



**SUSTAINABLE
LIVING
TASMANIA**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
18/19**

President's Report	3
Executive Officer's Report	4
Projects	4
Community support	7
Events	10
Finances	11
Personnel	11



President's Report

On behalf of the Board and management, I am delighted to present the 2018/19 Annual Report.

This was a challenging year for Sustainable Living Tasmania.

Seven years ago, we built a strong capability in household and commercial energy auditing and efficiency to respond to State and Federal funding opportunities, and during those years we delivered record results for Tasmanians and our own organisation. Since that time the value of government funding has declined rapidly, so to *keep the lights on* and maintain our community presence on social enterprises, we redeployed our skills and experience into the Eco Home Guide, Climate Solutions Tasmania and commercial consulting opportunities.

Over this last year, the Board had to make the difficult decision to discontinue the Eco Home Guide and slow the development of Climate Solutions Tasmania because our income no longer supported these initiatives. We have recently made big strides towards keeping our organisation's long and amazing contribution to Tasmania alive and well for decades to come, and as we enter this next financial year I want you to know that your Board, and amazing staff and volunteers, will continue to drive Sustainable Living Tasmania with passion, commitment and respect.

We are an organisation working toward social and environmental change in Tasmania. We thrive on identifying challenges and building grassroots solutions through advocacy, education and action! I would ask that you consider what issues in your community still concern you, and contact us to discuss how we can work together to solve these. Much like you, I draw inspiration from people like Paul Hawken and Greta Thunberg, and I believe that we can continue to build Tasmania as a model of how social and environmental change is driven by the people.

Finally, I'd like to thank Todd, Michele, Janine, our contractors, our volunteers, and all members of the Board – past and present – for their tireless and outstanding contribution to our organisation over the past year. I look forward to working with all of you over the coming years to achieve our goals for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

Shane Bartel
President





Executive Officer's Report

In writing this report – my last as Executive Officer – I read back through the others I'd written over my nine years in the role. What struck me most was just how much we'd achieved together. You'll see plenty more evidence of that in the pages of this Annual Report. I am very grateful to have played a leadership role in such a wonderful team, and I would like to thank everyone involved from the bottom of my heart for their passion, effort, support, and – most of all – for their courage.

Last year, I wrote about the uncertainty around our "dive of courage" to secure the organisation's financial situation, and that 2018/19 would be the year of reckoning. It was. We failed to build enough income from our social enterprises to continue that approach.

"Failed" is a word some might prefer I didn't use here, as it often carries some sense of shame. But the real shame would have been not attempting it in the first place. As George Monbiot recently said (and many before him in similar words), "It is better to strive to do good, and often fail, than not to strive at all."

Fear of failure is so deeply part of being human. As a young man I recognised that it sometimes led me to self-sabotage, holding back at a daunting task because, in the event of failure, it would protect my ego from the possibility that my best simply wasn't

good enough to achieve what I had set out to. I vowed never to let that happen; to always have the courage to do my utmost toward whatever I turned my attention to. I'm proud to say that is what Sustainable Living Tasmania has done. We explored our options, decided on an approach based on careful analysis of the best information available, and – despite the uncertainty of success, and the fear of failure that we certainly felt – we put our utmost into it, giving it the very best chance to succeed.

Now is a time for reflection, on what we did well, what we could have done better and, perhaps, what we would have done if we'd known then what we know now; but we shouldn't mistake that for what we should do next.

The context is very different now. Humanity's carbon budget is far closer to running out. The global school strikes and Extinction Rebellion have breathed new life into the climate movement. The political divide has widened further still.

The likelihood of success of whatever approaches we entertain next will be no more certain. May we all have the courage to put our utmost into them.

Todd Houstain
Executive Officer



Projects

Eco Home Guide

Through our social enterprise website, which helped Tasmanian households to live more sustainably through tailored advice and referrals to local product and service providers. In 2018/19, more than 26,000 people visited the website, and we helped 363 households to install over \$1.5M worth of solar panels, heat pumps, hot water heat pumps, multiple-glazed windows and doors, ceiling and floor insulation, batteries, air circulation systems, insulating curtains & blinds, and LED lights. We estimated these actions saved in excess of 1,200 MWh of electricity and more than 230 tonnes CO₂-equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, the markets for these products and services tightened considerably over the past two years, resulting in a reduction in the commissions we received, and making the social enterprise financially unviable. As a result, we have decided to wind up Eco Home Guide.

Consultancy services for organisations

We delivered 18 commercial energy audits to Australian Standard AS3598:2014 for clients including schools, community health centres, accommodation providers, offices, agriculture and farms throughout Tasmania.

We also helped Corumbene Care install a 100 kW solar panel system on their aged care facility in New Norfolk.

Our consultancy services are showing great promise in assisting organisations to operate more sustainably, while bringing in income for the organisation. Todd Houstein will be shifting roles from Executive Officer to Principal Sustainability Consultant from August 2019 to focus on further development of this enterprise.



During the installation of 100 kW solar panel system at Corumbene

Smarter Fleets – Electric Vehicles in Local Government

We were contracted by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet, to deliver this program, which provided tailored information and guidance to 10 participating councils on how to integrate electric vehicles into their fleets. The program ran information sessions, recruited councils, met with participating councils, analysed detailed information about their fleets and related infrastructure, presented initial findings to the councils, and then wrote detailed electric vehicles integration plans for each council.

The plans included recommendations to purchase 16 full battery-electric vehicles, and a further 30 hybrid electric vehicles, with an estimated net saving of \$3,800 per year. Recommendations on charging infrastructure, electricity tariffs, and policies were also included.

Additional outputs from the program included a vehicle comparison tool, and resource guides on The Transition to Electric Vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging, Electric Vehicle Selection, and Policy Considerations for Electric Vehicles.

Fostering collaborative networks to reduce waste

The forum brought together takeaways who are leading the way in waste reduction. They talked about their vision and how they might be able to help other takeaways. Themes included composting, both food and container waste, reusables, and compostable single-use items. Attendees voted on the ideas they liked the most. We established an email group for the participants to stay in touch.

“Marvellous meeting... I would like to acknowledge the passion and enthusiasm everyone brought to the meeting! Fantastic people! The problem appears monolithic, yet the solutions manifold, as diverse as the representatives from local businesses. Everyone is making great progress with their own solutions, from the cup & plate libraries to BYO container schemes to developing strategies to compost organic waste and packaging.” – Forum participant.



Discussions during the waste forum

Community support

For many community groups we continued to provide support, including auspicing, payroll, staff supervision, and other administrative services, office space, event and meeting space, and promotion. These groups included Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Electric Vehicle Association, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Climate Tasmania, Climate Action Hobart, Coal River Sustainable Living, the Creek Road Community Garden, Education for Sustainability Tasmania, Food Garden Group, Hobart Walking Club, Plasticwise Tarooma, SEED Indigenous Youth Climate Network, Sustainable Living in Kingborough, and Tarooma Gardening Forum. A few examples are explored in detail below.

Education for Sustainability Tasmania

Education for Sustainability Tasmania (EfS-Tas) is a network of organisations involved in research, training and education for sustainability. Sustainable Living Tasmania helped to establish EfS-Tas. We provide auspicing, payroll, staff supervision, and other administrative services, as well as sitting on the steering committee.

In 2018-19, EfS-Tas continued to grow and collaborate in ways that help create a sustainable future for Tasmania:

- We farewelled Leah Page and welcomed Ruth Osborne as facilitator.
- A series of Sustainability Skills Cafes were delivered in Launceston, bringing younger and older people together to generate a range of community learning interactions in early childhood centres, Community Centres and Primary Schools.
- EfS-Tas youth facilitator, Toby Thorpe attended the 4th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in Poland.
- Youth Climate Leaders Conferences and follow up gatherings were held in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. With the support of mentors, students planned and then reported on their actions to mitigate climate change in their schools and communities. These gatherings allow inspired youth to pursue leadership opportunities, studies, potential careers, and volunteering in the fields of climate science, community development, social justice, renewable energy, STEM, and sustainability.
- Kids4Kids Game Changers, Change Makers Conferences were also held in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie for students to share their learnings with mentors and peers concerning sustainability issues.



Youth Climate Leaders Conference in Hobart

Plasticwise Tarooona

Plasticwise Tarooona has had a very busy year conducting initiatives to raise awareness and empower community members to refuse everyday disposable plastics and make sustained behavioural change to reduce waste going to landfill and entering our environment. We have been an active presence within the community at primary and high schools, the Youth Arts and Recreation centre, TMAG children's festival, Love Living Locally Kingborough Fair, and Salamanca Market during Plastic Free July.

Here are some of our exciting highlights this year:

- We raised almost \$9,000 in our Plastic Free Lunchbox Project crowd funding campaign our popular beeswax wrap educational workshops have been in full swing –our facilitators ran 100 workshops in schools in Hobart and beyond (as far as Swansea and Oatlands!), making over 2,500 beeswax wraps – this program was assisted by Hobart City Council through a waste reduction grant from Hobart City Council, through which we made beeswax wrap with 1,000 Hobart students.
- We made 30 metres of bunting that is now available for our community to borrow for parties and events, along with our set of reusable crockery, cutlery and glassware!
- We won a grant through LUSH cosmetics to fund Anthony Hill's plastic pollution education program at a number of schools and pay for his travel to Tassie - Anthony reached several thousand students around Hobart during his trip and is planning to return next year to go to schools that missed out.
- We continued to support Hill Street Grocer and other shops and organisations willing to lead the way and encourage our community to transition away from using plastic bags - I have now officially lost count, but we made well over 700 bags from recycled materials this year, saving over 1,370,000 plastic bags!!
- And finally, we made it to the finals in the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards! What a wonderful recognition of our achievements.

It's been an exciting year as we build momentum and partnerships with organisations to make a positive impact on plastic pollution!



A beeswax wrap making ran workshop by Plasticwise Tarooona

Creek Road Community Garden

The Creek Road Community Garden continued as a volunteer-run initiative with 30 active members growing a wide variety of food crops in their plots. After decades of being run by local organic food growing champion David Stephens, in recent years the Community Garden has been managed by a volunteer group of plot holders, including Judy Knight and Malcolm Ward.



Creek Road Community Garden is thriving and bringing people together.

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
31/7/2018	Smarter Fleets – Electric Vehicles in Local Government	Windsor Community Precinct	Launceston
2/8/2018	Smarter Fleets – Electric Vehicles in Local Government	SLT	Hobart
8/8/2018	Keeping it in – How to have a comfortable home	SLT	Hobart
17/08/2018	Passive solar design	Fahan School	Hobart
22/8/2018	Passive solar design	Fahan School	Hobart
6/9/2018	Is your home able to breathe? With Dr Mark Dewsbury	SLT	Hobart
16/9/2018	Sustainable House Day chats	SLT	Hobart
18/9/2018	What should I do with my solar panels when the 1:1 feed-in tariff ends?	SLT	Hobart
25/9/2018	Annual General Meeting, plus SLT's latest solar research findings	SLT	Hobart
2/10/2018	What should I do with my solar panels when the 1:1 feed-in tariff ends?	SLT	Hobart
3/10/2018	Solar Powered Clarence	Rosny Park Bowls Club	Hobart
9/10/2018	How to get the most out of solar in Tasmania	SLT	Hobart
12-13/10/2018	Tamar Sustainable Living Expo	Albert Hall	Launceston
16/10/2018	What should I do with my solar panels when the 1:1 feed-in tariff ends?	SLT	Hobart
18/10/2018	Milkwood book Q&A with Kirsten Bradley (in partnership with Permaculture Tasmania)	SLT	Hobart
23/10/2018	How to get the most out of solar in Tasmania	SLT	Hobart
21/11/2018	How to get the most out of solar in Tasmania	Hobart Town Hall	Hobart
7/3/2019	Teacher's session for Youth Climate Leaders Conference	Sustainability Learning Centre	Hobart
18/3/2019	Youth Climate Leaders Conference	Sustainability Learning Centre	Hobart
2/4/2019	How to get the most out of solar in Tasmania (in partnership with the ATA / Renew)	Duke of Wellington	Hobart
10/4/2019	Double glazing windows and doors	SLT	Hobart
17/4/2019	Fostering collaborative networks to reduce waste	SLT	Hobart
15/5/2019	Practical & Profitable Ways to Improve Sustainable Resource Use in your Accommodation Business and Achieve EcoStar Accreditation (TICT Tourism Conference workshop)	Country Club Casino	Launceston
19/6/2019	Energy efficiency	U3A, Philip Smith Education Centre	Hobart
26/6/2019	Solar, batteries, hot water, and tariffs	U3A, Philip Smith Education Centre	Hobart

Finances

	This year (2018-19)	Last year (2017-18)
Current assets	\$193,110	\$317,501
Non-current assets	\$2,205	\$2,500
Current liabilities	\$103,241	\$110,884
Non-current liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$92,074	\$209,156
Total income	\$251,699	\$293,793
Total expenses	\$368,782	\$409,101
Operating surplus	-\$117,082	-\$115,309

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Project funding

Project	Funding source	Amount
Fostering collaborative networks to reduce waste	City of Hobart Waste Reduction Grant	\$5,000
Shine Again	City of Hobart Dr Edward Hall Environment Grant	\$5,000

Personnel

Board members

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

Staff

Janine Cooke	Finance & Administration Officer
Michele Matthews	Partnerships Manager
Todd Houstein	Executive Officer

Scott Blacklow	Sustainability Consultant
Anton Vikstrom	Energy Assessor
Hillary Green	Plasticwise Taroona Administrator
Julie Hargreaves	Energy Assessor
Ruth Osborne	Education for Sustainability Tasmania Facilitator
Rebecca Boyle	Energy Assessor

Volunteers

Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
David Berghouse	Climate News digest editor
Neil Parry	Climate solutions researcher
Kelvin Carter	General office assistance
Richard Witherwick	General office assistance
Catherine Denehey	Office administration



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