



2016 Green Globe Awards – Finalists

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**Award winners announced
Thursday 27 October 2016**

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Awards for Organisations and Individuals

Business Leadership Award

This award recognises outstanding NSW businesses or corporations that have fully integrated environmental management and sustainable practices into their strategy, planning and operations and/or service delivery to strengthen their commercial viability. The finalists are setting new benchmarks in corporate sustainability and ensuring their values are aligned with their actions.

Biopak

BioPak was founded in 2006 to provide sustainable and renewable plant-based alternatives to plastic food packaging.

The company's disposable packaging – made from sustainably sourced rapidly renewable materials – aims to give consumers an affordable, hygienic, and aesthetically pleasing way of enjoying take-away food without a negative environmental impact.

BioPak donates 4.5% of its profits to community charities, plus 1% of profits to Rainforest Rescue. All carbon emissions associated with the production, distribution and disposal of its products are offset through the purchase of carbon credits.

Since 2010, BioPak customers have effectively offset 45,000 tons of CO₂ emissions – the equivalent of removing 17,633 cars from the road.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Small manufacturing business promoting non-polluting products and supporting external environmental conservation programs.”

Ikea Australia: IKEA People & Planet Positive

With over 300 stores and 44 factories in 26 countries, global manufacturing and retail group IKEA emphasises the sustainable sourcing and production of its products.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Great to see IKEA taking big leaps forward in environmental and social sustainability to minimize impacts of fast furniture.”

IKEA's recent Australian achievements include:

- becoming the first retailer to offer a mattress take-back and recycling service
- switching its entire retail light range to LED lights – and selling almost one million light bulbs in 12 months
- installing the largest commercial rooftop solar PV system in Australia. Together with in-store energy efficiencies, this has reduced energy consumption by 31%.
- recycling 71% of store waste in 2015 – with a goal of 95% by 2020
- eliminating all food waste to landfill from in-store restaurants.

IKEA's market focus has been on optimising environmental and social outcomes in its product design, manufacture and retailing. The company presents a strong environmental responsibility message to its 14-million-plus annual visitors in Australia.

Business Leadership Award

Unilever Australia and New Zealand: Unilever Sustainable Living Plan

Selling more than 400 brands in over 190 countries, Unilever is one of the world's leading suppliers of food, home and personal care products.

Through the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan the company is working to halve the environmental footprint of its products by 2020 and make sustainable living commonplace.

Last year Unilever Australia:

- improved energy efficiency in its NSW factories by 38%
- reduced water usage by 40%, and waste by 26%
- reduced non-hazardous waste to landfill from its Australian offices, warehouses and factories to zero
- achieved the highest score in the 'Large Pharmacy and Personal Care' category of the Australian Packaging Covenant.

Unilever also works with other businesses, government and NGOs to make progress on major issues such as climate change, deforestation and sustainable agriculture.



“Unilever is starting to demonstrate change in areas from social engagement to materials use and there is real scope of impact and opportunities ahead.”

Community Leadership Award

This award recognises outstanding community leadership and commitment from not-for-profit organisations whose locally relevant sustainability initiatives have widespread benefits for NSW communities. Finalists understand the importance of connecting with their community to drive better standards in environmental and resource conservation.

Intrepid Landcare

Intrepid Landcare is an adventurous organisation led by young people for young people that addresses the problem of low levels of youth involvement in the Landcare sector.

“The creation of Intrepid Landcare engages young people... and encourages them to become leaders in caring for the environment.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



Collaborating with local groups, regional networks, state Landcare networks and national Landcare bodies, Intrepid Landcare provides a shared platform through stories, opportunities, training, resources and a can-do attitude to connect and empower young people to act and lead with Landcare in their community.

Each Intrepid Landcare experience harnesses the knowledge and skills of the partner group, often an older generation, which hosts a team of young volunteers for a day or weekend. Julia Saltmarsh, who has since founded her own Landcare group, says of the experience “The talks from environmental leaders were really inspiring and I learnt ALOT about myself and my personal goals over the weekend. I met some key mentors and friends who I am still in contact with today.”

Beginning with Illawarra Intrepid Landcare in 2009, the organisation has inspired other local networks in the Hunter and North Coast.

Community Leadership Award

Petersham Bowling Club

Located in the heart of Sydney's inner west, Petersham Bowling Club is one of the oldest bowling clubs in NSW. The club has a vibrant and creative, poker-machine-free community with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability.

The club has installed:

- rainwater tanks for the toilets and greens.
- ceiling insulation and window awnings
- a 5.25kW solar PV system
- roller towel service in bathrooms to stop paper towels going to landfill
- a post-mix dispenser resulting in 50% fewer soft drink containers and cardboard
- a tap at the bar instead of selling bottled water
- The club's recycling and composting program annually diverts 20 cubic metres of waste from landfill.

As a small community club owned by its members, the Petersham Bowling Club is a leader in environmental sustainability. It takes every opportunity to proudly publicise and promote its sustainable practices and environmental awards through its website and club notices.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“I love reading nominations like this – truly community, truly diverse, truly engaged, and an evolving success.”

The Bower Reuse & Repair Centre



JUDGES' COMMENT

“There should be a Bower in EVERY community.”

The Bower is a leading non-profit reuse and repair centre in Australia that has forged working relationships with local councils to provide a collection and re-homing service for furniture, household goods, building materials and bicycles.

Among its achievements, the Bower:

- has established Australia's first weekly Repair Café enabling people to obtain assistance repairing electrical items, furniture and bicycles at no cost. More than 620 items to date have been repaired and saved from landfill
- sends the Repair Café on the road to other locations in greater Sydney, providing repair and education opportunities
- regularly holds Upcycled Art workshops for children
- runs 'Tricks of the Trade' low-cost skill-sharing workshops three times a year teaching furniture repair, carpentry and basic upholstery.

Through agreements with other community groups – such as Mums4Refugees, Newtown Asylum Seeker Centre and Pyrmont Community Cares – Bower provides furniture and household goods to asylum seekers and inner-city residents struggling to furnish their homes.

Community Leadership Award

Sutherland District Trade Union Club (Tradies): iPromise Grants

Known as Tradies, the Sutherland District Trade Union Club is a registered club with venues in Gymea, Caringbah and Helensburgh. As a not-for-profit organisation, the club donates more than half a million dollars a year to charitable and community organisations.

Since 2014, the club's iPromise Grants Program has provided \$24,000 to fund sustainability projects across the state.

The iPromise Grants Program assists schools, small businesses and community organisations to implement projects ranging from recycling programs, vegetable gardens, environmental education and waste reduction systems.

Funded projects have included:

- an education program at Bellingen High School teaching students about the threats to the Bellinger River and encouraging them to participate in conservation and rehabilitation efforts

- reducing waste to landfill from a Sydney fruit and vegetable market by 85% by purchasing a Pulpmaster Waste Management machine creating an environmental education space for the students, parents and grandparents of West Wollongong Public School to learn about sustainability and the Australian environment.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Grants program is first of its kind with tangible outcomes for NSW.”

Public Sector Leadership Award

This award recognises an outstanding public-sector organisation that has successfully integrated environmental management and sustainable practices into planning, operations, product and/or service delivery. Improvements to environmental performance in the public sector have far reaching consequences and raise standards in environmental performance across the spectrum.

Bathurst Regional Council: Striving For Sustainability

Covering one of the fastest-growing and most vibrant local government areas in NSW, Bathurst Regional Council is responsible for more than 40,000 residents and over 400 staff. The LGA contains some of the most significant agricultural land in the state, as well as areas of outstanding biodiversity.

Environmental sustainability is at the heart of the Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan.

Sustainability initiatives over the past two years include:

- the advancement of renewable energy installations including four solar projects in council buildings increasing overall solar energy generation by 260%
- introduction of a kerbside garden and kitchen waste collection with the potential to divert over 70% of Bathurst's waste from landfill. Some initial community concern required strong council leadership and a public education campaign to gain broad community support.
- the restoration and reconnection of the remnant woodlands of the Bathurst region, in particular the region's endangered box-gum grassy woodlands.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Shows great initiative and local leadership across a range of environmental issues.”

Public Sector Leadership Award

Sydney Metro (TfNSW): Sydney Metro Delivery Office

The Sydney Metro Delivery Office (SMDO), an arm of Transport for NSW, is responsible for delivering the \$20-billion Sydney Metro train line.

The SMDO is leading the drive for environmental and socio-economic sustainability, not only within the public sector, but within the industry in general.

Throughout the construction of the Northwest stage of the project, the SMDO has demonstrated leadership and success through innovation by:

- Obtaining the highest infrastructure sustainability rating for design
- a commitment to fully offset operational carbon emissions through a renewable energy project
- promotion, protection and public viewings of heritage items uncovered during the project
- biodiversity offsets through securing NSW BioBanking sites
- 100% reuse of spoil from tunnelling activities and over 95% recycling of all construction wastes.

Sydney Metro has driven sustainability innovation throughout the supply chain. Its achievements set a new bar for best practice in delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects.

“Establishing a high bar for best practice civil engineering projects.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



University of Technology, Sydney: UTS.Think.Green.Do

Over the past ten years the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has emerged as a sustainability leader in the tertiary education sector.

UTS has embedded sustainability into its strategic plans and policies as an organisational value and key research theme.

It is one of the few Australian universities to publicly commit to a greenhouse gas emission reduction target. UTS aims for a 30% reduction on 2007 levels by 2020-21.

Since 2014, three major buildings have achieved 5-star or 6-star design ratings. These buildings are 'living labs' with students able to access data on energy and water use from thousands of meters and sensors.

The innovations include:

- solar power purchase agreement to supply over 12% of one building's electricity use with renewable energy from a solar farm in the Hunter Valley
- a recycled glass façade, thermal labyrinth, green roof and precinct rainwater recycling system
- a phosphorus urine recovery technology
- micro-grid powered by roof-top solar panels, wind turbine and hydrogen fuel cell
- solar concentrator powering three electric-car recharge points.

JUDGES' COMMENT

“Excellent achievements from this centre of excellence.”



Sustainability Champion Award

This award recognises outstanding individuals who have been instrumental in delivering environmental projects and demonstrating leadership in influencing and changing community or organisation views and/or driving change in sustainable practices. Finalists in this category move beyond small actions and geographic boundaries to reach communities where they raise environmental management standards.

Jeff Angel: Total Environment Centre

Jeff Angel has worked at the forefront of Australia's environment movement for more than 30 years.

Through the Total Environment Centre (TEC), Jeff has initiated campaigns to halt wood-chipping of old-growth forests, expand the network of NSW national parks and reserves, and protect urban green space and rural biodiversity from unregulated development. He has raised the alarm on chemical toxicity in urban areas and impacts of marine plastic pollution.

Under his leadership TEC initiated awareness campaigns have grown into major public issues including long-wall mining, chemical contamination of underground water in Port Botany, and native vegetation clearing.

Jeff is renowned for his ability to bring warring parties to the table and has set up many alliances between industry and green groups.

His trademark intelligent, dogged pursuit of product stewardship, producer responsibility, and effective infrastructure is best illustrated in the long-running campaign for a Container Deposit Scheme in NSW – a campaign near fruition following the recent introduction of legislation by the NSW Government.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Jeff's work on the Container Deposit Scheme is commendable.”

Sue Lennox: OzGREEN



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Sue has worked to promote environmental conservation for over 50 years and is still working to encourage the next generation to make a difference.”

For over 50 years Sue Lennox has strived for a sustainable peaceful world. Social entrepreneur, high school teacher and food-grower, Sue is co-founder and CEO of OzGREEN, an independent not-for-profit operating in Australia, South Asia, Timor Leste and Central America.

From Brookvale in NSW to Benares in India, Sue's work through OzGREEN since 1992 has touched hundreds of thousands globally, equipping them to tackle sustainability challenges.

OzGREEN's unique approach incorporates citizen science, sustainability education, participatory leadership and community development. It enables people to develop sustainability solutions themselves, and to adopt leadership roles in their schools, communities and workplaces. OzGREEN and Sue have won numerous awards, and Sue was named as one of Sydney's Top 100 Most Influential People by The Sydney Magazine in 2007.

Public Sector Leadership Award

Sue Turner: The Uniform Exchange

Sue Turner is the brainchild behind The Uniform Exchange, a shop front and online market place that buys and sells second-hand school uniforms and other school items such as books, sporting equipment and musical instruments.

“This is a scalable and replicable example of activating locally and thinking globally.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



As a mother of three, Sue saw how many uniforms were needed and the amount of waste that occurs through changing seasons, children growing and changes in children's interests.

Sue created a business model geared around behaviour change, encouraging her customers to 'rethink' before buying new, and re-use quality second-hand goods.

Starting in Sue's garage, The Uniform Exchange has grown into a business with more than 48,000 items listed or sold and 10,500 online users.

Adopting a 'nothing goes in the bin' policy, Sue makes sure that items are either fixed or, if not saleable because of school regulations, donated to not-for-profit partners delivering clothing and equipment to charities in Swaziland, Vanuatu, PNG and the Solomon Islands. Profits are also donated to these partners.

Young Sustainability Champion Award

This award recognises and rewards a young individual for practical environmental solutions, and promoting and engaging a community to improve its environmental issues. This award recognises a future environment leader. Harnessing young people's enthusiasm and drive for a more just and sustainable world is an integral part of creating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Joshua Gilbert

Josh is a Worimi man from the Mid North Coast of NSW, who uses Indigenous values and understanding alongside his agricultural background to inform and shape current society.

Previously the Chair of the NSW Young Farmers, Josh is a passionate advocate for biodiversity, action on climate change, renewable energy and revolutionising the way we talk about agriculture and Indigenous issues in Australia.

In 2015, Josh's activity and profile within the NSW Young Farmers' Council attracted international attention and came to the notice of Al Gore, who invited Josh to be a part of his Climate Reality Project.

Josh's Climate Reality Project video, entitled 'Australia's Young Green Farmers', was viewed in more than 75 countries and by over 100 million people.

He has been instrumental in empowering others, speaking for the Office of Environment and Heritage, Oxfam International, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and Common Grace. He has become a vocal sustainability champion in various media outlets.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Josh is an inspiring leader whose passion for change and values are clearly demonstrated through his work at all levels of society - community, government and business.”

Awards for Impact

Built Environment Award

This award recognises demonstrated excellence and innovation in designing, constructing, retrofitting and managing of existing or new buildings, precincts and tenancies. This may be for commercial, residential, heritage properties and infrastructure projects in NSW.

The built environment award recognises the importance of healthy, connected habitats for people and nature. This encompasses affordable, liveable and sustainable housing, employment, infrastructure, green cover and open space with homes for urban wildlife. Award winning built environments celebrate and protect our unique culture and heritage.

Cbus Property and DEXUS Property Group: 5 Martin Place, Sydney

5 Martin Place was developed by Cbus Property and DEXUS Property Group. The development sets a new benchmark for office buildings in Sydney with its clever architectural design, high-end materials and finishes, and good access to natural light and ventilation.

The development involved:

- conservation of the 1916/1933 building including the whole façade, structure and significant spaces
- reinstatement of the 1916/33 light well as a light-filled atrium
- replacement of the 1968 building with a new extension which reflects the height, scale, design concept and proportions of the adjoining 1916 Martin Place façade
- a new 10-storey tower cantilevered over the 1933 building.

Key environmental design and construction achievements include:

- improved indoor air quality, providing at least 150% more outside air than required under the Australian Standards
- recycling of 96% of total demolition and construction waste
- 200-plus bicycle racks and associated bike-trip facilities
- provision for the upgrade of the building to a 6-Star Green Star rating includes allocation for a trigeneration retrofit.

“A beautiful and sympathetic integration between the modern engineering solutions and the iconic heritage structure.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



Built Environment Award

Frasers Property Australia: Fairwater

Fairwater, Frasers Property Australia's 38 hectare residential development in Blacktown, is built on an old golf course surrounded by communal outdoor areas and ecological precincts. It is the first 6-star Green Star – Communities rating to be awarded in NSW.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Fairwater is a leading example of a built environment project where social and economic sustainability are considered almost equally alongside environmental impacts.”

Fairwater's key sustainability benefits include:

- the largest geothermal community energy supply in the southern hemisphere, saving residents 60% off their heating and cooling costs
- recycling of more than 95% of construction waste
- a Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Plan, to ensure residents are protected from future climate risks
- a Community Development Officer working to enhance the wellbeing of residents through social engagement activities
- a grey-water system for use in toilets, laundry and irrigation
- an \$8.6-million investment to rehabilitate the riverside corridor and enhance the site's biodiversity
- infrastructure improvements connecting Fairwater to local employment, essential services and public transport.

This project represents initiatives in large-scale residential precinct development which locks in real outcomes in sustainable living for residents.

Mirvac: 275 Kent Street, Sydney

Westpac Place at 275 Kent Street is one of Australia's largest office buildings. As Westpac's head office it contains extensive office space plus a food court, child care centre and urban park.

Built by Mirvac in 2015, the building became one of the first properties in Australia to achieve a 6-Star Green Star Performance rating.

The rating represents World Leadership in operational management and complements the property's 5-Star NABERS energy rating.

The building's technical and operational innovations include:

- a 1-MW cogeneration plant reducing annual CO₂ emissions by approximately 1000 tonnes
- an onsite organic waste processing system diverting 130 tonnes of organic food waste from landfill a year
- LED lights with integrated microwave sensors installed in fire stairs and through much of the back-of-house areas

- a smart bin-lifter technology introduced to record individual bin weights and classify the source of the waste
- condensate capture from air-handling units to provide a regular non-potable water source.

“Excellent diversity of solutions and documentation of everything from high-level strategy to detailed outcomes.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



Built Environment Award

Westpac: St. George, Barangaroo Branch

Westpac's focus on environmental solutions has resulted in the large urban renewal development at Barangaroo, Sydney. The development is the first retail fit-out in Australia to be awarded a 6-Star Green Star - Interiors rating by the Green Building Council of Australia.

All furniture and building materials in the fit-out demonstrate a reduced environmental impact over their entire lifecycle compared to standard products. The materials were specifically selected to reduce internal air pollutants.

The fit-out design ensures water and energy consumption is minimised.

Social innovations include the provision for community organisations to use the branch premises outside office hours.

Westpac has developed a strong track record in sustainability over many years. In 2014 and 2015 the company was assessed as the most sustainable bank globally by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“This is an important industry development as it obtained the first retail fitout 6-star Green Star rating.”

Climate Change Leadership Award

This award recognises exceptional work and/or leadership in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation in NSW. Finalists have taken action to boost efforts that limit global warming to well below 2 degrees, with an aim for below 1.5 degrees. They have worked at rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and seized the opportunities for a low carbon future. This includes replacing fossil fuels with solar and wind power and supporting people and wildlife to adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change.

Charles Sturt University

As Australia's largest regional university, Charles Sturt University (CSU) is also the first in Australia to officially achieve certified carbon neutrality status.



“Great demonstration of holistic approach.”

JUDGES' COMMENT

This has been achieved through a combination of carbon reduction programs and offsetting projects.

Initiatives include:

- the construction of a 630 kilowatt co-generation facility at the Bathurst campus, using natural gas to supply 60% of electricity needs
- large solar photovoltaic systems on several recently constructed buildings
- an institution-wide building management system, consisting of 65 networked buildings and more than 350 smart meters connected to an intelligent control system
- an energy performance contract, which will result in almost 1000 tonnes of CO2 emission savings a year through improvements to air-conditioning, lighting and hot water systems.

CSU has a structure and vision to integrate sustainability principles across its curriculum, research, and operating practices and with its internal and external community.

Climate Change Leadership Award

Climate Council of Australia



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Demonstrates great communication and thought leadership.”

The Climate Council was created as a result of Australia's largest ever crowd-funding campaign. The Climate Council provides authoritative, expert advice to the Australian public on climate change.

Its mission is twofold: to conduct climate research based on the best science available and to raise awareness of these issues through effective communication.

The council is known for its clear communications, prolific output and unreserved online content.

The Climate Council has shifted the public narrative on climate change, particularly on the three theme areas of extreme weather, renewable energy and international action. It has carved out a niche as a climate change communications organisation offering accurate and relevant information to the public.

Fujitsu Australia: Fujitsu-NABERS Leadership

Fujitsu Australia is a major service provider of business information and communications technology.

Our growing dependence on digital data has led to big increases in energy consumption. Data centre energy in Australia is powered predominantly by fossil fuels and for Fujitsu, accounts for 97% of their carbon emissions.

Fujitsu collaborated with NABERS, the national environmental rating system for buildings, to develop the NABERS Energy for Data Centre benchmarking tools.

These tools have provided a platform for data centre energy efficiency to be validated against an independent standard and Fujitsu's data centre portfolio is the first in Australia to be fully certified.

The benchmarking tools have resulted in Fujitsu achieving 27% more energy conservation than the market average.

Fujitsu has helped raise the industry standard for data centre transparency and energy efficiency and has provided support to its customers to rate their own data centres and replicate Fujitsu's practices.

“Fujitsu have played a key role in the development of improved industry standards and benchmarks.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



Climate Change Leadership Award

Teachers Mutual Bank: Banking on Climate Change

Established in 1966, Teachers Mutual Bank is one of Australia's leading member-owned banks.

Climate change leadership at Teachers Mutual has been central to its ethical practices, investments and operations. It has shown demonstrated innovation in the creation of sustainable financial products.

Its \$500-million Debt Issuance Programme was the first certified ethical wholesale cash product in Australia and the first based on fossil fuel criteria.

The bank was one of 12 companies to join the Australian Climate Leadership Summit in the lead up to the Paris Climate Change Conference.

It was the first bank in NSW to put commercial solar panels on branches, and has recently begun the installation of 621 solar panels and 1826 LED lights which will reduce building emissions by a further 28%.

The bank is carbon neutral and doesn't lend to, buy equity or debt in any large-scale greenhouse polluting activities from fossil fuel exploration, extraction, production and use.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Great demonstration of innovation in the creation of sustainable financial products.”

Innovation Award

This award recognises outstanding new technology, design or research. This may include but is not limited to: cutting-edge sustainable technology; new industry practices, process; product or service; ground-breaking research; the design of infrastructure design; improving the ability to use, store or save natural resources; circular economy projects or social innovation. Finalists are cultivating a culture of innovation and creativity with a focus for innovative ideas, ways of working, business models and livelihoods.

HealthShare NSW: HealthShare Sustainable Service Delivery



JUDGES' COMMENT

“This innovation is potentially scalable to all hospitals and other health care providers in NSW.”

The supply of meals in NSW hospitals is undergoing a transformation. Previously, menus were left with patients 24 hours before meals. Choice was limited to one to three options, and almost half the food went uneaten.

In the HealthShare NSW pilot, food service staff take orders directly from patients on iPads only four hours before each meal with patients now having up to 15 choices. The system is managed by specialised ordering and tracking software.

The new model allowed staff to more than double the time with patients and increased the likelihood of patients receiving the necessary nutrition. The number of patients finishing their meals increased by 48%, and significant savings were made in food diverted to landfill, water use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Innovation Award

Junglefy: Junglefy Breathing Wall

Junglefy believes that living infrastructure provides cities with natural beauty, living design and healthier people. Since 2009 the company has designed, installed and maintained green walls, roofs, facades and podiums for the built environment.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Plants cleaning the air, saving energy and beautifying our workplaces...brilliant!”

The Junglefy Breathing Wall is more than just another green wall – it's made up of modules of linear, low-density polyethylene with infinite recyclability, supplied with a growing medium high in coconut fibre. The system is fan ventilated which increases the rate of carbon dioxide drawdown and the volume of air that can be filtered and cooled by each module.

Tests by University of Technology Sydney scientists showed how well the new system removed toxic pollutants and particulate matter from the air, with the Junglefy Breathing Wall recording some of the highest photosynthetic carbon dioxide removal rates observed to date.

The Junglefy Breathing Wall was recently installed for the first time in Lendlease's new global headquarters at Barangaroo South.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority: Sydney Olympic Park Sustainable Leachate

Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) manages 430 hectares of important recreational open parkland in the demographic centre of Sydney. This parkland includes 105 hectares and has been transformed from its beginning as Sydney's largest uncontrolled landfill.

As waste breaks down within landfills, contaminated wastewater (leachate) is generated which must be continuously extracted and treated. Rather than send all the leachate to a high-cost, high-energy offsite treatment plant, SOPA has developed two treatment systems that use bacteria within natural wetlands to biologically break down the pollutants in the leachate.

The process also provides new wetland habitat for native plants and animals, water for irrigation and educational opportunities for visitors.

This innovative approach is not currently used elsewhere in Australia and has generated interest from other landfill managers. Around a third of the leachate produced from the park's landfill areas is now treated on-site and the authority aims to be sustainably remediating 100% of leachate on-site by 2025.

“Great outcomes for biodiversity issues and making a beautiful space out of waste.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



Innovation Award

University of Technology, Sydney: Australia's First Offsite Solar Corporate Power Purchase Agreement

In a partnership thought to be the first of its kind in Australia, the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) will buy electricity directly from a Hunter Valley solar farm.

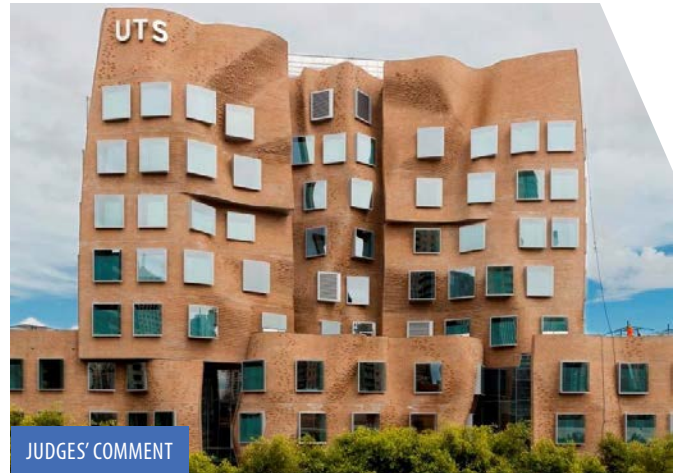
The new model of renewable energy purchasing will see the Frank Gehry designed Dr Chau Chak Wing Building source 12% of its annual electricity from the 200-kilowatt Singleton Solar Farm.

This is the first Australian power purchase agreement between a large energy customer and an off-site solar farm.

Large electricity users like UTS often have limited opportunities for on-site renewable energy generation.

In Australia many 'shovel-ready' solar energy generation projects can't achieve financial closure as they cannot contract the sale of electricity with a suitable energy retailer.

This new customer-led renewables model means that large electricity users such as universities, hospitals, corporates or councils can become customers of renewable energy operators.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Great example which could be replicated by others... a key solution to what's broken in NSW for renewable energy projects.”

Natural Environment Award

This award recognises leadership in protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems, including native flora and fauna, natural habitats, forests, water resources, land systems and soils, and biodiversity. Finalists actively acknowledge the importance of clean healthy water, air and land on which all life depends – people, wildlife and every living thing. They celebrate and conserve our unique natural ecosystems and biodiversity creating connected, healthy habitats for life in water, air and on land.

Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance

Established in 2012, the Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance is an alliance of 20 natural resource management stakeholders and is the only successful voluntary partnership operating at such a large regional scale. A partner of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, the alliance carries out numerous large, multi-partner projects across a region spanning 337,000 hectares on the Mid-North Coast of NSW.

The alliance is unique in that it provides leadership and equity between individual stakeholders and promotes a collegiate, collaborative partnership. Autonomy has allowed the alliance to be proactive, but independent, in applying for project funding and ensuring that long-term conservation helps people re-connect to each other and to the land.

Widespread interest has been expressed in the Jaliigirr model with several other networks following their lead.

“Shows broader social, cultural, community benefits as well as the environmental outcomes.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



Natural Environment Award

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc: Working together – Cross Property Planning

Murrumbidgee Landcare is a grass-roots, umbrella organisation in the Murrumbidgee catchment.

Remnant native vegetation in the region, including the endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodlands, now only exists in small, scattered patches. The Cross Property Planning project was developed to link and extend fragmented remnant vegetation across property boundaries to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat.

Some 74 neighbouring landholders have been engaged with an extensive program involving more than 50 field days and workshops attracting over 880 attendees.

Cross-property plans were prepared to establish the most effective contribution each property could make to habitat connectivity. From these plans protection, revegetation and management activities were initiated. Incentive funding was provided to landholders to commence these works.



“Great engagement and great results!”

To date, 662 hectares has been revegetated and 660 hectares of remnant vegetation protected, while more extensive areas have been managed for weeds and pests.

The collaboration and partnerships involved in this project, engaging 98% of the region's landholders, has been key to delivering impressive landscape-scale change.

South East Local Land Services: Water for Rivers Project

Water for Rivers is a willow-control program in the Bombala-Delegate catchment, a major tributary of the Snowy River. Managed by the NSW Government agency South East Local Land Services, the project is run by a small, dedicated and experienced team including two agency employees and a local contractor.

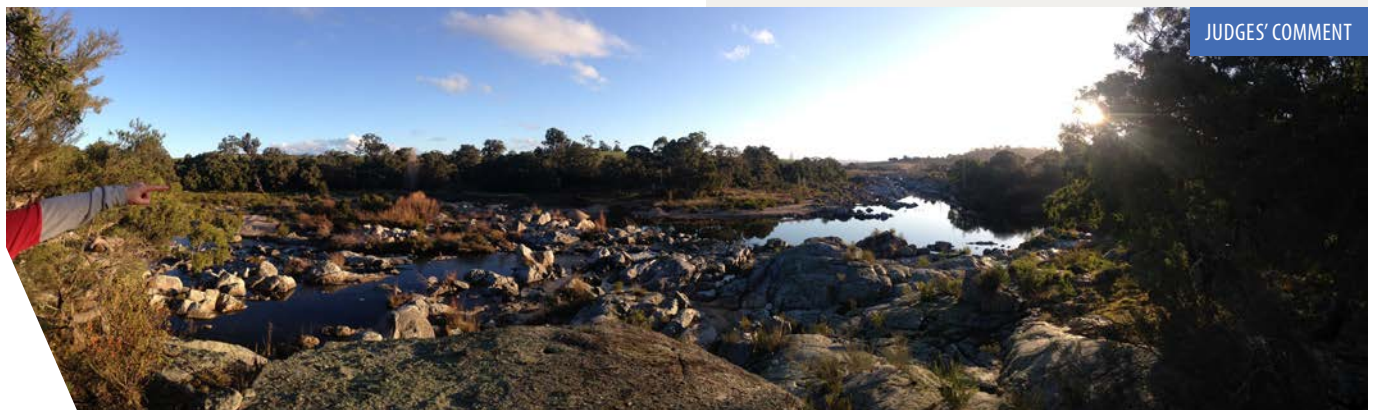
Since its inception in 2013, the project has achieved:

- 98% landholder engagement
- 310 km and 895 hectares of willow control
- 48 km of blackberry control
- reduced choking and siltation of rivers
- improved fish and platypus habitat, and
- increased water quality.

With in-stream willows consuming 5.5 megalitres of water per hectare of crown land each year, the project will conservatively achieve water savings of 2200 megalitres a year, or 880 Olympic sized swimming pools, for this catchment and the Snowy River.

This project demonstrates leadership and excellence in catchment rehabilitation with a strong commitment to effective landholder engagement. It has shown the benefits of extensive collaboration between local and state government and community groups.

“Fantastic project to control difficult weeds in a comprehensive way...”



Resource Efficiency Award

This award recognises excellence in integrated practical solutions for clean energy, water saving and conservation, waste avoidance, resource recovery and/or recycling practices. Finalist have taken action to efficiently and responsibly use natural resources over their whole lifecycle – from extracting raw materials to final use and disposal. The principles of reduce, reuse, recover, recycle and responsible residue disposal apply. Affordable, clean energy and reducing waste and pollution is vital by getting more for less through efficient energy from clean, renewable sources.

Fairfield City Council: Fairfield Sustainable Resource Centre

A unique and bold endeavour in the local government sector, the Sustainable Resource Centre is a demolition and construction material recycling depot in Wetherill Park in south-west Sydney owned and managed by Fairfield City Council.

Operating for almost 25 years, the centre was set up to reduce the council's use of quarried virgin materials and its growing expenditure on disposal fees.

In the last decade, the centre has recycled nearly 2.5 million tonnes of concrete, asphalt and road-base materials. The centre is now recycling concrete, bricks, roof tiles, pavers, asphalt and road-base material from over 250 clients including demolishers, builders, civil contractors, other local councils and private companies.

The centre is an environmentally sustainable local government business. It not only reduces greenhouse emissions of council operations, but it provides local employment and heavily invests in the local community by subsidising the cost of many social and recreational services offered by the council.



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Excellent building material recycling, in an urban context.”

Mememe Productions: The Get Grubby Project



JUDGES' COMMENT

“Storytelling is a powerful tool to communicate to future generations and engage kids at an early age on waste management.”

The Get Grubby Project is an online sustainability resource for early learning. A pre-school program that celebrates nature and empowers young children to do little things that make a big difference.

Created by mememe's Cate McQuillen and Hewey Eustace who 'live in the bush in Northern NSW and are big fans of fresh air, rainwater and high-speed internet', Get Grubby is an integrated curriculum providing ten downloadable units, 50 bespoke films starring live-action dirtgirl and scrapboy, music videos and clips, and even karaoke versions of the songs to sing along to.

From composting to worm farming to growing a veggie patch to being energy and water wise, there are lots of fun and practical activities. It supports children to develop positive attitudes and values by engaging them in guided learning experiences that link people, plants, creatures and the land, reinforcing sustainable life practices.

For mememe it is 'education at its simplest – create Connection, encourage Understanding and inspire Action'.

Resource Efficiency Award

Sydney Water: Food Waste to Energy Project

Sydney Water is Australia's largest water utility. A state-owned corporation of the NSW government, it is always looking for innovative and cost-effective solutions that reduce the organisation's environmental footprint.

Most food waste in Sydney ends up in landfill. The Food Waste to Energy Project at Sydney Water's Cronulla waste water treatment plant is the first of its scale in Australia. It generates electricity to run the plant from the gases produced by fruit and vegetable waste from local businesses. Processing food waste at an existing treatment plant reduces emissions, saves customers money and removes 150,000 wheelie bins worth of food out of landfill each year.

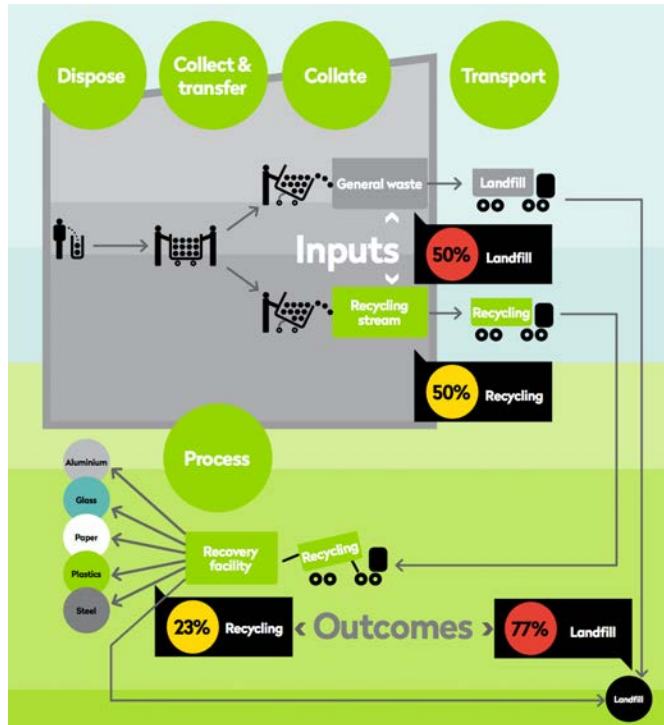
Once fully operational, renewable energy produced from food waste and sewage will generate over 60% of the plants energy requirements. Apart from the savings in energy use and greenhouse emissions the project will reduce truck movements to landfill by some 90,000 km each year.

“Impressive results, from a greenhouse, waste, energy, transport, community and financial perspective.”

JUDGES' COMMENT



The GPT Group: Waste and Resources Program



Property manager GPT's Waste and Resource Management System provides a more accurate and transparent approach to understanding the environmental impacts of waste services, leading to better decisions and solutions.

Recognising the real environmental impact of waste management, the company wanted to identify how waste can be recovered with the highest-value retention and lowest pollution levels.

The accuracy of traditional 'waste diverted from landfill' and 'recycling' data was low, and provided no information on the resulting pollution or value retention in the recovered materials.

GPT developed a new measurement protocol that identifies and measures the waste materials and their destination.

Piloting the new waste management system at three of GPT's NSW properties proved so successful that it was rolled out nationally across all GPT's managed properties and service providers.

GPT's system serves as a practical working example for broader adoption in the waste industry.

JUDGES' COMMENT

“Developed a new measurement protocol that achieves more accurate identification and measurement of waste materials, along with the destination of materials.”

For more information on the
2016 Green Globe Awards contact:

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