



Connecting local voices to climate change decision making

Responding to the critical issue of climate change

As the need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions becomes increasingly urgent, and the groundswell of community concern over climate change gains significant momentum, it is imperative that opportunities are created for informed community participation in planning and policy decisions that affect our daily lives and our future.

An innovative community engagement approach

The NSW Climate Summit project will enable randomly selected, representative groups of ordinary citizens to be included in deliberations that directly contribute to climate change decision making. Utilising the innovative approach of deliberative democracy, these citizens will come together to explore the issue from multiple points of view and to converse with one another to reflect and think critically about the options before them, to offer recommendations on their preferred solutions to climate change.

Project overview

Training program for local organisers

Through an intensive training program, local organisers from across NSW, consisting of council staff and community educators, have been trained by expert facilitators to deliver deliberative workshops on climate change mitigation and adaptation in their local communities.

Finding common ground at the NSW Climate Summit

At the NSW Climate Summit, community representatives from the local workshops will join with a broad range of stakeholders to discuss and debate the best approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation. By finding common ground, Summit participants will produce a set of recommendations to present to the NSW Government which are reflective of a NSW consensus view.

Bringing the community together at local workshops

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has teamed up with sixteen local councils to deliver workshops in urban, rural, coastal and inland locations across NSW. The input of workshop participants will inform local council about the views of a diverse mix of the community who have worked together with local experts and facilitators and considered the relevant issues in detail. Workshop participants will match their local demographic, ensuring that recommendations from the workshops are reflective of the local community view.

A NSW community view

Local council partners have been selected as workshop hosts to reflect the population distribution of NSW. Combining community input from the local workshops will enable us to present a set of recommendations to the NSW Government which are reflective of the NSW community view.

Project outcomes

Giving communities a stronger voice in decision making processes

Facilitating a dialogue between government, business and the community on climate change

Strengthening planning and decision making on climate change with community and stakeholder input

Increasing the capacity of educators to engage with the community and government on climate change

Fostering learning and exchange on climate change solutions

Building partnerships and strengthening local networks

Empowering the people of NSW to become more active on the issues that affect them

Key dates

Local workshops

October – November 2008

NSW Climate Summit – Sydney

19 - 21 February 2009

Local Council Partners

Coffs Harbour City | Bellingen Shire | Armidale Dumaresq | Guyra Shire | Walcha | Uralla Shire
Lake Macquarie City | Wyong Shire | Gosford City | Penrith City | Blacktown | Holroyd City
Pittwater | Warringah | Rockdale City | Tumut Shire

Contact us to find out more:

Marnie Kikken, Project Coordinator, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

2/301 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Ph: (02) 9279 2466 Email: mkikken@nccnsw.org.au

www.nccnsw.org.au/nswclimatesummit

