

Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Levy

Supporting you to enjoy and protect our natural environment.



Key Achievements

Up to 30 June 2019

Environmental Levy has leveraged \$12.4 million of grants since 2005



The Environmental Levy has delivered a number of environmental and social benefits, including:

- the protection of bushland and local biodiversity
- a reduction in the urban impacts of stormwater on riparian areas
- a reduction in potable water use
- a reduction in waste to landfill
- improvements to the condition of waterways
- the provision of cycle ways and recreational facilities in natural areas
- the control of dumping and encroachment into bushland
- a reduction in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- our community and local businesses living and operating more sustainably
- our community feeling more connected to nature and with others
- increased community well being



For more information, please visit kmc.nsw.gov.au/elevy

In addition, the multi-disciplinary team funded by the Environmental Levy fulfil a number of essential service functions for Council, ensuring best practice environmental management. Levy funded staff develop and review a range of environmental policies and strategies; respond to federal and state policy directions and legislative changes affecting Ku-ring-gai; provide input into the preparation of Council's land use planning documents; provide expert environmental guidance and advice within Council and to the community; participate in research partnerships; and prepare and review environmental assessments for all Council projects, ensuring that Council's legislative requirements are met.



Water and Catchment Management



- 14,676 tonnes of rubbish diverted from our waterways (from our Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) devices, Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) and street sweeping) since 2012
- 762,299 kL of water reused (from our stormwater harvesting, leachate reuse and sewer mining systems) since 2012 (111,142kL of water harvested / reused in 18/19) equivalent to water used by 1139 households and \$231,175 worth of potable water.
- 88% of total demand in 2017/18 across our reuse / harvesting sites being met by reused / harvested water
- Construction and management of 18 stormwater and rainwater harvesting and reuse systems; 2 leachate recycling systems; 2 sewer mining systems; 50 bio filter gardens; 1 roof top filter garden; and 78 stormwater quality improvement devices since 2005
- 13 creek restoration projects since 2005
- Flood risk management studies and plans for Blackbutt and Lovers Jump Creek catchments



Sustainable Transport and Community Recreation



- Creation of Jubes Mountain Bike Park
- Creation of 9km of new cycle ways across the Ku-ring-gai LGA from Roseville to St Ives
- Maintenance of 27.8 kilometres of walking tracks and renewal of 2.3 kilometres of walking tracks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA since 2012



Energy Management



- Solar PV installation at 10 Council Sites (Bridge Street Administration Building – 20kW; Suakin Street Depot – 100kW; Bancroft Art Centre – 12kW; Thomas Carlyle Childcare Centre – 19kW; North Turrumurra Sewerage Treatment Plant – 41kW; Gordon Library – 52kW; Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre – 126kW; Turrumurra Library – 29kW; St Ives Library – 25kW; and East Roseville Community Centre – 16kW), leading to total installed capacity of 440kW
- LED lighting upgrades at 13 community sites (St Ives Community Centre, West Lindfield Community Centre, Gordon Old School Building, East Roseville Community Centre, West Pymble Community Centre, Bancroft Art Centre, Thomas Carlyle Childcare Centre, St Ives Community Groups, Turrumurra Library, Gordon Library, St Ives Library, Bridge Street Administration Building and Suakin Street Depot)
- Solar hot water at 10 community sites (Roseville Chase Oval, Thomas Carlyle Childcare Centre, Lindfield Oval (Tryon Oval), Gordon Library, Turrumurra Oval (memorial), Golden Jubilee Oval, Old Bushland Depot, Wildflower Garden Pavilion, Wildflower Garden Residence and Marion St Theatre - Lower Floor)
- Solar heat pump upgrades at 2 community sites (St Ives Showground (grandstand) and St Ives Showground (residency))
- Improvements to HVAC (air conditioning) controls at 7 Council sites (Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre, Gordon Library, Council Chambers, Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre, Gordon Library, Suakin Street Depot and Bridge Street Administration Building)
- Energy efficiency upgrades of pool filtration and pool heating plant at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- Installation of pool covers at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- Intelligent lighting controls at Gordon Library
- Installation of smart metering and/or automated monitoring systems at 18 Council sites (Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre, Gordon Library, North Turrumurra Sewerage Treatment Plant, Gordon Golf Course Sewerage Treatment Plant, St Ives Showground, 828 Pacific Highway, Suakin Street Depot, Council Chambers, Lindfield Library, Turrumurra Library, St Ives Library, Bancroft Art Centre, Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre, Gordon Old School Building, Bridge Street Administration Building, Former Council Nursery and Nursery Dwelling Pymble car park Pacific Highway)
- Reduction in annual electricity costs of \$200,000*
- Reduction in annual electricity use of 956 MWh*
- Reduction in annual emissions from electricity use of 1,446 tCO₂e*
- 17% reduction in annual electricity use across all of Council's buildings and facilities*
- 14% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions*
*compared to peak in 2015/16



Community Engagement



- Over 1,500 trees planted annually at National Tree Day by 200 volunteers
- \$176,859 in community rebates for the installation of 583 energy-efficient pool pumps, and 55 energy saving home retrofits, leading to annual savings of \$234,931, energy savings of 882MW hours and matched community investment of \$891,486
- \$51,311 in community rebates for 77 rainwater tanks with 383,933 L of capacity and 9 raingardens and matched community investment of \$231,534
- Tailored sustainability action plans and rebates for 25 unit blocks, with \$662,223 of annual savings identified in common areas of apartment blocks for energy management measures, such as replacing lights (emergency lights and lights in car parks, foyers, passages, gardens and garbage rooms); carbon monoxide sensors in car parks; solar installations to offset energy use in common areas; and a review of tariffs
- 79 Pool to Pond conversions (Wild Things program) since 2008
- 1,498 native bee hives distributed (860 in Ku-ring-gai and 638 across Sydney and surrounds), since 2006
- Tailored sustainability advice for 191 households and garden advice for 271 households
- 234 worm farms and 3513compost bins distributed, diverting 80.4 tonnes of waste from land fill
- Tailored sustainability action plans for over 260 Ku-ring-gai businesses, including 169 waste audits, 15 energy audits and 2 water audits
- Assisted 3,516 residents prepare for more extreme weather events through the Climate Wise Communities program, partnering with the SES, Red Cross, Police, RFS and Department of Health
- \$834,002 distributed to community groups for 231 local environmental projects
- 36,478 participants in Council's Loving Living Ku-ring-gai program since 2012
- 12,574 actions taken by residents to benefit the environment since 2012
- Broadening community outreach through social media - Council's Loving Living Ku-ring-gai Facebook page now has 3,649 likes; the Loving Living Ku-ring-gai Twitter account has 627 followers; the YouTube Envirotube channel has 2,122 subscribers and the 100+ videos on the channel have registered 510,000 views; and the monthly sustainability e-news has 3,132 subscribers



Bushland and Wildlife



Biodiversity and bushland management

- Bush restoration activities in 38 priority bushland reserves, covering 60 hectares each year
- 23 ecological burns conducted since 2012 covering 14 hectares
- 99 hectare BioBanking site created at Sheldon Forest, Rofe Park and Comenarra Reserve
- 762 environmental volunteers dedicating 14,472 volunteer hours per year to activities that benefit the environment
- 662 dumping and encroachment issues resolved and 38 bushland reserves proactively monitored (38.2 linear kilometres)

Fauna monitoring

Greater understanding of flora and fauna species distribution and abundance to inform environmental and development assessments through fauna monitoring program:

- Grey-headed Flying-fox counts and extent mapping, to determine population trends and feeds for the National Flying-fox census run by the CSIRO
- Eastern Pygmy Possum monitoring, in collaboration with community volunteers, where 36 nest boxes are monitored monthly, providing data on abundance and distribution



- Microbats monitoring, where 25 sites around the Ku-ring-gai LGA are surveyed for microbats, providing insights into abundance, assemblage and distribution.
- Large reserve based fauna surveys. The most recent was a fauna survey in Sheldon Forest and Rofe Park, which will contribute to the development of a monitoring program to better understand the impacts to fauna associated with fire

Bushfire management

- The completion of 7 kilometres of major fire trail upgrades since 2012
- Maintenance of 24.5 km of existing fire trails