

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Sustainable Homes and Communities - Goals, Objectives, Council Benefits**

The overall goal of the program is to provide residents with the inspiration and skills to increase sustainable behaviour at home and in the community. The program objectives include:

- Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce water consumption
- Reduce waste production
- Increase the development of more sustainable gardens
- Increase sustainable transport use and reduce car based trips
- Reduce the “food consumption” footprint for residents
- Support action based social change within communities and groups for sustainability and start building linkages between people within communities around this issue
- Build and promote community leadership in the area of sustainability and help shift social norms. Support leaders to influence their groups and communities
- Increase the reach of the program through engaging and supporting more diverse communities and their leaders
- Run a well-documented program and communicate findings to other local governments and organisations, to target sustainable behaviour change
- Maintain an interactive website, which provides useful information, advice and resources and promotes community achievements and case studies
- Recognise the environmental savings and hard work of the community and groups via an awards night.

Benefits to the Council include:

- Support community to reach Council community environmental targets.
- Reduced waste disposal costs and increased sales of compost bins and worm farms
- Council perceived as leaders in sustainability.
- Residents seek advice from Council on sustainability or become aware of other organisations for appropriate advice.
- Increased participation in environmental programs eg. Sustainable transport, Spring into Compost, Healthy and Sustainable Gardens, Sustainable Food, Talking my Language, Darebin Community Climate Change Action programs etc.
- Increased subscriptions to environmental newsletters eg. Sustainability News.
- Increased participation in Friends Groups and other Environmental Groups.