

ITEM 4. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SPONSORSHIP – ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**FILE NO: X005020.002****SUMMARY**

Three applications have been received for Knowledge Exchange sponsorship from organisations seeking to deliver initiatives that support the City's objectives in the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan (Strategy and Action Plan), and the City's draft Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 (draft Waste Strategy).

- **1 Million Women Ltd**, a not-for-profit organisation, is seeking sponsorship funding for the City of Sydney to partner with it on its 1 Million Women mobile phone app - Council Program to reduce emissions across the local government area. 1 Million Women engages women and girls to reduce their carbon footprint through the decisions they make every day on purchasing, travel and energy use. The 1 Million Women mobile phone app will provide tools and daily climate actions for women and girls to understand and take action to reduce carbon pollution. Funding will support promotion and engagement and drive increased uptake of the mobile phone app amongst City of Sydney residents and businesses through the 1 Million Women mobile phone app – Council Program. The application has been evaluated and support for \$7,500 (excluding GST) is recommended.
- **The Energy Efficiency Council Inc. (EEC)**, a not-for-profit association, is seeking funding to develop and disseminate energy efficiency information materials and tools in partnership with the NSW Department of Industry Business Connect program. Three knowledge sharing forums for small to medium businesses will also be held as part of the project. The application has been evaluated and support for \$27,380 (excluding GST) is recommended.
- **Community Recycling Network of Australia Ltd. (CRNA)**, a not-for-profit organisation, is seeking sponsorship towards finalisation, delivery and training of a data capture and reporting tool to measure and communicate the environmental and social benefits of community re-use and recycling organisations. Funding will also support the CRNA national forum in Redfern to launch a Sydney chapter of the network. The application has been evaluated and support of \$15,000 (excluding GST) is recommended.

In March 2017, Council adopted the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan, a five-year plan to deliver the City's objectives and targets to be an environmental leader. The Strategy and Action Plan sets ambitious targets for City operations and also for the local government area. The Strategy and Action Plan includes a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent, with 50 per cent of electricity demand to be met by renewable energy by 2030.

In June 2017, the City approved the public exhibition of the draft Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030, which set targets, priorities and actions for waste management within the City of Sydney to 2030.

Support for the recommended projects aligns with the objectives and actions outlined in these strategies, and acknowledges the City's recognition of the importance of influencing and collaborating with others to achieve environmental outcomes and targets for the local government area.

The applications have been assessed under the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and sponsorship to each applicant is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash sponsorship of \$7,500 (excluding GST) to partner with 1 Million Women Ltd. on their 1 Million Women mobile phone app - Council Program;
- (B) Council approve a cash sponsorship of \$27,380 (excluding GST) to the Energy Efficiency Council Inc. for the Boosting Business Energy Efficiency through Accelerated Depreciation project;
- (C) Council approve a cash sponsorship of \$15,000 (excluding GST) to Community Recycling Network of Australia Ltd, for their Community Re-use, Repair and Recycling – Impact Measurement Tool and National Forum; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer sponsorship agreements with each of the applicants.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

BACKGROUND

1. In March 2017, Council adopted the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy and Action Plan), a five-year strategy outlining priority actions for the City to continue its strong demonstrated performance as an environmental leader. The plan has a range of actions showing how the City will work with its communities to transform the local government area to a:
 - (a) low-carbon city;
 - (b) water sensitive city;
 - (c) climate resilient city;
 - (d) zero waste city;
 - (e) active and connected city; and
 - (f) green and cool city.
2. The Strategy and Action Plan recognises that to achieve the objectives and targets set for the local government area, the City must influence and collaborate with others. The City supports initiatives delivered by others to leverage their expertise, knowledge, information and capacity that supports and complements its own programs such as CitySwitch, the Better Buildings Partnership, Smart Green Apartments and Smart Green Business.
3. In June 2017, Council approved the public exhibition of the draft Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 (the draft Waste Strategy). The draft Waste Strategy sets targets, priorities and actions to transition the City to a zero-waste City by 2030.
4. The recommended projects support the City's efforts to drive down emissions, and reduce and divert waste going to landfill.
5. As sponsor of these projects, the City will receive sponsorship benefits, including acknowledgement in media releases, social media platforms and industry forums/workshops, as well as significant data sets resulting from the projects to inform the City's existing sustainability programs.

1 Million Women – 1 Million Women Mobile Phone App – Council Program

6. **1 Million Women Ltd**, a not-for-profit organisation, is seeking sponsorship funding of \$7,500 for the City of Sydney to partner it on its '1 Million Women mobile phone app - Council Program'. 1 Million Women engages women and girls to reduce their carbon footprint through everyday decisions around purchasing, transport choices and energy use. The organisation focuses on women, as it is women who often make the decisions that affect a household's carbon footprint.
7. The City has set a target to reduce emissions in the local government area by 70 per cent by 2030, and is working proactively with businesses and the community towards achieving this target. Users of the app will get a better understanding of how home energy savings, clean energy options, minimising food waste, sustainable fashion, low-impact travel and other aspects contribute to achieving this target.

8. The 1 Million Women mobile phone app will provide tools and daily climate actions for women and girls to understand the impact of different decisions, to take action to reduce carbon pollution, and track cumulative action taken. Through its Council Program, a map showing app users by local government area (LGA) will show where change is happening locally in real time.
9. City of Sydney residents will be able to join an LGA-specific page within the app to link into news, campaigns and local environmental events. Twelve other councils are sponsoring the program. The City will work with 1 Million Women to share its own environmental campaigns through the 1 Million Women network. In joining up to the program, Council will receive behaviour change and climate action data, helping identify the impact of various climate messages, trends and 'stickability' of key campaigns. App users in the City of Sydney postcode areas will be encouraged to celebrate LGA community milestones along the way within the app and through social media.
10. Funding will support promotion to and engagement of City of Sydney residents and businesses.

Energy Efficiency Council – Boosting Business Energy Efficiency Through Accelerated Depreciation

11. The **Energy Efficiency Council Inc. (EEC)**, a not-for-profit association, is seeking \$27,380 funding to develop and disseminate energy efficiency information materials and tools about the small business instant asset write-off initiative, in partnership with the NSW Department of Industry Business Connect program. The project will include three knowledge sharing events. The EEC is Australia's peak body for energy efficiency, cogeneration and demand management.
12. In its 2017/18 Budget, the Federal Government announced an extension to the \$20,000 small business instant asset write-off initiative. This initiative allows businesses with an annual turnover of up to \$10 million to deduct for the cost of each business asset up to \$20,000. Many energy efficiency projects, such as lighting upgrades, upgrades to building control systems, or renewable energy investment in small businesses, typically require less than \$20,000, or less than \$20,000 per asset.
13. There is a considerable potential to increase the uptake of energy efficiency opportunities in small and medium businesses by using these provisions. The project will develop new tools and materials critical to making business owners, energy efficiency service providers and small business advisors aware of the opportunity and confident in applying it.
14. The project contributes towards the City's target to reduce emissions in the local government area by 70 per cent by 2030.
15. As well as the clear environmental benefits of the project, the cost savings for businesses who use the incentive for efficiency improvements support improved profitability and competitiveness in the market. The project brings significant value-in-kind support in the form of the NSW Department of Industry Business Connect program coordinators disseminating materials and working directly with businesses to increase uptake of efficiency measures.

16. The project supports a reputable third party to address information gaps so that more businesses are aware of (and take up) the opportunities to mitigate high upfront costs for more efficient products and services. The applicant will report back to the City on numbers of businesses engaged through the program, and numbers using the instant asset write-off initiative for efficiency equipment or initiatives as a result of the project.

Community Recycling Network of Australia - Impact Measurement Tool and Annual Forum

17. The **Community Recycling Network of Australia (CRNA)**, a not-for-profit organisation, is seeking \$15,000 sponsorship towards finalisation, delivery and training in its data capture and reporting tool to measure and communicate the environmental and economic benefits of community re-use and recycling organisations. Funding will also support delivery of the CRNA national forum in Redfern to launch a Sydney chapter of the network.
18. The City's draft Leave Nothing To Waste Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 (draft Waste Strategy) identifies inconsistent, unreliable and non-transparent waste data as a significant issue impacting the City's efforts to become a zero-waste City by 2030. The Strategy lists better waste data management, tracking and monitoring as one of six priorities for the City. This project will complement the City's efforts to improve collection and reporting of organisational and other relevant waste data as it works to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The applicant will report against performance measures such as increase in re-use and recycling rates and number of re-use enterprises using the measurement tool.
19. The Community Re-use, Repair and Recycling – Impact Measurement Tool will ensure that the social, environmental and economic contributions of community re-use and recycling organisations are accurately captured and communicated. The development of the tool has been informed by input and feedback from the Centre for Social Impact (CSI), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), local government representatives, and community recycling enterprises in the region. Initial concept development, tool development and stakeholder consultation has been supported with seed funding from Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, made possible by the Waste Less Recycle More initiative.
20. Funding will also support securing of international key note speakers from the KOMOSIE Re-use Network Belgium and CRN Aotearoa | New Zealand to attend the Annual CRNA Forum at Australian Technology Park in Sydney to be held from November 15-17 2017. Held for the first time in Sydney, the CRNA Forum brings together Australia's leading and emerging re-use, repair and recycling social enterprises to share the latest innovations, knowledge and data with industry stakeholders, international guests and peers.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

21. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This sponsorship is aligned with the following *Sustainable Sydney 2030* strategic directions and objectives:

- (a) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer – the recommended projects address key identified energy efficiency, water and waste impacts.

Environmental

22. The 1 Million Women mobile phone app - Council Program and Energy Efficiency Council awareness raising and knowledge sharing tools and forums support City efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent by 2030. Support for the Community Recycling Network of Australia Impact Measurement Tool and annual conference recognises and aligns with City efforts to improve waste data measurement and reporting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

23. This report recommends funding to a total value of \$49,880 (excluding GST). Funding support is provided within the 2017/18 budget of the Environmental Performance Grant Program.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

24. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
25. In accordance with Section 356 (3), no public notification of the proposed financial assistance is required, as the organisations are not-for-profit and the financial assistance is being provided through the City's established Grants and Sponsorship Program.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

26. The recommended projects will be undertaken between December 2017 and November 2018.

ANN HOBAN

Director City Life

Kate Read, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator