

FACT SHEET (Environment)

Annual Grants Program Environment Funding Stream

Council adopted the Yarra Environment Strategy; Towards Local Sustainability in October 2008 to provide a framework to link Council environmental programs to community environmental action. A key theme of the strategy is local sustainability, and a key objective is “to engage and empower the community in environmental sustainability”.

The Environment Funding Stream aims to increase community awareness and action about a broad range of environmental concerns by inviting all sectors of the community to initiate and participate in local projects. The Environment Funding Stream is open to individuals, community groups, resident groups, education networks, special interest groups and charitable and non-government organisations.

The Environment Funding Stream recognises that many projects addressing environmental concerns at a local level will inevitably result in positive community development benefits. Therefore the Environment Funding Stream particularly aims to support community groups in undertaking projects that improve local environmental and social sustainability including projects that:

- Provide information or demonstrate practices for positive local environmental action
- Establish a local environment program which can be utilised and maintained by the community; and
- Create or strengthen community networks through positive environmental action.

Stream Objectives

The Environment Funding Stream has the following objectives relating to the Council’s Yarra Environment Strategy. To meet the criteria for this category projects need to:

- improve community awareness and action about environmental concerns through projects that encourage and facilitate the adoption of sustainable living practices;
- promote and encourage practices for the wise use of resources and the minimisation of waste;
- promote and encourage practices that result in a reduction in consumption of energy or an improvement in the efficiency of usage;
- promote and encourage practices for water conservation and water re-cycling;

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- reduce dependency on private transport and promote less polluting forms of transport; and
- protect and enhance the city's natural heritage and local biodiversity, especially along the Yarra River Corridor.

The targeted areas for funding include:

- community gardens education programs for residents based on the concept of "sustainable living"
- neighbourhood based programs concerning climate action