

GROUP 1: ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Participants:

- Rohan Waldie (Monash)
- Helen Jones (Indigo)
- Jen Miller (Manningham)
- Indy Lingam (Darebin)
- Michael Grubert(?) (MEPS)
- Sam Sampanthar (Knox)

Challenges:

- Lack of Budget or getting funding for projects
- Knowledge of Decision Makers and how to make the projects appealing
- Councils don't take the life cycle costs of buildings into account when planning or implementing projects

Solutions/Opportunities:

- Have small demonstration projects and place them in prominent positions so that the decision makers become familiar with the technology and concept
- Outline the assumptions made in business cases and be transparent (so that decision makers aren't suspicious about your agenda)
- Have a clear process during project (such as an ESD checklist so that ESD measures don't fall off the agenda during the building stage)
- Have hold points in Tender documents so that projects don't proceed without specialist ESD advice and sign-off during critical stages of a building project.

GROUP 2: STAFF ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Participants:

- Nina Thomas (Monash)
- Cara Horner (Whittlesea)
- Lisa Di Felice (Boroondara)
- Greg Hunt (SECCCA)
- Anthony Mann (Yarra Ranges)
- Scott McKenry (EAGA)

Challenges:

- Staff not prioritising environmental programs/initiatives
- Accountability
- Getting buy-in from staff
- Differing priorities
- Workplace culture
- Time (lack of)
- Management support
- Not having 'environment' part of KPI
- Scheduling of meetings
- Institutional barriers
- Support from staff
- Communication
- Resistance to change
- Negative attitudes

Solutions:

- Evidence based responses (research, surveys, observations)
- Incentives/Rewards
- Acknowledgement/Recognition
- Whole of organisation support/Top Down support
- Mentoring
- Integrating sustainability within other departments
- Using the 'right' message
- Providing ongoing support for staff

Top three:

Challenge 1: Staff not prioritising environmental programs/initiatives; Getting buy-in from staff

Solution 1: Evidence based responses (research, surveys, observations); Incentives/Rewards; Acknowledgement/Recognition

Challenge 2: Management support; Not having 'environment' part of KPI

Solution 2: Whole of organisation support/Top Down support

Challenge 3: Resistance to change; Negative attitudes

Solution 3: Using the 'right' message; Providing ongoing support for staff

GROUP 3: BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROJECTS

Participants:

- Tess O'Brien (Wyndham),
- Adam Shalekoff (SECCCA),
- Rose Read (NAGA),
- Julian Donlen (Port Phillip),
- Lucy Allinson (SECCCA)
- Anouk Hengeveld (Yarra Ranges Council)

Challenges:

- Identifying the public's drivers/motivators for change on a case by case basis.
- Keeping the momentum of projects and scaling them up from the initial launch of programs
- Engaging a broader audience and reaching the unconverted.
- Having to work & manage whoever is attracted to a particular program.
- Finding an integrated program that reaches the full spectrum of the community from the unconverted through to the converted.
- Identifying & evaluating the outcomes of behaviour change programs.
- Development and sharing of online tools between organisations.

Solutions:

- More networking opportunities
- Popular topics/past-times being combined with a 'Sustainability message'. Eg- Dating for singles, cooking events. Ie- Go the people's interest rather than dragging them into yours.
- Targeting messages to particular groups.

GROUP 4: ADAPTATION PROJECTS

Participants:

- Renae Walton (Kingston)
- Micheala Skett (Boroondara)
- Lynn Hebblethwaite (Maroondah)
- Jenny Pena (Indigo)
- Bronwyn Chapman (Wangaratta)
- Mat Dixon (Boroondara)

Challenges:

- Understanding of the issues – including the importance of having correct and robust info
- Different levels of adaptation
- The complexity of the subject
- How to make 100 year timescales relevant
- Vulnerable communities – framing the issue
- Accepting adaptation as an option – learning to live with climate change as a reality
- Mal-adaptation
- Psychology of adaptation - in the sense that the issue is quite overwhelming for a lot of people
- What can we adapt to now and what will we need to adapt to in the future?
- Multiple events: fire, heatwave, blackout all at once increase the stress on services

Solutions

- Need to prepare well for recovery
- Increased and more effective communication to the elderly regarding heatwaves
- Concentrate on multiple benefits – adaptation & mitigation e.g. Solar Savers or social and adaptation benefits
- Tap into the community's resilience and emphasise self reliance e.g. as done in regards to fire
- Empower people to adapt and give them solutions
- Emphasise liveability and health use hooks in addition to climate change to sell the benefits
- Find champions in other departments and/or disciplines
- Food security – veggie growing in community gardens patches

GROUP 5: DISTRIBUTED ENERGY PROJECTS

Participants:

- Emma Avery (Wangaratta)
- Tom Brown (Moir)
- Brett Munkton (Cardina)
- Matthew Charles-Jones (Indigo)
- Sarah Buckley (Stonnington)

Key Challenges

- Defining the role of Local Government and the breadth of the role within Council in relation to distributed energy systems.
- Financing distributed energy systems – low interest / fixed loans
- Getting buy and developing the appropriate business case (understanding the economy of DES).
- Communicating the message – technical vs environmental messages.

- How do we unlock innovation in relation to DES's.
- Uncertainty around energy prices / consideration of whether it will be a clean energy solution in future years.
- DES not currently supported by centralised energy system – monopoly structure of distribution companies.

Top three:

Challenge: Defining the role of local government

Solutions:

- Specifically determining what projects and activities provide the greatest benefits
- Taking time to analyse where we should be investing its time.
- Local examples and case studies required buy in and testing solutions.

Challenge: Finance – Financing distributed energy systems – low interest / fixed loans

Solutions:

- Finding and promoting finance solutions that have worked (rates payback, revolving energy fund, loans etc.)
- Leveraging support from State and Federal Governments – HOW DO WE DO THIS?
- Obtaining the skill set for understanding the finance options. This would require education, up-skilling and specifically working with finance teams.

Challenge: Getting buy and developing the appropriate business case (understanding the economy of DES).

Solutions:

- Knowing and gauging how your business case will be received / is your Council likely to support capital / ROI / revolving energy fund / loans etc
- Could and analysis be completed to show how DES's stack up against other Councils necessary infrastructure (roads/drains etc) how do the business / economic cases compare?