



New Resources for the Regional Educators Network

As requested by the network, new fact sheets have been developed and published on our website for use by Councils in the region. Topics include:

- How to Choose a Service Provider (linked to sustainability rebates such as installation or solar etc),
- Lighting Choices for your Home (phase out of incandescent lighting),
- Indian Myna Birds and
- Choosing Energy and Water Efficient Appliances.

Fact sheets are available as a 'complete package' or in a editable format to incorporate into your own corporate branding.

Case studies from the recent Environmental Educators Forum are also available for download, including a range of projects from marine, business, water and schools.

To download these resources visit the Environmental Educators Resource Library www.hccrems.com.au/environmental_education/EnviroEdResources.html

Proposal

Climate Change Risk Education Program

HCCREMS is about to commence a 18 month project to identify the risks posed to council operations from climate change,. The project will identify regional scale risks, opportunities, and adaptation strategies to work on a collaborative regional response.

The Climate Change Risk Assessment project provides an opportunity for educators in the region to work together to develop a education campaign. Councils have been provided with a proposal to develop either a community or internal staff education program. If your Council would like to participate in this capacity building exercise, please contact Juliana julianac@huntercouncils.com.au

Events

HCCREMS Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning for Councils

Tuesday 15th December 2009 10am-3.45pm

The Bradford Hotel Rutherford

This forum is the first step in a region wide project that will assist councils to assess and manage climate risk both individually and collaboratively across the region. This forum will demonstrate the importance of assessing the risk posed to councils by climate change and the processes for doing so. The forum will provide real examples by councils in our region that have already completed risk assessment processes, including the outcomes realised and lessons learned.

For a copy of the agenda or to RSVP please contact enviroadmin@huntercouncils.com.au

HCCREMS Compliance Program

Educators are reminded they can access the *members only* section of the HCCREMS Compliance webpage which consists of an extensive resource library featuring compliance education materials, networking contacts database and information on upcoming compliance related training or events, to find out more visit www.hccrems.com.au/compliance/index.html

Compliance Education Resources on the Way

Regional compliance education materials are being developed and delivered as part of the FOCUS on Sustainability project. An initial scoping document has identified education activities that can be delivered around key environmental compliance issues of *illegal clearing, earthworks, sediment and erosion control and illegal dumping*. Regional factsheets to support awareness raising campaigns are available on clearing vegetation, undertaking earthworks and complaints regarding privately certified construction sites. Regional Sustainability Officer Kate Meares is currently visiting Councils around the region to gather input on compliance education activities and campaigns to be undertaken with Councils as part of the project. Please contact Kate on 4978 4027 or email katem@huntercouncils.com.au for further information.

Resources

New Website Launched - Together Today

Together Today have launched a new website with local case study examples of sustainable homes. The website features a room by room analysis of the average home with tips to save energy, water and reduce emissions, information is also available on current federal and state rebates. For more information visit www.togethertoday.com.au

Easy Guides - It's a Living Thing

DECCW have recently redesigned some of the Easy Guides into a printable A4 format, there is also a version available for councils to personalise with their logo . The revised guides include composting, worm farming and mulching. To order printed versions of the guide contact Jacqui.charlesworth@environment.nsw.gov.au and ask for a request form, alternatively they are available for download from www.livingthing.net.au

ARIES - Achieving real change for sustainability in supply chains

The report from this project provides a systems-based learning approach for corporations to address their sustainability management and research needs with supply chain partners. The case studies (in the construction and food industries) also provide unique insights and ideas for corporations and government agencies who are considering how to respond to the emerging climate change challenges, risks and opportunities. To download the report visit www.aries.mq.edu.au/projects/SupplyChain/

New Website Launched : WSUD in Sydney Program

Since its inception, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's WSUD Program has sought to identify and address capacity needs within the region. The new website is well worth a visit. It features new content on case studies, institutional change and a handy resources page which includes useful tools such as standard clauses that can be used to incorporate WSUD elements into Council reports, tenders, expressions of interest, briefs etc. www.wsud.org/

The Psychology of Climate Change Communication -

The Centre for Research on Environmental Decisions—*A guide for scientists, journalists, educators, political aides and the interested public*. This is a very useful guide in assisting to develop any type of environmental communication strategy. Chapters include grabbing your audiences attention, how to translate scientific data, not to overuse emotional appeals, addressing scientific uncertainties, social identities and affiliations, group participation, and behavioural change. To download the report visit www.cred.columbia.edu/guide (this website was experiencing difficulties) or email Juliana and I will send it to you julianac@huntercouncils.com.au

Training

Introduction to Input-Output Analysis in Sustainability Reporting Workshop

The University of Sydney, Friday, 5th February 2010 9.30am – 4.30pm

One day learning program that will provide you with a comprehensive plain-English introduction to use of input-output analysis (IOA) in sustainability analysis and reporting

For more information visit www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au/education/index.shtml

Schools Education Information

Dept of Education and Training has dedicated next year as Year of Learning for Sustainability for all DET schools. One of the flagship programs for schools is the Climate Clever Energy savers program, a 4 year program funded by DECCW and delivered by DET. 2010 will be the pilot year of a 4 year CCES program. Our region received 85 Expressions of Interest from schools. From those 38 have been selected to represent all DET offices in Hunter Central Coast Region, so all LGAs will have participating schools in their drawing area. The CCES Project involves a teacher training phase (Term 1) and a student-led project phase (Terms 2/3). A regional fund will be available in the Student-led projects phase to which students can apply to implement their project. Students can apply for up to \$2000 and applications will be competitive and there is a chance that not all Student proposals received will be successful. Councils might like to consider how they can support the successful projects and if they would be in a position to subsidise or support those projects that are not successful in securing regional funding.

Any LGAs who wish to know which schools have been selected can contact Wetlands EEC on 4955 8673 or Rumbalara EEC on 4324 7200 from Monday 14 December.

EEC's will also be holding their regular Sustainable Schools network days early in the year and we welcome your participation in these. Wetlands EEC will host the Newcastle network day on be 3 March. Rumbalara EEC will host their network day for the Central Coast on 4 March. For more information contact

CHRISTINE.PRIETTO@det.nsw.edu.au