

APPENDIX B: Comments from Leaders Course Participants

The thing about this program is that the rewards lie in the conversations you have and the people you meet. Every time we had a session I'd be talking to people that had great ideas, and who were receptive to my thinking as well. It is just an encouraging and energising environment to be in. That's in addition to what you actually learn in the course.

I did not have an idea for a project when I started out but it was the presentations and conversations in the workshops that got our group thinking about our cycle paths idea. Then the Bike Routes on Google Maps project was born and now it is a reality that hopefully a lot of people can benefit from.

Attending the Sustainability Leaders meetings really freed up my mind from the demands of a young family and full time work. It was a creative environment and it allowed me to be creative.

I speak to a lot of people about the Community Leaders program and the community project we are doing and people often say 'I wish my council would do something like that.' Darebin is leading the way in this, so we are very lucky I believe.

I found the speakers super inspiring. Lots of ideas bubbling up.

The networking, finding out who was doing what, who I could link in with and the range of approaches to sustainability were particularly valuable. People in the group had some very ambitious project ideas, and that optimism and ambition really helped me feel energised. Burnout can be a significant factor when you are doing environmental work and this program was a great help in reinvigorating me for the work I was doing.

I started getting involved in some of the sustainability workshops Darebin ran about 5 years ago, so when I heard about the Leaders program I thought that would be a good way to get something done. I am on the Transport Advocacy Committee, and the Bike Advisory Committee, I have supported the Backyard Harvest and Angelo's garden at Open Garden Scheme, I am involved in the Northcote Library Food Garden, as well as the Seed Bank project we are working on. All these things are connected for me, and the Leaders Program is a big part of it.