



Environmental Action at North Yarra Community Health

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Environmental Action at North Yarra Community Health



- History of environmental action at NYCH
- Rationale for environmental focus at NYCH
- Rationale for your Workplace?
- Recent Strategies 2007 - 2009
- Learnings
- Future Directions

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History of Environmental Action at NYCH

- Political action and research – since 1970's Eastern freeway, electromagnetic waves, asthma and petroleum bi-products, EPA data collection
- Environmental audit 1997
- Various staff committees 1997 - 2007
- Research - Climate Change Action in Community Health 2007
- Green Committee 2007 - 2009



Rationale for Environmental Focus at NYCH

- Largely organic – grew out of a long standing commitment to the environment by staff
- Recognition of the link between environment and health
- Climate change:
 - Social justice concerns
 - Social corporate responsibility
 - Recognition of health implications of climate change
 - Fit with Health Promotion approach

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Rationale For Your Workplace?

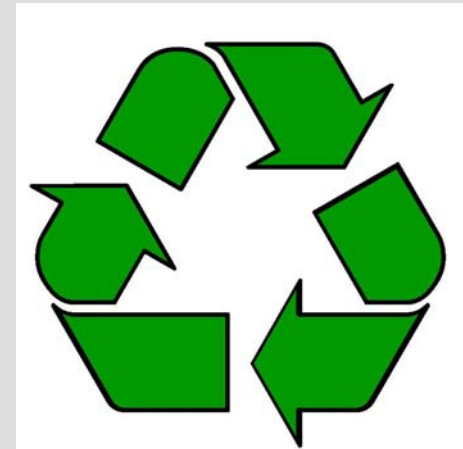
- Could also include:
 - Climate change – rapid action required
 - Cost of inefficiency
 - Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
 - Peak oil
 - Risk management – future proofing
 - Leadership – to the community, in the sector
 - Reputation
 - Be left behind
 - Staff recruitment and retention

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Recent Strategies 2007 – 2009

- Waste management – safe disposal of waste, recycling, composting



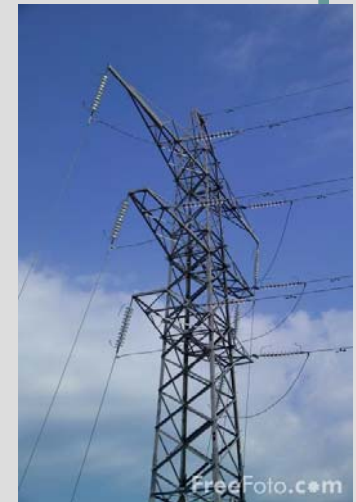
- Paper – double sided printing, reuse

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Recent Strategies 2007 – 2009

- Staff training
- Energy use – electricity challenge, 100% Green Power



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Recent Strategies 2007 – 2009

- Transport – bike fleet, transport policy, public transport maps, Green Fleet
- Building design – changes to lighting, environmental audit undertaken
- Water – dishwashers

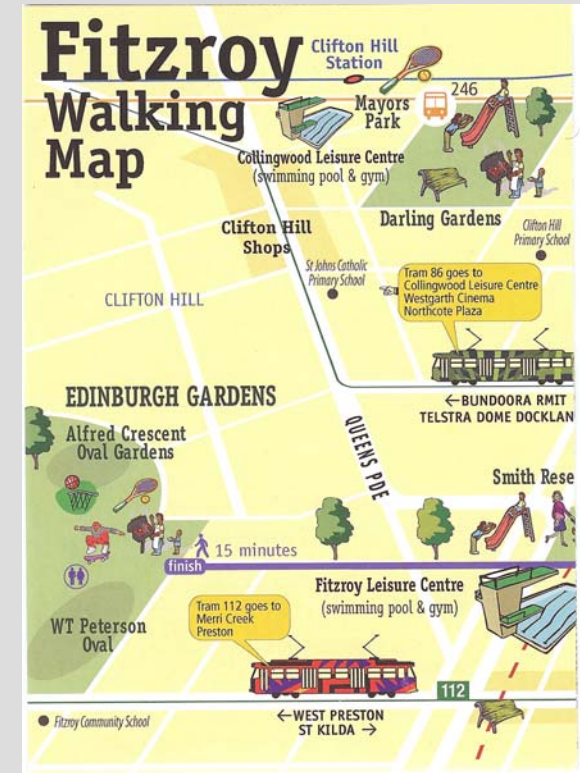


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Recent Strategies 2007 – 2009

- Work with the Community – bike programs, walking maps, education sessions
- Partnerships – local government, VCOSS, other community health services, VHA, AHPA, universities
- Advocacy – HP priority, sustainability guidelines (DHS), local govt. environmental plans, Heat Wave plans



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Recent Strategies 2007 – 2009

Organisational / strategic level

- Strategic Plan 2008 - 2012
- Environment Policy
- Green Committee
- Budget
- Monitoring, Feedback and Rewards

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Learnings

- Identify/develop champions in management and at other levels
- Importance of mix of involvement from all areas of the organisation eg finance/admin
- Keep it on the agenda – communicate, provide feedback, & rewards regularly
- Think about making changes at a structural level, not just those relying on behaviour change
- Embed changes

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Learnings

- Aim to change behaviour and not attitudes
- Don't spend too much energy on those who resist change
- Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Offset)
- Health education/social marketing - work with people where they are at
- Be aware of mental health implications – help people to see what they can do to make a difference
- Look after yourself

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Future Plans

- Environmental Sustainability named as a HP priority at NYCH for 3 ½ yrs in Jan 09 – internal and external focus
- Environmental Sustainability Group has been formed
- Green Steps at Work
- Develop a 3 yr Action Plan after consultation
 - Follow up from audits
 - Purchasing policy
 - Water
 - Paper
 - Community Research
 - Develop stronger partnerships/networks
 - Future proofing

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Climate Change Action in Community Health report:

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