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SustainAbility Stars

 An EW Tipping Foundation Project

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SustainAbility Stars 2011 - The Year in Review

With the year fast coming to an end, we've decided to look back on the last 12 months and count our blessings and achievements.

2011 Awards and Grants

First up was the big win at the [2011 Banksia Awards](#), where SustainAbility Stars was awarded the prestigious \$10,000 [Banksia Community Grant](#). The judges were very impressed, commenting that the program "is the first of its kind to empower people with disability, their support staff and organisations to lead change in the community by practicing simple, sustainable actions within the household."



SustinAbility Stars also won the [Pam Keating Environmental Sustainability Award](#) in the Sustainable Cities category of the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Awards, and we were finalists in the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards in June.

Staff and Residents Work Together for a Sustainable Future

In 2011, residents and staff threw themselves into the SustainAbility Stars program, with their joint efforts producing excellent results!

About 85% of our HomeChoices houses now have veggie patches and grow their own vegetables now that our respite house in Wonthaggi and residential houses in Drouin and Frankston have added new vegetable gardens.



Many of the people we support actively participated in environmental initiatives in 2011, including Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.



For National Tree Day, residents from Caulfield and Bentleigh houses held their own tree planting party. They enjoyed a beautiful day in Boyd Park, Murrumbeena with a BBQ, a guided local nature walk, and a presentation from the local council to acknowledge their tree planting efforts.

A small group of residents from our Metro houses also took the opportunity to visit the resource recovery centre where they learnt about the recycling process.

Up in Swan Hill, residents of our HomeChoices house took part in the [Swan Hill Harmony Day](#) celebrations. On the day, people we support showcased their artwork as well as the everyday sustainable actions they do at home. There was even a big pumpkin on display to show off their gardening skills! [Our Maffra house](#) also opened their home for the day to families, friends and the community to show their sustainable actions.

Sustainable Innovation

In the first half of the year, we had rainwater tanks installed in all of our HomeChoices houses. With the low flow water fixtures that were installed last year, this allows the residents to save even more water.



A number of staff also put forward their innovative ideas which were then turned into useful resources such as a natural cleaning ideas booklet and an edible garden planting calendar which we share on our website.

Our residential houses were not the only ones acting sustainably in 2011. A few of our offices and houses in disability services have also begun to take action and make changes.

In order to save resources we moved our induction manual online, our e-learning centre was rolled out, and we switched on the attendance system that interfaces with our timesheet processing systems. All these actions support our organisation-wide goal to achieve a 5% reduction in energy, water, waste and fuel.

Needless to say, these were not the only achievements in 2011. The list goes on and on! [Take a look here](#) for more sustainable wins from the last 12 months.

If your house, service, or office has not yet sent us their story, you can do so when the newsletter returns in February 2012. In the meantime, we wish everybody a safe, fun filled and sustainable festive period.

