

Inner Melbourne Action Plan

Progress Report

Action 9.4 Green Demonstration Projects

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the results of an application for funding and next steps in the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project.

Background

Grant information

2. The Local Sustainability Accord is a State Government grants program aimed at funding projects addressing sustainability or climate change issues by local governments.
3. In December 2010 the Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip, IMAP and the University of Melbourne partnered to apply for Accord funding for the Growing Green Guide for Melbourne.
4. The Department of Sustainability and Environment have awarded \$250,000 to the project (see letter at attachment 2).
5. This project is aligned with IMAP Action 9.4: Green Demonstration Projects.

Project Description

6. The Growing Green Guide for Melbourne project is a practical tool that will increase knowledge and reduce the technical barriers of green roof and green wall construction. Using a collaborative approach between government, commercial and education institutions, the Guide includes best practice guidelines and policy recommendations that can be readily utilised by councils, developers and planners across Victoria.
7. The following outcomes will be delivered:
 - **Victorian best practice guidelines** for green roof/wall/façades including; a how-to guide for developers, landscapers and the general public, and standards for best practice construction.
 - **Practical application of the guidelines and policy recommendations** by; an opportunities assessment of key areas within municipalities that would benefit from green roofs/walls and a demonstration project concept using the guidelines to design rooftop and/or vertical greening for one building.
 - **Recommendations for options** to integrate rooftop and vertical greening into regulatory schemes including recommended changes to the planning schemes in each municipality.
8. The outcomes are further detailed in Attachment 1.

Budget

9. The total project budget is \$618,300. The State Government has committed to providing \$250,000.
10. The City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip has committed to contribute \$125,000 including \$85,000 in kind support (people resources) and \$40,000 financial resources each over two and a half years. This would be subject to funding through Council's normal budget process.

Funding Arrangement as per Accord Application

<i>Income</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>In-kind</i>
City of Melbourne	\$40k	\$85k
City of Port Phillip	\$40k	\$85k
IMAP	See above	See above
University of Melbourne	\$0	\$118,300.00
Funding requested from the Accord	\$250k	\$0
Total	\$330,000.00	\$288,300.00

11. The financial and in kind support could be split between all councils in IMAP to contribute to Action 9.4.
12. The University of Melbourne will cover the balance with in kind support.
13. The Project is proposed to start in September 2011 and run for a period of 30 months.

Project delivery:

14. A project officer will be employed to coordinate the project. To ensure capacity building within municipalities is shared, the role will be split between councils. Additional contributions will be provided from relevant planning and technical staff.
15. The University of Melbourne will provide expert knowledge for the project and will write the best practice guidelines. This will build capacity across the education and training sector.
16. The project will be referenced by a technical steering committee and consultation achieved through workshops with industry stakeholders and quarterly project updates disseminated to interested parties.
17. We will share our learnings with other interested local governments in Victoria and more widely, nationally and internationally. The guidance and best practice documents will be available on our websites and will be promoted at relevant conferences, forums and media opportunities.

Recommendations

18. That the IMAP Implementation Committee note the award of grant money and confirm the allocation of budget across the four councils.

Attachment 1

Project outcomes:

The following outcomes are proposed to improve knowledge and create solutions to the current barriers to implementation.

1. Best Practice guidelines for green roofs and green walls in Victoria including:

- A how-to guide for developers, designers, landscapers and the general public. Significant knowledge gaps exist on the steps required to construct a green roof/wall and the main considerations in planning and design. The guidelines will define and detail the different types of green roofs/walls/façade greening, the demonstrated benefits for buildings and urban environments and key main issues in the design process (e.g. height and access, weight loadings, Occupational Health and Safety considerations). Maintenance and management considerations will also be discussed to assist stakeholders in deciding which approach is most appropriate for their situation. Case studies of green roofs built in Melbourne and Victoria over the last 4 years will be used to highlight these issues.
- Standards and specifications for best practice construction of green roofs and walls in Victoria to adapt to climate change. The use of relevant national and international standards and specifications is critical to the sustained success of roof and wall greening in Australia. This is particularly important given the local context of this emerging industry and the predicted effects of climate change. The guidelines must be regionally specific, help to protect against poorly constructed projects; and assist in educating and promoting best practice to the industry.

2. Regulatory recommendations for green roofs and walls including:

- Recommended changes to the planning schemes in each municipality. A document will be developed for policy planners in local government and will include guidance on recommended options for changing the planning schemes in each municipality to encourage progressive implementation of particular greening treatments.

3. Practical application of the guidelines and policy recommendations by:

- An opportunities assessment of key areas within municipalities that would benefit from green roofs/walls. Detailed feasibility studies will be conducted to identify the likely site-specific solutions for at least 3 high priority sites at each municipality. Local funding partners will also be identified to contribute to the implementation and analysis of the next stage - the demonstration project.
- A planned green roof/wall demonstration project in any of the municipalities in the project. This will use and apply the best practice standards and how-to guidelines to design a green roof/wall. Funding for the installation of the demonstration project may be above the funding allocated here and will be sourced elsewhere.



Minister for Environment and Climate Change

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28 JUL 2011

Dear Dr Alexander

VICTORIAN LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY ACCORD: ROUND 5 PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

I am writing to advise that your application for a Sustainability Fund grant under the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord (Accord) has been successful. I am therefore pleased to offer you \$250,000 on behalf of your project partners for the project – Growing Green Guide For Melbourne: A How-To Guide For Green Roofs, Walls And Facades.

Round five of the Accord funding program has allocated total amount of over \$5.6 million to 57 local government projects to tackle important environmental issues at the local level. Over \$2 million of this funding has been for partnership grants.

Your regional DSE contact, Kirstyn Lee, will be in touch with the project officer named in your application to finalise the arrangements for the project to commence. If you have any queries about the process, please contact Kirstyn Lee on (03) 9296 4453 or email kirstyn.lee@dse.vic.gov.au.

I wish you every success with your project and thank you for your valuable contribution to better environmental outcomes for all Victorians.

Yours sincerely

THE HON RYAN SMITH MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

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