

Ideas workshop

Thursday 11th March 2011

Process

1. call for ideas- some emailed, some coming in on Thursday
2. Champions to progress their ideas- bring others onboard to help, look at pathway, pro-forma, priority matrix to assist refine the projects and decide which funding would suit if funding is required
3. draft up proposal, and if MASG support is needed for funding applications, talk further to Dean and prepare to take to CoG meeting on March 25th

Documents to Assist

- Pathway
- Priority matrix
- Pro-forma

Roadside Verge fodder reserve.

Mark Markoff (?) 0418656494

Vacant roadside agriculturally suitable land is indentified and using "work 4 the dole" or other labour this land is baled for stock feed in emergencies. (flood, fire, drought etc)

Solar PV on aged persons rented units

Eleanor King

Aged persons are often in rental accommodation in units as part of a housing association owned by churches or other sympathetic organisations. They have limited income and are exposed to the impact of rising temperatures and the need to run air conditioning and also to increases in electricity prices. This project would explore how to enable PV or solar Hot water or both to be put onto the roofs owned by the housing association (and as a demonstration install some systems in a housing association) and see how the benefits of the clean energy would be gained by the tenants and/or shared between the tenants and the association.

Community gardens to grow food here in Castlemaine.

Janine Truscott jtruscott@cdch.com.au

This project could greatly assist those who live in assisted housing, and could perhaps be best situated near the secondary college in Norwood Hill.

There would be a need to acquire some land, either to purchase it or perhaps to rent, or 'share' with people who are happy to allow the community to grow vegetables on their land.

The program could include the secondary students, esp those doing any of the tafe qualifications as part of their year 11 and 12, such as hospitality, or cooking.

I would envisage that the program involve several stakeholders, in concert with MASG, for instance the secondary college, Mt Alexander shire, local gardeners (garden club?), perhaps a local group such as the lions club, and community development workers/dietician from Castlemaine district community health, and maybe St Lukes.

There would necessarily be a lot of coordination required, but the project has the potential to be a great whole-community one with potential links to many existing groups and clubs!

Get families riding more often

Tim Hurley tintim@tintim.com.au

- I am bike ed qualified and would love to run street riding skills and/or maintenance "get going" sessions - including basic repairs and how to look after your bike.. brake/chain servicing etc anyway thats just my one idea.. for now..
Look forward to further chats cheers Tim

Sustainability Services Seed funding

Dean Bridgfoot dc@masg.org.au

MASG currently gets several calls/emails per day asking for sustainability advice. This recently has centered around electricity pricing, bills and solar HW and solar PV, but also includes water saving, grey water reuse and energy efficiency products and solar passive design and building.

In street and doorknock surveys conducted in Castlemaine over the last 6 months (> 200) as part of the renewable energy campaign our surveyors have noted that they are often asked for advice on PV & energy efficiency products and services with the underlying concern seeming to be around high electricity prices.

Much of this occurs because MASG has developed a depth of institutional knowledge and also importantly because MASG is seen to be an independent source of advice and information.

The proposal would see the current "ad hoc" service formalized and appropriately resourced to run courses, information sessions and offer advice on a range of sustainability issues, focusing initially on electricity, solar PV and energy efficiency (including Solar HW).

The grant would provide seed funding to see if which of these services can operate as a fee for service to enable an ongoing sustainable not for profit social enterprise to be established to continue this work.

Likely activities and coverage of the grant (first draft) include:

1. Pay for knowledge brokering service –3 days per week . Enabling appointments to be made and queries collated to enable FAQs to be produced and information for publication and web to be collated and synthesized.

Including admin support – 1 day per week, maintaining data bases, media scheduling, production of information etc.

2. Pay for marketing, media, flyers, brochures, community newsletters

Pay for community engagement- events, markets, doorknocking low income neighbourhoods

3. Series of public information events and activities- 1 per month, demonstrations etc .

Series of home tours- 2x year, 4 houses selected by architects. Who has already reduced your bills and who is just starting

4. DIY home improver kit- deposit and loan out

Loan out effigy- monitor your actual real time electricity. Electrician to install and remove provided by grant- thereby finding out more data and impact of intervention.

Bill Grant Ideas

Bill submitted the three following ideas

Bill Grant bill.grant@blueenvironment.com.au

small scale community run composting facility

going using green organics from the transfer station/landfill going that has capacity for receiving kerbside collected garden and food organics in the future. Each tonne of organic waste in landfill puts out 1.5-2.6 t CO₂-e. Households in the area landfill in the order of 3,000 tonnes of household organics each year. Maybe the grant is for a feasibility study and trial – looking at potential to get household and Commercial organics and markets/uses for products, and setting up a pilot compost (either out at the landfill, or on someone's farm – any masg members have a suitable place?). There

are some low tech systems that could operate below epa license limits. Potentially the grant could include MGBs (wheelie bins) and a trailer to provide a volunteer-run organics collection service to local businesses. I could do some of the ground work on a grant proposal here.

A community 'urban woodlot'

following the success of the community house's bottling project, this would gather timber (tree fellings/prunings and waste timber/lumber) from the urban area, and cut and season it for use in urban wood heaters. The scheme would involve people (and maybe council and SES) contacting the group when a tree is down or to be felled and getting them to come and carve it up and haul it off. Some of the bigger timber could go to woodworkers (think of the value of some of the trees that have fallen down in the botanical gardens this year, and there was /is a huge redgum down in the creek near forest street). The grant would be for the tools and equipment for cutting up, carting and splitting trees (chainsaws, trailer, pneumatic log splitter, etc), training volunteers in chainsaw technique /OH&S, and for project managers time to coordinate and set up the 'booking' system. We'd need to council or someone to provide space of the processing and storage of timber. Timber could be sold at cost-recovery to make the whole thing financially sustainable.

Setting up a community food garden and education centre (CERES style)

the land in front of St Luke /Halford St would be ideal. Think of the water tanks you could feed off the roof of the enterprise centre! Dreamin' I know but....

Janet Phillips and Jayson Burhop ideas

CarrotMob: "is a method of activism that leverages consumer power to make the most socially-responsible business practices also the most profitable choices. Businesses compete with one another to see who can do the most good, and then a big mob of consumers buys products in order to reward whichever business made the strongest commitment to improve the world. It's the opposite of a boycott".

We saw this at the Sustainable Living Festival where 3 cafes were asked about what sustainable practices they currently undertake, and what they would like to do if they could. The public were asked to vote on which one should get the 'CarrotMob' and that's what happened... all of the subscribers (or members) showed up on the same day to buy what the café had to sell, the business gets a boost, and to be even more active sustainably, and the 'mobbers' get to use the carrot not the stick... noice

The other one is the **Low Impact Family** (based on the blog/book/film where a New Yorker [No Impact Man](#) who "swears off plastic, goes organic, becomes a bicycle nut, turns off his power, and generally becomes a tree-hugging lunatic who tries to save the polar bears and the rest of the planet from environmental catastrophe while dragging his baby daughter and Prada-wearing, Four Seasons-loving wife along for the ride"...