

### **3.4. Future Directions of the Green Events Program 2022**

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**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the future direction of the Green Events program in 2022.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Green Events program comprises of a suite of sustainability related workshops, webinars and events offered to the North Sydney community free of charge. The program is designed to engage, encourage, and foster behaviour change in North Sydney residents and workers by giving them the knowledge and skills to act. The program will shift its core focus in 2022 to an all-electric future and electrification of homes.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Green Events program is funded through Council's Environmental Levy.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the report on the Green Events Program be received.

## **LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

### **1. Our Living Environment**

#### **1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Green Events program has been running since 2008 and has continued to gain in popularity since its commencement. Each year there are approximately 30 webinars, workshops and events and the attendance numbers have increased year on year.

The Green Events program aims to capitalise on the latest research and trends and the annual program has been designed to reflect this. In recent years there has been a shift towards electrification and decarbonisation as a viable and focused solution to reduce household emissions which will feature prominently in the 2022 program.

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Community engagement is not required.

## **DETAIL**

The Green Events Program, run by the Sustainability Team, consists of over 30 free workshops, webinars and events that are run each year for the North Sydney community. The program focuses on current topics and themes of environmental sustainability with workshops designed to engage, encourage, and foster behaviour change by giving North Sydney residents the knowledge and skills to reduce their carbon footprint.

The program is informed by feedback from participants which is gathered through evaluation surveys after each workshop. In 2021, over 1300 participants attended the Green Events program and formal feedback from participants across the program was excellent, with 90% of respondents being satisfied or very satisfied with the event, venue, and facilitator, and 90% of respondents being motivated or highly motivated to make a sustainable change in their lives. As part of the evaluation process participants are also asked for suggestions on topics for future events. Increasingly, the program has seen a strong residential shift towards electrification and decarbonisation as a way residents can take meaningful action, on an individual and household level, to reduce their emissions and become part of the climate change solution. The shift in thinking and behaviour towards electrification is also reflected in [Council's 2030 Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#), with stated targets of 100% of Council's electricity needs to be met by renewable energy by 2030 and 65% greenhouse gas reduction of 1996 levels before 2030.

In 2022 and beyond, the Green Events Program will continue to look at strategies to support households to electrify their homes. The program will focus on the household level as residents are best placed to take advantage of existing and affordable technology and have the ability to make the biggest carbon emission savings.

The first major event held in 2022 as part of the Green Events program was with Dr Saul Griffith, who discussed his most recent book, [‘The Big Switch’](#) and who listed the strategies we can all use to better prepare for electrification and to take advantage of the opportunities when they arise. North Sydney residents can watch the event on the [Council’s Sustainability You Tube channel](#).

Future electrification events in 2022 are currently in the planning stage and will include such topics as demystifying green power, virtual tour of all electric homes, electric home mythbusting, hot water heat pump basics, solar pv for apartments/homes, electric vehicles and electric bikes and hands on all electric demonstrations.



**Pic Above: Barbara Albert from 100% Renewables in conversation with Saul Griffith as part of The Big Switch webinar held on March 23, 2022.**