



ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019



ENVIRONMENT HOUSE INC

At Environment House, we value collaboration to achieve an environmentally sustainable future. When individuals, groups, councils, schools, businesses and government work together, we improve well-being and achieve better decision making for present and future generations.

- City of Bayswater Home Composting Project
- Ascot Park Multiple Dwelling Waste Project
- East Metro Sustainable Schools Network
- Native Plants to Residents Project
- 100% Renewable Energy by 2030 and 100% Zero Carbon by 2040 Plan Adopted by City of Bayswater
- Transition Town Bayswater Projects
- Wetland Conservation Projects
- 40 events with over 1000 participants in 18/19
- Support of local eco businesses with over 6,000 visits to our EcoShop.



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Environment House is incorporated, has tax-deductibility status and the Committee of Management over the year consisted of Rosemary Lynch (Convenor), Jo Bower (Deputy Convenor/Secretary), Giorgia Johnson (Treasurer), Rachael Roberts (Co-ordinator), Warren Haley, Prue Robertson, Alan Benn, Eleanor Reuvers and Kerry Wilson. Our Committee of Management are all hands on volunteers in the organisation. We are proud of the constructive and positive way we work together to get things done.

Environment House is the only urban environmental sustainability centre in the eastern suburbs of Perth. Our projects focus on community engagement and education across all sustainability areas; conservation of our biodiversity; and climate change action.

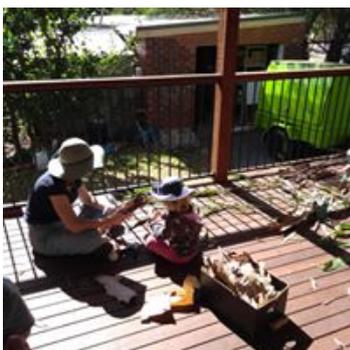
VOLUNTEERS:

The foundation of everything we do at Environment House is our amazing group of volunteers. We have 40 volunteers working on different projects across the organisation at any one time. We are very proud of our culture of inclusion and our ethos of welcoming everyone, without judgement, and appreciating whatever skill set they bring.

Our Myer Project allowed us the opportunity to employ a Consultant to interview interested volunteers about their experience volunteering with Environment House:

“My interviews with the volunteers at Environment House showed me that a wonderful culture is being experienced by the people who visit and donate their time. In my opinion, this culture is one of the most precious aspects of Environment House. It engages with people in a way that informs and empowers them. It does this in a safe way. People get to experience friendly connection and non-judgemental support. This is only possible through un-rushed considered conversations and positive experiences.”

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS AND MILESTONES:



Capacity building projects, as part of our successful application to the **Sidney Myer Fund & The Myer Foundation** for a grant of \$69,000, have been rolled out across the year. This funding has been instrumental in allowing us to think about how we plan and assess the projects we manage. It has also allowed us to purchase a trailer for outreach education; redesign our logo; consider a new strategic plan; and produce promotional material. This grant could not have come at a better time to support our expanding role in our community and the work of our volunteers.

The 2018 renovation of our Council owned building has resulted in far better spaces for our workshops and for the wider community to make use of. Disability access to the building has been a success and our new deck has proven to be a perfect space for hosting the 40+ workshops and community group events we have had across the year. The renovation has greatly improved the amenity of the building for everyone who uses it. We are very grateful to the Federal Government Stronger Communities Grant; the State Government Local Jobs Local Projects Grant and the City of Bayswater for the extra funding we needed to finalise this project. It took a lot of co-ordination to bring this together but thanks to the partnership with local builder Wandoo Designs, we met all deadlines and now have a community space that can be used for many years to come.

Environment House has facilitated the formation of a new wetland group, the **Friends of Eric Singleton Wetlands**, following saving the 'Carter's Wetland' from destruction in 2017. This new group is now Co-ordinated by Nadine Wright Toussaint who is also responsible for the new logo.



Environment House continues to support wetland groups in Maylands and Bayswater, working with the City of Bayswater to achieve significant conservation outcomes. In the 2019 planting season the City of Bayswater with volunteers put 20,000 new native plants into wetland and bushland areas.

Our workshop calendar and events were highly valued again this year, providing access to a wide range of topics. All were fully subscribed. Environment House and Transition Town Bayswater volunteers organised 40 workshops/events catering to over 1100 participants on a wide range of topics for all age groups.

Environment House Transition Town Bayswater group organised a range of events including an event for Clean Up Australia Day, a popular series of free movies and continued with Share Your Spare and our Seed Library on the first Saturday of each month.

Evaluation by participants of our workshops and events is consistently good and includes an insight into how valuable these workshops are for people to learn sustainability skills in a practical, social and fun setting. Participants report use of the skills they have learnt in their homes, workplaces, schools and community groups and often go on to share their knowledge at work and in the community.



March to May Workshops and Events

March		May	
SEED LIBRARY 2nd March	Transition Town Bayswater Share Your Spare with Seed Library Details: Free. Saturday 2nd March, 10am-12pm @ Enviro House	SEED LIBRARY 4th May	Transition Town Bayswater Share Your Spare with Seed Library Details: Free. Saturday 4th May, 10am-12noon @ Enviro House
CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 3rd March	Transition Town Bayswater Event Details: Free. Sunday 3rd March, 8am starting at Bayswater Train Station	VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION 4th May	Volunteer with Enviro House. New Volunteer Info Session and Arvo Tea Details: Free. Saturday 4th May, 2pm-3.30pm @ Enviro House
VERGE GARDEN WORKSHOP 9th March	Love Your Verge, from Grass to Garden. A workshop with Pete Olds from Verge Garden Projects Australia Details: Saturday 9th March, 10am-11.30am @ Enviro House	TRANSITION TOWN MOVIE 10th May	Transition Town Bayswater Movie Details: Free. Friday 4th May, 6.30pm @ Civic Centre, Embleton Rm
BUSHTUCKER WORKSHOP 16th March	Bushtucker Workshop With the Bushfood Gardener, Steve Mc Cabe. Details: Saturday 16th March, 9.30-11.30am @ Enviro House	NATIVE PLANTS FOR CONTAINERS WORKSHOP 18th May	Successful Native Plants for containers and small gardens With Nancy Scade from Australian Native Nurseries Details: Saturday 18th May, 2pm-3.30pm @ Enviro House
Little Critter Garden Club March 22nd - April 12th. For 2-5 year olds. Friday mornings 10am-11am.		BOKASHI WORKSHOP 25th May	Bokashi Composting for small households and small properties Details: Saturday 25th May, 9.30 - 10.30pm @ Enviro House
April		Workshop Booking Information Bookings through Eventbrite. Tickets prices start at \$15pp See www.envirohouse.org.au for more details.	
SEED LIBRARY 6th April	Transition Town Bayswater Share Your Spare with Seed Library Details: Free. Saturday 6th April, 10am-12noon @ Enviro House	Venue Details Enviro House: 125 King William St, Bayswater. Ph: 9271 4488 Bayswater Civic Centre: 61 Broun Ave, Morley	
KIDS FLOWER PRESS WORKSHOP 25th April	Kids Flower Press building and Herbarium Workshop for Kids (8+) Make a flower press to take home. All materials supplied. Details: Thursday 25th April 2pm-4pm @ Enviro House	Event Legend	
GET THE DIRT ON HEALTHY SOILS 27th April	Get the Dirt on Healthy Soils Under the Microscope. With Elen Walker from Earthwhile Australia. Details: Saturday 27th April, 1.30pm-3.30pm @ EnviroHouse	WORKSHOPS	TRANSITION TOWN EVENTS
		KIDS EVENTS / WORKSHOPS	OTHER EVENTS

www.envirohouse.org.au

Brought to you by





Collaboration has become a key platform for project development at Environment House, delivering outstanding results. Our relationship with the **City of Bayswater** is one of active partnership and co-operation. This enables us to identify projects where our input can make a difference, work with the community to find solutions and have the support of the City when we need it. This has been strengthened with our Switch Your Thinking partnership enabling us to use this valuable resource and link in with Switch Your Thinking Councils across Perth.

The Ascot Park Multiple Dwelling Waste Project began in 2018 with the Council of Owners and community group Future Bayswater. The 209 units in the Ascot Park apartments in Bayswater had no access to recycling, with 18 tonnes of waste going to landfill each week. Working with the City of Bayswater and the residents, a range of recycling initiatives were introduced along with education. Due to the extensive consultation and engagement with stakeholders, recycling skip bins, green waste skip bins and furniture skip bins have been successfully introduced and with ongoing monitoring by local resident Erin Swindley, have been a big success. Erin has also introduced recycling for hazardous waste streams such as batteries and light globes. We also trialled a Bokashi Bin Library where residents have the opportunity to use a free bin supplied by the City of Bayswater. This trial is ongoing as resident education improves around composting and diversion of waste to different waste streams.

The City of Bayswater Home Composting Project was a new initiative between the City of Bayswater and Environment House trialled in 2018. The Project was designed to support householders to compost in their own home and evaluate the results over a six month period. Every participating household was provided with a free compost system of their choice following a free workshop explaining composting and each system. Participants were provided with free support through further workshops, face to face troubleshooting or access to a Facebook page to ask questions. 176 households participated in the program, with 246 individuals attending the free workshops. The Project identified that for every 100 City of Bayswater Households composting at home there is the potential to save the council up to \$4477 in landfill processing fees, divert 24.6 tonnes of food waste from landfill and prevent 39.36 tonnes of CO² equivalent greenhouse gas emissions annually.



The feedback from participants in the 6 month evaluation survey was positive and informative and Stage 2 of the Project is being rolled out in October 2019:

“This program is so important...It sparked a whole revolution in the way my house deals with waste... The flow on effects from this knowledge and the connections it has helped to create in the community cannot be underestimated. It would be great to have it available to all residents in the future.” – Program participant at 6 months

Environment House has organised the City of Bayswater “**Native Plants to Residents Program**” for the fourth consecutive year from May - July. The aim is to encourage local residents to grow more native plants to improve biodiversity and support water efficient gardening. Over this time, this program has distributed 25,000 native plants into private gardens, verge gardens and common areas in multi-dwelling housing.



This year we introduced a formal evaluation of the project and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Thank you to Alan Benn for ensuring this Project runs smoothly and professionally, meeting the expectations of Council and residents, and our volunteers for assisting people with plant education.

Our **EcoShop** changed considerably over the last two years with the energy and organisation of Shop Co-ordinator Maxine Petty widely appreciated. Volunteers kept the shop open to the public six days a week over the year, with visitation rates of between 5-30 per day from people seeking products, advice or simply a conversation about living sustainably. Our EcoShop provides an informal point of contact for people from many different backgrounds seeking support and advice on sustainability issues. Volunteers and the public regularly report their appreciation for the non-judgemental and relaxed culture at Environment House.

OUR PEOPLE

Part-time staff and volunteers



Regular volunteers Sandra Iris, Glenys Davies, Julia Sutton, Alan Benn, Miho Armstrong. Photos Lee Bickford

Environment House is only able to stay open and deliver projects to the public through the work of our fabulous **40 volunteers** and **eight part-time employees** in 2018-19. Maxine Petty continued as our Shop Co-ordinator, Nadine Wright Toussaint took on the new role of Project Co-ordinator, Miho Armstrong took on the role of Garden Co-ordinator, Robyn Brown has been our Workshop Co-ordinator, Warren Haley overseeing shop accounts, Gavan Wood as our Accountant/Bookkeeper, Bronwen Eybers providing Administration Support and our wonderful Cleaner Almas Tulema.

Our Committee Members contributed many volunteer hours over the twelve months providing a wide range of skills to the organisation. Rosemary Lynch took over the role of Convenor in 2018/19 and provides invaluable communication and IT support; Jo Bower supporting projects and ensuring our administrative functions and volunteer co-ordination run smoothly; Alan Benn, as our in-house energy and water auditor, also providing organisational wide support for all projects and initiatives; Giorgia Johnson for her finance

skills and organisational support; Prue Robertson for providing substantial support in our EcoShop; Warren Haley for overseeing shop administration and providing support to volunteers; Kerry Wilson providing waste expertise, Eleanor Reuvers providing specialist landscape architect skills and active engagement with Transition Town Bayswater and Rachael Roberts as our Co-ordinator overseeing funding, projects, collaborative relationships and identifying the opportunities that arise in our community to develop local responses to improve environmental sustainability.

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community Garden

Volunteers have taken on more responsibility in our garden looking after our compost systems, worm farms and planting food growing plants for visitors to enjoy.

Website and Facebook

Our online presence has continued to expand with our new website providing information on our activities and we now have over 4,000 people following our Facebook page. Subscription to our monthly email newsletter has also grown to 1,500 subscribers with between 30-40% of people opening the newsletter and accessing information. **Website:** www.envirohouse.org.au **Facebook:** *Environment House / Perth EcoShop & Sustainability Services*



Sally Bagley from Boomerang Bags Noranda and Surrounds.. Photo Rachael Roberts.



Old Perth Road Sustainable Living Markets, Bassendean Photo Carol Seidel

Waste Diversion Initiatives

Volunteers Mary Van Wees, Aileen O'Rourke and Miho Armstrong are now into their fourth year of diverting 90kg of coffee grounds each week as part of the Coffee Ground to Ground Project. They have been joined by local resident Jeremy Hamilton. Coffee grounds are left outside our building and we can't keep up with demand from home gardeners. Miho Armstrong, Prue Robertson and Liz Wright have also overseen our waste diversion program collecting oral care and cosmetics products from the community for recycling with Terracycle.

A Meeting Place

Environment House provides our building and facilities to community groups to use for meetings and events free of charge. Baigup Wetland Group and Transition Towns have been regular users of our centre this year.



Stalls and presentations

We have continued to receive invitations to provide guest speakers and to set up stalls at community events. This level of demand for practical information on sustainable living is encouraging. We provide at least one stall a month for different events around Perth.

Chisholm College's Christian Service with Environment House

We have continued with our work experience/Christian Service partnership for Chisholm students in Year 10.

University Student Placements

Environment House has provided student placement opportunities for four students over the 2018/19 year. This has been a valuable experience for us an organisation and students have reported to Supervisors that it has been a useful experience of working in a grassroots community organisation.

Friends of Maylands Samphires

Environment House has had a special focus on the Maylands Samphires at Clarkson Reserve since 2012. This year we received another SALP grant to work with Apace Nursery to propagate samphires from seed and cuttings from the site. The aim is to supplement the natural regeneration in this threatened ecological community. Council arranged for a hydrological study by Urbaqua and has set aside funds for a management plan for the area.

We held a community planting session and had regular weeding sessions concentrating on our focus sites, with special thanks to Kate Cornes and the Tuesday morning group for their commitment.

Awards

Environment House rarely nominates ourselves for awards for our work. We did however nominate ourselves for the City of Bayswater Community Garden Awards and won in that category in 2018.

OUR FINANCES

Environment House was audited by Avant Edge Consulting and received a management letter outlining completion of the audit of the 2018-19 financial statements for the Environment House Inc. with an unqualified Audit Opinion for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

Environment House recorded a net surplus. The Committee of Management has determined that the financial scrutiny provided by the audit at a cost of \$3,750.00 is important for our ongoing governance and provides community confidence in our administration of the organisation.

The Environment House Management Committee

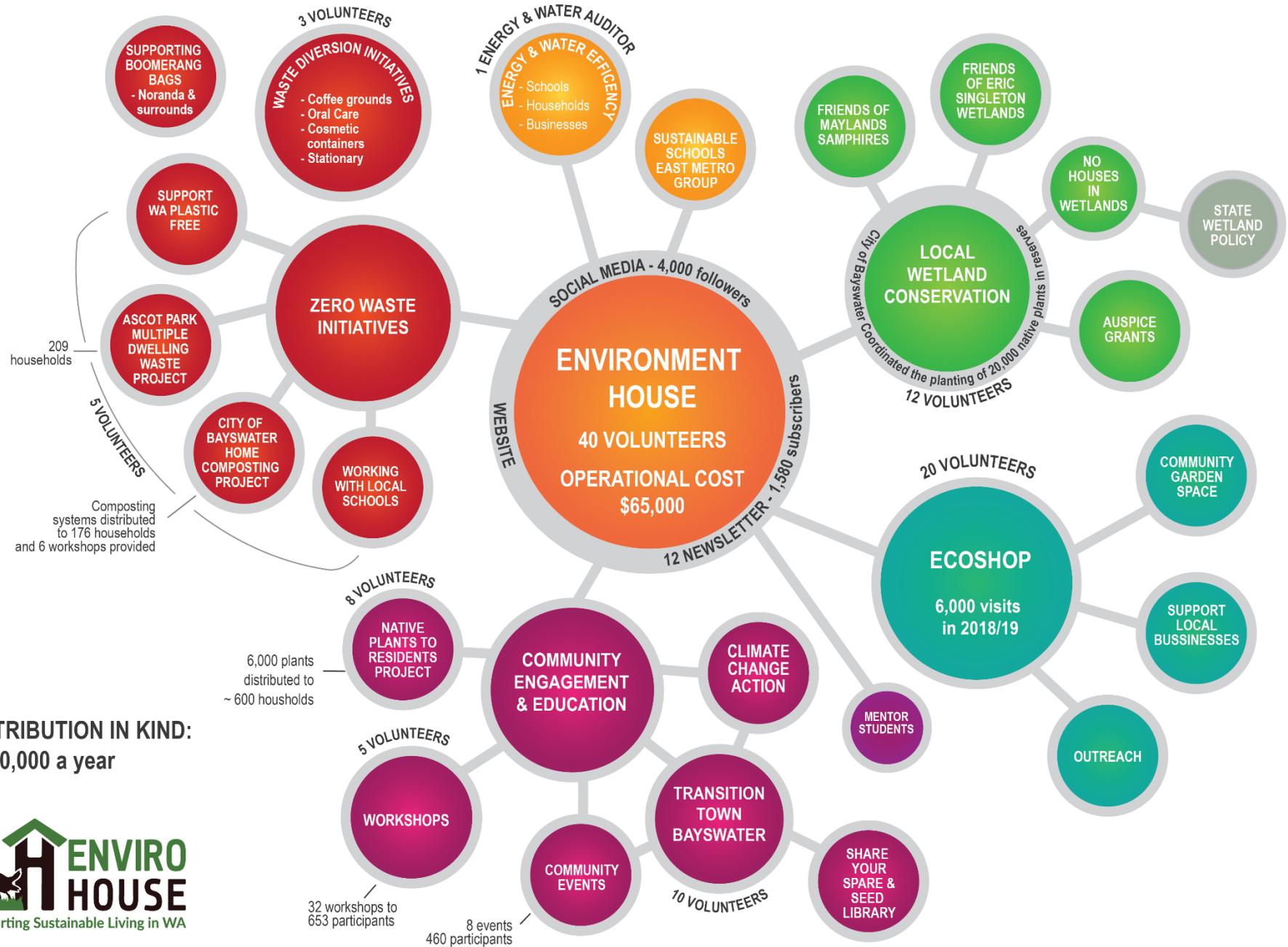
Rachael Roberts, Warren Haley, Alan Benn, Jo Bower, Rosemary Lynch, Prue Robertson, Giorgia Johnson, Eleanor Reuvers and Kerry Wilson.

Presented at our Annual General Meeting on 28th October 2019

OPERATIONAL COSTS

The operational costs for Environment House in 2018/19 were \$65,000 and were contributed from three key sources: City of Bayswater; Bayswater and Noranda Community Bank branches; and the customers of our EcoShop. With these funds we have been able to operate our EcoShop as an education centre and support forty volunteers on the ground delivering projects in our community – it is difficult to calculate the in-kind contribution of these activities given the breadth of skills and amount of time given freely by so many people, but we estimate the figure to be between \$300,000 - \$400,000 a year. Our projects in 2018/19 are outlined in Diagram 1 (following page)

ENVIRONMENT HOUSE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS 2018/2019



CONTRIBUTION IN KIND:
~ \$300,000 a year

