

# 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
- Launch a new and interactive website, which will encourage friendly competition between households and community groups
- 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 Drive with your heart program which brings neighbourhoods together and encourages safe and sustainable travel options in Darebin.
- Increased participation in environmental programs eg. 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.