

Inner Melbourne Action Plan

Progress Report

Action 9.4 Green Demonstration Projects

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the progress of the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project: a how-to guide for green roofs, walls and facades.

Background

2. This project is a partnership between the IMAP councils, the University of Melbourne and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).
3. The project is aligned with IMAP Action 9.4: Green Demonstration Projects.
4. The project is developing green roof, wall and façade best practice guidelines and a policy options paper recommending ways local and state government can use policy to encourage the uptake of green roofs and walls.
5. The project also includes locating and designing green roof, wall and façade demonstration sites. These designs will help councils seek funding to realise these projects. It is intended that these future demonstration projects will publically showcase the construction and maintenance of green roofs, walls and/or facades, and what benefits they provide. The sites will also help test the relevance and breadth of the guidelines being developed. We are currently about to begin the concept development stage for the demonstration sites.

Steps to establish green roof, wall and façade demonstration projects:

Opportunities Assessment - identify potential sites in each IMAP municipality for green roof, wall or façade demonstration projects. - COMPLETE

Feasibility Study – test the feasibility of the nine sites to be able to accommodate a green roof/wall selected in the opportunities assessment. - COMPLETE

Concept drawings and costing – identify indicative costs and concept design for some of the sites that are assessed as feasible. – ABOUT TO COMMENCE

Funding bids, business case development and project management – *these steps are outside the scope of the GGGM project, to be carried out within each of the four IMAP councils.*

Progress to date

6. All four funding milestones of the project, required by DEPI, have been met to date. These related to project establishment, convening reference groups, a scoping paper for the Guidelines, and undertaking a demonstration sites opportunity assessment.
7. The draft Guidelines are taking longer than expected to develop, however this has not impacted on the total project timelines, or the milestone due dates. A consultant has recently been engaged to provide design advice and assist in layout of the document. It is expected that the Guidelines will be drafted before the Milestone due date of June 30.
8. The draft Policy Options Paper is complete (also part of the June 30 milestone) and consultation with stakeholders on that draft will begin shortly.
9. The Feasibility Study of potential demonstration sites is also complete. All nine sites assessed can accommodate roof or wall greening, however some roofs would need significant reinforcement for this to occur. Subsequently the Project Control Group will

now identify which of these sites will be recommended to have concept drawings and costings for these sites developed.

10. This project is also being used in several university student projects. The students are exploring how the Guidelines can be presented in a more interesting and interactive way and will help the project team create some content and a database. This has helped reduce costs and maximise results for the project as a whole.

Issues

11. The Project Control Group and reference groups have discussed options for presenting the final results of this project and recommend that a website is the ideal way to present the guide, as it allows:
 - use of interactive and interesting display of information,
 - the user to filter high volume/complex information easily,
 - updates to be made with latest research findings and other relevant news.
12. For consultation and initial launch an E-book (with limited printed copies) will also be developed.
13. Whilst other, more economical options for how to provide information online have been considered, an independent website has been identified as the most desirable option. The benefits of an independent website are that:
 - Updates to the site need only be made once, with all project partners having a link to the site on their own corporate site, rather than having the detailed information replicated on each partner website.
 - The site will be easy to find for the audience, as it will have its own domain name.
 - The guide could be transferred more easily to other guardians in the future if an appropriate industry body is developed.
14. Ongoing support is required to manage an independent website estimated at approximately \$3000 per year. Ongoing funding has not been allowed for in the project budget. In addition, staff commitment is required to manage the site over coming years.
15. If support is not provided to maintain a website, it may be necessary to only provide downloadable PDFs or E-books of information, which can be hosted on all project partner websites rather than creating a website that will be unmanaged.

Recommendations

16. That the IMAP Implementation Committee:
 - note the progress of the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project.
 - consider whether IMAP can provide the monetary and staff commitment to ensure the future of the Growing Green Guide.