorously
 - Identify your organisation's level of leader contribution to employee engagement and creation of a climate for innovation and ethical behaviour in your employees.
 - Contribute to advancing research underpinning Australian leadership development.

Researchers are looking for leaders and followers to participate by completing an internet based leadership questionnaire (15-20 minutes). Leaders will then also complete a paper and pencil survey of 15-20 minutes duration. Please contact John Read at Monash University email John.Read@med.monash.edu.au. Otherwise, contact Darryl Rubiolo (LGSA) via 9242 4182 or darryl.rubiolo@lgsa.org.au

7. Grants & Rebates

Following are current Grants and Rebates Schemes that Councils may want to apply for and/or promote within their communities. As ever, anyone wanting to seek partners and/or input to grant applications, should send me an email. Please ensure you afford several days notice for comments.

Urban Sustainability Program - \$30 million is available in this round. Projects may be funded until 2010/2011. This round will be the last available for projects of 3 years duration. Refer <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/urbansustainability.htm>. Funding is available under two grant streams:

- Urban Sustainability Major Projects- which provides grant funding for urban sustainability projects implemented in partnership with other government agencies, local businesses, community groups and householders.
- Urban Waterways Initiative - which provides grant funding for projects addressing sustainability challenges within urban waterways. Priority catchments include Cooks, Georges, Hawkesbury-Nepean, Central Coast / Lower Hunter and Sydney Harbour.

Community Coastcare 2008 has now opened and all information including fact sheets, electronic application form, instructions for applicants and frequently asked questions are

now available on the Caring for our Country website

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare.html> . Applications must be received by 5.00 pm Friday 25 July 2008. Community Coastcare will provide two levels of funding:

- small grants up to \$50,000; and
- grants for larger-scale activities in high priority areas up to \$250,000.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts - Green Vouchers for Schools Program. Refer

<http://www.environment.gov.au/programs/greenvouchers/register/index.html> or contact the Australian Government on greenvouchers@nrm.gov.au or via 1800 020 625

Norman Wettenhall Foundation are offering Grants to the maximum of \$10,000 until 30 June 2008. Collaboration with a number of partners across a region are of special interest. Refer <http://www.nwf.org.au/> or contact Ms Elizabeth Mellick , Executive Officer on beth@nwf.org.au or via (03) 5472 1316. Project examples of those previously funded include:

- Supporting local communities to maintain or restore habitat
- Production of education kits;
- Publication and dissemination of research information essential to species preservation.

NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, Residential Rebate Scheme. The rebates are additional to any other rebate or incentive offer currently available to NSW residents. Hot water systems, insulation or rainwater tanks installed to comply with BASIX (the Building Sustainability Index) for new homes and major renovations are not eligible. Refer <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfund.htm> or email ccf@environment.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 361 967.

8. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled in the next few months:

FAWB - Advancing the Design of Rain Gardens - Waterview Convention Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney, 10th -12th June 2008. Refer

http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/index.php?option=com_attend_events&task=view&id=130&Itemid=37 .

- Climate Change, Sea Level Rise & Wetland Adaptations Workshop – Sydney Olympic Park, 5th -6th June 2008. Refer wetworkshop@sopa.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 9714 7888
- Urbanisation & Waterway Health – Policies and Processes for Management of Impacts – Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine coast, 17 June 2008 (9am to 5pm).
- Urbanisation and Waterway Health: Policies and Processes for Management of Impacts – Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast, 17 June 2008 (9am to 5pm). Refer flier attached.
- URBAN WATER REFORM: GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURES IN A CHALLENGING CLIMATE, 19 June 2008, Brisbane.
<http://www.awa.asn.au/Content/NavigationMenu2/Education/NationalInterestEvents/bJune08bUrbanWaterReform/default.htm>
- AUSTRALIAN WATER INDUSTRY ESSENTIALS, 8th -9th July 2008. Mercure Hotel, Sydney.
http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=b_Jun_08_b_Australian_Water_Industry_Essentials&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=9340
- Stormwater Industry Association Joint NSW & QLD Conference - Surfers Paradise, QLD, 8th – 11th July 2008. Refer <http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater>
- AWA - AUSTRALIAN WATER INDUSTRY ESSENTIALS, 8-9 July 2008. Sydney. Refer http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=b_Jun_08_b_Australian_Water_Industry_Essentials&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=9340

- 11th International River Symposium – A future of extremes (includes a full day on WSUD) – Brisbane, QLD, 1st -4th September 2008. Refer <http://www.riversymposium.com>
- Centre for Groundwater Studies - Soil & Groundwater Pollution: Characterisation, Remediation & Risk. Hyde Park Plaza, Sydney 1st -5th September 2008. Refer http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/courses/flyer-soil&gw-poll-2008.pdf
- Local Government Sustainable Development Conference, Dockside Sydney. 10th – 11th September 2008 Refer <http://www.halledit.com.au/events.php?id=84>
- WSUD in Sydney Program's Sustainable Water Challenge & Site Visit, Waterview Convention Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney. 18th to 19th September 2008 Refer <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm>
- Centre for Groundwater Studies – 1st Surface Water-Groundwater Interactions Workshop. Oaks Hyde Park Plaza, Sydney. 24th to 26th September 2008. Refer http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/courses/flyer-1st-sw-gw-interactions-2008.pdf

8. Websites – new and/or potential interest

The following websites may be of particular interest to Councils who may like to promote the sites to their own community groups or use the case studies to develop their own community engagement strategies:

Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts Program's One-2-Five Diagnostic is based on a proven methodology that examines 10 key areas of an effective water management system. During the process, your management team is asked a series of questions relating to each of the key areas. A report is then prepared highlighting what your business can do to save water.

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/Publications/FactSheets/One2FiveFactSheet.pdf#Page=1>

A fantastic web based series of resources "Enabling you to change the world" – tools, training, strategies and papers. Refer <http://www.enablingchange.com.au/> Otherwise, click here for a quick presentation that can transform how you sell your projects and initiatives to stakeholders: http://www.enablingchange.com.au/Being_engaging.pdf

If you have WSUD or Sustainable Urban Water Management related policy, case study, report or an event/seminar coming up, please email me the details and I will endeavour to put the information up on the www.wsud.org website and/or include it in this e-newsletter.

Please forward this on to colleagues who may be interested in Sustainable Water Management and/or WSUD.

If this e-newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to receive future WSUD e-newsletters please send an email to info@wsud.org and put **join** in the subject line.

If you want to be removed from this e-newsletter list please email info@wsud.org with **remove** in the subject line.

Regards,

K.

Kate Black

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Program Partners - NSW Stormwater Trust, Sydney Water, Sydney Metropolitan CMA,
WSROC, UPRCT & SCCG