

Sustainability partnerships benefiting residents

How Brisbane City Council's CitySmart sustainability initiatives add value to residents and the local economy

As climate change impacts our residents' daily lives, councils need to proactively enable positive change through practical and resident-centric solutions. By partnering with CitySmart, councils can improve climate preparedness while benefiting residents and the local economy.

CitySmart was created by Brisbane City Council in 2009 to help make Brisbane our nation's most sustainable city. In the decade since, CitySmart has worked closely with Brisbane City Council and has partnered with many other local and national organisations on innovative programs that can be applied to cities across Australia.

The Flood Resilient Homes Program is an innovative program that helps Brisbane residents prepare for, live through and recover from overland flow flooding events. The program is an initiative of Brisbane City Council, delivered in partnership with CitySmart.

The program provides a free individual assessment for eligible at-risk properties which may include practical recommendations that can reduce the impact of overland flow flooding. Working with flood-resilience experts, property owners receive practical recommendations that can increase the flood resilience of their property and an invitation to participate in an Incentive Scheme that provides access to funds to implement recommended works.

CitySmart CEO, James Bulinski, said the program has been well received by residents, "In partnership with Brisbane City Council, we have been able to work with local architects and builders to develop a program that can be implemented at scale to increase residents' resilience."

"We have a 96% resident satisfaction rate, with many grateful as they would not have been able to do these works on their own," he said.

"Whilst Brisbane's flooding is unique due to being built on a flood plain, this resilience program can be adapted to meet other imminent needs such as climate and fire resilience."

The Brisbane City Council's CitySmart program, Live for Less, was developed with Council to help residents live with less of an impact on the environment and their wallet. The program, with a community of more than 42,000 people, equips residents with practical and cost-effective ways they can reduce their carbon footprint. The sustainable living hub also contributes to the local economy, encouraging people to support local sustainable businesses.

More recently, CitySmart created the Resilient Clubs Program. While sporting clubs are a necessary part of the local community, they often have difficulty managing the costs of water, energy, waste and maintenance of their facilities.

This program assists clubs by assessing their facility and providing a range of options for reducing operational expenses. This reduces clubs' carbon footprints and improves Brisbane's liveability by keeping sporting clubs active.

Interested in partnering with CitySmart? Contact CitySmart's Senior Manager, Market Development, Troy McGrath, on 0419 404 442.