



## //GUIDE NOTE 5 THE ICLEI WATER CAMPAIGN AND WATER SAVINGS ACTION PLANS

### **The Two Programs**

The NSW water and energy savings initiatives were introduced by the NSW Government in May 2005. They are administered by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) and include a requirement for certain businesses, government agencies and local councils to prepare Water and Energy Savings Action Plans. Plans must be prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for Water and Energy Savings Action Plans*, available from DEUS.

The ICLEI Water Campaign™ is a voluntary program for local government, run by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Councils sign-up to a five milestone process to conserve water in the corporate and community sectors and improve local water quality.

DEUS and ICLEI are working closely together to ensure that the two programs complement each other and that work undertaken in one program may be incorporated into the other to partially or wholly fulfil requirements. This Guide Note is intended as an overview. For full details, please contact a DEUS water savings specialist or the ICLEI Water Campaign team on the numbers below.

### **Who do they involve?**

The ICLEI Water Campaign is voluntary and open to all Councils in Australia. Currently 17 councils in the Sydney Metropolitan area are participating in the Water Campaign™.

Water Savings Action Plans are required by all local councils within Sydney Water's area of operations (Sydney, Illawarra and Blue Mountains) and businesses and government agencies within Sydney Water's area of operations with sites which use more than 50ML of water a year.

### **What do they involve?**

The Water Campaign™ involves five milestones to reduce corporate and community water consumption and improve water quality. The milestones include undertaking an inventory of water consumption and water quality issues; establishing goals for water conservation and water quality, developing a Local Action Plan; implementing water conservation and water quality actions, monitoring and reporting progress.

Council Water Savings Action Plans cover their top 10 water use sites. They involve collecting baseline data, based on 'regular and repeatable' operating conditions, undertaking a technical review of water use at the site, undertaking a management review to secure organisational support for water savings, and identifying water saving measures.

### Baseline water use

The Water Campaign™ inventory is more detailed than the baseline data requirements for the savings action plan. It involves assessing council use by category and collecting data for all council owned and/or operated sites. Participating councils collect two complete years of data. The years are nominated by the council. Community water consumption data is also collated.

The Water Savings Action Plans require Councils to collect 12 months data from their top 10 water use sites. The baseline year should reflect 'regular and repeatable' use.

### Management and technical reviews

Both programs require a management review. The Water Campaign™ covers management practices across the corporate **and** community sectors and includes water quality.

The Water Savings Action Plan management review involves assessing current management practices and identifying actions for improvement. Technical reviews are required for each site, the level of which depends on consumption, as detailed in the *Guidelines for Water Savings Action Plans*.

### Identifying savings actions

The Water Campaign™ involves participants setting targets for reducing consumption, and improving water quality, and preparing a Local Action Plan to identify ways to meet the targets.

Water Savings Action Plans involve identifying measures to reduce water use and achieve savings.

### Monitoring and review

Water Campaign™ participants commit to a monitoring and review process. DEUS requires annual progress reports and a review of the Water Savings Action Plan after four years.

### Opportunities for integration

Organisations involved in both programs will be able to use work undertaken for one to wholly or partially meet requirements of the other. These may include:

- Baseline data – the inventory data collected for the Water Campaign covers the requirement in the savings action plan for 12 months data for the Council's top 10 water use sites. If the inventory data does not meet the requirement for the baseline water use data to reflect current normal operations, users can explain reasons for variation and allow for corrections.
- Technical review – the technical reviews undertaken for the Water Savings Action Plan may be used to identify corporate actions for the Water Campaign™ Local Action Plan
- Actions and savings measures – corporate actions identified through the management and technical reviews may be incorporated into both plans.



### **More information**

Visit the DEUS website at [www.deus.nsw.gov.au/waterandenergysavings](http://www.deus.nsw.gov.au/waterandenergysavings) or call (02) 8281 7417 and ask to speak to your organisation's water savings specialist.

Visit ICLEI's website at [www.iclei.org/anz](http://www.iclei.org/anz) or call Jessica Kerstjens, Executive Manager, ICLEI, on (03) 9639 8688.

### **Related publications available on the DEUS website**

*Guidelines for Water Savings Action Plans*

Guide Note 1 – Savings Orders – legal requirement to prepare savings action plans

Guide Note 4 – Cities for Climate Protection and Energy Savings Action Plans

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