

NAME: Tropical Green Building Network

FACILITATOR: Nic Skutenko

MINUTES: Anna McGuire

DATE: 7th July 2010

PRESENT: See attendance list.

issue	information presented and/or action to be taken	ACTIONS	WHO
Latest News and Announcements			
Sustainable Living Expo (Sunday 22nd August 10am-4pm)	The Sustainable Living Expo is an annual event organised by Council and TAFE to showcase sustainable living ideas, products and technologies. TGBN members have been invited to run a workshop on sustainable building and retrofitting for energy efficiency. Last year, Ghis Gallow did a workshop on this topic. There was discussion about who could do it this time and how many workshops there should be on this topic. Keiren volunteered to run a retrofitting workshop, perhaps with other people.	A motion was passed to send the invitation out to people within the network who may be interested in doing this.	Emma and Anna
Greenpainters Association	Greenpainters accreditation workshop scheduled for Cairns was cancelled due to low numbers enrolled. This may have been due to the high cost of the course and it being run on a Saturday. Some people are now going to Brisbane to complete the course.		
Submission of Growing Queensland's Renewable Energy Sector Issues Paper	Anna and Emma drafted a submission on behalf of TGBN regarding the Queensland Government's issues paper on growing the renewable energy industry. Thanks for those who provided valuable input. It was suggested that we also send this letter to Jim Turnour.	Draft letter and send to Jim Turnour	Emma and Anna

Inspection of William McCormack House	The tour was canceled because Lang O'Rourke did not have government approval to run the tour. Lots of TGBN members were keen to have a look at the building, but we'll just have to wait as it seems the politics around this are complicated.		
Latest ATA news	The Renewable Energy Target (RET) legislation has been amended after much lobbying and media pressure. The Government's expansion of the RET in 2009 has sparked criticism because it had led to an oversupply of Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) on the market, crashing their price and reducing the ability of large scale renewable energy projects to develop and succeed. The RET has now been split into Large Renewable Energy Scheme (LRES) and Small Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) which will hopefully resolve this problem.		
Sustainable House Day (12 th September)	Last year there were five properties spread over the region. These households were paid \$100 for participating, but this won't be happening this year as shmeco haven't funded this. It would be good to have more houses this year, particularly one in the southern corridor, Mossman, Port Douglas. Discussed the possibility of getting sponsorship (they could set up a stall at the house for the day to advertise their product). Discussed the subjectivity of what is a "sustainable house" and that a house that is moving "towards sustainability" would be more accurate, however this is a national event and we can't change the name.	Find out if TGBN and CAFNEC have signed the agreement with schemco We need to find households to participate, take photos and post them on their website (and aim to start earlier next year).	Anna Anna and Emma
Issues for Discussion			
Urban Sustainability Officer	Anna has started work as the new Urban Sustainability Project Officer at CAFNEC and will be working to support TGBN (eventually for one day per week, currently 1/2 day)		

Subgroups	
Grey water systems	Brynn gave a brief summary of the history of the greywater mapping project and why it's important. The general aim is to produce a map of Cairns that shows land capability for greywater. This will give an indication of the amount of engineering input required to implement a greywater system, and what the acceptable solutions are for each location. Once this is done, education would be the next step. Darryl raised the issue of "sodicity" as a result of greywater use. Many powdered laundry detergents contain high levels of salts which build up in the soil. Would need to make sure only truly biodegradable products were used.
Air-conditioning	Emma and Keiren did a study of air conditioning systems in Cairns and presented a workshop to Council on guidelines for air-conditioning in the tropics. We need to ask Council for an update on what they plan to do about this. The photos and the workshop are on the forum website.
Next Meeting	Wednesday 4th August 2010 5.30pm – 7.30pm @ CAFNEC