



**SUSTAINABLE
LIVING
TASMANIA**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
17/18**





*Aurora Australis glows along the horizon from New Harbour Beach in Tasmania. Southwest National park
(Photographer: Jamen Percy. License: Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International)*

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President's Report

On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to present the 2017-18 annual report. This year's report reflects our continuing efforts in transforming Sustainable Living Tasmania towards being a more sustainable social enterprise. As successive governments increasingly withdraw from funding the community sector, particularly in the environment space, we are seeking to be less reliant on public programs by providing services that can generate funds to support our long term goals. We have chosen to continue our focus on two key areas of service, both of which serve to achieve our goals, and we hope will also generate a dependable income.

The first of these is our Eco Home Guide, initiated through the previous financial year and now generating an increasingly positive revenue base. Eco Home Guide offers services to members of the public, helping them to choose the products and services that can best improve their environmental impact and save them money. Through commissions, this service is generating income to SLT. During this financial year we helped over 300 households to switch to new products that will improve their environmental footprint.

We have also been developing a fee-for-service consultancy offering that assists medium enterprises, schools and facilities such as aged care homes to assess their energy usage then design and install the energy efficiency and renewable energy systems that best meet their needs. Again, this set of services is still in development phase and we are encouraged by the growing revenue it is generating. We have continued to progress our strategic goal of Climate Solutions planning for Tasmania. Hard work

in the research area has now progressed this project to a deeper level of understanding and I am excited that the new executive team will be able to begin to move this core strategy to the action stage.

I'd like to thank the board, staff and volunteers of SLT. The board has continued to stand calm and firm in their strategy and governance throughout the financial challenges of transforming the organisation. As a board, we thank Todd Houstein who continues to make an outstanding contribution as the CEO. Particular mention also goes to Anton Vikstrom, who moved on from SLT to establish his own business this year. We wish him well. The staff and volunteer team have continued to work above and beyond to stretch the resources of the organisation as far as possible. Importantly, I'd like to thank all those who've participated in the organisation's programs this year, either by working with SLT to update their homes through Eco Home Guide, transforming their businesses, or attending lectures and meetings. The ability to work with individuals and business in our community in a transformative role has been part of our charter since our inception decades ago. Even as we transform to being a slightly more commercial organisation we hope that this aim continues to shine through in our hopes and strategies for a bright future.

Nathan Males
President



Executive Officer's Report

The “dive of courage” is a term that we've come to use over the past year. It would be a reasonable guess that we're referring to the general trajectory of humanity, as we burn the last of the 'carbon budget' within which we must remain to give a reasonable chance of maintaining a stable climate – but that's not it.

A few years back, when our bank balance was healthy, but all major funding sources were slashed to zero by incoming State and Federal governments, we were faced with a choice between three options.

The first option was to batten down the hatches and weather the storm; cutting activity and spending until conditions became more favourable – perhaps due to a change of government. With the urgency of the environmental challenges we face, that was never an appealing option.

The second option was to take a leap of faith; focusing on having a positive impact toward our mission in the short-term, while crossing our fingers that new income sources would present themselves before we ran out of equity. Given sustainability is long-term by its very definition, this was not a particularly appealing option either.

The third option, was to take a dive of courage; investing our equity into enterprises that would do some good while generating stable income streams, thereby breaking the financial fragility that

has hampered the organisation for its 45 year history. This is the option we chose, focussing our efforts on two social enterprises: Eco Home Guide, and consulting services.

The dive refers to the shape of our equity when plotted against time. We aim for it to plateau out and then rise, allowing us to focus more strongly on our mission with resilient resourcing and all of the benefits that brings. We still don't know whether we made 'the right choice', or rather, if our plan to build financial resilience will be successful. 2018/19 will be the year of reckoning.

I feel blessed to be backed by a board courageous enough to take the dive, and a team of hard-working staff and volunteers that are giving it the very best chance of succeeding. I'd like to thank all of those people for their important contributions to the organisation.

While, in 2017/18, we focussed on developing these income streams, you'll see throughout this report that we've done a great deal of other work toward our mission. In compiling our annual reports, I'm always amazed and proud of just how much we manage to achieve with our resources.

Todd Houstein
Executive Officer



Projects

Climate Solutions



Through the Climate Solutions project we aim to engage with industry, business, community, and government to develop, promote and implement plans for Tasmania to play a leadership role in securing a stable climate, and to thrive in the process, inspiring the world into action.

This year, data released by the Commonwealth Government revealed the staggering result that, according to the International Framework Convention on Climate Change, Tasmania was carbon neutral in the 2015/16 financial year! To our knowledge, Tasmania is the only developed economy to achieve this milestone, and the second in the whole world after Bhutan.

While this truly is astonishing, it isn't the achievement that it may appear to be at first glance. Tasmania's emissions profile has been dominated by forestry. It was the largest emitter every year from 1990 to 2010. Since 2012, it has been a sink, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as previously cleared land is reforested. In 2016, it removed so much carbon dioxide that this "offset" all of Tasmania's other emissions, leading to the remarkable occurrence of Tasmania being "carbon neutral". We've used quote marks here, as while the statements are technically true, these removals are better conceptualised as counteracting a small proportion of past emissions from forestry, rather than counteracting current emissions from coal, cars, and cows. Even so, it highlights the importance of the regeneration of natural systems in tackling climate change, as well as other major environmental challenges.

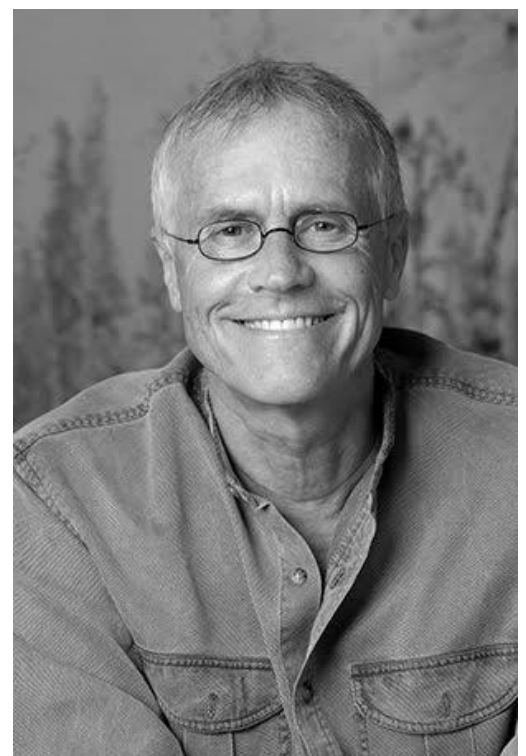
Having already achieved carbon neutral status, Tasmania has an incredible opportunity to remove, on a net basis, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at a significant rate, and demonstrating to the world how it is possible to secure a stable climate and thrive in the process.

Paul Hawken's DRAWDOWN Tour

In February 2018, we brought internationally-renowned environmentalist, entrepreneur, author and activist Paul Hawken to Tasmania as part of his DRAWDOWN tour. The book of the same title is touted as "the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming". It is based on meticulous research that maps, measures, models, and describes the most substantive solutions to global warming that already exist.

The visit included:

1. The 25th Richard Jones Memorial Lecture at the University of Tasmania's Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre on Sunday 25th February (see rjml.org.au/past-lectures/25); and
2. A luncheon at MONA on Monday 26th February, where our Executive Officer, Todd Houstein, also presented our emerging vision for Tasmania thriving as we play a leadership role in securing a stable global climate. This vision is emerging from our Climate Solutions project, which aspires to identify, map out, and champion the most



substantive solutions for Tasmania. Todd covered Tasmania's strengths, our current emissions profile, and some of the great opportunities within our grasp.

Both events were well attended. The visit was supported by the Richard Jones Memorial Trust, Australian Ethical Investment, MONA, and the Tasmanian Climate Change Office.

Tasmanian Government Electric Vehicle Working Group

The purpose of this Working Group is to provide advice on developing a coordinated approach to support the uptake of electric vehicles in Tasmania. We sit on it along with representatives from a diverse mix of Tasmanian organisations, including Aurora Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Department of Premier and Cabinet (TCCO), Department of State Growth, Department of Treasury and Finance, Hydro Tasmania, Local Government Association of Tasmania, Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania, TasNetworks, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania, and University of Tasmania.

Our interest in electric vehicles is that, when powered by renewable electricity, they have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality by eliminating tailpipe particulate emissions, and increase Tasmania's energy security by reducing reliance on imported petroleum products.

Through our engagement with the Working Group, it has become clear that it is a matter of when, not if, the world transitions from fossil fuel to electric vehicles. Further, we expect the uptake to accelerate rapidly over the next 5 to 10 years as electric vehicles first reach whole-of-life cost parity, and then upfront cost parity, with internal combustion engine vehicles. With this comes the realisation that, while there are some things that Tasmania can and should do to accelerate the transition, more important is ensuring Tasmania manages it smoothly, especially in terms of interactions between the electric vehicles and the electricity grid.

Consulting services

Energy, waste and carbon audits

Consultancies this year included:

- A detailed carbon audit for MacKillop Catholic College, who became carbon neutral as a result;
- An issues paper looking at options for community solar for Mission Australia;
- A solar scoping study for Northern Midlands Council;
- An energy supply-demand analysis for Valley Central Industrial Precinct in Northern Tasmania;
- A waste audit of City of Hobart's Cleary's Gates facilities; and
- As the result of a past solar scoping study, Corumbene aged care facility is set to have a 100kW solar photovoltaic system installed in September 2018.

Toward the end of the financial year, we won a place on the Tasmanian Government's Energy Efficiency Expert Panel, which we hope will see us doing plenty more energy auditing work in 2018/19.

City of Hobart Walking Maps

The City of Hobart undertook an extensive mapping exercise of all of the laneways, footpaths and urban tracks within the Council area. We were engaged by the City of Hobart to develop a community engagement plan to create a set of suburb level walking maps (along the lines of the West Hobart Walking Map – a project we previously auspiced for the West Hobart Environment Network), which overlap and together create a

comprehensive resource for people to navigate Hobart by foot. If implemented, the resource will encourage people to spend more time in their local area and contribute to recreating the village feel in our suburbs.

Smarter Fleets – Electric Vehicles in Local Government

In June, we won a contract with the Tasmanian Climate Change Office to assist seven local governments to integrate electric vehicles into their fleets. This project will be undertaken in the 2018/19 financial year. This is an important initiative as the uptake of electric vehicles in fleets will stimulate demand for electric vehicles in Tasmania, raise community awareness through exposure to electric vehicles, and help to create a second-hand electric vehicle market.

Eco Home Guide

We continued to develop our social enterprise website, Eco Home Guide (ecohomeguide.com.au), which helps Tasmanians to live more sustainably by providing advice on sustainable behaviours, products and services, and provides a valuable income stream that supports the other important work we do.

Advice

Eco Home Guide advice and product pages continued to be updated throughout the year, and a new blog section was added at ecohomeguide.com.au/blog. We raised awareness of sustainable living, giving DIY advice and advice on products and services through a number of workshops in 2017/18 including:

- Sept 2017 Attended and supported Tamar NRM Expo
- Oct 2017 Bulk Buy Heat pumps
- Nov 2017 Bulk Buy Insulation
- Dec 2017 Bulk Buy Solar & Batteries
- Feb 2018 Bulk Buy Efficient Hot Water
- April 2018 Heat pumps, draught proofing and insulation
- May 2018 Solar System Options & Batteries
- May 2018 Stuart Barry on principles from his book 'The Rich Greenie'
- June 2018 Winter Warmer Workshop



Partnerships

Eco Home Guide continued to nurture existing partnerships and enabled one partner to grow significantly during the bulk buy period. We partnered with Fabrique, a Tasmanian-owned supplier and installer of curtains and blinds, in July 2017. New partnership agreements were negotiated with existing suppliers of heat pumps, heat pump hot water, solar and batteries, insulation, water tanks, green cleaning products, and financial services.

Marketing

A television advertisement (Community Service Announcement) was developed at low cost and continues to be aired on TV stations, occasionally in prime time. Over 2,000 people have now signed up to receive the Eco Home Guide enews, and target markets were further developed for Facebook promotion. Eco Home Guide received a 2-page spread in the Mercury, and through the STCA bulk buy, was promoted through 70,000 flyers, radio, and editorials and ads in local newspapers across Southern Tasmania.

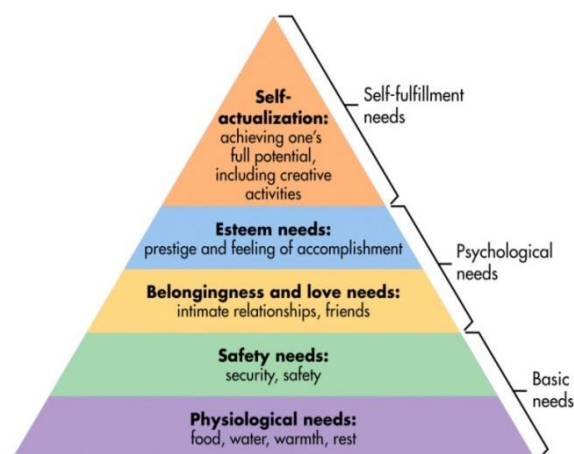
Home Energy Bulk Buy

The Home Energy Bulk Buy was the first of its kind in Tasmania. It pooled the purchasing power of residents in the Southern Tasmanian Council Authority (STCA) area to secure high-quality energy efficient and renewable energy products from reputable local installers at competitive bulk buy prices. We delivered the program through Eco Home Guide, on behalf of the STCA's Regional Climate Change Initiative, between October 2017 and March 2018.



Products included heat pump room heaters, ceiling and floor insulation, LED downlights, solar photovoltaic systems, battery systems, heat pump hot water systems, and solar hot water systems. The program was marketed through local newspapers, council rates notices and websites, Facebook and radio. Four workshops outlining the program and products available were held throughout the bulk buy period.

The STCA Home Energy Bulk Buy program was successful in comfortably exceeding the important targets of saving energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and running costs; and in receiving generally very positive feedback from customers.



Adopting sustainable living practices and product choices provides positive benefits to the environment, household budgets and human health both in the short and long term. It also helps to fulfil one of our fundamental needs: warmth. The communities desire to know more about sustainable living and products is evident in the number of enquiries we received. Whether residents ended up purchasing a product through the program or not, the STCA bulk buy raised awareness and improved uptake of sustainable living practices, increased residents esteem through empowerment, and reduced their resource consumption. Through the bulk buy Tasmanians in the STCA area are now better equipped to make smarter sustainable choices in the future.

Estimated lifetime savings	Target	Estimated actual	Target exceeded by
Energy (MWh)	19,440	28,412	+ 46%
Greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	12,040	14,836	+ 23%
Household running costs (\$)	3,055,000	4,006,508	+ 31%

We sent surveys to every resident who requested a quote, asking for various feedback depending on whether or not they had gone through to make a purchase. We also phoned customers who made a purchase but did not complete the survey. Survey respondents who made a purchase gave a very positive average overall satisfaction rating of 4.31 out of 5.

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, Education for Sustainability Tasmania ran a series of workshops, titled Local Steps Towards Global Goals. The workshops were held in Hobart, Launceston, and Burnie in September 2017, and were well attended by preschool, primary school, secondary school, vocational, university, and informal sustainability educators. Our Executive Officer, Todd Houstein, helped to facilitate the Hobart workshop.



Todd facilitator

The aims of the workshops were:

- To build the capacity of educators and trainers to deliver education for sustainability, through strong, robust and authentic relationships and collaborations.
- To increase understandings of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Education for Sustainability, with a focus on identifying opportunities for application of the ideas in teaching, partnered projects and research.

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
16/09/2017	Tamar NRM Sustainable Energy Expo	Albert Hall	Launceston
28/09/2017	Local Steps Towards Global Goals	Sustainability Learning Centre, Launceston Church Grammar School, Cradle Coast University of Tasmania Campus	Hobart, Launceston, Burnie
4/10/2017	Home heating workshop	SLT	Hobart
1/11/2017	Insulation & LED lighting workshop	SLT	Hobart
6/12/2017	Solar Panel Systems & Batteries Workshop	Town Hall	Hobart
8/02/2018	Climate Ethics Amidst Climate Injustice: by Steve Vanderheiden	Town Hall	Hobart
10/02/2018	Climate Justice Community Event	Menzies Research Institute	Hobart
21/02/2018	Efficient Hot Water System Workshop	SLT	Hobart
25/02/2018	Drawdown by Paul Hawken, the 25 th Richard Jones Memorial Lecture	Stanley Burbury Theatre	Hobart
26/02/2018	Climate Solutions Luncheon	MONA	Hobart
5/04/2018	Community Renewable Energy – Finance toolkit workshop	SLT	Hobart
21/04/2018	The Great Cloth Diaper Change 2018	Salamanca lawns	Hobart
10/05/2018	How to use your finances to drive change in the world, with Stuart Barry	SLT	Hobart
6/06/2018	Winter Warmer Workshop	SLT	Hobart

Other activities

There are so many activities not listed as projects or events above that we undertake as Tasmania's not-for-profit champion for sustainability... supporting passionate individuals and community groups; being interviewed for radio, television, newspapers, and other media; advocating for change with elected representatives; answering thousands of enquiries from the general public; networking like-minded people and organisations with one another; and much more. On their own, these things often seem insignificant, but they all add up, and occasionally they catalyse actions that lead to great impacts. Below are some examples from this year focussed on waste.

Historically, waste had been a difficult issue to engage people on, however we had sensed this changing with our Sustainability Challenge (2015/16), Don't Waste Hobart (2015/16) and Carrot Mob (2016/17) projects, and things really took off with the success of the War on Waste television series on ABC from May 2017.

Supporting Plasticwise Tarooma

Plasticwise Tarooma is a new volunteer community group that we have been proud to support with auspicing and strategic guidance. In their first year, Plasticwise Tarooma made over 1,000 reusable cloth bags from recycled materials, diverted over 200kg of scrap fabric and linen from landfill; worked with shops and supermarkets to go plastic bag free (Hill Street Grocer, Philadelphia Bakers, and Mountain Creek Outdoors), saving over 685,000 plastic bags from ending up in our environment; worked with four cafes to replace plastic

straws with reusable stainless steel straws (Ginger Brown Cafe, Honey Brown Cafe, Brooke Street Larder, and Hamlet Hobart); and spoke to hundreds of school students about reducing waste and the solutions to plastic pollution; all while building skills and awareness in our community.



rom Plastic

Sarah Blarv

Advocating on Hobart’s Plastic Takeaway Packaging Ban

Together with Zero Waste Tasmania (a group catalysed by our Sustainability Challenge in 2015) and Plasticwise Tarooma (see above), we successfully lobbied to have the City of Hobart institute a ban on plastic takeaway packaging. We encouraged and assisted sixty citizens to submit letters to Aldermen in support of the motion before Council in the lead up to the vote.

Taking on Cup Conscious Café



The Cup Conscious Café campaign seeks to promote reusable cups over single-use takeaway cups. The campaign was run by Markets For Change for about 3 years. Their focus was initially on recruiting cafés to encourage customers to reuse cups by way of shopfront signage and/or discounts. 160 outlets are now registered on the Cup Conscious Café website (cupconscious.com). The focus of the campaign then shifted to businesses encouraging their employees to use reusable cups.

Markets For Change wound up this financial year, and handed the Cup Conscious Campaign over to us with a small amount of fund (\$5,000) to continue. Since reusable cups have become fairly normalised over the past few years, we are looking for new approaches to continue catalysing the reduction of single-use plastic takeaway packaging.

Supporting The Great Cloth Diaper Change 2018

We partnered with Tiny Footprints, a new Hobart retailer with a focus on reusable cloth nappies, to run the Hobart leg of “The Great Cloth Diaper Challenge”. The challenge is an annual Guinness World Record breaking attempt for the most cloth nappies changed at a time – the world over! Unfortunately, a new record was not set this year, however plenty of interest was raised, and awareness of the environmental and economic benefits of reusable nappies over single-use disposable ones.

Finances

	This year (2017-18)	Last year (2016-17)
Current assets	\$317,501	\$403,560
Non-current assets	\$2,500	\$2,500
Current liabilities	\$110,884	\$81,595
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$209,156	\$324,465
Total income	\$293,793	\$281,033
Total expenses	\$409,101	\$490,819
Operating surplus	-\$115,309	-\$209,785

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Auspiced grants

Auspiced group	Project	Funding source	Amount
Plasticwise Tarooma	Beeswax wrap workshops	Huon Aquaculture	600.00
Plasticwise Tarooma	General funding	Lush Australia	3,475.00
Plasticwise Tarooma	Beeswax wrap workshops	Kingborough Council	1,120.00
Plasticwise Tarooma	Beeswax wrap workshops	Kingborough Council	650.00
Tiny Footprints	Cloth Diaper Challenge 2018	Hobart City Council	393.64
UTAS Climate Justice Network	Climate Justice Conference	Tasmanian Climate Change Office	6,000.00

Personnel

Board members

Nathan Males	President
Margaret Steadman	Vice President
Shane Bartel	Vice President
Phil Anstie	Treasurer
Emily Warner	Secretary
Alicja Mosbauer	Board Member
John Green	Board Member
Kirstan Long	Board Member
Uta Green	Board Member
Alexis Wadsley	Board Member

Staff

Anton Vikstrom	Energy Program Manager
Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Michele Matthews	Partnerships Manager
Todd Houstein	Executive Officer
Leah Page	Education for Sustainability Tasmania Facilitator
Maria Clippingdale	Education for Sustainability Tasmania Facilitator
Lissa Villeneuve	Walking Map Project Officer
Thea Webb	Waste Auditor

Charlie Sherwin	Writer
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
Larry Narraway	Climate Solutions Researcher
Neil Parry	Climate Solutions Researcher
David Berghouse	Climate Solutions Researcher
Lizz Smith	Event volunteer
Kelvin Carter	General office assistance
Richard Witherwick	General office assistance
Maple Chung	Librarian
Catherine Denehey	Office administration
Bruce Wang	ICT Intern
Pan Wang	ICT Intern
Elina Liang Zhang	ICT Intern
Leon Wang	ICT Intern



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