

## 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.
2. To request any feedback on the draft Victorian Guidelines for green roofs, walls and façades is provided to the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project team by December 16.
3. To request that the Committee agree to undertake the approval process for the project's written reports in January, via email, prior to a proposed public launch of the products in February.
4. To update the Committee on the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant for green roofs research.

##### Background

5. The '**Growing Green Guide for Melbourne: A how-to guide for green roofs, walls and façades**' project is a partnership between the IMAP councils, the University of Melbourne and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. It received funding from IMAP and the *Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership* (VASP) program. The project is aligned with IMAP Action 9.4: Green Demonstration Projects.
6. The project has identified policy options for encouraging the uptake of green roofs, walls and façades; has investigated potential demonstration sites in inner Melbourne; and is developing Victorian guidelines for green roofs, walls and façades (the Guidelines).
7. The project is due to be finalised in February 2014, at which point all funding will be expended and staff contracts finished.

##### Growing Green Guide for Melbourne Project Update

8. A final draft of the Guidelines has been released for public comment. Hard copies are available on request, or an electronic copy can be accessed at [www.growinggreenguide.org](http://www.growinggreenguide.org). Staff at each Council have been informed and consultation meetings about the Guide have been carried out across the IMAP councils. Committee members are asked to provide any further feedback to the project team before **December 16<sup>th</sup>**.
9. An investigation into demonstration sites for green roofs, walls and façades has recently been completed. Hard copies of concept designs will be provided at the Committee meeting. Councils are investigating options for funding of potential demonstration projects.
10. The new project website has had over 1500 unique visitors in its first three weeks of establishment.
11. With the project completion date approaching, the following actions are proposed:

<b>January</b>	Project team requests approval from the IMAP Implementation Committee on the final versions of the Policy Options Paper; Victoria's Guide to Green Roofs, Walls and Facades; and the Demonstration Projects Summary Report
<b>January</b>	Project website is developed further
<b>February</b>	Public and media launch of the Guidelines and other resources

## Project Completion

12. A proposal for building the legacy of the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project and extending it post February 2014 was **unsuccessful** in the recent Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership grants round.
13. When the project ends in February no further resources are currently proposed in any of the IMAP councils. Each council will be responsible for progressing policy options and demonstration sites relevant to their municipality. Administration of the website will be handled by the IMAP Executive Officer. An ongoing annual cost of approximately \$300 will be incurred to host the website, after the initial 12 months.
14. It is likely that ongoing resources will be required to handle queries and requests for presentations about the project and to further the outputs of student projects such as the 'design your own green roof' software program. The Project Control Group will be working to resolve these issues in the coming months.

## Green Roofs Research Project - Australian Research Council Linkage Grant

15. In December 2012 the IMAP Implementation Committee approved, in principle, to become a partner to an application for an ARC Linkage Grant with the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Water for further research on the measurable impacts of green roofs. A \$60,000 contribution over three years was offered towards this grant. The City of Melbourne was nominated to be the lead partner on behalf of IMAP. The research project outcomes will provide:
  - Design, monitoring and management recommendations for Green Roofs, particularly in relation to stormwater quality and quantity, temperature (building energy efficiency) and improved biodiversity.
  - Results which can be incorporated into the updates and further/future extensions of the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project.
  - Involvement of the IMAP councils in regular partner meetings, with direct access to the research before publication.
16. The ARC Linkage Grant application for green roof research has been successful and legal agreements are now required to be approved between the parties. The agreement runs for three financial years between 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 with \$20,000 cash contribution proposed each year in total from IMAP. **See attachment 1 for a timeline of activities.**
17. The City of Melbourne is required to sign the linkage agreement as the lead partner, on behalf of IMAP. A delegate of council cannot commit the council to spend funds unless these funds are contained in a budget approved by the Council itself. A council resolution is therefore required to enter the linkage agreement and this proposal will be taken to council on 26 November. The University of Melbourne will commence their research once agreements have been finalised.

## Recommendations

18. That the IMAP Implementation Committee agree to undertake the approval process for the three final reports of the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project via email, prior to a public launch in February.
19. That any feedback on the draft guidelines is provided to the Growing Green Guide project team by December 16, 2013.
20. That the IMAP Implementation Committee note:
  - The progress of the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne and the intended launch of Victoria's Guide to Green Roofs, Walls and Facades in February 2014.
  - That the Australian Research Council Linkage green roofs project funded by IMAP, Melbourne Water and University of Melbourne will commence shortly, following finalisation of legal agreements.

**Attachment 1 Timeline for the Green Roofs Research Project**

Activity	2013		2014			2015			2016	
Experiment 1 – Develop new green roof substrates										
Experiment 2 – Evaluation of nutrient uptake mechanisms										
Experiment 3 - Ecosystem mimicry and green roof performance										
Experiment 3a – Water use and stormwater runoff										
Experiment 3b – Plant and substrate interaction										
Experiment 3c – Role of nitrogen fixation										
Experiment 3d – Mixes with high nutrient and water use										
Validate experimental findings on a full-scale green roof										
Model performance of green roofs										
Analysis, reporting and communication										