

Community Housing Tenants Network Meeting

23/3/2009

Dear Tenant Network supporter

Thank you very much for attending our workshop on the 23rd of March. I'd like to especially thank the people who came in from Newcastle, Tamworth and Mudgee and of course all our guest speakers. I'm attaching a copy of the presentations on environmental sustainability from Housing NSW and the Department of Climate Change. You can also see the results of the discussion groups we held asking tenants how they could help contribute to environmental sustainability. There were some great suggestions made and the NSW Federation of Housing Associations will share these ideas with the housing associations to see what they can look at taking up.

I hope you enjoyed the day and found it worthwhile. The event was organised almost entirely by the Representative Committee of the Tenant Network who should be congratulated for all their hard work in pulling the event together.

The next workshop will be the AGM, which will be held on 22nd June at Club Ashfield. More information closer to the time.

Many thanks

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Senior Training and Resource Worker (and Network helper)
NSW Federation of Housing Associations

Discussion group results:

WHAT CAN TENANTS DO TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE?

INSIDE

- Change to environmentally friendly light bulbs
- Turn off lights when not in use
- Install dimmer switches
- Ensure water saving devices are installed in showers, taps, etc.
- Timer in the shower
- Off peak hot water
- Solar hot water
- Use instantaneous hotwater systems/ heat pumps.
- Turn off appliances at the wall/ don't use standby power
- Use less chemicals/ pesticides – use old style cleaning methods e.g. baking soda and washing soda, vinegar, lemon juice.
- Use both sides of paper
- Dual flush toilets
- Recycling
- Greenpower
- Save grey water
- Insulations – seal windows, doors, etc – use carpets, curtains, etc
- Fans instead of air conditioners
- Buy energy efficient appliances
- Cover food when microwaving
- Turn lights off for a hour during Earth Hour.
- Dispose of batteries and computers appropriately

OUTSIDE

- Walk more
- Use public transport
- Solar panels
- Put the correct items in the right recycling bins

GARDENS

- Plant drought resistant plants
- Plant more trees
- use mulch and water saving crystals
- Watertanks
- Use grey water
- moon planting
- deep watering
- reduce lawn area
- grow your own fruit and vegies
- worm farms

- Composting
- Support community garden projects

SHOPPING

- Use less plastic bags
- Buy reusable bags/packaging
- Buy items with less packaging
- Use household water filters instead of bottled water
- Buy less chemicals

EDUCATION and OTHER THINGS TO DO

- Lobby housing providers to buy energy efficient appliances in bulk to on sell to tenants cheaper
- Education from councils and housing providers.
- Tenants groups provide training and information to tenants
- Educate children