

Progress Report to Department of Environment and Conservation

Project: City of Ryde Air Emissions from Industrial / Commercial Premises (Automotive) Pilot Compliance Inspection Program

Report by: Sam Cappelli, Manager The Environment

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Introduction

This progress report provides information about how the City of Ryde is conducting the Air Emissions from Industrial / Commercial (Automotive) Pilot Inspection Program (the program) and the present stage of the program.

Brief Outline of Program

Outline

The City of Ryde is conducting the program, assisted by the NSW Government Clean Air Fund. The program is being funded 50% by the NSW Government under its LAIP and 50% is being funded by the City of Ryde.

The program is targeting the abundance of automotive businesses in the Gladesville Industrial / Commercial area by conducting compliance audits and raising environmental awareness of the target group on air, water, noise and waste related activities.

The study area selected for the program is that locality bounded by Victoria, Monash, Higginbotham and Cressy Roads. Gladesville and in this area the program will be delivered to 27 automotive premises.

The City of Ryde has identified this industry group as the source of many complaints in the past. Council believes there are significant environmental benefits in delivering 'face to face' environmental education to this group. It was decided to focus the program on typical polluting practices through the inspection process and produce specific educative material on air pollution to supplement the abundance of material already available on Stormwater and Waste Management.

Aims

To raise the level of environmental awareness of owners and operators of automotive businesses in the Gladesville Industrial / Commercial area (the study area) on stormwater, air, noise and waste pollution issues.

To produce and distribute an appropriate air pollution fact sheet and related educative material relevant to the automotive businesses.

Objectives

- I. To educate and encourage owners and operators of 27 automotive businesses in the study area to reduce the use and release of polluting substances to the local environment, by the end of the program.
- II. To develop and distribute an industry specific fact sheet on air pollution that can be used by automotive businesses to assist them in meeting their environmental responsibilities. The fact sheet / s would include information on:
 - Handling and storage of materials in particular chemicals, solvents etc to reduce potential air pollution.
 - Air emissions from spray booths and related control and maintenance requirements.
 - Proper disposal of used solvents and the potential harm caused from allowing solvents to evaporate into the atmosphere.

Target Public's

1. Primary

Owners and operators of automotive industries in the study area

2. Secondary

Industry Groups

- Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia
- Motor Traders Association
- Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Council
- Residents in the study area
- Local media
- Staff – indoor and outdoor
- Councillors

Strategies

Campaign Message and Identify Program

The campaign message 'Automotive Businesses – Caring for the Environment' and visual identify to be developed for use on all campaign materials. A graphic designer is to be selected to prepare a visual identity. It is important that each element of the campaign is consistent in its messages, content and visual identity to increase recognition.

Promotional Collateral & Awards

A 2 page Air Pollution Fact Sheet and a white board given as a gift to each business with the campaign message.

To be distributed to businesses together with other already produced stormwater management, waste management and water pollution educative material during the second round of inspections planned for March / April 2004.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (former EPA's) has published 'Solutions to Pollution's booklets for use by small and medium sized businesses including auto dismantlers, auto servicing, mechanical repairs and car yards.

The booklets, all endorsed by the relevant industry associations, provide information and a checklist for businesses to use in assessing, the potential impact of their activities on the environment.

These booklets (under review by DEC) contain an environmental review tool. The City of Ryde utilised this tool in the program.

Certificates of Support will be provided for each of the auto businesses that care for the environment. Industry groups such as Auto Parts Recyclers' Association of Australia, Motor Traders Association and Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Council could show their support for the program by providing their logos on the certificate. This will be investigated.

All promotional collateral made available on the website and a link to relevant section of DEC website is to be established.

Awards program to be developed. Awards be presented to owners and operators of automotive businesses. Two (2) engraved plaques will be awarded one for 'Best Performed' and one for 'Most Improved'. The Awards ceremony will be in the form of a BBQ style to be held at Monash Park, which is very close to the Study area. It is planned to hold this event on a Saturday afternoon close to immediately after most businesses close for trading to try and get as many of the businesses to the event as possible. The Awards Ceremony is planned for May 2004.

The Program Work Plan (Revised 12.11.03)

1	Identification of target premises and contact details	- Aug 03
2	Research of target industry	- Aug 03
3	Approach industry groups about the program	- Aug 03
4	Develop Checklists / Protocols	- Aug 03
5	Develop Media Campaign	- Aug 03
6	Research available educational material	- Aug 03
7	Design Awards Program	- Aug 03
8	Deliver letters to business operators about program	- Sep 03
9	Send letters to business groups about program	- Sep 03
10	Send letters to residents living in the study area about program	- Sep 03
11	Conduct first round compliance inspections	- Sep/Oct 03
12	Send schedule of work letters	- Nov 03
13	Do progress report	- 31 Oct 03
14	Develop Educational Material	- Dec / Feb / Mar
15	Do second follow up Compliance Inspections	- Mar / Apr 04
16	Deliver Educational material during audit inspections	- Mar / Apr 04
17	Deliver Awards Programs	- Mid May 04
18	Do telephone survey	- End May 04
19	Evaluate program and complete final report	- Mid Jun 04

Activities Completed to Date

1. Target Premises identified – Annexure 1
2. Target Premises Researched – see spreadsheet information
3. Letters sent – to program – Annexure 2
4. Media Campaign developed – Details in this progress report
5. Educational material researched
6. Awards campaign developed– Details in this progress report
7. Checklists and protocols developed – Annexure 3
8. First round compliance audits completed
9. Schedule of work letters sent – Annexure 4

Evaluation: Actual Project V Grant Application

Project is proceeding substantially in accordance with the original grant proposal.

Successes to Date

First rounds of inspections were completed of 27 automotive businesses. Whilst initially cautious, operators of businesses cooperated fully with the program.

Most of the business owners and operators showed a reasonable level of environmental awareness. A good open line of communication between Council officers undertaking the program and the businesses was fostered and Council will look to developing this further into future programs.

Difficulties / Delays

Nil

Modifications to Program

To date the program has proceeded substantially in accordance with grant conditions.

However, following a meeting held with DEC officers (Stuart Clark / Jacqui Davies / Valerie Insall) on 12 November 2003 at Council officers about the program, it was mutually agreed that the round 2 inspections originally planned for Dec / Jan should be carried out later. This decision was based on the following factors.

1. Probable heavy work commitment of businesses leading up to Christmas.
2. Most businesses will close during January and holiday period will disrupt inspection schedule.
3. The education material being developed as part of the of the program will not be ready till Feb / March next year. It was felt that it would benefit the businesses more (improve the program outcomes) if the material was handed out by the officers at the time of the 2nd inspection to reinforce environmental awareness and to target issues for explanation.
4. The extra few months will allow the business operators more time to complete the schedule of work sent to each business in November 2003 following the initial compliance inspections.

In view of the above, it is now planned to concentrate on developing the education material during December / January / February and to conduct the follow up inspections during March / April 2004. The Awards ceremony is planned by 31 May 2004 and the final report would be submitted by mid June 2004.

Request: Program to be extended to 31 May 2004 with final report due no later than 15 June 2004.

Advertising and Media

Advertising and media be targeted during following stages of campaign.

- commencement of campaign
- announcement of award (s) winner (s)

Newsletter

Article included in newsletter during following stages of campaign

- commencement of campaign – December issue Ryde City News
- Mayoral column notice in local area papers – September 2003
- Announcement of award(s) winner(s) – June 2004 issue

Lessons Learnt

Owners and operators of the businesses seemed to relax and open good communication lines once it was made clear that this was an education program and that the inspections were being carried out in a non-threatening manner for their own benefit to minimise environmental risk.

It remains to be seen whether the schedule of works sent to each business in November 2003 will be completed. An analysis of % compliance with the schedule of work will be provided in the final report after the second round inspections are completed.

Nevertheless, the owners and operators were positive in their approach to the program and this was largely due to the non-threatening manner of program delivery.

Statement of Income / Expenditure

See Annexure 5

Annexures

1. Excel spreadsheet of target properties
2. Sample letters sent to businesses, industry groups and residents
3. Checklists and protocols developed for the program
4. Sample schedule of works letter sent
5. Income/ Expenditure Statement form completed.

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