

NAME: Tropical Green Building Network

FACILITATOR: Anna McGuire

MINUTES: Anna McGuire

DATE: 6th October 2010

PRESENT: Daryl Douglas, Kay Bennett, Peter Zieth, Sarah Harlen, Lisa Law, Mark Delaney, Antony Beecham, Maree Grenfell, Nicky Swan, Emma Thirkell, Anna McGuire, Jenny Sapuppo

APOLOGIES: Angela Lauder, Damian Zammit, Christine Doan

Issue	Information presented and/or action to be taken	ACTIONS	WHO
Latest news and announcements			
Sustainable House Day	Sustainable House Day was held on September 12 th and was a great day. Seven houses in the region, and 270 houses around Australia, opened their doors to the public to display sustainable building design and systems for sustainable living. Thanks for all TGBN members who opened their homes, helped out on the day, or visited the houses.		
Australasian Permaculture Convergence (APC10) – Kuranda, Sep 24 th -27 th	This was a gathering of Permaculture practitioners and sustainable agriculture advocates from around Australia and the world to share knowledge and experience, and to discuss future direction for the movement. The workshops, talks, tours and demonstrations that were both educational and inspiring.		
Tropical innovation	Australian Tropical Expertise Consortium (ATEC) and DEEDI are currently working on quite a lot of green building projects, with a focus on distinctly tropical green building. If any TGBN members want to join the ATEC, this is a good way to keep abreast of what they're working on and to stay on the loop for work opportunities. To join you can visit their website at www.australiantropicalexpertise.com.au . Nicky will keep the group up to date.		
Guest speaker			
Sustainable Design Policy	Maree Grenfell, Sustainability Officer at Cairns Regional Council gave a short presentation on the Sustainable Design Policy and Guidelines to be		

& Guidelines, Cairns Regional Council	developed for all Council buildings, the Sustainability Policy adopted by Council and the recent Climate Change Strategy and Sustainability Scorecard project. As an action in the Climate Change Strategy, Council will be developing a 'Sustainable Design Policy & Guidelines' which will apply to all new and renovated Council buildings. This project is at the beginning stages, and input from TGBN members is welcome and would be appreciated. Contact Maree at Council on 4044 3312 or email m.grenfell@cairns.qld.gov.au if you would like to contribute.		
New ideas			
CAFNEC's Solar Roofs project	Nicky Swan spoke about CAFNEC's solar roofs project. The original project has been dropped and CAFNEC are keen to hear the views of TGBN members on how they can develop an alternative solar project. CAFNEC's 'Solar Roofs' project with solar company Ingenero didn't work, and they are now looking to establish an alternative project with local providers. The aims of the project are to: • encourage the uptake of solar PV systems on roofs (domestic and perhaps commercial) by making the options simpler, less confusing and less risky for people; • generate income for CAFNEC to at least cover the costs of running the project; • support local industry and raise awareness locally of the benefits of renewable energy. There was a general discussion of the idea and suggestions for how TGBN could be involved in such a project and of similar projects that have taken place in other areas of Australia. Darryl - ATA Victoria organised a bulk buying scheme Maree – in Logan Shire, Redlands there was a possible bulk buy scheme but not local company, Council questioning impacts on local businesses Darryl - TGBN could be a one stop shop for sustainability. Warranty of products would be an issue. Emma - Bulk buying schemes make systems cheap, but only work if everyone wants the same products. Mark – community owned solar farm on Council facilities to work with the	Coordinate further workshop	Nicky Swan

	renting market. If Council sets up large systems, individuals could buy 'shares' in this and profit from their share of the energy generated. Peter Z – need to come up with business proposal. In general, there was a lot of interest and many great ideas which we didn't have time to discuss in this meeting. Nicky will organise a follow up workshop for those interested. TGBN members will be notified with more details when this is arranged.		
Renewable Energy Now! for FNQ	Jonathan Strauss presented a campaign brief on CAFNEC's Renewable Energy Now for FNQ! campaign. CAFNEC are currently seeking supporters for the campaign among organisations and businesses, and are asking for support from TGBN and member businesses. The campaign advocates for a rapid transition to renewable energy for our region, with a long term goal of 100%. The idea of the campaign is to demonstrate strong community support for small and large scale renewable energy systems, and to use this support to call for greater investment in and government action towards renewable energy and energy self-reliance for the region.	Read the campaign brief and consider supporting the campaign Network to decide at next meeting whether to support	TGBN members TGBN
Eco Hub & Community Garden project	The "Eco Hub and Community Garden" project. This is an exciting new education and community development project that is being developed. Many community groups have voiced the idea of creating a community garden and eco-hub in Cairns. CAFNEC is currently coordinating a project proposal to do this. This is in the early stages, and CAFNEC is looking for organisations that are interested in taking part in the project. The project plan will be emailed out to TGBN members. TGBN voted in favour of supporting the project. Once the project has enough supporters, the next step will be to find a suitable site, seek funding and resources, and establish a group vision and decision-making processes. Information will be provided to TGBN as the project progresses.	Read the Project Plan and consider how you could be involved	TGBN members
"Work in progress" discussions			

Construction/Demolition waste	Construction and Demolition waste management pro-forma: group discussion and opportunity for input. Anna has started drafting a waste management plan pro-forma. Any input is welcome.	Continue drafting this pro-forma	Anna
Sustainable House project	The Sustainable House group is progressing slowly. A set of design guidelines has been compiled (for a sustainable, affordable house). The issue of star ratings was raised, and it was suggested that a sustainable house built according to guidelines may not meet building code star rating scheme. However this is not an issue, as the house could be approved by experts as meeting the standards. The group will report when there's progress.	Update group on progress	Working group members
Next Meeting	Wednesday 3rd November 2010 5.30pm – 7.30pm @ CAFNEC		