

**SUSTAINABLE
LIVING
TASMANIA**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
16/17**





*Inside cover: A beehive on display at our Sustainable Living Festival (Photographer: Pho Tai)
Front cover: Fashion show at our Sustainable Living Festival (Photographer: Amy Brown)*

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President's Report

We release this report to our members in the closing months of 2017, when we are reminded yet again that climate change could be a catastrophic force that threatens both the natural world and our entire global culture, society and economy. Unhappily, the dark clouds of climate change also gather at a time of national budget constraint, which has seen many programs of funding for civil society organisations like ours reduced and withdrawn. As a result, we are organising ourselves to meet multiple challenges both globally and in our own organisation.

The greatest immediate task is to chart a course for Tasmania play our part in the changes needed to stabilise runaway climate change. We are optimistic. With its outstanding renewable energy supplies and vast wilderness and forest estates that can act as carbon sinks, Tasmania is well positioned to shoulder an important share of the task. We also believe that Tasmanians with their resourcefulness and deep connection to environment are well equipped for the project ahead.

To this end, we are directing much of our effort towards Climate Solutions, our Tasmania-wide strategic plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the ambitious aim of being carbon neutral by 2035 and a carbon sink for the remainder of the century. This plan will, undoubtedly, contribute to the evolution of policies and practices in Tasmania's economic sectors and government, and will also, importantly, help our community

members to identify important contributions they can make through choices in their everyday lives.

For 45 years, Sustainable Living Tasmania has worked with individuals to inspire, inform and educate about living more sustainably in the natural world. We see this critical roll continuing and hope to work with increasing numbers of Tasmanians to assist them in making the incremental changes that each of us must make. To this end, and to assist in funding our ongoing work, we are focussed on developing new online engagement tools such as Eco Home Guide, which helps Tasmanians make informed choices about their homes, transport, financial services and many other areas of life where each of us can contribute to a sustainable future.

I acknowledge the hard work of all those who have contributed in the past year. I particularly wish to thank and recognise Corey Peterson and Anni McCuig both long standing board members and past presidents who are stepping down from the board after many years of outstanding contribution. I also want to thank every Tasmanian who has made a change to their life during the last year to reduce their impact on the planet. Each small change is a step towards a sustainable future. Thank you.

Nathan Males
President





Executive Officer's Report

2016-17 was my seventh year as Executive Officer of this wonderful organisation. I've experienced a strong "seven year itch", not for a new job, but rather to concentrate our focus on realising Tasmania's great potential in playing a leadership role in achieving global sustainability and thrive in the process, thereby inspiring the rest of the world into action!

The night before my job interview for this position I sat down and mapped out the approach I would take to it. It consisted of three phases: (1) Care-taker phase, supporting the continuation of existing work while I gained an appreciation of the organisation and built relationships with key stakeholders; (2) Strategic Development, where we would set new directions, and develop robust systems, policies and procedures to ensure smooth and effective operation; (3) Consolidation, where we would achieve organisational strength and resilience with which to go forward and have maximum positive impact.

Of course, the reality has been messier than my well laid out plans, and things always take longer than I initially imagined. However, I feel we are now well on the way. The path to becoming a strong, resilient and highly effective organisation is clearer than ever before.

Central to our future success is achieving financial resilience – a challenge that almost every not-for-profit organisation struggles with; especially in the

current political and economic environment. This year we made excellent progress on developing two new income streams that simultaneously assist households and businesses to live and operate more sustainably:

- Energy, carbon, and waste consultancy services for organisations, provided on a fee-for-service basis; and
- Eco Home Guide: A social enterprise website that assists households to play their part in achieving sustainability through advice on behaviours, products and services, and raises income through promotional fees and commissions with partner businesses.

Once these initiatives are well established, we will invest the proceeds from them into "scratching our itch" to tackle the big issues where Tasmania's great potential lies.

In the meantime, we've already started that work with our Climate Solutions project. We've also ran a bunch of other fantastic initiatives that have educated, inspired and supported Tasmanians to make everyday changes that benefit themselves, others, and the natural world.

Todd Houstain
Executive Officer



Projects

Climate Solutions

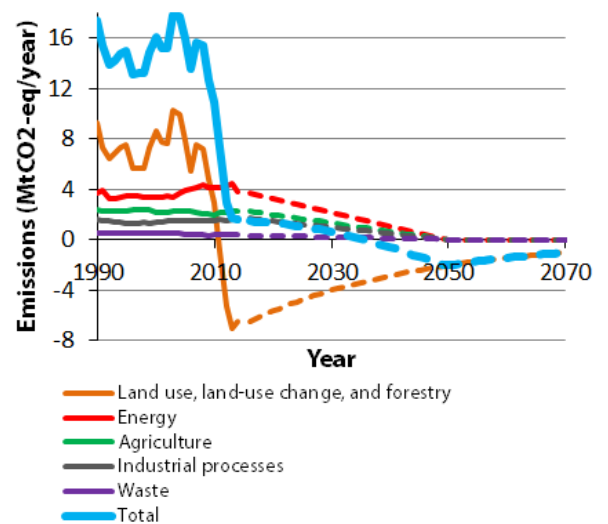


Tasmania can make an important contribution toward solving climate change and thrive in the process! The Climate Solutions project is creating plans to achieve exactly that. We're engaging with industry, business, community, and government to develop, promote and implement plans for Tasmania to become carbon neutral by 2035 and a net sink for the remainder of the century, all while thriving in the process. The plans will be practical, evidence-based and non-partisan so that all Tasmanians can get behind them.

Humanity will use our remaining 'carbon budget' within 5 years. We're certain to overshoot, and so we must reduce emissions to zero as quickly as possible and then pull carbon back out of the atmosphere and sequester it back to safe levels.

Tasmania is blessed with:

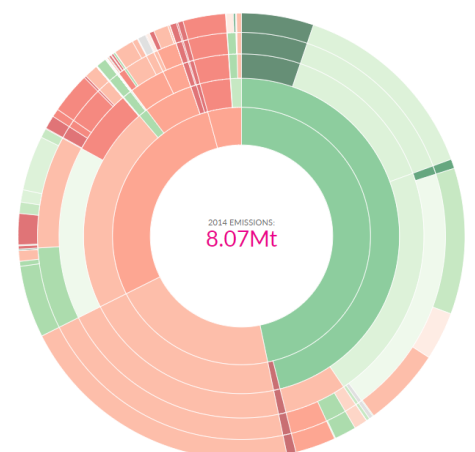
- Natural advantages of a stable climate, relatively consistent winds and rains, a huge forest estate, and fertile soils;
- A big head start with existing renewable energy infrastructure;
- An innovative agricultural sector;
- A forestry industry that has great potential to become vibrant and sustainable while simultaneously sequestering huge volumes of carbon dioxide; and
- A strong reputation as being 'clean and green', which we have the potential to further enhance.



Tasmania has already reduced its emissions by 95% over 1990 levels, so we're most of the way there. By steadily reducing emissions from each sector to zero by 2050, and continuing to regrow forests and transition to a sustainable forestry industry, Tasmania can be carbon neutral by 2035, a net sink for the remainder of the century, and thrive in the process.

This year we established the project:

- Assembled a wonderful team of leaders from throughout the Tasmanian community to steer the Climate Solutions project;
- Established a set of principles the plans will adhere to;
- Developed a deep understanding of Tasmania's emissions, including in an interactive 4-tiered pie chart
- Met with various stakeholders;
- Commenced researching and compiling elements that plans will comprise; and
- Started drafting the Energy Sector plan.

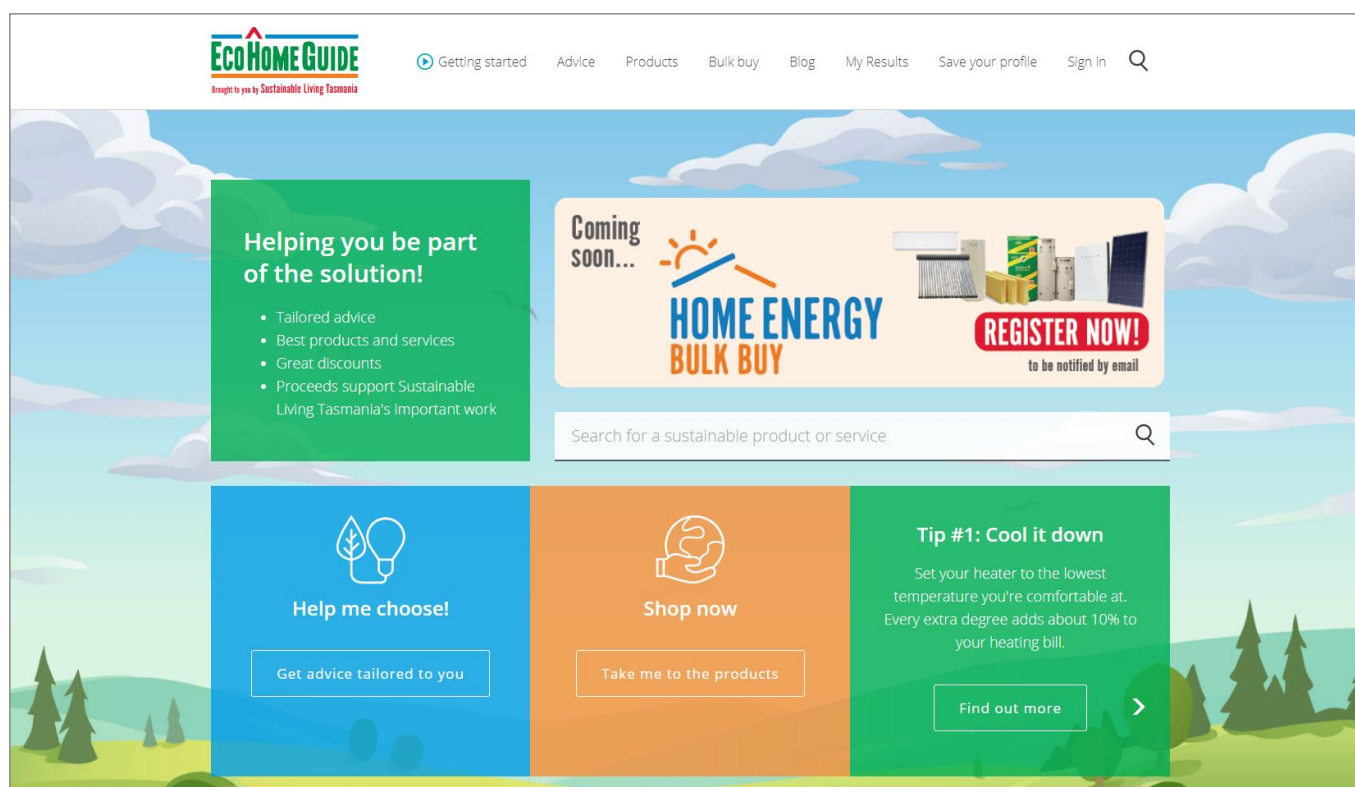


Eco Home Guide

A major initiative this year was the development of our social enterprise website Eco Home Guide (ecohomeguide.com.au). The website helps Tasmanians to live more sustainably by providing advice on sustainable behaviours, products and services. It is also a valuable new income stream that supports the other important work we do.

We have carefully selected business partners (providers of insulation, solar panels, water tanks, etc) by drawing upon our decades of experience working with Tasmanian sustainability product and service providers, desktop research, public surveys, customers' experiences, and reference checks. Our criteria include quality and environmental & social performance; customer service; locally owned and operated; and price.

Our aim is for win-win-win-win scenarios - quadruple wins! Customers get sound advice, and a great product/service at a good price; our partners get more business; we get promotional fees and commissions from our partners to help fund our other important work; and Earth's ecosystems get a little less pressure on them thanks to people taking positive actions!



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Consultancy services for organisations

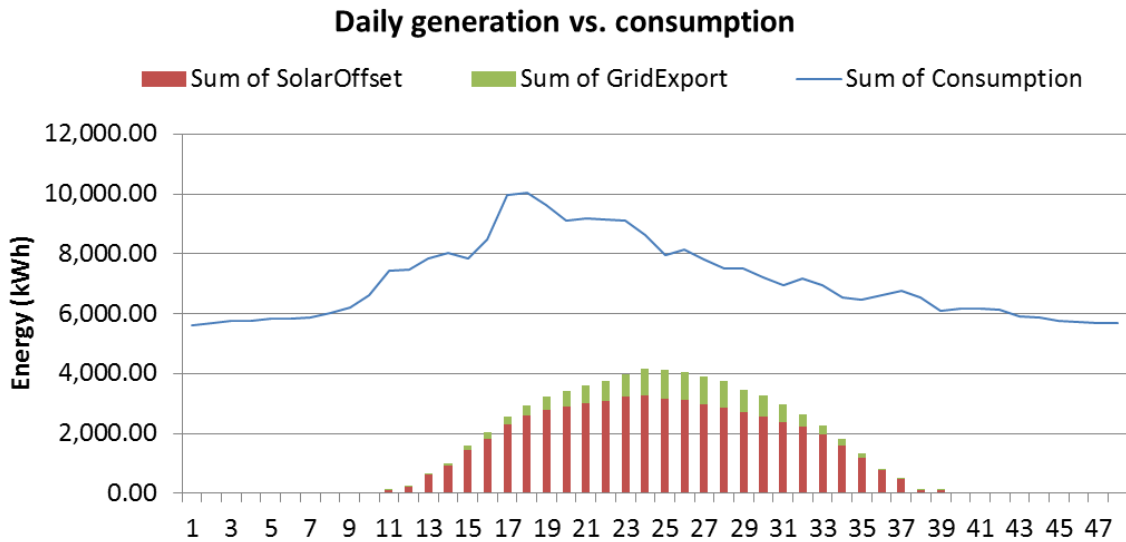
During 2016-17 our energy team really got on their feet delivering audits to a range of commercial businesses and homes. In the commercial space we continually found significant savings for our clients. We also developed systems and skills to perform solar optimisation and tariff optimisation, helping to design a number of large solar PV systems and arrange preferential tariffs for our clients.

Some selected findings from our audits include:

"You can make significant savings on energy. The sum of all available low and no cost energy savings is estimated at \$14,654 per year"

“Over 40% of energy use and up to 28% of energy costs occur when no-one is in the building”

“As can be seen in the chart below, the average electricity usage is indicated by the blue line. During the sunny periods on the day a PV system will be delivering over 50% of the electricity usage of the facility (red bar). At occasional times the facility will be exporting to the grid (green bar). The timing of the solar generation also overlaps with peak electricity prices under the facility’s electricity contract. On the whole, onsite consumption of solar generated electricity is high, which also maximises system revenue.”



Sustainable Living Festival

The 2016 Sustainable Living Festival gave Tasmanian's a taste of an awesome future. Our well attended, high quality panel discussions included Growing up Green, Skilling for Sustainability, Climate Solutions and Waste Free Living. Over 7,000 attendees loved the huge clothes swap, cooking demos and technical information on offer, including the Tesla electric car and the Powerwall2 battery display. Media sponsor ABC radio broadcast nationally on Sunday and the Festival aired on all local ABC stations Australia.



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Attendees gave the festival an average score of 8.1 out of 10. Nearly half of attendees reported they were inspired to make their lives more sustainable after attending the last festival.



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A Metro Tas

Thanks to our fantastic sponsors including Apricus Australia, City of Hobart, Mercury, Australian Ethical, MONA, Parks and Wildlife, TasNetworks, Metro Tas, University of Tasmania, Sanden, Bank Australia, Hydro Tasmania, Focal Printing, Eumarrah, PW1.

Also thanks to our many volunteers (listed below), performers, artists, exhibitors, and everyone else who contributes to this fantastic community event.

Staying Connected Workshops

In partnership with TASCOS and the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, we delivered a series of workshops that built the capacity of front-line community service workers to assist their clients to stay warm and manage their energy bills. The “Staying Connected” workshops were held in Queenstown, Devonport, Smithton, St Helens, Ravenswood, Launceston, New Norfolk, Rokeby, Glenorchy, Sorell and Hobart. A video of the workshops was also produced and posted to our YouTube channel.



The workshops were well received and helped participants improve their knowledge and confidence to help their clients. Feedback from the evaluation was very positive, including this quote:

“A client was telling me about her power bill that she was having difficulty paying. I asked her if she had contacted Aurora and told them about her situation. She hadn't, so we sat down and went through the booklet that was handed out at the workshop: ‘Do you have trouble paying your energy bills?’ My client seemed relieved that there was a possible solution to her problem.”

- Staying Connected workshop participant

Healthy Food Program in Clarendon Vale & Rokeby

We have been working in partnership with FIMBY to run gardening and cooking workshops in Clarendon Vale and Rokeby with funding from Mission Australia. Over the past year, Lissa and Christina have planted out gardens & harvested veggies in the new community garden with Clarendon Vale Primary Students, harvested fresh veggies and cooked up a storm with students from Bayview Secondary College.



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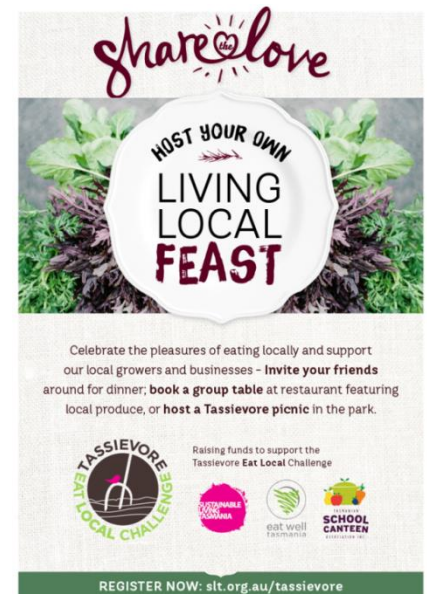
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We have also been working with a small team of local adults & students to run regular garden pizza parties using locally harvested produce and student made pizza dough, sauce, pesto and syrups. These workshops culminated in the group catering the official opening of the Clarence Plains Community Garden, serving garden made vegetable pizzas, dips, fruit syrup mocktails and dessert pizzas to a crowd of nearly 200 VIPs and community members.

Tassievore Eat Local Challenge

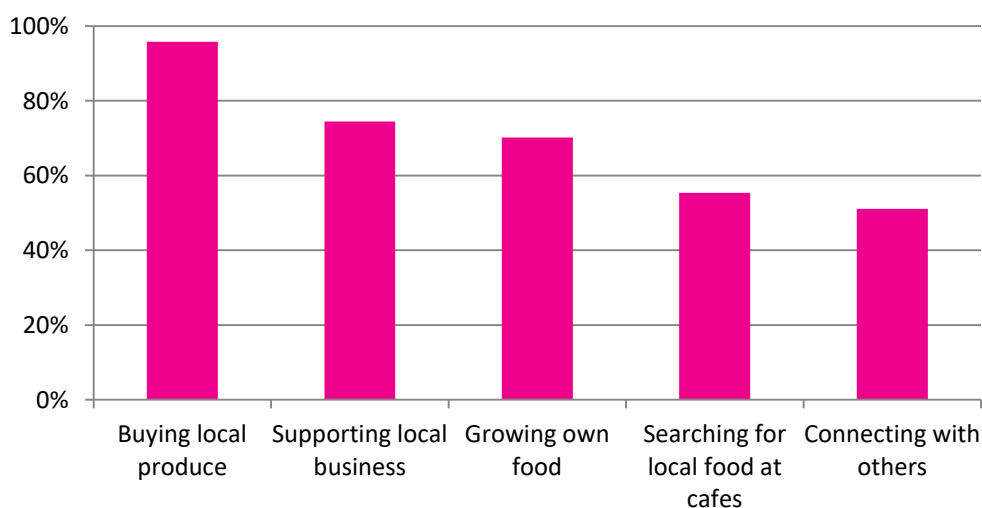
Now in its fifth year, the Tassievore Eat Local Challenge ran throughout early 2017. The Tassievore Eat Local Challenge aims to support our local growers and retailers, help people connect with their food and learn some new skills. This year, we focussed on:

- **Local Food Correspondents** – A new initiative, inviting those passionate about local food to contribute stories about sourcing local food. The stories were published on our website, newsletters and Facebook page. Profiles of local growers; preserving techniques; recipe ideas and general musings on all things local food were shared.
- **Pick 1 for Tassie Schools Campaign** – Led by a subgroup of Team Tassievore, including the Tasmanian School Canteens Association and Eat Well Tasmania, schools across the state were asked to pick (at least) one local food to highlight on their school canteen offerings.
- **Living Local Feast** – As a highlight of the Challenge we held our annual fundraising dinner made from 100% Tasmanian ingredients in early April. Chef Cameron Perry and the team from [Hamlet](#), created a spectacular 13 course menu inspired by quality, seasonal Tasmanian produce. Guests were treated to a gourmet menu including: Tomato & fermented celery soup; Oyster with coastal greens; Saffron Falafel; Wallaby tartar; and fig leaf cream, basil & sorrel granita.
- **Host Your Own Living Local Feast** - Tasmanians were asked to share the local love and raise funds for Sustainable Living Tasmania through this supporter-led fundraising initiative. Supporters hosted a Tassievore meal at their homes, a restaurant or in a public park or hall. The aim was to create community, inspire others about the benefits of eating local, and support the Tassievore Eat Local Challenge. Lots of new resources were developed and our [Local Food Store and Market Directory](#) was updated.



In addition to a social media and public engagement campaign, the Tassievore Eat Local Challenge was featured on ABC radio 4 times and a feature piece was published in the Tasweekend Magazine in the Mercury on 1-2 April.

How Tassievores go local



Carrot Mob on takeaway packaging

We “used the carrot, not the stick” to encourage and support Hobart takeaway food outlets to switch compostable takeaway packaging and actively encouraging their customers to bring their own reusable containers. We did this using the Carrot Mob approach:

1. We recruited a mob of Hobartians who cared about the problems associated with non-compostable takeaway packaging.
2. We dangled the carrot of the mob's collective business patronage in front of nearly one hundred Hobart food outlets, asking them to switch to compostable packaging and to actively encourage customers to bring their own reusable containers.
3. The mob rewarded the food outlets who made the switch with their business patronage, and congratulated them on making the change. We also promoted these ‘switchers’ (as well as businesses who had already been using compostable packaging) through social media, newsletters, newspaper articles, and radio interviews.

The project went above and beyond that... Knowing that avoiding single-use packaging is better than using compostable packaging, we educated people about the fate of common single-use packaging items (e.g. takeaway coffee cups, which are not recyclable), and encouraged them to switch to reusable packaging, or to simply take the time to dine in.

We also used the opportunity to survey people on their understanding of waste issues. The 313 respondents overwhelmingly supported the introduction of legislation requiring retailers to use compostable packaging (a motion to this effect has since been passed by the City of Hobart) and a container deposit scheme.

The Carrot Mob project was funded by the City of Hobart through a Dr Edward Hall Environment Grant.

Education for Sustainability Tasmania

Tasmania became recognised by the United Nations as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in 2015, through the establishment of Education for Sustainability Tasmania – a growing network of leaders in sustainability research, training and education. Sustainable Living Tasmania was a founding member, and we continue to support the network by providing auspicing, payroll, staff supervision, and other administrative services, as well sitting on the steering committee.

This year, the steering committee developed Education for Sustainability Tasmania’s governance framework and its strategy. Tasmania is making a significant contribution to the global learning space for education for sustainability thanks to those who strive to build more sustainable patterns of living and resilient, connected, educated communities, individuals and organisations. Education for Sustainability Tasmania is a network of organisations that aims to promote and support the innovation and success being achieved. We do this in the following ways:



- **Facilitate collaboration** and bring people together to work on education for sustainability initiatives.
- **Build capacity** of organisations to sustain a process of individual and organisational change to improve delivery of education for sustainability initiatives.
- **Promote and endorse** Tasmanian education for sustainability projects and the significant contribution Tasmania is making to the global learning space for education for sustainability.
- **Advocate** for education as a tool to help more people develop the skills and capacity needed to protect the planet and ensure social and cultural prosperity for all.

Events

We organised and participated in events held all over Tasmania, including those listed below. We also hosted many events and meetings of sustainability-focussed community groups, and promoted others' sustainability-related events on our online events calendar.

Date	Title	Venue	Location
17/07/2016	Film screening: 'Salam Neighbour'	Sustainable Living Tasmania	Hobart
24/08/2016	Get Bill Smart Policymaker's Workshop	Sustainable Living Tasmania	Hobart
22/09/2016	Film screening 'The Permaculture Orchard: Beyond Organic'	Sustainable Living Tasmania	Hobart
27/09/2016	SLT Annual General Meeting 2016	Sustainable Living Tasmania	Hobart
26/10/2016	Education for Sustainability Tasmania Launch	UTAS immersive video conference rooms	Hobart, Burnie & Launceston
15/12/2016	Free Tassievore Lunch	Sustainable Living Tasmania	Hobart
19/03/2017	Love Living Locally	Kingborough Civic Centre	Kingston
01/04/2017	Living Local Feast	Hamlet	Hobart
08/04/2017	North West Eco Fest	The Gnomon Room, the Wharf Precinct	Ulverstone
12/04/2017	Eco Home Workshop	Sustainable Living Tasmania	Hobart

Finances

	This year (2016-17)	Last year (2015-16)
Current assets	\$403,560	\$636,001
Non-current assets	\$2,500	\$2,500
Current liabilities	\$81,595	\$104,251
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$324,465	\$534,250
Total income	\$281,033	\$692,406
Total expenses	\$490,819	\$730,511
Operating surplus	-\$209,785	-\$38,105

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Project funding

Project	Funding source	Amount
Sustainable Living Festival	Community Development Grant, City of Hobart	\$9,150
Carrot Mob on Takeaway Packaging	Dr Edward Hall Environment Grant, City of Hobart	\$5,000
Healthy Eating	Mission Australia	\$10,500

Personnel

Board members

Nathan Males	President
Anni McCuaig	Vice President
Anna Lyth	Vice President
Phil Anstie	Treasurer
Margaret Steadman	Secretary
Alicja Mosbauer	Board Member
Corey Peterson	Board Member
Emily Warner	Board Member
John Green	Board Member
Kirstan Long	Board Member
Shane Bartel	Board Member

Staff

Anton Vikstrom	Energy Program Manager
Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Lissa Villeneuve	Events Manager, Food Program Manager
Michele Matthews	Partnerships Manager
Todd Houstein	Executive Officer
Amelia Caddy	Writer
Ian Turnbull	Energy Assessor
Julie Hargreaves	Energy Assessor
Maria Clippingdale	Engagement Officer, Education for Sustainability Tasmania Facilitator
Rebecca Boyle	Energy Assessor
Shayn Harkness	Energy Assessor
Sophie Calic	Festival Marketing & Promotions
Zac Cooke	Cleaner

Volunteers

Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
Shane Bartel (chair)	Climate Solutions Taskforce
Anna Lyth	Climate Solutions Taskforce

Jane Hutchinson	Climate Solutions Taskforce
John Pitt	Climate Solutions Taskforce
Nathan Males	Climate Solutions Taskforce
Peter Downie	Climate Solutions Taskforce
Professor Ted Lefroy	Climate Solutions Taskforce
Richard Bevan	Climate Solutions Taskforce
Neil Parry	Climate Solutions Researcher
David Stephen	Community Garden Coordinator
Amelia Caddy	Festival Volunteer Coordinator
Grant Wooldridge	Festival Music Coordinator
Katree Wilson	Festival Outdoor Kids Space Funderground Coordination
Kimberley Eaton	Festival Director Assistant Festival Poetry Slam Coordinator Festival Trash to Treasure Coordinator
Klaaske Greenwood	Festival Design Showcase Coordinator
Michele Chen	Festival First Aid Officer
Neylan Aykut	Festival Hip Hop Collaboration Coordinator
Nico Leo	Festival Cooking Demonstration Coordinator
Pete Bannerman-Roberts	Festival Safety Officer
Rachel Andrew	Festival Story Slam Coordinator
Talbot Matthews	Festival Metro Bus Session Coordinator
Thomas Webster	Festival Talks & Workshops Coordinator
Tom Byrne	Festival Swap Meet Coordinator
Kelvin Carter	General office assistance
Richard Witherwick	General office assistance
Maple Chung	Librarian
Catherine Denehey	Office administration
Pen Clark	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Serena King	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge

Plus all of the many, many volunteers who helped to set up, run and pack up our Sustainable Living Festival, including (apologies if we missed anyone): Amy Brown, Abbey Jane, Ann Burnett, Anna Lyth, Amelia Caddy, Antony Cox, Alana Betzold, Alex Mcarthur, Alicia Nash, Annie Mccuaig, Bec Williams, Bodet Carine, Craig Clark, Cathy Denehey, Carine Bodet, Christine Harle, Chris Ball, Debbie Hewson, Dani Woof, Don Thompson, Diana Davis, Emily Pressnell, Emily Warner, Etienne, Fiona Hagger, Fiona Muir, Grant Wooldridge, Kathryn Simpson, Katree Wilson, Klasske Greenwood, Jaclyn Rogerson, Jane Hilliard, Jane Howard, Janice Bartley, Jason Kozikas, Jo Stephen, Janice Bartley, James Brady, Jovellyne, Jennifer Manison, John Hunter, John Retallick, Jaclyn Rogerson, Janet Henderson, Lachlan Hatfield, Lizzie Drew, Lily Bucher-Edwards, Meagan Porter, Molly Hutcheon, Molly Hanson-Viney, Nathan Males, Nerilie Gilson, Neylan Aykut, Nico Leo, Phuong Nguyen, Paul Rayner, Rebecca Kelly, Ron Hastie, Scott Foster, Simon Kozikas, Serena Rule, Serena King, Sue Webster, Selina Heywood, Thomas Byrne, Talbot Matthews, Thomas Webster, Varunjani, Wayne Matthews.

Community Achievement Award

This year we were awarded the Ricoh Business Centre Hobart Environment Award for our Get Bill Smart project – a 3-year action-research project in partnership with the University of Tasmania and Mission Australia, assisting low income households to keep their homes warm and their energy bills down.



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