

Inner Melbourne Action Plan**Briefing Paper****Action 9.1 Regional Sustainability Targets**

Establish common greenhouse emissions, water and waste targets and programs for the Inner Melbourne Region.

Purpose

1. To provide the IMAP Implementation Committee with an update on the progress of Action 9.1.
2. To seek approval to develop a plan for a community focused sustainability program for the region.

Background

3. In February 2008 the Implementation Committee agreed that:
 - a. Each council is responsible for setting its own environmental targets and that different targets do not limit councils' ability to work collaboratively.
 - b. Action 9.1 focus is on aligning data collection methodologies and increased program collaboration.
4. An audit of all councils' water, waste, and greenhouse emissions targets and baseline years was undertaken and presented to the August 2008 IMAP Implementation Committee. This audit (Attachment 6a) showed that:
 - a. Water and waste methodologies were broadly aligned between all councils.
 - b. The methodology for calculating greenhouse gas emissions varies significantly between councils.
5. In August 2008 the Implementation Committee agreed to fund work to establish a standardised baseline for community greenhouse gas emissions in each council. Draft reports for this work have been completed and are attached (Attachments 6c and 6d).
6. In addition, an audit and analysis of environmental programs available to residents and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in the IMAP region has been completed and is at Attachment 6b.

Discussion*Greenhouse gas emission baseline*

7. Yarra and Melbourne used the same methodology to establish their community greenhouse gas emissions. This methodology meets international reporting protocols and is also being used by the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action councils (Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Whittlesea, Yarra, and Nillumbik Shire Council).
8. The City of Port Phillip had calculated their emissions using a different methodology and the City of Stonnington was yet to calculate their community emissions.
9. Arup calculated the baseline emissions for the Cities of Port Philip (Attachment 6c) and Stonnington (Attachment 6d) and produced a comparative report (to be distributed at Meeting 29 May) of total and normalised emissions for each IMAP Council for 2005-2006 and the detailed methodology for undertaking these calculations.
10. Baseline work for all councils has been completed, final reports will be circulated directly to councils in June 2009.

Sustainability programs audit

11. An audit of all programs available to residents and small to medium enterprises in the region has been conducted by Leicester Street Alliance. The audit examined Council, government, and non-government programs.

Key findings are:

- a. Most state and federal government sustainability programs are 'passive' programs such as grants, rebates, or web-based information programs that do not actively engage the community.
 - b. A few non-government agencies provide small-scale programs to actively engage the community but these are very localised. An exception is the Victorian Government's *Grow Me the Money* program, which is widely available to SMEs only.
 - c. Councils are the only agencies making wide-scale efforts to directly engage the community in sustainability programs.
12. The research indicates that Councils currently play a unique role in actively engaging the community in sustainability programs. Councils may benefit from offering comprehensive programs appropriate to different household types and environmental understanding.
13. The program audit work has been completed; the final report will be circulated to councils in June 2009.

Next steps

14. The baseline work and program audit provide a solid platform for IMAP to develop a strategic plan for a residential program to be delivered across the region.
15. This strategic plan would outline key program elements, costs, timing and delivery mechanisms. Importantly it would make a case for the proposed program to be appropriately funded by state or federal government.
16. This strategic plan could be developed as part of Action 9.1, alternatively it could be developed under Action 9.5:
"Community capacity for sustainability (Sustainability Victoria, DSE, EPA). Work with service providers to build community capacity through local sustainability programs for residents and businesses across the Inner Melbourne Region."
17. Cost to develop this plan is estimated to be \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Recommendations

18. That the IMAP Implementation Committee resolves to:
- a) **note** the progress of Action 9.1.
 - b) **provide** guidance on the next steps for Action 9.1.

Attachments

- 6a Targets, Baseline and Methodologies
- 6b LSA Sustainability Programs Audit
- 6c Carbon Footprint for City of Port Phillip
- 6d Carbon Footprint for City of Stonnington

Additional Attachment *Arup Comparative Report - Carbon Footprint for IMAP region* will be distributed at the meeting 29 May.