

Grants and Sponsorship - Round Two 2019/20 - Environmental 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, cultural, 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 Two of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2019/20:

- Environmental Performance - Building Operations: funding is available to help lower the costs of implementing building operations efficiency measures;
- 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; and
- 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.

For the Environmental Performance Grants, 48 eligible applications were received. This report recommends 33 grants to a total value of \$413,872 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, the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan and the 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 recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program as per Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not successful in obtaining a cash grant for the Environmental Performance - Building Operations 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 C to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the applicants who were not successful in obtaining a cash grant for the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program as per Attachment D to the subject report;
- (E) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program as per Attachment E to the subject report;
- (F) Council note the applicants who were not successful in obtaining a cash grant for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program as per Attachment F to the subject report;
- (G) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST; and
- (H) 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.** Round Two 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Round Two 2019/20 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Round Two 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment D.** Round Two 2019/20 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment E.** Round Two 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program
- Attachment F.** Round Two 2019/20 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment 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 19 June 2019, the City announced Round Two of the annual grants program for 2019/20 as being open for applications on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 22 July 2019.
3. The three environmental programs promoted were:
 - Environmental Performance - Building Operations;
 - Environmental Performance - Innovation; and
 - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments.
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 grant 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 and not-for-profit organisations. Twenty-six applications were received from for-profit organisations. Nineteen of the applications from for-profit organisations are recommended in this report:
 - Ananke Holdings Pty Ltd;
 - Ascendas Hotel Investment Company Pty Ltd;
 - Blakthumb;
 - Canterbury Infrastructure Pty Ltd;
 - Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union;
 - Coweley Australia Pty Ltd;
 - Frasers Sydney MI Hotel Pty Ltd;
 - Income Energy Pty Ltd;
 - Mulpha Transport House Pty Ltd;
 - Pearl Hotels D 1993 Pty Ltd (two applications recommended);
 - Public Service Association of NSW;
 - Purposed Pty Ltd;

- Spruce Australia Pty Ltd;
 - Tank Stream Holdings Pty Ltd;
 - The Footprint Calculator Pty. Ltd;
 - The Trustee for Glory Property III Investment Trust (two applications recommended); and
 - The Trustee for the AMCO Argyle Trust and The Trustee for the Argyle Trust.
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, Commercial Manager Green Infrastructure, Urban Forest Manager, Urban Ecology Coordinator, Sustainability Engagement Coordinators, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator - Building Tune-Up, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator - Cityswitch, Sustainability Programs Coordinator - Better Buildings Partnership.

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. Three applications have been received and assessed. Two are recommended for support to a value of \$8,250. One application was received from the accommodation and entertainment building sectors and one application received from the residential building sector.

Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

10. 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. Ten applications have been received and assessed. Five are recommended for support to the value of \$172,000.
- (a) Blakthumb will be investigating growing food in underused commercial spaces. The feasibility study will aim to identify the opportunities, barriers, risks and scale for urban farming within the City of Sydney local government area.

- (b) Income Energy Pty Ltd will be investigating the drivers and obstacles of landlords and their small business tenants in installing solar on commercial buildings. The feasibility study will aim to show commercial landlords and their business tenants the benefits of solar and help identify possible ways to overcome the split incentive between the commercial landlords and their tenants.
- (c) Purposed Pty Ltd will be demonstrating how to quickly and easily assist consumers to turn everything they buy green, to reduce their carbon footprint closer to zero via an app. Consumers will discover their footprint and receive personalised recommendations to switch to quality carbon-neutral alternatives for major household spend items.
- (d) Sydney Institute of Marine Science will be undertaking a demonstration project to enhance the biodiversity of the Rushcutters Bay seawall through the installation of uniquely designed habitat tiles.
- (e) The Footprint Calculator Pty. Ltd will demonstrate the energy efficiency opportunities that exist in retail shopfront design. The aim is to engage retailers and the designers of their shopfronts and inform them of the best practice and energy efficient design opportunities.

Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments Grant Program

11. 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.
12. Thirty-five applications have been received and assessed. Twenty-six are recommended for support to a value of \$233,622. There were 12 applications received from the accommodation and entertainment building sectors, seven applications received from the commercial office sector and sixteen applications received from the residential building sector.

13. The 2019/20 Environmental Performance Program budget is summarised as follows:

Total cash budget for 2019/2020	\$849,000
Total cash committed to previously approved projects	\$182,804
Total cash amount available for 2019/2020 Round 2	\$666,196
Total number of eligible applications this round	48
Total cash requested from applications for 2019/2020	\$783,552
Total number of applications recommended for cash support	33
Total amount of cash funding recommended 2019/2020	\$413,872
Cash amount remaining for subsequent allocation of the program	\$247,494

14. The Environmental Performance Grant Program will open again for applications in October 2019 for the third 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 and 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 reviewing project acquittals.

Environmental

17. The recommended environmental grants under the Building Operations Program will enhance knowledge sharing amongst building users to improve energy and water efficiency by the installation of technology or equipment to monitor and measure existing services.
18. The recommended environmental grants under the Innovation Program will enhance knowledge sharing, skills uptake and capacity in best practice environmental performance, approaches and solutions in the local area.
19. 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

20. A total value of \$413,872 in cash is recommended in this report and is provided in the 2019/20 Environmental Performance Grants budget.

Relevant Legislation

21. 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.
22. 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 the City's operation plan for financial year 2019/20;
 - (c) the program's budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2019/20; and
 - (d) the program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Public Consultation

23. For all programs open to application in Round Two of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2019/20, two question and answer sessions were held in Town Hall House to assist potential applicants with their applications on the following dates:
 - (a) Tuesday 2 July 2019, 4pm to 7pm; and
 - (b) Tuesday 9 July 2019, 4pm to 7pm.
24. Seventy-eight meetings were held across the two question and answer sessions where prospective applicants sought advice from City staff about their project proposals and the application process.
25. Seventy 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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