



Local Government

By integrating sustainability into operations and planning frameworks, councils can become models of excellence for the community and other organisations to emulate

Living Schools is committed to the development of genuine examples of sustainability in our community and we believe local government has the potential to be leaders in this area. Not only can they serve as models for organisational and corporate sustainability, but they are also able to implement a wide range of demonstration sites and experiential learning models within the community.

In the past, many environment projects implemented by local government were grant funded and short-term. These projects were discrete with desired outcomes easily achievable within an agreed timeframe.

With the urgency of climate change and resulting changes to legislation and regulatory requirements, councils have found themselves shouldering much greater responsibility for local sustainability. Solutions are complex, requiring a multi-disciplinary implementation framework, and take into account not just environmental impacts but social and economic aspects as well.

Living Schools offers councils project management that is focussed on real sustainability outcomes. Our services are detailed below.

Community workshops

Living Schools workshops are practical, skill based and cover all aspects of sustainable living, including:

- Attracting wildlife to your garden
- Water and energy efficiency
- Safe and sustainable greywater reuse
- Rainwater harvesting fundamentals
- Recycling green waste (composting and worm-farming)
- Water sensitive design (passive irrigation, pollution control)
- Urban food production (including organic soil fertility and pest management)

Presentations and photography exhibitions

A picture tells a thousand words! *Living Schools* has a large archive of photographs and diagrams that can be used to illustrate the beauty and intrinsic logic of sustainable living. Presentations and exhibitions are tailored to your requirements.

Meaningful community engagement and consultation

To truly engage the community in a new approach to living we cannot rely on education alone. We need to facilitate participation in planning for sustainability and empower people to take part in decision making. *Living Schools* can work with local government and communities to develop a shared vision and bridge the gap between corporate decision making and the day-to-day choices of residents and businesses.

Capacity building for council officers

The integration of sustainability into operations and management planning is complicated, partly due to the fact that the organisation is made up of so many disciplines, all coming at the problem from very different perspectives. *Living Schools* can assist councils to develop and work within a new multi-disciplinary framework, as well as provide section specific training in just what sustainability is all about.

Development of community gardens and demonstration sites

In order to embrace sustainability, the community needs real concrete examples to learn from. Community gardens and demonstration sites provide council with excellent opportunities for experiential education, and have been found to enhance learning through peer skill sharing and the practical application of skills.

Community based action programs

Many members of our community are passionate about sustainability and willing to act as ambassadors to other residents and businesses. Council can harness this enthusiasm by providing training, resources and support. This will pay off exponentially through outreach into hard to reach groups such as CALD communities.

Sourcing of funds

Finding the resources to implement activities identified in Management Plans, Water and Energy Savings Action Plans and Local Agenda 21 Action Plans can be challenging. *Living Schools* can assist in sourcing state and federal government funding.

Development of resources for educators

If you are trying to target a specific group within the community, *Living Schools* can assist in develop tailored resources and materials for educators including brochures, incentive schemes, websites and fact sheets.

Community forums

Sometimes solutions are not clear and need to be debated. Community forums create a space where all views can be heard and expert guidance integrated into decision making without overriding community concerns.

How much will it cost?

We are interested in social change rather than profit. If you have a project in mind, contact us to discuss your requirements and we will provide you with a written quote.