



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards 2024



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



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Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

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Disclaimer

The information in this booklet has been provided by the Award nominees and referees chosen by them. Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this booklet as accurately as possible.

Cover image: 2024 Overall Sustainable Cities Award Winners - Blacktown City Council



Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson**

For 49 years Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has been a leader in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

As Patrons, Dennis and I are proud to be associated with an organisation with a such legacy of significant contribution to our State. KAB NSW's engagement with councils, communities, individuals, industries, and schools, has helped New South Wales become an even more beautiful and sustainable place to live.

Already ahead of its time in 1975, KAB NSW continues to be on the front foot promoting dialogue and encouraging innovation in response to evolving issues including climate change and mitigation, the circular economy and waterways and marine protection.

Through its flagship Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities programs, running since 1981, KAB NSW recognises and rewards outstanding achievements in sustainability and beautification throughout NSW. It has been our pleasure to support these events over recent years, including attending the Tidy Towns awards in Singleton in 2022.

The entries this year in both the Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities programs have again demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting and enhancing our environment. We have no doubt that as you read through this document you will be impressed with the range of projects featured in the program's 13 award categories.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all entrants. Your efforts make a meaningful difference with impacts that benefit current and future generations.

And thank you, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, and supporters and sponsors for helping us to create NSW communities and environments that are clean, green, engaging and beautiful places in which to live.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**

Mr Dennis Wilson

About the Sustainable Cities Awards



SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AWARDS

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling and other environmental areas in metropolitan councils and urban communities since 1994.

The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire councils and communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with a broad range of award categories with emphasis on partnership's between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.



About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards (regional)
- Sustainable Cities Awards (metropolitan)
- EnviroMentors® environmental education program
- Annual Congress





Message from the CEO

Since its inception in 1994, the Sustainable Cities Awards Program has been recognising and rewarding metropolitan councils, businesses, communities, schools and individuals that are pioneering the path towards a sustainable future. Their initiatives and projects not only enhance the environment but improve the quality of life and well-being of urban communities.

This publication highlights some of the outstanding entries of 2024 and recognises the remarkable efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful. By showcasing these projects, we hope that others will find inspiration and ideas for new initiatives and activities in their own communities.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to thank our partners for their support, extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners and congratulate all of the featured individuals and projects for their inspirational work.



Warm regards,

Val Southam
Chief Executive and Executive Director
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our 2024 Sustainable Cities Awards Partners and Sponsors



Awards Categories

Circular Economy



Sponsored by



The Circular Economy Award is for any operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.

Litter Prevention



Sponsored by



The Litter Prevention Award is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter, through education, enforcement, infrastructure, clean ups and partnerships.

The Litter Prevention Award has two-subcategories:

- Land-based litter prevention
- Water-based litter prevention

Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation



Sponsored by



The Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Award is for projects that strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, reduce emissions, or sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

Heritage & Culture



The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect either our built heritage, natural heritage or indigenous cultural heritage.

Liveable Cities



The Liveable Cities Award is for projects that contribute to the liveability of a particular area addressing areas such as accessibility, public spaces, social equity, health and wellbeing.

Resource Recovery



The Resource Recovery Award is for projects or programs that conserve, recycle or minimise wastage of our everyday resources, which include water, food & organic materials, and waste materials.

Biodiversity Conservation



The Biodiversity Conservation Award is for projects which regenerate, conserve, or advance scientific understanding of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Communication & Engagement



The Communication and Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action through education, media and community engagement campaigns.

Community Spirit & Inclusion



The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award is awarded to communities that successfully demonstrate strong community spirit and inclusion in the face of ongoing challenges. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in' when facing a challenge.

Waterways & Marine Protection



The Waterways & Marine Protection Award is for programs and actions that create, restore and/or enhance our natural waterways and beaches,

Waste Avoidance



The Waste Avoidance Award is for projects or programs that address waste prevention or reduction and education.

Young Legends (≤ 25)



The Young Legend's Award is for an individual, school (including classes or groups) or a group of individuals (25 years and under) who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes in any of the awards categories.

Overall Award



The Overall Award is awarded to a metropolitan council that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

Awards Judges and Assessors



Peter Clark
Managing Director,
Calleo Green

Peter operates a consultancy that offers services across a diverse range of areas including emergency management, incident training, bushfire risk assessment and environmental protection and assessment.

For over two decades, Peter has served as an assessor for the long-running Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns program, and more recently the Sustainable Cities program.

For a number of years, he has also acted as an assessor and judge for the internationally renowned annual open space awards program, Green Flag Award.



Paula Clasby
Senior Manager, Business Development,
TerraCycle ANZ

Paula is a creative, marketing, and business development professional with extensive experience supporting businesses to advance positive environmental and social change. She has worked in various sectors including health, marketing, design, print, hospitality, and over 10 years within sustainability and the built environment. Prior to TerraCycle, Paula worked with GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia), helping individuals and businesses to advance the circular economy.

Paula prioritises purpose in all her work, drawing on her passion to drive TerraCycle's mission in Eliminating the Idea of Waste®.



Ana Corpuz
Senior Operations Policy Officer with
Major Programs,
NSW Environment Protection Authority

Ana has over 25 years experience in strategic and operational policy and planning, regulatory review, project management, technical analysis, research and reporting, communication, stakeholder engagement, organisational systems, benchmarking and process improvement, governance framework setting and compliance monitoring.

Her focus areas are on environment and sustainability, water and catchment management, air quality, climate change, waste management, mining and exploration, land use, zoning and redevelopment, transport, contract management and mentoring.



Jeanne-Vida Douglas
Marketing and Communications
Manager,
TerraCycle ANZ

As an award-winning marketer, business journalist, and author, JV spent the first half of her career advocating for sustainable solutions within software start-ups, the media, and professional services. She transitioned to work directly for companies focussed on sustainability after witnessing the devastation caused by the 2019-20 bushfires.

JV worked in innovative renewable energy companies Nectr and 5B prior to joining TerraCycle, and is passionate about increasing access to, and awareness of, recycling solutions throughout Australia and New Zealand.



Mark Glover
Director,
Renewed Carbon

Mark is a principled thought leader and business developer in the circular economy, sustainable resource use and application, and emerging bioeconomy sectors.

With expertise in renewable resource use, waste infrastructure planning, and policy development, he has made significant contributions to promoting sustainable practices and advancing the circular economy agenda.



Jemima Lindsay
Marketing Manager,
TerraCycle ANZ

Jemima Lindsay is an accomplished marketing professional experienced in driving impactful campaigns for globally recognized brands, including The Body Shop and Sainsbury's. Her career is defined by a deep commitment to sustainability and environmental advocacy, both professionally and personally.

Currently, as a key player at TerraCycle, Jemima spearheads initiatives across Australia and New Zealand that focus on recycling materials traditionally destined for landfills. She collaborates with businesses to implement circular economy solutions and engages communities to embrace recycling practices.



Rodrigo Linera

Head of Operations,
TerraCycle ANZ

Rodrigo Linera is a seasoned sustainability operations leader with over 10 years of experience in engineering, specializing in business and industrial management. As Head of Operations at TerraCycle Australia & New Zealand, he drives sustainability efforts by diverting waste from landfills and promoting circular economy solutions.

Rodrigo previously held senior roles at Loop, managing strategic partnerships and operations to make reuse as convenient as single-use products. Known for his customer-oriented approach, he excels in strategic planning, team-building, and problem-solving. Passionate about sustainability and innovation, Rodrigo is dedicated to advancing the circular economy through leadership and data-driven decision-making.



Lynda Newnam

Principal,
Citizen Science Partnerships

Lynda has extensive project management experience in higher education as well as environment and 25 years in volunteering, from environment to heritage and tourism.

She is qualified in primary school teaching, has undergraduate degrees specialising in linguistics, anthropology and politics, and a Master's in Environmental Management.



Tasneem Rangwala

PhD Aspirant, ISF UTS –
Developing Adaptive Planning Framework

Tasneem is a 2020 National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award winner for research achievements.

She is a dedicated leader driving change towards environmental enhancements. Her skills include environmental impacts assessments, project management, overseeing strategic regulatory programs, compliance audits and driving efficiency via enhancing quality of processes.

Tasneem has over 25 years' experience working across a range of industries including Environmental Consultancy, State Government Regulatory Authorities and the Biomedical Engineering field.



Nick Rutherford

Senior Marketing & Communications
Advisor, NSW EPA

Nick is a communications professional with a passion for sustainability and a decade of experience across media, advertising, and environmental sectors. Currently, he serves as a Senior Marketing & Communications Advisor at the NSW Environment Protection Authority, where he leads campaigns such as "Don't be a Tosser" to drive behavior change and reduce environmental waste.

Previously, he was the Marketing Manager at TerraCycle Australia & New Zealand, promoting innovative recycling solutions. His background in media and advertising includes roles at Slingshot Media Ventures and Universal McCann, where he was the planning and client lead for a number of major Australian and global brands.



Dr Trevor Thornton

Senior Lecturer – Hazardous Materials
Management, Deakin University

Trevor is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University and also consults widely on processes to develop and implement programs to reduce environmental impacts for a broad range of industry sectors.

Trevor has a wealth of experience, particularly in areas associated with waste management.

Trevor has been working in various aspects of the waste management industry for over 30 years as a regulator and consultant.



Chris Tola

Manager, Skilled Workforce Program,
Regional Development Australia &
Publisher, Surfing Roadies

Chris has had an active involvement with many organisations including Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

Since 2002, Chris has periodically been the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge National Assessor and State Judge, and the Tidy Towns Assessor; and was the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) Program Manager for Clean Beach Challenge and the Tidy Towns Program (2002 – 2005).

2024 Overall Winner

Blacktown City Council



Blacktown City Council is at the forefront of sustainability initiatives, showcasing innovative projects and climate change initiatives that prioritise environmental conservation and public health. Through urban greening efforts, biodiversity protection, and school and community engagement programs, the council is creating a more sustainable and resilient future for its residents.

With a shared vision for a greener and healthier community, Blacktown City Council's dedication to sustainability is evident in its collaborative spirit and inspiring work. By implementing public health programs and initiatives that promote active living and environmental stewardship, the council is making a positive impact on both the environment and the well-being of its residents.

From public health to tree planting, circular economy and water conservation programs, Blacktown City Council is leading the way in building a more sustainable and liveable community. Through their commitment to sustainability, the council is setting an example for other communities to follow.

Overall, Blacktown City Council's collaborative spirit and impactful initiatives demonstrate their commitment to creating a sustainable future for all residents. Their efforts not only benefit the environment but also contribute to a healthier and more thriving community.





Photographer: Sara Corlis, Dolls Point Heron

Bayside Council

Bayside Council continues to showcase their commitment to sustainability through diverse and innovative initiatives.

Its Sustainable Waste Management Strategy focuses on minimising landfill impact and promoting recycling. In addition to reducing waste, this program cultivates sustainability within the community. Bayside can be equally proud of their Sustainable Fashion Youth Engagement Program which educates young people on sustainable fashion practices.

Bayside's commitment to biodiversity conservation is demonstrated through the Urban Forest Strategy, which aims to increase public land canopy cover to 35% by 2040, while preserving existing canopy on private properties. Planting native trees and promoting healthy habitats improves air quality, reduces heat impacts, and creates homes for wildlife. Projects like Woody Meadows are restoring degraded areas to protect native wildlife and flora, engaging the community in the process.

Finally, Council's AI Flood Detection Project is a forward-looking approach to climate resilience. Climate change challenges are being addressed by improving flood risk monitoring with artificial intelligence.



Georges River Council

Georges River Council's comprehensive approach to sustainability demonstrates a commitment to creating a more sustainable and resilient community for future generations.

The council has made significant progress in biodiversity conservation by protecting and restoring natural habitats, ensuring the preservation of local wildlife. They have implemented wildlife protection initiatives to safeguard endangered species and promote ecological balance in the region.

Council's commitment to a circular economy is evident in their active efforts to reduce waste and promote sustainable practices. Council undertook an audit of Council's operational waste streams, realising that many waste items could be recycled by specialised contractors.

To address climate change, Council introduced the Environmental Sustainability Calculator. This innovative tool empowers developers to assess their environmental impact and take actionable steps towards mitigation.

As part of Council's vision for liveable cities, they launched an E-Scooter Trial in 2024. The trial focuses on identifying active transport routes and enhancing local mobility while reducing carbon emissions.

2024 Overall Finalists



Hornsby Shire Council

Hornsby Shire Council is deeply committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship through a range of innovative initiatives.

The Remagine Art Prize has sparked crucial conversations on sustainability by exploring the theme 'Crossroads of Consumption,' prompting reflection on our impact on the environment.

The Apartment Living Program empowers residents in multi-residential settings to adopt eco-friendly practices, tailoring solutions to each individual complex.

The Local Waste Champions program engages various community members in waste reduction efforts, targeting all aspects of the waste hierarchy. Council has engaged 'ploggers', composters and Waste NOTters, uncovering champions that enrich community sustainability across the Shire.

The Thornleigh Community Recycling Centre educates the community about responsible disposal practices and has recycled millions of kilograms of waste since 2017.

Finally, the Second Hand Hornsby initiative promotes a circular economy and reduces waste by encouraging residents to rehome pre-loved items.



Inner West Council

Inner West Council engages the community, celebrates cultural heritage, preserves natural environments, and minimises waste.

The Council's "Get the Site Right" initiative aims to educate residents and developers about sustainable practices.

The Living River Mission demonstrates Council's commitment to revitalising and protecting local rivers so they remain vibrant ecosystems for future generations, and events like Riverfest, bring people together to enjoy and protect local waterways.

The Parramatta River Catchment Designing with Country project developed a framework for councils to create cultural works that connect communities with Country while the Aboriginal Survival Memorial recognises and honours the rich cultural heritage of local Indigenous communities.

Resource recovery and circular economy are promoted through multiple initiatives, including: The "Let's do it together!" FOGO program; The Plastic Free Collective, which supports the transition away from single-use plastic with information-based activities; and the "Avoiding Waste Together at The Hub" program promoting sustainable consumption through reuse, repurposing and upcycling.



Lane Cove Council

Lane Cove Council is a great example of commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.

A highlight is the *On The Verge* program, which promotes biodiversity conservation by encouraging the growth of native plants in public spaces. This initiative not only enhances local ecosystems but also encourages community involvement in preserving and celebrating our unique flora.

The Renewables Program aims to reduce carbon emissions by transitioning to renewable energy sources.

The Sustainability Collective plays a crucial role in engaging the community in sustainable practices and initiatives. Their efforts, along with the Sustainability Review of the Development Control Plan, create a more liveable city and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Furthermore, the Lane Cove Goes Circular initiative highlights the Council's commitment to waste avoidance and promoting the circular economy by working with food businesses to ensure widespread acceptance of reusable containers.



City of Parramatta

Parramatta Council has made significant strides in sustainability and environmental conservation through various initiatives.

The artificial hollows initiative provides vital habitats for native wildlife, supporting biodiversity and enhancing our local ecosystems.

Communication and engagement have been at the heart of Council's success with the Grow Our Own Food program, fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration around sustainable food practices.

As part of climate change mitigation, the Council is phasing out damaging refrigerants through their CoP initiative.

Council's liveable cities vision is evident in the Bungaree Community Garden Expansion, providing residents with a space to grow their own food, connect with nature, and engage with each other.

Lastly, Council's resource recovery efforts include the "Wear-Up" program which encourages the reuse of textiles within Council and re-homing corporate items, reducing waste by giving new life to surplus goods while supporting local charities and community groups.

Biodiversity Conservation

WINNER



Artificial Hollows - A new novel approach City of Parramatta Council

The Artificial Hollows project aims to address the scarcity of tree hollow resources, impacting hollow-dependent fauna.

In 2007, the Council introduced an artificial hollows program utilising plywood nest boxes. A new method involving carving hollows directly into trees has now been integrated to overcome the shortcomings of traditional nest boxes.

Initial results show a 20% usage rate through inspection and camera surveillance.

The project aims to further develop this technique in partnership with local community groups and universities to benefit wildlife conservation efforts.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



On the Verge Lane Cove Council

Lane Cove's "On the Verge" program is tackling environmental gaps by helping residents transform turf nature strips and neglected road reserves into biodiverse native gardens.

Participants receive free plants from the Community Nursery, mulch, on-ground support, and maintenance advice.

So far, 43 sites have been converted into nature strip gardens or pocket parks, with 3196 native plants installed.

The program is ongoing and will expand in 2024/25 with additional funding to increase capacity.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Wildlife Protection in Key Bushland Areas Georges River Council

The Wildlife Protection in Key Bushland Areas project aimed to decrease feral animal populations in crucial bushland areas, safeguarding native wildlife and biodiversity.

A Wildlife Protection Area policy was established, designating 19 parks and reserves as Wildlife Protection Areas to facilitate feral animal management and ensure community safety. Extensive community involvement, education, and awareness campaigns were conducted.

Following implementation, sightings of feral animals decreased, while native wildlife sightings reportedly increased which was attributed to the removal of 28 foxes between July 2023 and June 2024.

Congratulations to all of the 2024 awards category finalists

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Little Penguin Education Video (Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.)
- Artificial Hollows - A new novel approach (City of Parramatta Council)
- 'Canopy of Life' Tree Festival (Willoughby City Council)
- On the Verge (Lane Cove Council)
- Fungi of Randwick - Pocket guide (RCC Bushland and Coast Walk Unit)
- Wildlife Protection in Key Bushland Areas (Georges River Council)
- Bayside Urban Forest Strategy 2032 (Bayside Council)

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Sponsored by NSW EPA

- Mattress Shredding and Recycling (Liverpool City Council)
- Closing the Gap in Recycling Soft Plastics (Blue Mountains City Council in partnership with RecycleSmart)
- Let's ReDirect Timber out of Landfill (Northern Beaches Council)
- 50Yrs Contributing to the Circular Economy (Reverse Garbage Co-operative LTD)
- Wear-up (Sustainability Team at City of Parramatta)
- Paving from recycled glass and plastic (Blacktown City Council – Asset Team)



WINNER



Mattress Shredding and Recycling Liverpool City Council

The Liverpool City Council's Mattress Recycling initiative is a comprehensive program that partners with the University of NSW to address the significant challenge of mattress waste ending up in landfills and repurposing materials to make products such as tiles and kitchen benchtops.

By engaging stakeholders effectively, the project has successfully reduced waste and demonstrated the potential for improving logistics in future recycling projects.

Key achievements include a significant reduction in landfill waste and valuable lessons learned on the importance of stakeholder engagement for successful recycling initiatives.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



50 Years Contributing to the Circular Economy Reverse Garbage Co-operative

Founded in 1975, Reverse Garbage is a renowned not-for-profit reuse centre in Sydney's Inner West, diverting commercial and industrial waste from landfill.

They support educators, artists, and community groups, focusing on the circular economy and the value of reuse over recycling.

With an emphasis on education, they engage around 45,500 people annually in creative projects. Reverse Garbage plays a vital role in promoting sustainability and creative reuse, making a significant impact on the environment and fostering a culture of sustainability in the community.



Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER



AI Flood Detection System Bayside Council

Bayside Council, with funding from the NSW Reconstruction Authority, has developed an AI Flood Detection System utilising green-powered CCTV, AI, and smart sensors.

Real-time floodwater detection triggers LED warning signs to improve road safety during low visibility.

Key stakeholders included internal departments as well as external partners including Open Data Soft, hardware providers and emergency services.

Despite facing hurdles like hardware delays and regulatory compliance, the project has established an Open Data Platform for real-time information, is scalable for future initiatives, and most importantly has improved public and road safety.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Environmental Sustainability Calculator Georges River Council

The Environmental Sustainability Calculator is a vital tool for large developments, playing a crucial role in achieving Ecologically Sustainable Development principles.

It future-proofs large developments, such as apartments, and supports Council's target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The Calculator promotes a sustainable, resilient, and liveable community through adaptive design choices, enhancing living standards. It also builds industry capacity and encourages sustainable choices across all asset projects, ultimately leading to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious development process.

Communication & Engagement

WINNER



Multi Engagement for Multi-Unit Dwellings Blacktown City Council

Blacktown City Council have introduced a multi-phased engagement program that promotes the best waste management practices in multi-unit dwellings.

The program supports the diverse needs of residents and stakeholders managing high density developments.

Council provided comprehensive education to the community, with measurable waste management outcomes.

Support from the community, social housing providers, and property agencies has been vital to the continued success of the program.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Bulldogs Bulky Waste Mini Campaign Canterbury Bankstown Council

The Bulldogs Bulky Waste Mini Campaign project is a communications campaign featuring the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs NRL Team that aims to address illegal dumping.

The program is focused on supporting residents to utilise Council's Booked Bulky Waste Service and not to dump items illegally, while highlighting the cost of fines.

The campaign, timed around the team's home game at Belmore Stadium, involved key Bulldogs team members as ambassadors to promote a cleaner Canterbury Bankstown, how easy it is to book a Clean-up and working together to tackle illegal dumping.



Congratulations to all of the 2024 awards category finalists

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Empowering MUD Communities to Recycle More City of Canada Bay, Resource Recovery Team

The City of Canada Bay is transforming into a vertical city, currently with over 64% of dwellings being multi-unit developments (MUDs) and expected to increase to 71% by 2041.

A tailored engagement strategy was created to address MUD-specific waste challenges, including initiatives like creating a Building Network, piloting FOGO in apartments, and developing a comprehensive waste management toolkit for strata and building managers.

Key achievements involved establishing a sustainable knowledge hub and empowering communities to lead waste management efforts.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Sponsored by Red Energy

- Environmental Sustainability Calculator (Georges River Council)
- Camden: Towards Net Zero (Camden Council)
- A Net Zero Emissions and Resilient City (Blacktown City Council)
- CoP Phases Out Damaging Refrigerants (City of Parramatta)
- AI Flood Detection System (Bayside Council)
- Embedding Climate Resilience (City of Canada Bay Council Sustainability Team)
- Lane Cove Council's Renewables program (Lane Cove Council)

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Bulldogs Bulky Waste Mini Campaign (Canterbury Bankstown Council)
- Flow Forward: Building waterway warriors (Blacktown City Council)
- Multi Engagement for Multi-Unit Dwellings (Blacktown City Council)
- Apartment Living Program (Hornsby Shire Council)
- Trees for Mum (Penrith City Council)
- Empowering MUD communities to recycle more (City of Canada Bay, Resource Recovery Team)
- Designing with Country Framework (Parramatta River Catchment Group)
- 'Canopy of Life' Tree Festival (Willoughby City Council)

Community Spirit & Inclusion

WINNER



Aboriginal Survival Memorial Inner West Council

The Aboriginal Survival Memorial is designed to celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Inner West.

Large scale engagement with the local community of more than 10,000 people and deep engagement with Aboriginal people led to engagement of Aboriginal artists Nicole Monks and Maddison Gibbs and the creation of this artwork, entitled Breathe.

The work is created through the placement of 243 hand carved sandstone boulders, creating a space for Reconciliation discussion, quiet reflection and learning about the effects of colonisation and racism.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Storytime, Livvi's Place, & Livvi's Cafe Touched by Olivia Foundation

Touched by Olivia is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting inclusion and belonging through various initiatives like inclusive playspaces, a social enterprise cafe, Storytime program, and work experience program at Livvi's Cafe.

Chief Storyteller Joey, who has an intellectual disability, plays a pivotal role in engaging the community in activities such as reading, singing, dancing, and crafting.

The organisation also supports a work experience program for neurodiverse students providing purposeful learning opportunities in an inclusive environment.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Designing with Country Framework

Parramatta River Catchment Group

The Parramatta River Catchment Designing with Country project aims to develop a design framework to assist councils in creating public cultural works that connect communities with Country.

Collaborating with First Nations designer Yerrabingin, local councils, Sydney Water, and community members, the project provides guidance on landscaping, art, and design in a culturally sensitive manner. Future cultural engagement sites were identified, with Bayview Park in Concord chosen as a pilot site for interpretative designs.

The project included Walk on Country events, workshops, and collaboration with community members to guide the development of the design framework.

Congratulations to all of the 2024 awards category finalists

COMMUNITY SPIRIT & INCLUSION

- Hornsby Local Waste Champions (Hornsby Shire Council Waste Branch)
- Auburn Hospital Recycling for the Future (The Auburn Hospital Recycling Team)
- Aboriginal Survival Memorial (Inner West Council)
- Storytime, Livvi's Place, & Livvi's Café (Touched by Olivia Foundation)
- Designing with Country Framework (Parramatta River Catchment Group)
- Riverfest (Parramatta River Catchment Group)
- Reclamation of TUCG "Broadacre" Garden (Tahmoor Uniting Community Garden)

HERITAGE & CULTURE

- LPMP Remembrance Garden (Liverpool City Council and Office of Australian War Graves)
- Urban Night Sky Place Project (Northern Beaches Council)
- Makers Space with Tarni Eastwood (Blacktown Arts)
- Designing with Country Framework (Parramatta River Catchment Group)

Heritage & Culture

WINNER



Makers Space with Tarni Eastwood Blacktown Arts

The Makers Space program at Blacktown Arts is an immersive hub for creativity and play, featuring guest artists and curators who offer a range of activities and workshops.

The first Makers Space ran from Jan to June 2024 with guest artist, Ngaympaa and Guringai weaver and curator, Tarni Eastwood. Visitors engaged in hands-on experiences while learning about First Nations knowledge and practices.

The space is a dedicated area for reflection and exploration, inviting guests to delve into a world of imagination and innovation.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Urban Night Sky Place Project Northern Beaches Council

The Urban Night Sky Place project showcases the remarkable views of the starry night sky at the Palm Beach Headland.

Now designated as the Southern Hemisphere's first Urban Night Sky Place, the project addressed light pollution through innovative lighting upgrades and community engagement and now serves as a demonstration site on responsible lighting that improves night sky access, maintains public safety, and supports nocturnal wildlife.

Throughout the project, extensive community engagement helped to resolve issues raised and ensured ongoing community support.



Congratulations to all of the 2024 awards category finalists

HIGHLY COMMENDED



LPMP Remembrance Garden Liverpool City Council and Office of Australian War Graves

The LPMP Remembrance Garden honours the 44 Australian Imperial Force members buried at Liverpool Pioneers Memorial Park during WWI, whose graves were lost in the 1950s.

Designed by Phillips Marler, the new garden provides a space for contemplation and reflection, featuring interpretive signage, the names of those buried without known graves and images to explain its significance.

The community-led project ensures that the sacrifice of these men is not forgotten and creates a central place for remembrance.

LITTER PREVENTION

Sponsored by NSW EPA

- Strategic Approach to Litter in Cumberland (Cumberland City Council)
- Friends of Toongabbie Creek (Friends of Toongabbie Creek)
- Keep the Turf out of the Surf (Seabin Foundation)

LIVEABLE CITIES

- Guildford Laneway Revitalisation (Cumberland City Council)
- Our Living River Mission (Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG))
- Sustainability Review of the Lane Cove DCP (Lane Cove Council)
- Penrith's City Park (Penrith City Council)
- Clean Up Cumberland (Cumberland City Council)
- Georges River Council E-Scooter Trial 2024 (Georges River Council)

Litter Prevention

Award category
sponsored by:



Clean Communities WINNER



Friends of Toongabbie Creek Friends of Toongabbie Creek

Founded in 2021, Friends of Toongabbie Creek is dedicated to enhancing the health of the creek.

In just three years, the group has grown to over 800 members on Facebook, established a Streamwatch group, actively participated in bushcare activities, organised large-scale litter clean-ups, and engaged the community in environmental discussions and actions to support waterway health.

The group also partners with local schools, tertiary institutions, residents, local clubs and environmental groups, and state government agencies to promote waterway health and environmental awareness.

Clean Communities HIGHLY COMMENDED



Strategic Approach to Litter in Cumberland Cumberland City Council

Cumberland City Council has adopted a proactive approach to litter management to meet community expectations for a clean city, focusing on prevention to reduce operational costs.

The Cumberland Litter Prevention Steering Committee, including representatives from internal units, EPA, and WSROC, has collaboratively set a new litter prevention approach with vision and targets for a five-year strategy.

This effort has resulted in the Council's inaugural Litter Prevention Strategy, Action Plan, and Road Map 2024-2028, with ongoing oversight by the Steering Committee.



Congratulations to all of the 2024 awards category finalists

Clean Waterways WINNER



Keep the Turf Out of the Surf Seabin Foundation

The Seabin Foundation's litter prevention education campaign Keep the Fake Plants and Turf Out of the Surf is a call to action to reduce the use of artificial grass and plants in our cities, preserving natural greenery and its benefits, and cleaning the Ocean,

By providing helpful suggestions for alternatives and guidelines to reduce the amount of artificial grass and plants, the project encourages individuals and organisations to reduce the use of these harmful materials to protect our oceans.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

- Mattress Shredding and Recycling (Liverpool City Council)
- Reuse & Recycling Event Series (Northern Beaches Council)
- We Give a FUD – FOGO in MUDs Rollout (Penrith City Council)
- FOGO: Let's do it together! (Inner West Council)
- Innovation & Excellence at Thornleigh CRC (Hornsby Shire Waste Strategy, Projects and Education Team)
- The Plastic Free Collective (Addi Road, TAFE NSW, and NSW EPA)
- Re-homing Corporate Items (City of Parramatta)

WASTE AVOIDANCE

- Second Hand Hornsby (Hornsby Shire Council)
- Saturday Circle (Randwick City Council)
- Lane Cove Goes Circular (Lane Cove Council)
- Edible Gardens in Ryde Schools (City of Ryde)
- Growing Together for a Greener Future (Kids Early Learning Lalor Park – Blacktown City Council)
- Worms and Waste Reduction Project (Belrose Community and Children's Centre)
- Avoiding Waste Together at The Hub (Inner West Council)
- Boomerang Bags Parramatta (Boomerang Bags Parramatta)



WINNER



Guildford Laneway Revitalisation Cumberland City Council

The Guildford Laneway Revitalisation project aimed to reconfigure the laneway to increase safety perceptions amongst women and girls by improving amenities, creating new social spaces, enhancing walkability, and using vibrant colours.

Engagement with the community, local businesses, Transport for NSW, and internal Council departments was key for feedback.

Innovative interventions included smart technology, new amenities, and art to foster civic pride and belonging.

The community's feedback has been highly positive, transforming the laneway into a welcoming and safe space for gatherings.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Our Living River Mission Parramatta River Catchment Group

The Parramatta River Catchment Group is dedicated to improving the waterway and ecological health of the Parramatta River.

Through the 'Our Living River' mission launched in 2014; they aim to elevate the river to a world-class standard.

Efforts to ensure equitable access to the river amidst urban challenges include developing swim sites, and ongoing initiatives like the Riverkeeper program, Get the Site Right, and Love Your Waterways.

Some of these initiatives have also been adopted by other catchment groups and councils across NSW.



WINNER



We Give a FUD - FOGO in MUDs Rollout Penrith City Council

Encouraged by community appetite for resource recovery and the NSW Government's 2030 FOGO mandate, Penrith City Council began the introduction of a FOGO service to MUDs in June 2023.

As of July 2024, the service has been rolled out to 5,379 households with an impressive 120 tonnes of FOGO material diverted from landfill for composting.

The rollout is on track to be completed by early 2025, positioning Penrith to be one of the first NSW Councils to offer separate collection of food and garden organics to all households in their LGA.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Innovation & Excellence at Thornleigh CRC Hornsby Shire Waste Strategy, Projects and Education Team

Thornleigh Community Recycling Centre (CRC) is a key hub for resource recovery and circular economy within the Hornsby Shire.

Since 2017/18 over 252,000 vehicles have visited, resulting in 4.5 million kgs of material being recycled. This local landmark excels in recycling various problem wastes such as paints, oils and batteries and much more.

The centre also features a demonstration site for sustainable gardening and showcases Indigenous connections, recycled organics, rethinking technology and local ecosystems through giant murals.



WINNER



Avoiding Waste Together at The Hub Inner West Council

The Inner West Sustainability Hub, formerly a Council depot, has been transformed into a waste avoidance and circular economy focal point.

Opening on July 1, 2023, it hosts the Council's Green Living Centre, along with partners The Bower, Dress for Success, and RePlace.

The strong community engagement is evident, with over 1,000 residents attending the opening and ongoing participation in reuse markets, repair workshops, regular book and toy swaps, tool library, and assistance programs such as Dress for Success.

The Hub's positive environmental impact has been significant, already diverting nearly 20,000kg from landfill.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Saturday Circle Randwick City Council

Randwick Council's Saturday Circle is a community engagement initiative promoting circular economy action.

Launched in March 2024 at the Randwick Sustainability Hub, the program welcomes over 200 participants each month.

Activities include clothes and toy swaps, repair cafes, and upcycling workshops, aiming to reduce waste and build resilience.

To date, over 1,832 participants have swapped 4,389 clothing items and 900 kg of toys, saving over 175 tonnes in carbon emissions.

By scheduling activities on weekends and simultaneously, the program enhances participation and efficiency, creating a more sustainable and connected community.



WINNER



Nepean River Restoration Camden Council

The Nepean River was significantly impacted by flooding in 2022 resulting in the loss of native vegetation, mass bank erosion, and a high sediment and nutrient load entering waterways.

With support from various funding sources, over 300 metres of bank restoration were completed alongside the installation of 10 hardwood river snag structures.

Additionally, 10,000m² of woody weeds were removed, 32,240 endemic plants were planted, and 75 critically endangered Camden White Gums were preserved.

These efforts, utilising innovative, natural techniques, have significantly improved the condition of the river for the Camden community and wildlife.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Ocean Health Course Seabin Foundation

The Seabin Foundation's Ocean Health Lab in Sydney Harbour collects and analyses daily data on plastic pollution, offering valuable insights into this pressing issue.

To tackle this issue, the foundation has developed an online Ocean Health course in collaboration with global organizations such as Ocean Sheroes, Sea Shepherd, The Ocean Clean Up, and Jane Goodall Institute.

This course serves as an educational platform for interns, students, and volunteers to learn about plastic pollution, litter prevention, and ocean conservation, while also engaging the public in understanding the challenges faced by the ocean today.

Young Legends

WINNER



Airds Guardians **Airds High School**

Airds High School students are actively involved in the Guardians of the Park program with Western Sydney Parklands, learning bush regeneration and traditional land care methods alongside gardening experts.

They contribute to school and community gardens weekly, distributing food to families and preparing meals from the produce.

This successful initiative is expanding to engage more students, fostering environmental stewardship and community involvement.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Stormwater Saver **Caddies Creek Public School**

The Stormwater Saver project addressed erosion issues in the schools 'Discovery Garden' through a grant won through Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots program.

Year 6 students and the Caddies Eco Crusaders sustainability club collaborated to implement a dry riverbed and plant trees to curb erosion.

The project's success led to the school being featured in a Roots and Shoots documentary for their innovative solution.



Congratulations to all of the 2024 awards category finalists

HIGHLY COMMENDED



RPS: Robustly Practicing Sustainability Regentville Public School

The “RPS: Robustly Practicing Sustainability” initiative at Regentville Public School has created a school community dedicated to environmentally friendly practices.

Through the dedication of students, staff, families, and community members, significant achievements in waste reduction, recycling, composting, habitat regeneration, and collaboration with external organisations have been successfully realised.

The persistent passion for sustainability has resulted in the successful embedding of sustainable practices at RPS, ensuring a legacy of environmental stewardship.

WATERWAYS & MARINE PROTECTION

- Little Penguin Education Video (Sydney Coastal Councils Group)
- Nepean River Restoration (Camden Council)
- Water Wise – Water Conservation Project (Communities in Fellowship Together)
- Keep Sediment on Site (Blacktown City Council)
- Get the Site Right (Parramatta River Catchment Group)
- Sydney Harbour Cleaner Waters Initiative (North Sydney Council)
- Ocean Health Course (Seabin Foundation)

YOUNG LEGENDS

- Madeleine Hayen, Sustainability Leadership (International Grammar School)
- Wheeler Heights Sustainability Leaders (Wheeler Heights Public School)
- Stormwater Saver (Caddies Creek Public School)
- Waste Free Warriors! (Picnic Point Public School)
- Airs Guardians (Airds High School)
- RPS: Robustly Practicing Sustainability (Regentville Public School)
- Our pet worms (Belrose Children’s Centre)



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