

For more information on City of Sydney's environmental initiatives and what you can do, go to: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment)

## getting involved

### **Watershed Sustainability Resource Centre**

Free workshops including how to set up a worm farm, natural cleaning and home detoxing and how to be a green consumer. Call 02 9519 6366.

### **Community Gardens and Groups**

City of Sydney has ten community gardens which are sustained by the ongoing enthusiasm of the local community. Go to the City's website for more information.

### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

#### **PURCHASING NEW CARS**

[www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au](http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au)

#### **ACF'S GREENHOME GUIDE**

[www.acfonline.org.au](http://www.acfonline.org.au)

#### **OFFSET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM YOUR TRAVEL**

[www.climatefriendly.com](http://www.climatefriendly.com)

#### **FIND OUT HOW YOUR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION COMPARES**

[www.nabers.com.au](http://www.nabers.com.au)



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# green your life

Your guide to helping  
the environment

*city of villages*

**The City of Sydney is committed to providing strong environmental leadership, with a series of immediate practical actions being undertaken as part of a long-term environmental strategy.**

We are working to become a carbon-neutral council, producing zero net greenhouse gas emissions through cost-effective energy reduction measures.

Our use of renewable energy and other offset mechanisms will position Council as an environmental leader, building on current initiatives to increase water reuse, drought proof our parks, plant more trees, reduce waste going to landfill and engage our communities in innovative and practical sustainability strategies. The Watershed Sustainability Resource Centre in Newtown is a terrific environmental centre, co-funded by the City and Marrickville Councils, offering educational workshops and advice for residents and businesses on sustainability issues.

Our new Sydney 2030 project will harness Australia's best and most creative thinkers to work with us on a vision for the next two decades. It is a complex and demanding task which will promote green urban design and planning, new public spaces, an integrated transport system and plans for sustainable economic development.

*Clover Moore*

**Clover Moore MP**  
Lord Mayor



Our quality of life, our financial security and the lives of our children and grandchildren are all dependent on the natural environment. Everyone has an important role to play and your individual actions really will make a difference. City of Sydney is undertaking a range of programs to reduce our impact on the environment. Individuals can take similar steps to reduce their impact.

## 10 easy steps

you can take to make a difference not only to the environment but also to your wallet:

### 1 Change to an accredited green power option

Green power is electricity generated from clean and renewable sources such as sunlight, wind, water and organic matter, rather than fossil fuels like coal and oil. (See the green power article for more information).

### 2 Use energy efficient light globes

Energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps use 80% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than standard globes. You can now find them in most supermarkets and hardware stores.

### 3 Buy appliances with a high energy star rating

Did you know that an old inefficient fridge can use up to three times the energy of a new, efficient model? You can compare energy ratings of appliances at [www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au)

### 4 Buy Australian

When you purchase things that are made in Australia, not only are you supporting Australian industries and jobs, but you are also reducing the air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions caused by transporting the goods from overseas.

### 5 Walk, cycle or take public transport at least a few times a week

If every vehicle owner in NSW reduced their road travel by as little as one kilometre a day, we would save 130 million litres of fuel. That equals 377,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas. And then there are the added health benefits of being more active plus the money you can save on petrol.

### 6 Join a car pool

Arrange to travel with colleagues or friends who live locally, rather than in individual cars. Reducing the number of cars on the road reduces emissions and improves air quality.

### 7 Take the short shower challenge

Play one of your favourite songs as you get into the shower and get out when it finishes. A 4 minute shower uses the same energy as running a standard TV for 20 hours.

### 8 Fix your leaking taps and toilets

The easiest way to check if a toilet has a slow leak is to place a few drops of food dye in the cistern. If colour appears in the bowl after around 15 minutes without flushing, then you know you have a leak. Fixing your leaking toilet will prevent 96,000 litres of water being wasted a year and save about \$60 on your water bill.

### 9 Line your garbage bin with newspaper, not plastic bags

Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade, meaning they break down into smaller and smaller toxic parts, contaminating soil and waterways and suffocating animals. Take reusable bags when you shop and wrap rubbish in newspaper.

### 10 Choose native plants that are suited to your local soil and weather conditions

Visit Sydney Water's Plant Selector to find out more about the native plants that will thrive in your local area without a lot of water. As much as half the average Australian household water is used on the garden - about 123,000 litres per household per year. Native plants also attract native birds and wildlife.

[www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/PlantSelector](http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/PlantSelector)

# water



Sydney's falling dam levels and the drought in NSW have raised awareness of the fragility of our precious water supply. City of Sydney has a raft of strategies to protect the supply and the quality of our water. We've installed rainwater tanks and waterless urinals, run water savings operations in the City's pools, planted drought-tolerant plants in our parks, and initiated more than 20 water reuse projects.

## What you can do

### Contact Sydney Water

Sydney Water has a number of residential water efficiency programs and rebates available to customers in Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains. From just \$22\*, Sydney Water will send a licensed plumber to your home to fit water efficient equipment to your taps and fittings, and install a 3-star rated water efficient showerhead. They also offer rebates for customers who purchase and install 4 star or 5A star water efficient washing machines and rainwater tanks.

### Install a rainwater tank

By storing rainwater run-off from your roof, rainwater tanks provide a valuable source for flushing toilets, washing machines, watering gardens and washing cars. Check the Sydney Water website for more information on rainwater tank rebates.

### Choose water efficient fittings and appliances

Choosing a water-efficient product is one way to save water and save money. Look out for water efficiency labels on dishwashers, washing machines, toilets and showers. Each product is given a water efficiency-star rating to help you to compare models. It also provides you with the product's water consumption, as based on laboratory tests.

You could also install a water-efficient (3-star/AAA rated) showerhead to your shower. An inefficient showerhead can use more than 20 litres of water every minute, while an efficient one will still provide a high quality shower using only 9 litres a minute. This could save you around \$55 in water and energy costs every year.

\*For more information and the full terms and conditions, visit the Sydney Water website:

[www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

# recycling



Recycling has many benefits for our community. It reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill sites and the costs associated with disposal. It also saves water and energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Your yellow lid bin or black crate is used for mixed container recycling. This includes:**

**CANS** - steel and aerosol cans, aluminium cans, foil and trays

**GLASS** - clear, brown, green and blue glass bottles and jars

**PLASTIC** - plastic PET and HDPE bottles with a 1,2,3 or R symbol on the bottom

**CARTONS** - Liquid paperboard milk and juice cartons and tetra paks.

## **What Goes in Your Blue Lid Bin or Blue Crate?**

Your blue lid bin or blue crate is used for paper and cardboard recycling. This includes:

**PAPER** - telephone books, office paper and envelopes, clean paper bags, junk mail, newspapers and magazines

**CARDBOARD** - egg cartons and flattened cardboard boxes.

## **What can't be recycled by the City of Sydney?**

- Plastics numbered 4, 5, 6, 7, plastic toys and packaging, mixed cardboard and steel products (ie. Pringles boxes), styrofoam and takeaway food containers, light globes, white glass (ie. Malibu bottles) and plastic bags.
- Broken glass, window glass, poison bottles, cans of paint or solvent, mirrors or ceramics (eg. china cups and plates).
- Pizza boxes, waxed cardboard, tissue paper, food soiled paper and cardboard, frozen food packaging, disposable nappies, tissues and waxed cardboard.

## **White goods collections**

City of Sydney offers a free, kerbside recycling service for white goods like fridges, stoves, microwave ovens, dryers and washing machines.

**For further information on recycling or to book a collection call the City on 9265 9333**



# cycling

**Riding to work can be a lot quicker and easier than you think and the benefits to your health and the environment can be significant.**

City of Sydney's Cycling in the City program offers incentives and training for people through their employers. In return, participants agree to ride to work at least once a week for three months. Those taking part have not only helped reduce traffic congestion and pollution, but also reported weight loss, improved blood pressure and general well being. Bicycle Victoria has developed a tool to calculate the calories consumed by cycling. You can download this at: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling)

Cycling can save you journey time. It's also cheap as you don't have to pay for petrol or fares. The City has recently launched its ten year cycle strategy. Draft plans include connecting each of the city's villages with a network of bicycle routes and making streets safer for cycling. Find out more at: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling)

## **Want to get started?**

Contact bike groups or bike shops about cycle proficiency and maintenance. Why not ride with friends or join a bike group's 'bike bus' – a group of cyclists who ride along particular routes at pre-arranged times.

**Make sure your bike is fitted with lights, reflectors and a bell.**

**Bicycle NSW & BUGs**  
(Bicycle User Groups)  
Tel: 02 9218 5400  
[www.bicyclensw.org.au](http://www.bicyclensw.org.au)

**Bike It Sydney**  
Back street guide to inner Sydney  
Tel: 02 9218 5400  
[www.bike-it.com.au](http://www.bike-it.com.au)

**Bikely.com**  
Maps and information from cyclists  
on cycle routes the world over  
[www.bikely.com](http://www.bikely.com)



# green power

**If you switched to using 100% accredited GreenPower, you could save around seven tonnes of greenhouse pollution every year, equivalent to removing almost two cars from the road.**

Did you know that Australians are the highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases in the developed world? Even the United States uses less energy per person. And yet there are a range of simple steps you can take to reduce your emissions. One of the simplest is purchasing green power.

Green power is electricity generated from clean and renewable sources such as sunlight, wind, water and organic matter, rather than fossil fuels like coal and oil.

While the price will vary between electricity companies, green power is very affordable and starts from around \$1 a week. To make the change, go to [www.greenpower.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.nsw.gov.au) and then call your supplier to switch.

City of Sydney will purchase 20% of its power from green power in 2007 and this will increase to 100% by 2008. Its New Year's Eve and Christmas celebrations are also powered by green power.