Local Government Professionals
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21ST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY FINALISTS

Award Finalists
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THANKS TO

Government of South Australia
Green Industries SA

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City of Unley Urban Forest Project Team - Measuring Tree Canopy Change using LiDAR Technology Project

The City of Unley developed a world-first digital twin of its urban forest to measure change in tree canopy coverage across the city to individual property level.

Measuring and monitoring canopy had previously been a laborious and inaccurate process, with a high margin for error. Council partnered with local geospatial technology company Aerometrex to custom develop the digital twin using high-definition LiDAR data capture. A 3D point-cloud model of the cities trees was paired with a bespoke change detection algorithm to map changes to the Unley urban forest over a 3-year period from 2018 to 2021, revolutionising the work of Councils environmental management experts.

The ability to obtain data at a suburb, street and individual property level has enabled a targeted approach to education and the opportunity to partner with other key stakeholders.

The project represents a world-first and was presented to the 2021 United Nations Urban Forestry Meeting as an example of innovative tree management practices.

Creating a digital twin allows council to accurately monitor the changes to canopy and understand how different policies, programs and external influences affect its growth, as well as providing an educational tool to involve community in canopy increase initiatives.

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City of Holdfast Bay Waste Management Team - Driving Landfill Reduction Through Weekly FOGO Collection Trial

In 2020, the City of Holdfast Bay became the first council in South Australia to trial an opt-in kerbside bin sustainable service model, consisting of a weekly FOGO (Food Organics Green Organics), fortnightly landfill and fortnightly recycling bin collection. The switch in bin collection frequencies removed the perceived smell and inconvenience barriers associated with placing food waste in the FOGO bin for commercial composting.

A 76% landfill diversion rate was achieved during Phase 2 of the trial where the kerbside bin sustainable service model became the default service for 315 households. The achieved landfill diversion was 6 percentage points higher than the 2025 70% landfill diversion target set for municipal waste by the State Government. The trial has received overwhelming support from the community, with more than 92% of survey respondents in October 2021 indicating they were either very satisfied or satisfied with fortnightly landfill collections. More than 92% of participants also stated that they would like to stay with the sustainable service model.

The sustainable service model not only reduces waste to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions but increases the circular economy. The trial has been supported by the Minister for Environment and Water, Green Industries SA and the EPA, with the model transferrable to all Councils across the state.

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City of Adelaide Low Carbon and Circular Economy Team - Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partnership Program

The Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partnership Program is an engagement activity supporting the overarching 'Carbon Neutral Adelaide' initiative and Action Plan, launched in 2017.

The program encourages businesses and organisations, as well as the wider community, to commit to and share actions that will reduce their emissions and contribute to making Adelaide a carbon neutral city.

Run in conjunction with the Department for Environment and Water, the program provides a community of interest for over 200 organisations, all listed in a Partner Directory available to the public. In November 2021 this consisted of 16 designers and architects, 47 energy systems and services providers, 12 events, venues, food and hospitality providers, 11 building and civic product providers and 9 waste solution providers, amongst many more in both the business and non-profit sectors.

The program delivers a series of activities for the partners to learn, foster low carbon ambitions, connect with others and assist with emissions reduction opportunities, as well as a biennial awards event, recognising leadership and ambition demonstrated in making a step to change to a low carbon future.

The number of organisations who have achieved certified carbon neutrality has increased from 1 to 15 over the course of the program, paving the way for others to follow.

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