



Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards 2021



Thank you to our awards supporters



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: 2021 Overall Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Award Winner - Singleton Tidy Towns

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ABOUT KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) are the leaders in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

With a legacy of successful community engagement since 1975, our programs inspire individuals, students, organisations, businesses and government to actively care for their local environment.

Our flagship Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities awards programs have been running since 1981 and 1994 respectively. They encourage, recognise and reward local communities, councils, businesses and schools for their outstanding efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and beautify and improve their local environment.

Our Annual Litter Congress is Australia's only dedicated litter conference that shares successful projects, research, knowledge and best practice in area of litter prevention, management and anti-littering strategies.

Our hugely popular EnviroMentors® sustainability education service is a mobile service to schools, reaching every corner of NSW and covering a full suite of environmental modules.

KAB NSW is an apolitical organisation – we are not activists, we work in partnership with local and state governments, industry, schools and the community to protect and improve our state environment.

We work closely with the NSW Government and partner with them on a range of programs to connect with communities across NSW at a grass-roots level. Every year the NSW Premier hosts an annual charity dinner for KAB NSW which brings together business, local government, corporates, community groups and industry.



Message from
Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales
and Mr Wilson

Encouraging and assisting communities to create sustainable and beautiful places to live has been the mission of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW for the past 46 years. Its success can be readily seen through a visual assessment of our cities, towns and urban and natural environments and by an appreciation of the outstanding initiatives throughout New South Wales to reduce waste, conserve energy and recycle resources.

Many of us have 're-discovered' our local communities over the past two years of the pandemic with significant, positive outcomes:

- The confinement to local government boundaries has encouraged people to reconnect with each other, promoting community spirit and an interest in sustainability initiatives
- Innovative techniques and solutions have been developed to resolve pressing problems
- Entries are up by 22% and 39%, respectively, for this year's *Sustainable Cities* and *Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards*, reflecting the initiatives undertaken by councils, businesses, communities, students and individuals to improve local communities.

While there is always more to be done to create the 'environmentally responsible and beautiful New South Wales' in which we all wish to live and work, we can take encouragement from this year's exceptional entries.

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, as Patrons, we congratulate this year's entrants and winners on their outstanding contributions to building sustainable cities and communities.

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

Mr Dennis Wilson

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Welcome to the 2021 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards.

2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the awards and Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is proud to carry on a legacy of running successful community programs. This annual awards program recognises and celebrates the efforts and achievements of NSW regional towns and councils, community organisations, schools, businesses and individuals that are working towards making regional NSW more sustainable.

Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities has been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised through this program. The Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area. Partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals are paramount to the success of many of these projects.

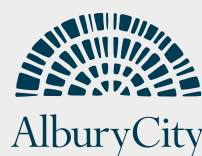
This booklet profiles the 2021 winners and acknowledges their exceptional efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful, especially during the very challenging year of 2021.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel and the on ground assessor for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners, and congratulate all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.



Val Southam
Chief Executive Officer
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our 2021 awards program, category and event supporters



ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES TIDY TOWNS AWARDS



Since 1981, the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Program has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling, heritage, community spirit and other environmental areas in towns across the breadth of NSW.

Winning the title of the “State’s Tidiest Town” has become a much sought-after honour and is highly contested by small and large towns alike.

All regional towns, councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals are invited to take part in this program by submitting an entry in one of the 16 categories or the Overall Award. The State Overall winner has the potential to become a finalist for the National Keep Australia Beautiful Award and may also host the awards weekend for the year following their win.

AWARD POPULATION CATEGORIES

- Population category A: up to 1,500
- Population category B: 1,501 - 5,000
- Population category C: 5,001 - 12,000
- Population category D: 12,001 - 23,000
- Population category E: > 23,000

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation Award



The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award (**sponsored by the NSW EPA**) is for a project or program that tackles a range of waste and recycling problems through waste minimisation and reduction; effective and innovative waste and recycling programs or incentivising behaviour change.

Litter Prevention Award



The Litter Prevention Award (**sponsored by the NSW EPA**) is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. This could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.

Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award



The **Return and Earn** Litter Prevention Award is for a program or project that provides for and encourages the use of the Return and Earn Scheme in a local area through development and promotion of facilities, community engagement or innovative use of the Scheme to benefit a particular community or group.

Circular Economy Award



The Circular Economy Award is for 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.

Communication and Engagement Award



The Communication & Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through raising awareness, developing and building partnerships to share resources and creation of spaces and places for environmental education.

Community Spirit and Inclusion Award



The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award recognises communities successfully addressing challenges through proper planning, community partnerships and real outcomes. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in'.

Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award



The Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award is for projects which create, restore and sustain biodiversity of our native flora and fauna in urban environments, creating wildlife corridors and encouraging habitat conservation.

Heritage and Culture Award



The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect our unique, and built heritage, including celebration of a region's heritage.

Recycled Organics Award



The Recycled Organics Award is for projects and programs that minimise the loss of organics to landfill and supports the community to avoid, reduce and recycle organics.

Renewable Energy Award



The Renewable Energy Award is for progress and achievements in developing products or services associated with renewable energy.

Response to Climate Change Award



The Response to Climate Change Award recognises actions taken by communities to tackle climate change through practical, long-term solutions and educating the public about the causes and effects of climate change and what individuals can do to take action.

School's Achievement Award



The School's Achievement Award is for New South Wales schools that can demonstrate outstanding sustainability achievement, sustainable practices, reducing their environmental impact and leading the community by example.

Waterways and Marine Protection Award



The Waterways & Marine Protection Award (**incorporating Clean Beaches**) is for programs and actions that create, restore and enhance our natural waterways and beaches by advocating for coast and waterway protection, encouraging community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches and sustainable management of water resources.

Young Legends Award

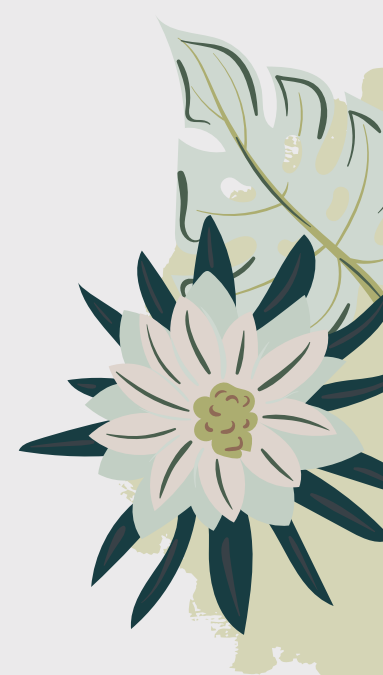


The Young Legends Award recognises individuals or groups of people 25 years and under who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes.

Overall Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Award



The Overall Award is awarded to a community in a town, village or regional centre that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion across the range of award categories.



AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS

Brian Birkefield

Brian hails from Taree in NSW.

After attending the University of Newcastle, Brian accepted a position with the institution and remained there for many years. Currently, he works in sales as a spare parts interpreter.

Brian has been a Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Tidy Towns assessor for more than 10 years, and a judge for four years.

For a number of years, Brian also served as a judge for the Clean Beaches Awards.

Danyelle Carter

Manager Local Government Programs, NSW EPA



Danyelle has nearly 30 years' experience in the environment sector in State and Local Government. Danyelle works in Circular Economy and Resource Management at DPIE to drive the implementation of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

In 2018, Danyelle won a Premier's Award for outstanding service in Keeping the Environment Clean. Danyelle has worked with Aboriginal communities and works closely with local councils in remote and regional NSW.

Ana Corpuz

Policy Officer, Environment Protection and Land Management Branch, DPIE



Ana has almost 20 years' experience in technical, policy and operational work in State Government, local government, industry and the academe in the areas of environment, sustainability, natural resources, waste, water, air quality, land use, zoning, and development and regulatory and legislative review.

Dr Mark Jackson

Director and Principal Consultant, Jackson Environment and Planning



Mark is a nationally recognised waste management specialist and has 26 years' experience in the field. He is the Director of Jackson Environment and Planning, a consulting firm dedicated to supporting the waste and recycling industry with planning approvals, EPA licencing and regulatory support. Previous to this, Mark over a 12-year period held senior management positions in the NSW Environment Protection Authority, leading some of the largest recycling industry development, regulatory support and infrastructure investment programs in the country's history.

Angus Johnston

Director, BioCarbon Soil & Principal Consultant, Jackson Environment and Planning.



Angus has 20 years' experience working in the waste management and resource recovery field for government and the private sector. This includes six years as the National Project Manager for Compost Australia, the predecessor of AORA.

Prior to joining Jackson Environment and Planning, Angus was the Principal Consultant Waste & Resource Recovery at KMH-Pitt&Sherry.

He also spent over two years working at the NSW EPA to design resource recovery infrastructure grant programs and evaluate infrastructure proposals.

Tasneem Rangwala



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

She is a dedicated leader driving change to support the public good to develop and enforce policies and procedures designed for environmental protection.

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



Doug MacDonald



Doug has experience across a broad range of fields, including Civil Engineering, specialising in design and construction, as well as Landuse Planning.

He has also specialised in sustainable urban development, with a focus on low impact development, energy efficient transport and waste management and recycling.

Additionally, Doug has lent his professional dexterity streetscape improvements and bushland management and maintenance, including bushfire mitigation and rehabilitation.

Layla McNeil

Environment Advisor,
Sydney Trains



Layla has experience in environmental strategic policy development, project and contract management, program delivery, EMS auditing, stakeholder facilitation.

She has knowledge and expertise in developing and delivering strategic environmental and communication plans, cooperative agreements and contracts with multi stakeholders; educational and behaviour change campaigns; environmental auditing, waste and resource management planning; to creating, implementing, reporting and evaluating a variety of sustainability programs.

Luciano Mesiti

CEO, Primary Industries
Education Foundation
Australia.



Luciano is the CEO of Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, whose aim is to promote food and fibre education in schools nationally. Prior to his appointment he was a high school teacher, teaching agriculture and technology.

Luciano has extensive experience in curriculum development in agriculture and technology and is a very passionate advocate of Landcare and sustainable land manage curriculum in schools. He has been a Tidy Towns judge and assessor for over 15 years and a great supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful.

Vanessa Seaton

Contracts Manager -
Municipal Treatment &
Collection, Veolia



Vanessa Seaton is the Municipal Contracts Manager - Collection & Processing for Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd (VANZ) and has worked extensively with the private sector, local government and local communities in the waste and recycling industry for 25 years.

Vanessa has been a 'Tidy Town' judge for many years and happily supports programs rewarding and highlighting the fantastic contribution individuals and community groups are making for the betterment of the environment.

Syd Smith BA MEd MACE



Syd is a private education consultant who has taught in primary and secondary schools, served as a curriculum consultant with the NSW Department of Education and was promoted to a Director's position on the NSW's Central Coast.

He now specialises in Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Matthew Taylor

HR Manager, Kleinfelder



As a former CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, Matthew brings over 7 years' experience from his time managing the organisation, including the Tidy Towns program.

Since leaving KAB, Matthew held a number of roles but his passion for the environment has remained.

Currently, he works for an environmental consultancy involved in both ecology and contaminated land issues.

AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS

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

Grants Officer, City of Newcastle, Publisher - Surfing Roadies & Yahoo! Surf Awareness School



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).

Kristen Tola

Heritage Coordinator, RPS Group



Kristen Tola is a heritage professional, drawing on experience working in local government and museums combined with administration, financial management and stakeholder relationships, to deliver on heritage consulting projects throughout NSW. Kristen's recent experience is in supporting a team of consultants with Aboriginal and historic archaeological assessments and project management. Qualified with a Master of Cultural Heritage and Museums Studies (Heritage Practice), she understands conservation management plans, significance and heritage impact assessments, heritage interpretation, and heritage planning.

Mike Ritchie

Managing Director, MRA Consulting



Mike has over 30 years' experience in the waste management and recycling industry. He has worked with all levels of government and the private sector.

Mike's roles have included Managing Director of MRA Consulting Group, Group General Manager SUEZ Australia, General Manager WSN Environmental Solutions and State Manager of VISY Recycling. He was also a Director of a local government and Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Brisbane.

Jen Walker

Head of PR, Marketing & Communications, TerraCycle Australia & New Zealand



Jen has more than 30 years' experience in the communication industry, working in media, consultancies and in-house. Wanting to use her skills to help protect the planet, Jen joined global recyclers TerraCycle in 2019 and heads a team comprising marketing, PR, customer service and Zero Waste Boxes for Australia and New Zealand.

Richard Wiesel

Senior Coordinator City Image, Blacktown City Council



Rick has had a varied career in the registered club industry, community development sector and local government. Rick currently leads Blacktown City Councils public place cleansing programs, street cleaning and graffiti removal teams and works in partnership with colleagues and agencies to deliver major street art and public place improvement projects. Rick lives in the Lower Blue Mountains with his family and enjoys playing guitar, golf and volunteering for Keep Australia Beautiful and junior rugby league.



2021 OVERALL WINNER - SINGLETON

POPULATION CATEGORY D

Singleton is a long-time competitor in the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards program, winning the 2016 Overall NSW State Award, and a number of national awards.

The town takes environmental sustainability, litter prevention and recycling seriously, which is demonstrated through high-calibre initiatives including the Singleton Waste Facility.

Singleton residents' care also extends to the surrounding natural environment through several projects that increase environmental awareness in the local community, as well as those who may need a little boost in their life.

Singleton has a particularly wide network of community organisations that communicate well, proving that they can work collaboratively for another's cause.

The local Wonnarua people are the traditional owners of the Singleton area and are recognised, respected and celebrated through many cultural events. Through the Singleton Clontarf Academy, the Clontarf Foundation – although not well known – makes a big difference to the future of many young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men by assisting them to complete school, develop strong community connections and pride, and prepare for employment.



2021 OVERALL FINALISTS

Murrurundi

FINALIST

Population Category A

Murrurundi boasts an extremely strong community spirit that has been tested recently during a prolonged drought, floods, a mouse plague and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communication and community engagement are cornerstones to the community's endurance, with 30 different interest groups – in a population of 800 people – tackling various issues faced by the community.

The town has been practicing resource recovery and waste minimisation for many years through a 'litter ethic' of never passing a piece of litter and leaving it on the ground, strong education on proper waste disposal, recycling and organic waste management.

Additionally, the community demonstrates a commitment to habitat and wildlife conservation through several programs in the Pages River environs, Paradise Park and Golf Club lands.

The township's pride in its heritage and culture has been exemplified through several projects documenting the local human history, as well as areas of historical interest.



Bega

WINNER

Population Category B

Bega takes environmental sustainability seriously, developing several initiatives that foster strong waste minimisation practices and protection of the natural environment.

Unafraid to try something new, Bega residents welcomed a number of trials to deal with the community's waste, including the 'Food Waste Dehydrator Trial' and the 'Bega Valley Compostable Nappy Trial'.

The Bega community also takes pride in protecting its natural habitat, celebrating its Indigenous and early European settler history, and coming to the aid of those in need.

People of Bega also show a great spirit, recognising and honouring their Indigenous past and present, as well as recognising the early European settlers in the Valley.

The Community Pantry, which was started in response to bushfire relief and continues to operate six days a week, enables participants to 'take what you need and give what you can', with all food and household items being donated or purchased from Food Bank.



Wollongong

WINNER

Population Category E

Wollongong has a very strong commitment to environmental sustainability and has taken many steps to ensure the future resilience of the city. Wollongong City Council engages the community at all levels and achieves strong support for many programs and initiatives.

The collaboration between Council, community and local businesses ranges from small projects such as providing locally endemic plants for school children to plant in their schools, to more involved ones such as improving reuse from kerbside clean ups.

The Wollongong community has also successfully demonstrated its ability to rehabilitate and restore once abandoned land for the benefit of all.

The Fair Food Farm, an urban permaculture farm was created in 2021 and to date has employed 111 young people including former refugees, conducted educational tours, produced 35,118kg of sustainably grown food and kept 157 tonnes of waste out of landfill through recycling and minimalist packaging.



Cessnock

FINALIST

Population Category E

Cessnock maintains the commitment to environmental sustainability that led to being named Overall Winner in 2018, once more demonstrating huge heart and a strong sense of collaboration and engagement between Council, community organisations, local businesses and local residents.

Several initiatives such as the 'Mattress Drop Off Days' and 'Kicking Goals with Organics' programs show how much can be achieved when community and Council collaborate.

Habitat and wildlife conservation also feature prominently in the hearts of the Cessnock community. The 'Our Bushland' campaign was created to raise local awareness about caring for the local environment and fauna through a series of bushwalks, spotlight walks and educational videos.

The Cessnock community shows its biggest strength by the way it cares for those in need. 'Soupz On – Free Meals and Assistance' provides – from the side of a van – support, information for community services, food and essential items to the homeless and those in need.



2021 OVERALL FINALISTS

Orange

FINALIST

Population Category E

Orange is a long-standing participant in the Awards program, having previously won many awards, including the Overall award.

The town is committed to the principles of environmental sustainability, developing new projects each year that advance the cause and benefit the community wholistically.

Ronald McDonald House, Orange is a prime example of how community engagement can benefit the environment and be a charitable act, with all proceeds from their Return & Earn program going back to the House.

Orange City Council maintains very strong engagement with the community.

Since 2014, 226 community events were held, 18,560 trees and shrubs were planted, many habitat and waterway regeneration projects were undertaken, and wildlife conservation initiatives were put in place.

Orange has also shown dexterity in problem solving, whilst honouring its commitment to sustainable practices, as evidenced in the Orange Regional Airport Solar Photovoltaic Carport System.



Port Stephens

FINALIST

Population Category E

Port Stephens has shown a strong network of businesses, community organisations and individual volunteers who actively work together to protect and care for the marine environment through clean ups, fundraising activities and donations in kind.

The care for the local environment is evidenced through several projects, including Sea Shelter's animal hospital and volunteer program.

The Irukandji building, which houses the hospital, also emphasises the community's commitment to sustainability by being built using low embodied energy materials, being solar powered, endeavouring to minimise water consumption and practicing 'reusing, reducing and recycling'.

The Community Arts Centre provides opportunities for the residents to participate in 16 activities including painting, gardening and woodworking. It is very well run by volunteers and includes an exhibition space allowing works to be displayed and sold.





Queanbeyan

FINALIST

Population Category E

Queanbeyan, located in the south-eastern region of New South Wales, has shown that much environmentally sustainable work is carried out by Council and residents. It is a rural city that presents well in how it functions and operates.

Several projects, ranging from a local company that recycles used cooking oils and animal fat to produce chemical and synthetic-free soaps to Council working closely with food outlets to minimise litter, demonstrate Queanbeyan's dedication to resource recovery and waste minimisation.

The Men's Shed, riparian zone nest boxes installation and education trailer projects are examples of good communication between Council and the community.

The merger between the Queanbeyan and Palering Councils created a large community, which is regarded by the now regional council as one, shows what healthy collaboration can achieve across a diverse and large area.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation

WINNER

Population Category B

Bega Valley Compostable Nappy Trial

Bega Valley Shire Council

The Bega Valley Compostable Nappy Trial examined the feasibility of accepting compostable nappy products as an input into Council's Organic's Processing Facility.

Following the community's concerns regarding odour and storage associated with the implementation of the FOGO service and transition to a fortnightly landfill bin service – where a large portion of calls received by Council post implementation related to households with children that were disposing nappies in the general waste bin – a compostable nappy trial was set up.

The trial was a success, with 95% of households noticing a decrease in the odour produced by the fortnightly landfill bin service and further 82.5% of households noting a decrease in fullness of the general waste bin.



WINNER

Population Category E

The Great Aussie Waste Challenge

The Great Aussie Waste Challenge (Shellharbour)

The Great Aussie Waste Challenge initiative sought to address the lack of knowledge in the community regarding waste management and recycling options.

By developing a Facebook-based platform and engaging content that resonated and facilitated education of the community to improve their habits and understanding, The Great Aussie Waste Challenge delivered their message to 1,600 households.

The Great Aussie Waste Challenge and the associated Two Week Challenge campaigns proved to be very effective in a 12-month period, delivering short and sharp communication to all participants that educates and informs. The campaign has seen a growth rate of 30%, engagement rate of more than 80% and membership retention rate of 98%.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Responsible Soap and Bath Products

Delizia Naturally (Queanbeyan)

Delizia Naturally sought to address the opportunity to reuse cooking oils and animal fat being disposed, transforming them into clean, viable, chemical free soap and bath products.

Approximately 17 million tonnes of waste frying oils are produced in the world annually, with incorrect disposal after use posing one of the biggest environmental problems. Likewise, the waste product of meat – when melted down, called ‘tallow’ – also presented a challenge.

Additionally, to combat waste generated by packaging, Delizia Naturally only uses paper, glass jars or aluminium that can be reused or recycled.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Litter Prevention

WINNER

Population Category C

Solar Smart Bins Around Lake Forbes

Forbes Shire Council

Despite an upgrade of infrastructure around Lake Forbes and provision of extra bins with increased servicing times, the surrounding area continued to experience litter issues in prominent locations that resulted in complaints from the community.

The Forbes Shire Council identified most of the litter as food packaging, which takes up a lot of space in conventional bins, posing the risk of waste overflow. As a result, the Council explored the possibility of using solar smart bins that could compact the waste and increase the holding capacity of bins.

Since their installation, Council has reported a 96% reduction in litter count and 99.5% reduction in litter volume across three locations; reduced litter complaints; reduced bin servicing frequencies and an overall improvement in the environment.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Singleton: Celebrating Adopt a Road

Singleton Tidy Towns

The Singleton Tidy Towns Committee set out to raise awareness of roadside litter whilst facilitating a financial benefit for the Singleton community through various not-for-profit organisations.

By creating a process of connection, negotiation, partnerships and secured financial benefits for community organisations, the Singleton Tidy Towns Committee works to clear litter from an eight-kilometre stretch of road, thus reducing litter impact on the environment and preventing waterway contamination.

In the process, the committee educates the local community of the benefits of litter reduction and taking responsibility for their local area.



WINNER

Population Category E

Choose Tap Water - A Sustainable Choice

Eurobodalla Shire Council

The Eurobodalla Shire Council recognised the value of reducing or avoiding the use of purchased bottled water, instead opting for tap or tank water to refill reusable bottles for environmental, financial and social reasons.

To encourage choosing tap water, Council needed to make it accessible and convenient for the community, inspiring people to choose tap water for a variety of sustainable reasons.

Having identified that communities were reluctant to use water fountains and taps in public toilets for hygiene reasons but would use conveniently located refill stations, Council reached out to the community, including artistic community, for inspirational messages and ideas.

Additionally, it worked to provide reusable bottles and refill stations and increased awareness of the sustainability of choosing to avoid purchased bottled water, resulting in added value to tap water, reduced litter and no vandalism to installations.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Banishing Bathurst Butts

Bathurst Regional Council

Butt Litter Checks completed by Bathurst Regional Council's Environmental Officers found large quantities of illegally discarded cigarette butts in the CBD. It was reported that approximately 18,000 cigarette butts were being littered in the area each week, most of which, would wash into the river via stormwater.

The Banishing Bathurst Butts project saw the installation of 25 butt bins and 90 educational and directional signs; local businesses engagement; re-branding of 75 existing bins; community education and a social media and public transport advertising campaign to tackle breaking this litter habit.

CBD cigarette litter decreased by 93.7% in the first nine months of the project, and was featured in the NSW Government Waste and Sustainable Material Strategy 2041.

Bathurst Regional Council has shown that improving infrastructure, education, signage and the increasing enforcement was a successful approach that can be applied in hotspots outside the Bathurst CBD.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Return and Earn Litter Prevention

CATEGORY WINNER

Sub-Category: NGO/Community Group
Population Category E

Helping Koalas with Return and Earn

KCA Ltd, Port Macquarie Koala Hospital

Port Macquarie Koala Hospital created a campaign that combined the correct use of garbage bins with collection of drink containers for the Return & Earn scheme.

Winning entries of an art competition showcased the work of local school children whose winning entries decorated the recycling bins, with multilingual signage further instructing the correct use of waste and recycling bins.

The implementation of the project resulted in improved and correct waste disposal and recycling by the general public, reduced waste and obtaining value from waste.



WINNER

Sub-Category: NGO/Community Group
Population Category A

Hill End War on Waste (WOW)

Hill End & District Volunteer
Bushfire Brigade (Bathurst)

The project began with a circular email from then Secretary Gaye Shanahan in April 2018 calling for public support to collect the empties as an environmental initiative which could also raise money for the school or other worthwhile causes.

The project is fully volunteer driven with the main activities being collecting the empties from local establishments, sorting and packing them into milk crates and bags for transport and then transporting and unloading them in Bathurst.

Since inception, the brigade has raised almost \$7,000 through recycling. This represents almost 70,000 items which would have otherwise ended in landfill.



Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER

Sub-Category: NGO/Community Group
Population Category B

Earn and Return Recycling

Rotary Club of Bungendore

QPRC offers the Rotary Club Earn and Return bins to strategically place at various businesses and organisations around the Bungendore Village, ensuring that bottles and cans that could be recycled would not go into landfill.

To date, the Rotary Club has collected approximately \$2,500 and returned the earning back into local community projects.



WINNER

Sub-Category: NGO/Community Group
Population Category C

PDBC 2020-21 R&E Initiative in Parkes

Parkes Dragon Boat Club

The club founders, Bill & Beth Thomas, realised that the Return & Earn Scheme was an effective means to not only help the environment but also raise development funds for the club.

By taking part in many working bees and rubbish collection activities along the lake foreshore, club members raised funds that assisted with club development programs and events that in turn raised funds to give back to central western charities.

Local landowners in the area have commented on the improvement to the lake, noting more visitors are becoming aware of the club's efforts and in turn, making an effort to keep the areas clean.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Return and Earn Litter Prevention

WINNER

Sub-Category: NGO/Community Group
Population Category E

Container Recycling Scheme

Muswellbrook District Junior
Rugby League Football Club

After years of relying on bulky waste collections, the Muswellbrook District Junior Rugby League Football Club realised that the Return and Earn program could benefit the community and the club by reducing their waste footprint and offsetting dump fees.

The program implementation has been so successful, even the youngest members of the community are now taking part in recycling their containers. The club has also successfully reduced its waste to a point where it is able to rely on kerbside collection.

The money the club is saving, and the funds earned from the return and earn collections, are being directed towards a more permanent bulky waste container that can sustain break-ins and be tamper proof and offer a drop off point for the public.



WINNER

Sub-Category: Schools
Population Category D

Eco Team Return and Earn Program

Cudgegong Valley Public School

Cudgegong Valley Public School wanted to reduce the litter and recycle rubbish coming to the school and raise money using the Return and Earn program to help resource the school's waste reduction program.

By forming an Eco committee, the collected bottles and cans are returned to collection points, with funds going back to the school.

Since 2019, the school has raised nearly \$1,760, which went towards partly funding the school's recycling bins and the establishment of a biodiversity garden.





WINNER

Sub-Category: Schools
Population Category E

Return and Earn for the Community

St Columba Anglican School –
Primary (Port Macquarie)

Teaching staff at St Columba Anglican School looked at ways in which 'sustainability' learning could be used in real life situations and eventually be transferred to home environments.

By creating a student led team, to promote and implement a Return & Earn scheme at school, students were educated about the benefits of recycling to keep waste out of landfill, and at the same time provide a benefit to community groups requiring assistance.

The project generated a behavioural change in students, creating a deeper awareness and understanding about Return & Earn and knowledge of environmental issues. Additionally, the school was able to reduce waste to landfill, with approximately 1,980 containers diverted from landfill in one semester alone.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Circular Economy

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

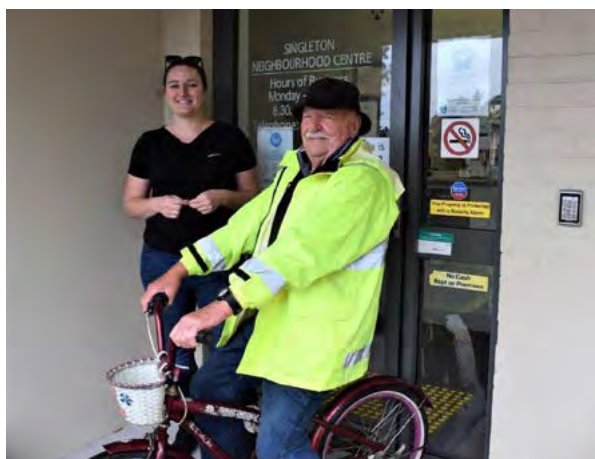
Singleton Men's Shed: Recycle Cycles

Singleton Tidy Towns

The Recycle Cycles initiative aims to reduce waste going to landfill by recovering and restoring cast-off bicycles for reuse by those who may need one, want one or be unable to afford one. The outcome of which has resulted in bikes of all kinds delivered to a wide range of people from toddlers to adults.

The initiative also provides a meaningful experience for Singleton Men Shed members, ultimately providing them with an activity that benefits the community.

This has been a very 'quiet' project that people are only now starting to appreciate. A project like this, however, requires sensitivity and privacy to allow it to fulfill its aims. The smiles and pride on the faces of those who receive a 'free ride' is a huge reward for the members but also one that deserves confidentiality and respect to recipients.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Communication & Engagement

WINNER

Population Category B

The Bega Tathra Safe Ride Trash Trike

Bega Tathra Safe Ride

Bega Tathra Safe Ride Inc (BTSR) is a community group working towards the construction of a shared path between Bega and Tathra.

Regular riders noted a vast amount of rubbish that would build up along the road, deciding to commence a regular clean up program on World Environment Day 2020.

Since its commencement, approximately three ute loads of rubbish have been removed using the 'Trash Trike' – an e-trike with a front mounted bin.

The group's efforts and continued weekly clean ups have resulted in a significant tourist road becoming free of litter.



JOINT WINNER

Population Category D

Muswellbrook Connect

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Muswellbrook Shire Council and Muswellbrook Healthy and Well planned a 'Muswellbrook Connect' event with a sustainability and health focus featuring 16 workshops and over 500 registered participants.

Once severe COVID-19 restrictions prevented any face-to-face engagement, Council identified the need to keep engaging with community to help residents at home.

By enlisting community partners and technology to keep the community connected within COVID restrictions, Council and Muswellbrook Healthy & Well released three videos each week, established a seed library and distributed more than 1,000 seed packets and 500 veggie seedling, as well as created 21 walking routes.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Communication & Engagement

JOINT WINNER

Population Category D

Slow Foods Singleton - Citrus Rescue

Singleton Tidy Towns

Slow Foods Singleton – Citrus Rescue aims to reduce food waste from the garden, create renewed enthusiasm for locally grown fresh food and encourage backyard gardening.

An idea borne from watching citrus fruit grown in the community’s backyards going to waste and rot, Slow Foods Singleton – Citrus Rescue uses the help of volunteers – and a savvy social campaign – to provide a service that collects surplus fruit grown by community members.

In the first year of operating, the group collected 60 boxes of oranges, sending them to Coonabarabran, an area that had not had any citrus fruit for several years due to drought.

Since 2019, Slow Foods Singleton – Citrus Rescue has added a new value of locally grown fruit and vegetables, reducing food waste, with tonnes of fruit rescued from the ground and from trees and being donated to schools and services.



WINNER

Population Category E

Operation Nappy

Wollongong City Council

Operation Nappy sets out to reduce the significant and damaging environmental impact of 2 billion disposable nappies going to landfill each year in Australia, by encouraging cloth nappy usage.

By educating the community on modern cloth nappies, the initiative provides the community with the knowledge needed to facilitate behavioural change and improve environmental outcomes.

The workshop was targeted and delivered to expectant parents attending pre-natal classes at local hospitals, and new parent sessions held at local Baby Health clinics.

Since the project’s implementation, 800,000 disposable nappies per year have been diverted from landfill.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Sustainable Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga City Council

Sustainable Wagga Wagga aims to ensure the long-term engagement of residents in sustainable living and to build a community of residents actively participating and sharing their knowledge and experience.

Through its efforts, the Wagga Wagga City Council has seen a 21% increase in social media followers in a 12-month period, a 36% increase in engagement on social media posts and an 87% increase in social post reach.

The establishment, management and ongoing adaptation of the Sustainable Wagga Wagga platform ensures that it will continue to evolve and respond to changing community needs, becoming a trusted source of information that fosters continued engagement and education on environmental issues and challenges.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Community Spirit & Inclusion

WINNER

Population Category A

PUSH48

Jennifer Sanders &
Dayna Hynes (Murrurundi)

Jennifer Sanders and Dayna Hynes set out to support local schools by offering programs for students that focused on health, fitness, confidence and wellbeing that may not have been available without financial assistance.

PUSH48 created and offered a fitness endurance challenge within the community to promote mental and physical health tying in with hopes for the school.

The initiative raised almost \$10,000, which was donated to the the Murrurundi Public School, with a further \$500 contributed to developing staff wellbeing activities.



WINNER

Population Category B

Kyogle Harmony Labyrinth

Friends of the Labyrinth (Kyogle)

The Kyogle Harmony Labyrinth was developed as a self-help resource to assist with mental health needs of a regional community grappling with a combination of high rates of depression and suicide, and possessing limited support services. During a time of great community grief, the labyrinth offered a space for solace, process and comfort.

Friends of the Labyrinth raised interest and awareness in as many places and forums as possible to develop community acceptance and support for the project, creating a labyrinth that is widely used by the local community and visitors alike, and is accepted as a great community/ council partnership.

Friends of the Labyrinth continue being committed to providing the local community and visitors with a place for quiet contemplation, transformation and inner exploration.



WINNER

Population Category D

Barrier Field Naturalists Club Centenary

Barrier Field Naturalists' Club Inc. (Broken Hill)

As the club approached its centenary, being faced with a declining and ageing population in the region, it became apparent that broadening community support was essential in ensuring the club's longevity.

Barrier Field Naturalists' Club successfully staged a three-month centenary exhibition which resonated with locals and enlightened tourists, promoting the value of participation to achieve positive environmental outcomes.

The exhibition and activities highlighted achievements of the last 100 years of the Club's charter 'to observe, record and protect the natural environment', encouraging more oral history participation as visitors frequently had stories to recount about the local environment and the Club, especially the Regeneration Reserve.



JOINT WINNER

Population Category E

COVID Care Packages

Green Connect (Wollongong)

Green Connect set out to connect and support the community during the prolonged lockdown, when many families became in dire need of assistance due to many services and supports becoming unavailable.

Green Connect launched care packages where those in need could receive free food from Green Connect's farm or receive a tailored box of gently used items from the organisation's op shop.

After launching a community appeal for donations, in three and a half weeks of Green Connect launching the initiative, the organisation received 564 donations, 685 requests for assistance and had delivered 318 care packages to people in need.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Community Spirit & Inclusion

JOINT WINNER

Population Category E

Hampers of Hope

Hampers of Hope (Griffith)

Hampers of Hope strives to rescue food from supermarkets and businesses that would otherwise end up in landfill and deliver it to disadvantaged community members.

Hampers of Hope volunteers collect the food then package it into hampers for redistributed through service providers to disadvantaged members of the community.

In 24 months, the initiative has rescued over 167,679 kilograms of food waste and redistributed it in 22,500 hampers, which equates to 335,358 meals for disadvantaged community members.



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CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Heritage & Culture

WINNER

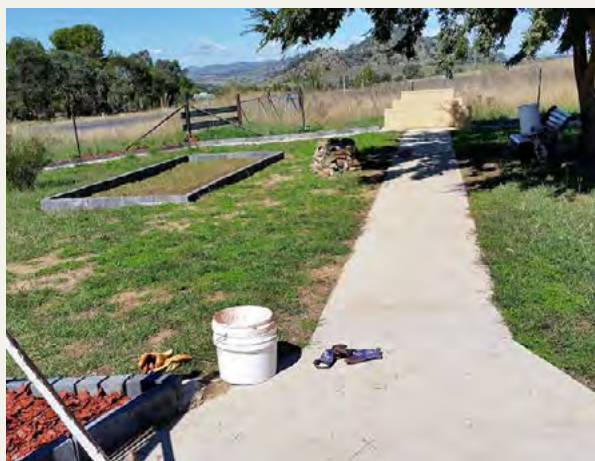
Population Category A

Darby's Falls Cemetery Improvement

Darby's Falls Progress Association

Darby's Falls Progress Association set out to transform the Darby Falls Cemetery, which became an unsafe place for elderly with lacking amenities, to a place where locals and former locals could visit to and honour their loved ones.

The area was beautified and enhanced as a safe, calm and relaxing place for people to visit and pay their respects with the creation of a cemented pathway, a built memorial wall; planted and mulched gardens around the cemetery's perimeter and a built seat.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A

Murrurundi CWA Sharing Memories

Murrurundi CWA

The Sharing Memories project involved local CWA members developing a questionnaire as a guide to facilitating the workshop session to celebrate the International Women's Day in an innovative way and to record stories from childhood memories in Murrurundi.

The event enabled local community members to share memories of early childhood, school, career and family events, resulting in stronger community connections.

The event's great success inspired a follow up event that was held in conjunction with Men's Health Week and a planned book documenting the collected stories.



WINNER

Population Category B

Greta Camp Memorial Wall

Greta Tidy Towns Committee

The Greta Tidy Towns Committee had identified the significance of the local army training camp, which became the Greta Migrant Camp from 1949 to 1961, housing approximately 170,000 displaced people fleeing Europe post World War II and was the second largest migrant camp in Australia.

The Greta Camp Memorial Wall commemorates the former soldiers who called the camp 'home', as well as the migrants who passed through its gates in hope of finding a new life in Australia; creating a space for all to commemorate their early experiences.



WINNER

Population Category D

Singleton Mechanics Institute

Singleton Tidy Towns

The Singleton Tidy Towns Committee identified various issues that were impacting on the conservation of the 1866 Mechanics Institute Singleton building.

Serious water and drainage impacts were identified and prioritised as areas requiring high-priority attention.

Heritage buildings such as the Mechanics Institute require specific and specialised restoration techniques that are costly. After several years of negotiating for funds, the Singleton Council commenced work on the water and drainage issues, sensitively addressing the specific needs of the building to protect its future.

The Singleton Tidy Towns Committee recognise that strong advocates and passionate people are required to see that heritage buildings survive and thrive for many generations to come.



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CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Heritage & Culture

WINNER

Population Category E

Indigenous Artwork at Lake Canobolas

Orange City Council

The initiative set out to enlighten and educate the community about local Indigenous culture through expression of art in a way that was inviting and uplifting.

A local Indigenous artist and his assistants were engaged by the Orange City Council to create two artworks of their choosing to be displayed on a high-visitation site at Lake Canobolas.

Each piece of artwork tells two different Dreamtime stories of the Wiradjuri people, reminding visitors of the strong traditional links to country and land.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Habitat & Wildlife Conservation

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C

Creating Homes for Threatened Species

Forbes Shire Council

The 'Creating Homes for Threatened Species' project was conceived on the back of previous work by the Environment & Waterways Alliance in pioneering the uptake of chainsaw carved hollows across the Central West of NSW.

The concept was developed as a unique project that could deliver meaningful environmental outcomes, important learning opportunities and be delivered across all the Alliance Member Councils.

The project sets out to create chainsaw carved hollows in dead trees to generate habitats for threatened species to boost their population and fight their extinction. To date, 20 chainsaw hollows around the gum swamp in Forbes have been installed targeting approximately 19 species of birds and mammals endemic to the area.



WINNER

Population Category D

Habitat Restoration for Gunnedah Koalas

Tamworth Regional Landcare Association

Local koalas face an uncertain future as a result of loss of habitat, heat waves, drought and negative human impact.

The Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA) was awarded a 'Saving our Species' grant to procure a minimum of 30 hectares of new koala habitat on private properties, with a Gunnedah-based steering committee leading the project.

With 16 landholders participating in the project, the Association aims to create 45 hectares of new habitat on private land across both Shires.

The project has ensured that landholders have been given access to expert advice from an ecologist and mapped corridors that most benefit koalas traversing their landscapes. Landcare experts in farm revegetation have provided support in the form of a field day to ensure tree plantings have the best chance of survival.



WINNER

Population Category E

Little Tern Conservation Project

Central Coast Council

The Little Tern Conservation Project aims to manage threats including human disturbance, litter, predators and dogs around the endangered Little Tern rookery at Karagi Point, to enable a successful breeding season.

Several council teams worked collaboratively to install temporary fencing and signage, undertake regular litter collection, weekly nest monitoring, ranger patrols, public communication and community education.

Thanks to the project, the 2020/21 Little Tern breeding season at Karagi Point was deemed the most successful on record, with the breeding colony being considered the most important site in NSW for that period.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Animal Hospital & Volunteer Program

Sea Shelter (Port Stephens)

Sea Shelter was established in 2017 to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured marine life, and is now expanding into a purpose-built marine life hospital.

Driven by the lack of protection, rescue and rehabilitation available for elasmobranchs, fish and marine reptiles, the Sea Shelter endeavours to make a difference to the protection of misunderstood ocean wildlife.

With the assistance from Irukandji Shark & Ray Encounters, Sea Shelter volunteers, Port Stephens and Newcastle residents, local businesses, Council and the community, Sea Shelter has acquired part of Irukandji land to build a purpose made marine hospital.

As of July 2020, Sea Shelter moved into a temporary hospital in Irukandji's quarantine area, commencing to care for the marine reptiles along with the fish.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Recycled Organics

WINNER

Population Category B

Bega Valley Compostable Nappy Trial

Bega Valley Shire Council

The introduction of a weekly FOGO service to the Bega Valley in October 2018 caused concerns amongst the community regarding bin storage and odour associated with the change to a fortnightly landfill bin service. A large portion of calls received by the Bega Shire Council post implementation related to storage and odour concerns, with households with children in nappies most dominant.

The Bega Valley Compostable Nappy Trial, which involved 50 households, examined the feasibility of accepting compostable nappy products (nappies, wipes and bags) as an input into Council's Organic's Processing Facility.

Approximately 95% of households noticed a decrease in the odour produced by the fortnightly landfill bin service, and 82.5% of households noticed a decrease in the fullness of their landfill bin. These results show that the disposal of compostable nappies via FOGO reduced community concerns associated with odour and storage.



WINNER

Population Category C

FOGO Deep Dive Education Project

Forbes Shire Council

A 2019 bin audit showed that large amount of FOGO materials that could be recovered to make compost, ended up in landfill.

Forbes Shire Council waste management and communication teams rolled out a three-month long education and awareness campaign focusing on diversion of FOGO materials from red lid garbage bins to green lid FOGO bins.

Outcomes of the campaign to date show a contamination rate decrease from 3.2% to 1.8%, with food recovery increasing by 4%; loose food waste in general waste bin being reduced by 26%; packaged food waste in general waste bin being reduced by 18%; and total food waste presented in kerbside bin (general waste + FOGO) being reduced by 15%.



WINNER

Population Category D

Your Organics Working in Singleton

Singleton Tidy Towns

'Your Organics Working in Singleton' initiative sets out to extend messaging into community groups and residents to use their bins correctly, with a focus on the environmental, economic and social benefits for the community.

Linking the organic material to community group projects of interest and passion encourages individuals to have an intrinsic reason to invest in using the service correctly.

Council in partnership with Solo Resource Recovery, Hunter Resource Recovery and JR have funded free subscriptions for all childcare centres, schools, public facilities and families in the LGA. The Get Grubby Program is an innovative online curriculum subscription service with a focus on sustainability, saving energy, being water-wise, composting, worm farming and growing a food garden.



WINNER

Population Category E

Kicking Goals with Organics

Cessnock City Council

Cessnock City Council's kerbside organics collection commenced in 2017 and has collected over 24,000 tonnes of organic waste that has been processed into a wide range of high-quality horticultural products.

By addressing contamination in the kerbside organics collection, overcoming negative perceptions about the quality of the final product and extending the reach of educational messaging, Council has been able to build positive partnerships with two local sporting clubs by providing sportsfield top dressing in return for prominent field signage and messaging through their club networks.

Educational messaging has always focussed on the environmental, economic and social benefits for the community, encouraging residents to care about and value the organics service by linking the final products to personal interests and passions.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Renewable Energy

WINNER

Population Category A

Lake Cargelligo Renewable Energy Project

Lachlan Shire Council

Lachlan Shire Council worked with NSW Government's Sustainable Councils and Communities (SCC) team to identify possible projects to reduce Council's energy consumption from external providers, progress towards net zero carbon emissions and reduce operational costs whilst continuing to meet the needs of the community.

The Council identified that installing renewable energy infrastructure, reducing operational costs, reducing council's carbon footprint, offsetting energy usage, installing five solar panel installations totalling 395kW will contribute \$82,700 per annum in operational savings, with all the money being placed into a Revolving Energy Fund for funding of future renewable projects.



WINNER

Population Category B

Condobolin Renewable Energy Project

Lachlan Shire Council

In 2019, with the help of the NSW Government's Sustainable Councils and Communities (SCC) program, Council identified a range of projects that promised to save nearly \$960,000, cut carbon emissions and create local jobs. Council secured \$1.1 million in federal government funding through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Program and immediately set to work on a program for renewable energy.

The seven renewable projects located in Condobolin are part of a larger renewable energy program comprising of 15 projects across Lachlan Shire. They were completed in June 2021 and are projected to contribute \$41,700 per annum in operational savings, of which, 100% will be placed into a Revolving Energy Fund for future renewable projects.



WINNER

Population Category C

Junee Becomes Energy Neutral by 2031

Junee Community Power Inc

Junee Community Power Inc (JCP) initiated a program with Junee High School (JHS) student in 2018 to help improve the energy efficiency of the Junee Senior Citizens Hall in the Empower Program.

With high cost of fossil fuel energy greatly draining precious financial resources from local organisations' core community activities and reducing the community's financial resilience, JCP set out to research potential renewable energy sources and other energy saving measures.

Following an extensive electrical safety audit, by April 2021, JCP was awarded a grant for the installation of a high-quality solar PV and energy efficient appliances for each of the projects.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Community Energy Fund

AlburyCity Council

AlburyCity is leading the way in reducing its carbon footprint and energy consumption through implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. To date, over 450kW of solar panels have been installed across Council's owned and operated facilities, with another 99kW to be installed during 2021/22.

A grant program was established for community groups leasing Council owned buildings to install renewable energy or implement energy efficiency projects.

The Community Energy Fund enables Council to demonstrate leadership and implementation under the Albury 2030: Our Community Strategic Plan and the Cities Power Partnership pledges. These document Council's long-term commitments to increase the use of renewables by Council, the community as well as business and industry.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Response to Climate Change

WINNER

Population Category E

Towards Net Zero - Climate Healthy City

Wollongong City Council

The Towards Net Zero - Climate Healthy City initiative is aimed at meeting Wollongong City Council's Climate Emergency Declaration commitments and to achieve the emissions reduction targets for Council operations and community emissions.

Council adopted a Sustainable Wollongong: A Climate Healthy City Strategy (long term strategies) and a Climate Change Mitigation Plan (CCMP) in December 2020.

To date, 68 of the 98 actions in the CCMP have been delivered or are being implemented, resulting in emissions savings of at least 40,000 tCO₂ annually. These projects include the introduction of FOGO collections for households, increased landfill gas flaring at Whyte's Gully Landfill, signing a 100% green energy Power Purchase Agreement for large sites and street lighting and adoption of an EV Charging on Public Land Policy.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

School's Achievement

WINNER

Population Category A

Waste Stream Management @ Belltrees PS

Belltrees Public School
(Upper Hunter)

The Waste Stream Management @ Belltrees PS initiative was focused on reducing the school's and community's waste footprint through a variety of strategies including community drop off points for Return and Earn and the establishment of waste stream systems at the school.

The initiative raised over \$7,500 and recycled over 75,000 bottles and cans, reducing the school's landfill waste from 1 from approximately 960L to approximately 120L.



WINNER

Population Category B

Sustainable Garden MCS

Manilla Central School Primary

The Sustainable Garden MCS project aimed to create an aesthetically pleasing, drought tolerant, sustainable garden at Manilla Central School to be enjoyed by school staff, students, visitors and local community.

Following its ethos of involving the whole Manilla community in all its projects, the school set out to identify and utilise drought tolerant plants that were sourced by staff and community members. Plants were relocated or propagated on site to keep costs low.

The resulting garden is not only a beautiful staff retreat but also a sensory garden for the students that is wheelchair and walker friendly.

Following a severe drought, the school has learnt that a beautiful garden could survive and thrive afterwards by planting drought tolerant and native plants.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

School's Achievement

WINNER

Population Category C

We Can Sort This Out!

Moama Anglican Grammar

Teachers and staff at Moama Anglican Grammar wanted students to take responsibility for their waste and think more deeply in relation to the impact their waste had on the environment.

Using Assemblies and the school's Facebook page, the school staff built awareness of the community's need to 'reduce and sort'.

The school introduced compost bins in each classroom as well as outside eating areas for food waste, and introduced sorting of soft plastics and recyclable materials, taking what they have learnt back to their homes and broader community.

Over the last three years, the school has noticed a significant reduction in the number of red and yellow bins being filled each week.

School staff have found that many students have begun to initiate different ideas in relation to reducing waste and sorting it.



WINNER

Population Category D

Cudgegong Valley PS Trash Free Tuesday

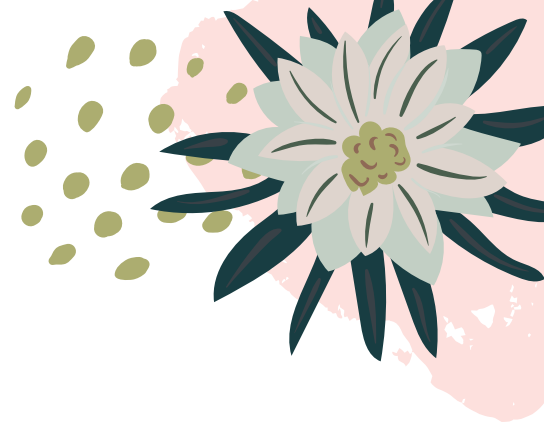
Cudgegong Valley Public School Eco Team

Cudgegong Valley PS sought to address the amount of rubbish that was coming into the school and that was being produced in the school. The school began with a waste audit, then looked at how it could minimise waste and how it could recycle effectively.

Trash Free Tuesday was born from an idea in one class to go 'trash free' one day a week. The concept was so successful, it was adopted by the rest of the school community creating zero waste lunchboxes in most of the school and reducing waste from 2,000 pieces of rubbish to under 400 pieces of rubbish a day.

This was followed by the creation of the school Eco Team, a development of a waste management plan and the implementation of the Return and Earn program. By involving the whole school in goals of reducing waste created a sense of purpose and pride for staff, students and the broader community.





HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Singleton Heights Pre-School

Singleton Tidy Towns

Singleton Heights Pre-School wished to establish and embed good sustainable practices in young minds attending the pre-school, with particular focus on solar energy and reuse of soft plastics.

The installation of solar panels has increased awareness of sustainable energy, effective cost saving and reduced the pre-schol's carbon footprint, with saving estimated to be \$5,000 per annum.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Waterways & Marine Protection

WINNER

Population Category A

Macdonald River Restoration

Macdonald River

Restoration Group (Bendemeer)

In 2014, The Macdonald River Restoration Group aimed to restore the riparian zone along the river by removing invasive trees and revegetation using native trees, shrubs and grasses.

Volunteer hours have been critical in achieving positive results to date, with a total of 650 hours dedicated to work on the project.

The river, which was once inaccessible for recreation and fishing has become a sought-after destination for locals and visitors.



WINNER

Population Category E

Tuggerah Lakes Connecting Our Foreshores

Central Coast Council

The Connecting our Foreshores Project was developed to directly address the priorities that were identified by the community and stakeholders through an extensive engagement and consultation process.

Foreshore restoration and revitalisation was needed after decades of urban development had damaged the sensitive ecological communities along the foreshore and depleted lake water quality.

This project pioneered novel saltmarsh restoration methodologies to successfully rehabilitate 8.3 hectares of saltmarsh plus 10.7 hectares of swamp oak whilst improving community access. Between August 2020 and May 2021, saltmarsh species planting survival rates were over 90% and natural regeneration expanded its cover by an additional 35%.



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CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Young Legend's

WINNER

Population Category C

Nature Explorers

Nature Explorers and Pottsville Community Preschool

Nature Explorers educates preschool children to become active and sustainable citizens of their community. This includes conservation and sustainable practices, rubbish collection and native tree planting.

By implementing into daily programming sustainable practise and creating community partnerships such as Hastings Dune care and work with Landcare, the children actively engage in improving their community.

Nature Explorers and Pottsville Community Preschool were involved in extensive planting at Hastings Dune care, weeding and removal of weed species in collaboration with Landcare, and removal of rubbish from Pottsville sites and surrounds.

Nature Explorers and Pottsville Community Preschool believe that children will advocate for their environment and pass knowledge to their families and wider community.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C

Give Back Day

Moama Anglican Grammar

The Give Back Day project aimed to reduce the impact of unwanted clothing going to landfill.

Students at the school raised awareness of the issue, arranging a clothing drive at the school, and connecting with a local organisation that was able to distribute it to families in need.

Through the project, 50 large bags of clothing – or 224 kilograms – was diverted from landfill and donated to the those in need within the community.

The success can also be measured by the flow-on effect this project has had on the school community, with a small group of students seeking to grow sustainability practices in the school by initiating a Soft Plastics Competition.



WINNER

Population Category D

Trash Free Tuesday and Waste Reduction

Cudgegong Valley Public School Eco Team

Staff at the Cudgegong Valley Public School felt that the school community would benefit greatly from the establishment of an ECO Team, which would provide a voice for all students.

Two student leaders from each class were selected to be part of the team and assist in the running of the recycling program.

The school achieved many positive outcomes including a whole school recycling program – with the assistance of the Return and Earn program – increase in waste minimisation, sustainability and recycling education outcomes, community engagement and fostering of student leadership.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Singleton Clontarf Academy: 100

Singleton Tidy Towns

By using supportive relationships, the Clontarf Foundation sets out to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and confidence of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to assist them to participate in the workforce and society in a positive way.

The motto of the Foundation is From Little Things Big Things Grow, with participants being engaged in various community activities including the Singleton Clean Up Australia Day. Working with other groups creates community connection, ownership, a sense of achievement and town pride that are passed onto their families and friends.

The young men have contributed to more than 5 tonnes of waste collected during the annual Clean Up Australia Day, setting a positive example for other young people in the town.





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