MISSION: GO GREEN BUILDING FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Invitation and Agenda

Meeting: No. 2 Wednesday 4th February 2009
Place: Cairns City Library meeting room 1
Time: 5pm to 7 pm

The mission is to create a built environment that is healthy and sustainable. Builders, construction service professionals, building material manufacturers, retailers, government representatives, industry and community associations and other interested stakeholders are invited to come together to work as a group.

The facilitator for tonight's meeting is Dr Elaine Harding from CAFNEC.
A 'contact register' is being circulated for you to complete.

Agenda items:

5.05 pm **Introduction** from everyone present and a short explanation of their interest/ activities in Green Development or Urban Sustainability.

5.30 pm **Potential directions and projects:**

- Presentation and discussion of the results from the last meetings survey concerning priorities of potential directions and projects to tackle.
- Potential projects aligned with the groups surveyed priorities to be presented and discussed. You are welcome to present a potential project. Some of the potential projects that have been identified to date are outlined and attached.

6.15 pm **Formalising our group and its functions:**

- Re-cap on last meetings discussions concerning working independently or under an existing banner.
- Vote to be taken on this issue.

- If independent based group
- Name of the group (suggestions and vote if ready)
- Identify the functions of:
  - Group Facilitator
  - Administrator of Meetings, agenda and network coordination
  - Group meetings Minute Taker
  - Group Spokesperson and press releases
  - Projects coordinator
  - Project sub-groups
  - Other functions
- Nomination and acceptance of people to carry out the functions and the term i.e. 1 year with new nominations this time next year.

6.55 pm Meetings are to be held on the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 7 pm at the Cairns City Library. Next meeting 4th March 2009

Priority of Directions with potential projects to date:

1. **The promotion of green design, building, materials and services to the construction industry and public.**

    - See initiative under priority 3 below.

2. **Assistance to industry stakeholders to identify opportunities and economic benefits of promoting green building materials, adopting green building practices and helping to manage its take up and implementation.**

    - Greywater systems require approval by the local authority prior to installation. The application requires a site plan and consultants report along with an application fee. In some cases the application is denied due to inappropriate soil types or the sites proximity to a water course including drains. The process is expensive and unsure and may be impeding the sale of the systems. The uptake of greywater systems in the Cairns Regional Council area may be greatly assisted by a map that shows areas where soil types and conditions are appropriate and where applications are likely to be successful. Area's where greywater systems may not be acceptable will be acknowledge before saving time and money. The industry stakeholders, hydraulics engineers, soil professionals and environmental consultants may need to work together with Council to devise the map**.**
    - Rainwater tank uptake in the region may be assisted by the presentation of clear facts about the need for rainwater harvesting in the tropics. Population growth is putting pressure on current water supply. The cost to the tax payer and environmental costs of another dam with energy using reticulation infrastructure and chlorines in the water supply may not be the answer. The benefits of conservative water consumption practices, rainwater harvesting and water recycling technology are not clearly understood in the tropics. The State government has also recently stopped the rebate for water tanks that are plumbed to appliances. The group may team up with the Regional Sustainable Framework, and other stake holders to tackle this issue.
    - Rain Water tanks for new homes from 1st July 2008. There is a lack of clarity concerning the regulatory requirements and installation of rainwater tanks. It appears that the CRC has not put in place a clear policy document on the installation of rain water tanks. It is apparent that there may be a lack of understanding about the pump and how that works. We believe that the CRC is releasing a decision concerning a pump that may be appropriate for this region. There is also appears to be an issue concerning wether or not a tie down system is to be put in place for all tanks and how this is enforced by the Council. If information is available on this issue, it may not be made readily available by the regulators. The policy on the CRC website is marked as superseded (or words to that effect). It appears that Plumbers are concerned as current rulings are not clear and this may cause a fine or loss of plumbing license.

3. **Public education via newspaper, Cairns Home Show display, local Councils, seminar and public information delivery events etc.**

    - The company that operates the Cairns Home and Lifestyle Show was approached in December 2008 and asked to consider a Green theme for the 2009 show. The show is in Cairns over the weekend 28th and 29th of March 2009. They have agreed. The show is widely marketed by the company and The Cairns Post is the major sponsor. The show is currently 70% booked.

Equal 4th

4. **Construction industry education using partners i.e. HIA, MBA, Master Plumbers, TAFE, Apprenticeship training, Owner Builder Courses, BDAQ etc.**

4. **Representation for dialogue with government such as the Dept. of Infrastructure and Planning for areas such as the Building Codes and Queensland Development Codes and tropical suitability, success and failings.**

    - A Sub Group may concentrate on bringing issues that require critical analysis, clarification, lobbying, press release or other media attention to the meetings for discussion. A considered response may be issued through the nominated spokesperson on behalf of the group in the appropriate way.

5. **Recognition, support and promotion of building projects including new and renovated buildings.**

    -

Equal 6th

6. **Liaison, support and project partnering opportunities to secure funding and government grant opportunities.**

6. **Community engagement programs into urban design and neighbourhood renewal projects.**

7. **Promotion of initiatives by industry and government such as the HIA Greensmart programme and Qld Gov. Smart Housing programme.**

8. **Information presentation targeted to industry stakeholders such as Q Build, and larger construction companies.**

9. **Support and promotion of organisations outside of the region by providing a marketing and promotion conduit for their activities i.e Australian Green Development Forum and Green Building Council of Australia.**

10. **Liaison with similar group/s in the Townsville Region including partnering to sponsor industry events and speakers.**