

Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2019/20 - 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 its envisions.

The City advertised the following three environmental grant programs in Round Three 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 - 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, 35 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 24 grants to a total value of \$312,630 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 applications not recommended for 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 applications not recommended for 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 applications not recommended for 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 Three 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Round Three 2019/20 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Round Three 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment D.** Round Three 2019/20 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment E.** Round Three 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program
- Attachment F.** Round Three 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 23 October 2019, the City announced Round Three of the annual grants program for 2019/20 as being open for applications on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 18 November 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 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 applications were received this round from for-profit organisations. Thirteen of the applications from for-profit organisations are recommended in this report:
 - (a) Central Park Hotel Operations Pty Ltd;
 - (b) Clean Barrow Pty Ltd;
 - (c) Delta Q Pty Limited;
 - (d) Joan Products And Services Pty. Ltd;
 - (e) Lendlease (Millers Point) Pty Limited;
 - (f) Maps Hotels And Resorts Sydney 1 Pty. Ltd;
 - (g) New South Wales Masonic Club;
 - (h) Pingala - Community Renewables for Sydney Incorporated;
 - (i) Ruzi Group Pty Ltd;
 - (j) Salter Brothers (Potts Point) Hotel Pty Ltd;
 - (k) Sscq (2000) Pty Ltd;
 - (l) The Pier One Developments Unit Trust; and
 - (m) 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 Coordinator - Cityswitch, Sustainability Programs Coordinator - Better Buildings Partnership, Sustainability Engagement Manager, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator - Building Tune-Up, Manager Carbon Strategy, Sustainability Data Insights Analyst, Environmental Projects Officer, Project Development Engineer, Specialist Planner - Strategic (Sustainability), Waste Strategy Manager, Planner, Community Engagement Coordinator, Urban Ecology Coordinator.

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. Four applications have been received and assessed. Three are recommended for support to a value of \$23,700. One application was received from the accommodation and entertainment building sectors and two applications were 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. Eleven applications have been received and assessed. Seven are recommended for support to the value of \$164,017.
 - (a) Clean Barrow Pty Ltd propose to demonstrate the effectiveness of an innovative filtration system for building sites to easily remove heavy contaminants from onsite slurry leading to cleaner waterways, streets and urban ecology. Through the project, it is proposed local tradespeople will also gain knowledge of industry specific pollution issues and applicable council regulations, and be empowered to implement ways to reduce their impact and save water as well as promoting compliance.
 - (b) DeltaQ Pty Ltd propose to investigate the potential of industrial roof space for solar generation to overcome the "split incentives" barriers that exist between landlords and tenants in relation to solar developments.
 - (c) Joan Products and Services Pty Ltd propose to investigate the development of a backend engine to capture the environmental performance data of hotels from reputable data-sets and display this new resource in a user-friendly manner to allow consumers to make sustainably informed decisions when choosing accommodation.
 - (d) Lendlease propose to demonstrate the effectiveness of combining a green roof solution with a solar PV installation to investigate energy efficiency, insulation, biodiversity, air quality, storm water retention and run off improvements by measuring and comparing the output of two installations located side-by-side on similar sized buildings.

- (e) Pingala - Community Renewables for Sydney Incorporated propose to build a community-driven road map of renewable energy solutions for Ultimo with the aim of developing a purpose built and designed community solar solution to fit the immediate area's varied dwellings and community needs.
- (f) Pocket City Farms propose to install monitoring systems into native bee hives to establish a baseline for monitoring hive health to better understand the impact of temperature fluctuations on the hives and their relationship with the urban environment by sharing the data collected with the bee-keeping community.
- (g) Ruzi Group Pty Ltd propose to investigate the impact of replacing their food truck and catered events service's current usage of single use disposable cutlery and crockery with an innovative collect, wash and re-use model.

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. Twenty applications have been received and assessed. Fourteen are recommended for support to a value of \$124,913. There were nine applications received from the accommodation and entertainment building sectors, two applications received from the commercial office building sector and nine applications received from the residential building sector.
13. The 2019/20 Environmental Performance Program budget is summarised as follows:

Total cash budget	\$914,136
Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$601,506
Total cash amount available for allocation	\$312,630
Total number of eligible applications	35
Total cash requested	\$765,457
Total number of applications recommended for cash support	24
Total amount of funding cash recommended	\$312,630
Amount remaining for subsequent allocation of the program	\$0

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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.
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.
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.

Budget Implications

19. A total value of \$312,630 in cash is recommended in this report and is provided in the 2019/20 Environmental Performance Grants budget.

Relevant Legislation

20. 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.
21. 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 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.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

22. The funding period for Round Three of the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program for 2019/2020 is for activity taking place from 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021. Contracts will be entered into with all successful applicants after Council approval is received to ensure funding is released in time for projects starting in May.

Public Consultation

23. For all programs open to application in Round Three of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2019/20, one question and answer session was held in Town Hall House to assist potential applicants with their applications on Wednesday 6 November 2019, 4pm to 7pm.
24. Twenty individual meetings were held during the question and answer sessions where prospective applicants sought advice from City staff about their project proposals and the application process.
25. Seventy-five per cent of these attendees advised they had not applied for a City of Sydney grant previously.
26. Forty-five per cent of these attendees requested a member of the Indigenous Engagement team to be present during their meeting.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

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