

Darebin, Banyule and Whittlesea Councils

Helping residents create more sustainable homes and workplaces

The Cities of Darebin, Banyule and Whittlesea are running a three year Sustainable Homes Program consisting of a series of free workshops supported by linking activities and thorough evaluation.

The Sustainable Homes Program is an effective behaviour change program which focuses on low cost practical ways to help the environment for both households and businesses. Results from Darebin's pilot program show that it delivers a reduction in energy, greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, waste, as well as improving biodiversity and increasing sustainable transport.

The key barriers this program addresses are a lack of skills to take basic sustainability actions, cost, awareness and accessibility of products, lack of social pressure/support and leadership to help influence, motivate and inspire action. Some of the key benefits that are promoted are the environmental and dollar savings achieved by specific actions and products, the ease of undertaking actions, the community and personal benefits of taking action.

This program allows people to enter according to their issue of interest, for example energy, but also encourages them to extend into other sustainability themes, such as water or sustainable gardening. This leads participants to embark on their environmental adventure in a more holistic way. It is a linking and leadership building program.

The Sustainable Homes Program has received funding from the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund, managed by Sustainability Victoria.

This project has seven evaluation tiers built into it, these include:

- Participation numbers at all workshops
- Participant evaluation via the workshop feedback forms
- Data on the number of free kit/commitment forms returned
- Data on the installation of products from workshop kits
- Surveying of participants who committed to specific actions to find out which actions they had done and which products they had installed
- Surveying of all participants on the changes in their homes and workplaces since participating in the program and their satisfaction with the complete program
- Collection and analysis of energy and water usage data to determine energy and water reductions.

Collectively the data captured from these evaluation methods will allow continuous improvement in program delivery to achieve the best environmental outcomes for the Councils involved and other organisations who wish foster environmental change.



Utility bills show cost and environmental savings



Garden friendly detergents and water and energy efficient whitegoods



For more information contact

Rebecca Petit
Sustainable Homes Coordinator
Darebin, Banyule & Whittlesea Councils
Ph 03 8470 8373
www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au

