

Community Leaders in Sustainability Course Overview

Communities of the Inner West are doing great things and you can be part of it!

Have you got a community environment project idea or an issue that you are passionate about?

The free Community Leaders in Sustainability course provides you with training in project management, grant writing, effective marketing and social media, building partnerships and sustainability. You'll meet experts and connect with other like-minded people.

Participants put their knowledge and skills into practice, and work to deliver a community environmental project that creates positive outcomes in their local communities, with the support of the program. These projects could be based around a workplace, your street, in your local area, around your local waterway, natural places or have a far broader influence.

The list of possible projects is endless, but projects should take a community-oriented approach to environmental sustainability.

The course will run in the Inner West from Thursday 9 February 2017 to 27 April 2017 with an Easter break. There are also two Saturday field trips and a graduation ceremony on Thursday 25 May.

Have some questions? Talk to the course coordinator
Kate Jackson: call 9335 2147 or email kate.jackson@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

To apply

Apply [online](#) or download an application form.

Applications close: Thursday 12 January 2017

What's in it for you?

- New friends who care about community and environment
- Expanded knowledge and networks in your community
- Free training
- Increased knowledge and skills in running projects and environmental sustainability
- A lot of fun.

What is a community environmental project?

A community project involves members of the community taking action to improve, protect or nurture their natural environment, or to reduce their impact on the environment. The list of possible projects is endless, but projects should take a community-oriented approach to environmental sustainability.

Some examples from previous courses in Darebin and Banyule councils include:

- reducing plastic use and plastic litter in waterways
- starting a community composting system where people can take food waste
- organising a local food co-op
- providing sustainability information for people who otherwise struggle to access it
- promoting wildlife habitat with private landowners
- uploading local bicycle routes onto Google maps and promoting to cyclists



- starting a kitchen garden at a workplace
- building a rain garden at a community space
- starting a bicycle repair and distribution scheme
- delivering food fermentation and preserving workshops to parents' groups
- working with local businesses to reduce plastic bag use
- helping workplaces adopt non-disposable coffee cups for staff.

How does it work?

The CLS course is managed and facilitated by the Inner West Council's Community Sustainability team.

The group will have 20 to 30 community leaders taking part, all of whom live, work or study in the Inner West.

Workshops and field trips

There will be eight workshop sessions, two field trips and a final graduation event.

The workshop sessions have guest presenters on topics such as community project management and planning, leadership and change practice, group work and communication, working with the media and obtaining funding.

At some sessions local community members will showcase their projects and discuss their experiences, successes and challenges.

As the weeks progress groups will form to plan and deliver community projects. Note that there are no workshops or events scheduled during public holidays or school holidays. Most Leaders will be in a position to start planning, preparing or delivering projects towards the end of the workshop sessions.

Community project work

You might have a well-formed project idea already, or even a project underway that needs help to expand or implement.

You may want to explore what is happening in the community and look for an idea that inspires you.

You might be ready to start project work early on or wait til the workshops are finished. Projects might be completed by graduation in May 2017, or they may involve ongoing activities.

Wherever you are up to during and after the course you'll have the support to plan and deliver your project and to link with others who can help you to deliver a rewarding community project.

At the graduation event there'll be speeches, celebrations, food and drink. We'll hear from you and others about your experience project.

What do we ask of you?

We ask that you attend all sessions and take part in a community project.

We ask that you will arrive at sessions on time.

We ask that you bring a positive, courageous and open outlook to all the activities we undertake together, along with a willingness to listen, to share, to contribute and to support and encourage those around you whenever you see the opportunity.

Course Schedule

Venue: Council function room – Petersham

Session	Date & time	Topic
1	Thursday Feb 9 6.00 – 9.00pm	Getting to know the program and each other.
2	Saturday Feb 18 8.30-12.30	Saturday field trip. Along the Cooks River
3	Thursday Feb 23 6.00 – 9.00pm	Change practice and leadership.
4	Thursday March 2 6.00 – 9.00pm	Creativity, sustainability and connecting with nature.
5	Thursday March 16 6.00 – 9.00pm	Community projects – ideas and plans. Bruce Jeffries
6	Thursday March 23 6.00 – 9.00pm	Project management and planning – theories, models, examples.
7	Saturday April 1 8.30-12.30	Field trip Inner West built places
8	Thursday April 6 6.00 – 9.00pm	Group dynamics, working with groups, sharing the load.
Easter break		
9	Thursday April 20 6.00 – 9.00pm	Communicating, publicising and promoting community project work.
10	Thursday April 27 6.00 – 9.00pm	Resourcing community projects: grants, crowd-funding, and sponsorships.
Event	Thursday May 25 7-9pm	Graduation celebration