



Welcome

Its Smart Living Newsletter time! Check out all the latest sustainability news and Smart Living Events coming up in this Autumn.

Captains Corner

Autumn is here and across Warrnambool we are still seeing beautiful sunny days and noticing the temperature drop in the evening. Did you know that draughts can equate to up to 25% of heat losses. If you are not quite ready to turn the heaters on yet there are a number of ways you can reduce draughts in your house.

Try sealing doors, windows, cracks and gaps. Cover any unnecessary vents and unused fireplaces and ensure there are no gaps around exhaust fans and outlet grills.

You could also buy or make your own door snakes



Detox your home

Warrnambool City Council residents were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to rid their homes of unwanted household chemicals for free and in an environmentally responsible way.

This year 288 people attended the day with 26% of attendees being first time users. An average of 27.6 kgs/person was dropped off with paint, flammable liquids and inert solid being the highest volume of product collected.



If you missed this hugely successful day but would still like to correctly recycle unwanted items from around your home, please refer to Warrnambool City Council's Green guide (www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/green-guide) for a list of local businesses who can assist you in this.



Clean up Australia Day

Clean up Australia Day takes place every year on the first Sunday of March. From Perth to Penrith, hundreds of thousands of Australians get stuck in and Clean Up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day.

In 2015 more than 526,268 volunteers across Australia helped by donning gloves and filling up Clean Up Australia Day rubbish bags with an estimated 13,563 tonnes of rubbish at 6,165 sites across Australia.



Warrnambool had 14 different clean up sites registered for 2015. A big well done to everyone involved!

The team hope to see you next year for the 26th Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 6 March, 2016.



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March 2015

Sustainability Events Coming Up in Autumn:

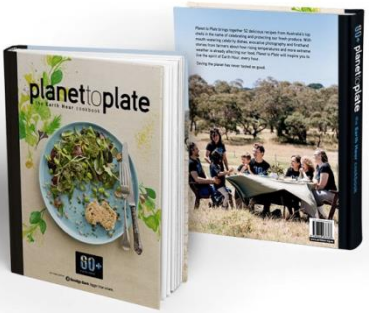
Earth Hour

Saturday 28th March is Earth Hour and the Warrnambool Environment Action Group is holding an Earth Hour event on the Civic Green. The event will run from 6.30pm - 10.00pm with the lights being switched off from 8.30pm - 9.30pm.

This fun family event will feature: music from the band 'Organic Matter', Dance groups, milkshake bikes, singer Phillip Shaw's 'One Earth, One Voice', face painting, stalls, bees-wax candles, solar lights, and fire twirlers.



This year Earth Hour have released a cookbook titled *Planet to Plate* and features 52 amazing recipes written by some of Australia's most well known chefs. To order your copy visit their website: earthhour.org.au



Green Drinks:

Green drinks is a monthly informal networking event for anyone interested in studying or working in the environmental field.

Green drinks are held on the first Thursday of the month from 5.30pm.

Upcoming dates are as follows:

- Thursday 2nd April – Simon's Waterfront (Warrnambool Surf Club)
- Thursday 14th May – The Last Coach, Warrnambool (one week later due to May Race day)
- Thursday 4th June – The Last Coach, Warrnambool



Speed Planting

Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group (supported by the Going Upstream project) have a very special speed planting event coming up on Sunday 3rd May at 11.00am at Platypus Park in Membedery Way.

Plant with a new person every few minutes and then join everyone to mingle over a free BBQ lunch. You'll meet new people, kick a goal for our local environment and enjoy the great outdoors.

Registration is essential – for further details head to the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group Facebook Page.



Friday Arvos at the Community Garden

Harvest, Share, Swap & catch up on Fridays from 4-6pm at WGC, corner Grieve St and Grafton Rd. Get along and enjoy the beautiful garden at during the best time of the year - Autumn!

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Street Light program

Warrnambool has become the first city in Australia to use highly efficient LED technology for a bulk changeover of residential street lighting.

Over 2000 80-watt mercury vapour lamps were replaced with 22-watt Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). The annual cost of power (including a base charge) to run an LED is about \$36.50 compared to \$96.60 for a mercury vapour lamp. There will be additional savings on the lower cost of maintaining the LEDs so the annual saving to Warrnambool Council is expected to be about \$245,000 per year.



Warrnambool City Council Mayor Michael Neoh said the council had assessed the increased benefits of LED technology against the higher initial cost involved and was proud to be pioneering its adoption for residential streets in Australia. "The move to install LEDs makes sense from financial and environmental points of view," Cr Neoh said. "It also fits neatly with the Council's key objective to be a sustainable city."

LEDs have also been installed along the Breakwater. The Warrnambool streetlight upgrade is part of the Great South Coast Street Smart Lighting project which involves six Victorian councils – Warrnambool, Shires of Colac Otway, Corangamite, Moyne, Southern Grampians and Glenelg. The project received a \$1.4 million grant from the Australian Government's Community Energy Efficiency Program. The mercury vapour lamps will be recycled.



Educating our next Generation of Sustainability Warriors

The staff at Warrnambool City Council's childcare and kindergarten facilities have been champions in teaching our cities youngest citizens the importance of sustainable practices such as recycling and growing your own plants.

This fantastic initiative has been embraced by the children who have loved learning how to save our planet.

This great work being done by the team will ensure our next generation of city leaders have a keen interest in environmental issues in the future. Well done team!



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Community Development fund

Did you know that local community clubs and organisations can apply for funding under Council's Community Development Fund?

The fund is to assist local clubs and organisations in developing and providing sporting, recreational, cultural or environmental sustainability programs, projects, activities or events that will be completed by 30 June each year and based within Warrnambool city. Applications for the fund will be opening soon, so now is the ideal time to start discussing with your group what to apply for in 2015/2016. More information is available on the WCC website.

Office Tip

Did you know that by adding plants to the office you can boost your productivity by 15%?

A recent study at the University of Queensland has found that by adding some plants to your work environment helps increase your mental, physical and emotional being at the workplace.



This increase in wellbeing helps you to work more effectively!



Garden Planting

Autumn is a great time to get out and get the vegetable patch restocked after summer. The conditions are ideal to plant the following:

- Artichoke
- Broadbeans
- Broccoli
- Brussel Sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Garlic
- Spring Onions
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Radish
- Rosemary
- Spinach
- Leek



For more sustainability tips for home and work, visit <http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/>

Contact us

If you would like more information on any of the items in the newsletter or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list please contact **Helen Sheedy** (Sustainability Officer) on hsheedy@warrnambool.vic.gov.au or (03) 5559 4439

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