

ITEM 2. 2015/16 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAMS – SIXTH ALLOCATION**FILE NO: S087106****SUMMARY**

The Grants and Sponsorship Program is an important mechanism to assist our residents and business communities to deliver against *Sustainable Sydney 2030* and environmental targets. On 15 September 2014, Council adopted a revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy that included three new Environmental Performance Grant Programs.

These grant programs have been designed to help address barriers to action and to help encourage the innovative solutions that will be required to deliver *Sustainable Sydney 2030*. The grant programs are:

- Environmental Performance - Innovation: in which funding is available for feasibility and demonstration projects that seek to prove the feasibility of new technologies and processes that are currently not implemented in the local market, but that have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions and resource efficiencies at scale within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA);
- Environmental Performance - Building Operations: in which funding is available to help lower the costs of implementing building operation efficiency measures, such as water retrofits in apartment buildings; AND
- Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment: in which funding is available to undertake building performance ratings, such as a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS), and assessments that will enable a building or facility owner to understand their opportunities to improve environmental performance.

All grants in this report were assessed against criteria and guidelines set out in the Grants and Sponsorship Policy.

This report considers two grant applications received under the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program, and recommends that Council approve one grant for a total value of \$20,000 (exclusive of GST) in cash. No revenue forgone/value-in-kind (VIK) was requested in this application.

All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes, and acquit their grant.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve cash grant recommendations for 2015/16 under the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program – Sixth Allocation as follows:

Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Conditions
Edge Environment Pty Ltd	Recycling Engineered Timber from Office Strip-out	A feasibility study investigating the development of non-structural products made from recycled timber from commercial office strip-outs in the LGA.	\$20,000	Nil	Nil

- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer an agreement with the applicant approved for a grant in clause (A) on terms consistent with this resolution and in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Recommended 2015/2016 Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program – Sixth Allocation

Attachment B: Not Recommended 2015/2016 Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

BACKGROUND

1. Two applications have been received for Environmental Performance - Innovation grants. One is recommended for funding in this report and one is not recommended for funding (details are included in Attachments A and B). City staff will offer feedback to the applicant not awarded funding at this time.
2. It is expected that all successful applicants will work co-operatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding. Contact details for the relevant City staff are provided to all successful grant recipients.
3. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.
4. The grant applications received were assessed against the program assessment criteria as set out in the publicly available Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines. The assessment panel for the Environmental Performance Grant Programs was comprised of the Sustainability Program Leader, Manager Carbon Strategy, Grants Officer, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator and Sustainability Engagement Manager.
5. All applicants are required to demonstrate that their request for funding for the proposed activity meets the grant program matched funding assessment criteria appropriate to the category of innovation grant (i.e. feasibility study or demonstration project) that they are applying for.
6. The panel assessed each applicant's proposed funding model, and the cash grant recommendation made which is in-line with the assessment criteria set out in the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines. In this case the successful applicant has exceeded the matched funding condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE - INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM**Edge Environment Pty Ltd - Recycling Engineered Timber from Office Strip-out**

7. Edge Environment, a for-profit organisation, will undertake a feasibility study in partnership with the University of New South Wales SM@RT Centre – a part of the School of Materials Science and Engineering – to test a recycling process to create a usable product from engineered timber waste from office strip-outs.
8. Engineered composite timber waste is a significant issue not only in the City LGA but also on a larger scale domestically and internationally. Constructed from mainly wood chip and various resins, engineered timbers are used in furniture, cabinetry and non-structural components of buildings. However, the glues and laminates used in these products render them un-recyclable by traditional means at their end of life, relegating the material to landfill.
9. Previous research by the University of New South Wales has developed a prototype sheeting product from engineered composite timber waste. The study will trial the recycling process to develop the sheeting product, conduct product testing and prepare a final technical report.
10. Results of the study will be communicated through a series of presentations and engagement with industry stakeholders operating in commercial office strip-out.

11. Grant funds will be used for technical personnel and laboratory use. Edge Environment will fund the project management and market engagement.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

12. This report complies with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy adopted by Council on 15 September 2014. The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism for the City to further the aims identified in its social, economic, environmental and cultural policies. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program is a key element in the delivery of *Sustainable Sydney 2030*. The grant recommended in this report is relevant to the City's strategic target to divert waste from landfill by 66 per cent.

Environmental

13. The recommended environmental grant innovation project should provide a catalyst for the adoption of new solutions that improve environmental performance across several key customer sectors.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. Funding for this project is provided for within the overall 2015/16 Environmental Performance Grants budget.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

15. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

16. The Environmental Performance Grant Programs are advertised on the City's website, Green Villages website, City of Sydney Facebook page and through the City's social media networks. Information is also emailed to interested parties.

ANN HOBAN

Director City Life

Mark Matthews, Sustainability Engagement Manager
Tom Belsham, Manager Sustainability Programs