



Mildura Eco Living Park

Incorporating Mildura Eco Living Centre

Project Overview

The Mildura Eco Living Park (MELP) is the product of over three years of community consultation led by the Sunraysia Sustainability Network (SSN) with the support of Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC). It is a staged program with the aim of assisting the Sunraysia community to move toward a more sustainable and prosperous future.

The MELP will be developed as a world-class demonstration site and a hub for programs which will encourage a positive and lasting influence on community attitudes to more sustainable ways of living. The 4 hectare MELP site will be based at the Mildura Landfill on Ontario Avenue adjacent to the Mildura Golf Club.

In 2010 MRCC secured funding from Sustainability Victoria to develop a site masterplan for the MELP, education program and to construct an Eco Living Centre (MELC) based at the Mildura landfill site. Other elements of the MELP Masterplan may include;

- Café/bakery, specialising in healthy, organic food
- Biodiversity area based around the landfill stormwater dam
- Demonstration of arid land permaculture
- Community garden
- Aquaponics facility
- Mushroom farm
- Earth building centre
- Community mud brick yard
- Workshops for constructing electric vehicles and solar arrays

Project Management

The MELP Project will be governed by a Steering Committee with representation from MRCC Staff and Councillors, Sunraysia Sustainability Network, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, Christie Centre, and Sustainability Victoria.

There are four development stages to the MELP project:

Stage 1 Mildura Eco Living Centre

The MELC is a multipurpose community facility displaying sustainable design elements, building practices and technologies. Site amenities and a café/bakery specialising in healthy, organic food are also planned but are subject to future funding. The MELC represents a vital step towards educating the community about the challenge of regional self-sufficiency to mitigate and adapt to climate change and drive future environmental opportunities.

Stage 2 Car Park

The Council depot will be moved elsewhere on the landfill site to provide a car parking area for the MELP.

Stage 3 Landfill Stormwater Dam

Recycled water and distilled saline ground water will be used to fill the on-site dam to sustain an extensive biodiversity area.

Stage 4 Renewable Energy Research & Development

This stage will provide for research into, and demonstrations of renewable energy technologies such as a solar farm and biogas digester; that are relevant to the Sunraysia region.

Timeline – Stage 1 Mildura Eco Living Centre

Oct 2010 – Feb 2011

Design Phase – Eco Living Centre

July 2011

Construction Commences – Eco Living Centre

Supporting Information

Learning From a Landfill, Environmental Behaviour Change in Sunraysia (Business Case), Sunraysia Sustainability Network.

Sunraysia Sustainability Network Mission Statement – to be the umbrella organisation for sustainability education in Sunraysia.

www.ssn.org.au

www.sustainablemildura.com.au

Project Benefits

- Working Demonstrations – The MELP will provide a real life demonstration of sustainable design concepts for our community.
- Sustainability Hub – The Sunraysia region will have a hub through which to access and develop sustainable living information and education.
- Education & Training – Education and training elements provided at the MELP will offer practical applications of sustainability in the home.
- Innovation – The MELP will foster innovation in sustainability initiatives for our region.
- Partnerships – There will be increased opportunities to develop and strengthen partnerships between community, industry, education and government partners.
- Collaboration – The MELP will bring together a diverse range of community members and groups to innovate, demonstrate and lead the community toward sustainable living.

Financials – Mildura Eco Living Centre

Funding for stage 1, construction of the MELC, has been secured as follows, further funding is required to complete the following three stages.

\$150,000	Mildura Rural City Council
\$155,000	Sustainability Victoria
\$595,000	Mildura Rural City Council (includes 4 hectare site at landfill valued at approx \$515,000)

TOTAL PROJECT COST = \$900,000

Next Steps

Further funding partners (e.g. for the demonstration components) and support is required to complete stages 2, 3 and 4 of the MELP.

A community engagement process has commenced that will involve a diverse range of community members, groups and organisations for input and participation in the development of the MELP. Public information sessions, community consultations, workshops with schools and other key stakeholders will be carried out from October 2010 through to February 2011. Extensive community participation is encouraged.

Project Contacts

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Glossary

MELP – Mildura Eco Living Park
MELC – Mildura Eco Living Centre
MRCC – Mildura Rural City Council
SSN – Sunraysia Sustainability Network