

Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Environmental Grants - Environmental Performance Grants

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. To achieve the objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030 requires genuine partnership between government, business and the community.

The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, economic and environmental policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and against broad City objectives and plans. In this way, the City and the community act collaboratively to bring to life Sustainable Sydney 2030 and the City of Villages it envisions.

The City advertised the following three environmental grant programs in Round Three of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2018/19:

- Environmental Performance - Building Operations: funding is available to help lower the costs of implementing building operations efficiency measures;
- Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments: funding is available to undertake building performance ratings and certifications, energy audits and assessments to enable a building or facility owner to understand their opportunities to improve environmental performance; and
- Environmental Performance – Innovation: funding is available to assess or demonstrate new technologies or processes that are currently not being implemented in the local market, but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource efficiencies that could be rolled out at scale within the local area.

For the Environmental Performance Grants, 43 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 36 grants to a total value of \$400,588 for the 2018/19 financial year and \$19,000 for the 2019/20 financial year.

On 11 December 2017, Council adopted a revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed against criteria and guidelines set out in this policy, with reference to Sustainable Sydney 2030, Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan, and Residential Apartments Sustainability Plan.

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

All cash figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendation for the Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program as per Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program as per Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program as per Attachment D to the subject report;
- (D) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program
- Attachment D.** Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment E.** Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city.
2. On 23 October 2018, the City announced Round Three of the annual grants program for 2018/19 as being open for applications on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 20 November 2018.
3. The three environmental programs promoted were:
 - Environmental Performance - Building Operations;
 - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments; and
 - Environmental Performance - Innovation.
4. Information about these grant programs (such as application dates, guidelines, eligibility criteria and sample applications) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the programs through Facebook, Twitter, What's On and Google AdWords. Email campaigns were also utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs. The grants were also promoted to peak industry organisations, networks and stakeholders.
5. The three Environmental Performance programs are open to appropriately incorporated for-profit organisations. Fifteen applications were received this round from for-profit organisations. Eleven of these for-profit organisations are recommended in this report:
 - Ambadell Pty Ltd;
 - Blocktexas Pty Ltd;
 - Borstream Pty Ltd;
 - Hive Empire Pty Ltd;
 - Infoactiv Australia Pty Ltd;
 - Knight Frank Australia Pty Ltd;
 - Lilyvale Hotel Pty. Ltd;
 - Mulpha Hotel Operations Pty Ltd;
 - Vicinity Centres Pm Pty Ltd;
 - Watt Solutions Monitoring Pty. Ltd; and
 - Winadell Pty. Ltd.

6. The three environmental performance grant programs aim to build capacity and address barriers to the implementation of environmental actions within key customer sectors.
7. The assessment panels for applications received under the Environmental Performance Grants Program comprised the Sustainability Engagement Managers, Manager Carbon Strategy, Waste Strategy Manager, Environmental Projects Officer, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator - Cityswitch, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator - Building Tune-Up, Sustainability Programs Coordinator - Better Buildings Partnership, and Sustainability Engagement Officer.

Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program

8. The Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program aims to improve the environmental performance of buildings by lowering the costs and mitigating the barriers of implementing building efficiency measures, such as water monitoring in residential apartments.
9. One application has been received and assessed. It is recommended for support to a value of \$10,000. Strata Plan 69567 are committed to installing sub water meters in seven buildings as water use has increased 49 per cent across the whole complex over the past three years.

Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments Grant Program

10. The Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments Grant Program aims to address barriers to the uptake of building performance ratings and assessments across energy, water, waste and other sustainability aspects. Ratings and assessments enable a building owner or facility manager to understand their building's environmental performance and to identify efficiency opportunities. Applicants are required to implement efficiency measures based on the recommendations of the assessments.
11. Thirty-three applications have been received and assessed, the highest number for this program to date. Thirty-one are recommended for support to a value of \$274,878. There has been a substantial increase in the number of assessments received with the majority of applications for single buildings reflecting the marked increase in the number of applications from the residential sector, as well as applications from previously not recommended applicants. There were a small number of single applications received for a portfolio of buildings, as well as sustainability consultant service providers promoting their services together with the City grant program to their clients.

Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

12. The Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program supports the feasibility or demonstration of new technologies or processes that are currently not being implemented in the local market, but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource efficiencies that could be rolled out at scale within the local area. Nine applications have been received and assessed. Four are recommended for support to the value of \$134,710.
 - (a) Blocktexx Pty Ltd is aiming to reduce clothing waste caused by fast fashion by using separation technology to reduce unwanted clothing down to their original fibres ready for reuse in new textiles to create uniforms for the Sydney Opera House.

- (b) CJ & SL Warren has partnered with Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney to engage and educate hotel guests and staff about saving water, energy and waste by using a scientifically verified system of monitoring, forecasting and feedback. They intend to share outcomes with the industry via events supported by the City of Sydney's Sustainable Destination Partnership.
- (c) Infoactiv Australia Pty Ltd will help achieve the goals of Sustainable Sydney 2030 zero waste strategy through the Ecoactiv platform. It digitises and controls the recycling collective in one central place, removing barriers to recycling by managing the entire process of identification, education, collection, tracking, recycling and reporting of waste.
- (d) The University of Technology, through the design and fabrication of a new invention called the Green Wall-bot, is aiming to increase the life and health of 'green walls' by using the wall-bot prototype to seed, weed and maintain the walls. This technology will significantly reduce maintenance costs and overcome OHS issues, and will lead to an increase of green-walls, biodiversity and infrastructure.

13. The 2018/19 Environmental Performance Program budget is summarised as follows:

Total cash budget	\$1,012,696
Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$612,108
Total cash amount available for allocation	\$400,588
Total number of eligible applications	43
Total cash requested	\$685,988
Total number of applications recommended for cash support	36
Total amount of funding cash recommended (a further amount of \$19,000 is recommended in 2019/20)	\$400,588
Amount remaining for subsequent allocation of the program	\$0

14. The Environmental Performance Grant Program opened again for applications in February 2019 for the first round of the 2019/20 financial year.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

15. 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 program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer - the grant projects recommended in this report will support the City's endeavours to work with our business and residential communities to reduce greenhouse emissions, potable water use and encourage diversion of waste from landfill across the local government area.

Organisational Impact

16. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve staff in the City's grants and sustainability teams setting contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project and review project acquittals.

Environmental

17. The recommended environmental grants under the Ratings and Assessments Program will provide energy and water savings as a result of improved monitoring and applicants implementing efficiency measures as a condition of the grants.

Budget Implications

18. A total value of \$400,588 in cash is recommended in this report and is above the allocated 2018/19 Environmental Performance Grants budget. Savings were identified within the grants and sponsorship budget as well as in the broader City Life operational budget to respond to the increase in applications. A further amount of \$19,000 is recommended from the draft Environmental Performance Grants budget for 2019/20.

Relevant Legislation

19. 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.
20. Section 356(3)(a) - (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
 - (a) the funding is part of the Environmental Grants – Environmental Performance Grants program;
 - (b) the details of the program have been included in Council's draft operation plan for financial year 2018/2019;
 - (c) the program's budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2018/19; and
 - (d) the program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Public Consultation

21. For all programs open to application in Round Three of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2018/19, one question and answer session was held in Town Hall House to assist potential applicants with their applications on Wednesday 7 November 2018 from 4pm to 7pm.
22. Twenty-three meetings were held on the day where prospective applicants sought advice from City staff about their project proposals and the application process.
23. Sixty-five per cent of these attendees advised they had not applied for a City of Sydney grant previously.

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Director City Life

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