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If you register using the new on-line registration form and do not receive your starter pack (Submission Form and Tips Book) within 3 weeks please notify the Tidy Towns Program Manager on 6467 5131.

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities is a Keep Australia Beautiful program that acknowledges and rewards communities. It recognises community projects that enhance and look after the community's assets and surrounding environment.

Traditionally, the program focused on tidy streets, litter prevention and beautification. While these are still important, today being "tidy" means so much more.

Communities investigate and conserve assets such as their cultural heritage, bushland and rivers and to limit their impact on the environment through recycling and resource recovery.

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities aims to have such widespread benefits as:

- Conservation of native bush, creek lines, dunes and local flora
- Increased pride and social cooperation
- More tourism
- Public awareness of litter and waste management
- Improved health standards
- Improved facilities and recreational areas
- Youth participation
- Environmental innovations for saving energy and resources
- Respect for Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage



Newsletters

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If you would like a living card,
e-mail:
tidytowns@dec.wa.gov.au

The Tidy Towns winner for WA becomes a finalist in the truelocal.com.au Australian Tidy Towns Awards

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How to enter the competition

There are two levels in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities competition:

1. Regional and State Category Achievement Awards

It's possible to enter just one Initiative category if you prefer. This might enable your TTC to focus on one area of interest or special need in your community, for instance, recycling or natural heritage, in addition to the compulsory criteria of Community Action and General Appearance. This makes it easier for smaller towns that don't necessarily want to compete at the state level or don't have the resources to do so. This means you are competing for an Achievement Award in the categories you do enter.

2. Overall Regional and State Awards

To become a regional finalist, which means you may be chosen a regional winner and compete for the state title, you need to enter all Initiative categories. This ensures that your community has performed well across all categories and will be competitive at the national level, should your community be chosen as the State Winner. Each State's Winner is later judged by the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association and competes for the national title of Australia's Tidiest Town.



[Sustainable Communities](#)
Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2008

[Entry kit 2008](#)

[Registration form 2008](#)

[Submission form 2008](#)



Contact

Tidy Towns State Office
Debbie Cork

So, you need to make a choice:

- enter the two compulsory criteria and one or more of the Initiative categories to compete for a Regional Achievement Award. Just complete the submission form sections of the categories you do enter and submit by 31 July

or

- enter the two compulsory criteria and all of the individual Initiative categories to compete to become a Regional Finalist, Regional Winner, State Winner and ultimately Australian Winner. Ensure every section of the submission form is completed by 31 July.

and Sherilee Macready
Keep Australia Beautiful
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What to do

1. Register online or complete a Registration Form and return it by 31 March.
2. Choose which of the Initiative categories you would like to enter.
3. Review all of the activities you have completed, maintained or intend to complete between 1 August 2007 and 31 July 2008. Start collecting photos, news-clippings and stories now for your submission (which is replacing the old portfolio).
4. Complete the submission form and send it to the State Program Manager by 31 July.
5. Nominate one or more TTC members to meet with judges between August and September.
6. Attend your Regional Awards ceremony. The following awards will be presented for each region:
 - Regional Achievement Award - Appearance and Community Action
 - Regional Achievement Award - Recycling and Waste Management
 - Regional Achievement Award - Natural Heritage Conservation
 - Regional Achievement Award - Enhancing Cultural Identity
 - Regional Achievement Award - Water Conservation
 - Regional Finalists - Best

- performers over all categories in each region Regional Winner - Best performance across all categories in each region.
7. Attend the Tidy Towns State Awards Ceremony. The following awards will be announced:
 - State Achievement Award - Community Action
 - State Achievement Award - General Appearance
 - State Achievement Award - Recycling and Waste Management
 - State Achievement Award - Natural Heritage Conservation
 - State Achievement Award - Enhancing Cultural Identity
 - State Achievement Award - Water Conservation
 - State Winner - Best performance by a Regional Winner
 8. If you are voted the State Winner, you will be visited by the National Judge in February and attend the National Awards in 2008. Each State will win one of the following Achievement Awards:
 - Young Legends
 - Litter Prevention
 - Community Partnership
 - Environmental Innovation
 - Protection of the Environment
 - Community Action
 - Resource Recovery
 - Heritage and Culture
 - Water Conservation
 - the Dame Phyllis Frost Award

In addition, your community may be awarded the prestigious title of Australia's Tidiest Town!

The 2008 National Winner will be announced in April.

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- Protection of fresh water resources
- Reduced waste
- A healthier environment
- Contribution to regional sustainability

State Tidy Towns Award Winner 2007

The town of Walpole has been crowned this year's winner for the 2007 Tidy Towns-Sustainable Communities Award.



Last modified: 28 March 2008 10:03:25 AM

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Timeline for 2008

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 4 February | 2008 Program launched. |
| 31 March | Registration forms due from communities. |
| March - April | Towns need to complete a submission form (this is instead of a portfolio). |
| 31 July | Submissions are due from communities. |
| August - September | Regional Judging Panels visit all communities. |
| September or October | State Judging Panel meets to decide on State Winner. |
| October - November | Regional Achievement Award winners and Regional Winners announced at regional events. |
| Late November | State Achievement Awards and overall State Winner announced at State Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards Ceremony. |



Tidy Towns

Sustainable Communities

National Tidy Towns judge, Dick Olesinski, toured Collie to assess the efforts of the community in April 2006.



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2008 Judging Criteria

1.0 Community Action (Compulsory criterion)

- Tidy Towns Committee coordination and/or involvement
- Community groups and individual effort
- Youth and school/s participation, including students, teachers and parents
- Business and Industry commitment
- Rewarding and valuing volunteers
- Local government liaison
- Promotion of Tidy Towns goals
- Training and mentoring

2.0 General Appearance (Compulsory criterion)

- Approaches to towns, including signs and features
- Business, retail and industrial areas, including adequacy and servicing of bins, signs etc.
- Parks, gardens and sporting areas, including adequacy and servicing of bins, signs etc.
- Homes and gardens
- Streets, including footpaths, verges etc.

3.0 Initiatives (Choose one or more Initiative)

3.1. Recycling and Waste Management

- Planning
- Local government liaison
- Education and awareness raising programs



- Community involvement
- Innovative methods

3.2. Natural Heritage Conservation

- Planning
- Local government liaison
- Education and awareness raising programs
- Community involvement
- Innovative methods

3.3. Enhancing Cultural Identity

- Planning
- Local government liaison
- Education and awareness raising programs
- Community involvement
- Innovative methods

3.4. Water Conservation

- Planning
- Local government liaison
- Education and awareness raising programs
- Community involvement
- Innovative methods

Note: to be eligible to become a Regional Finalist, you must enter all four initiatives.

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Getting started

Most communities start a Tidy Towns Committee (TTC), which oversees and reports on activities in the community, acting as a coordinating group to link all interests together. The TTC can vary greatly in size, structure and focus, but generally it:

- meets to plan projects for the year
- coordinates and/or reports (via a standardised submission form) on the activities of all the groups in the community who have agreed to be part of the Tidy Towns effort
- represents a link between the community, local government, the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) and Department of Environment and Conservation officers.

Who should be involved?

The main players in Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities usually include:

- **Local Government** authorities are important players for providing assistance and guidance to the TTC. They also liaise between councillors, gardeners, shire workers, shire-sponsored community groups and schools to ensure work is carried out in accordance with the community's wishes.
- **Business and Industry** can help analyse environmental problems specific to the operation of the town's businesses, and provide sponsorship for these activities by providing materials or funding. This group may also include tourist and visitor centres, Chambers of Commerce,



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mining companies and other industries operating in the shire.

- **Local schools** are a rich source of ideas and TTCs are encouraged to approach them to assist with the preparation of their portfolio. KABC has a document that can help teachers to incorporate Tidy Towns projects into the school curriculum for country schools. The Tidy Towns program has an important role to play in helping to develop effective environmental education programs in all grades of schools. School children are an important group for getting messages out to parents, as well as changing public opinion. You could also consider parents' and citizens' committees, adult education groups and school councils.
- **The media** is an important asset in helping to disseminate messages. Media outlets can publicise and gain assistance for projects and help with public awareness campaigns. When approaching the media, think about local newspapers, radio, television and editors of community newsletters such as schools, service clubs, community or environmental groups.
- **Community and Service Groups** often undertake Tidy Towns-type activities and their efforts should be recognised as part of Tidy Towns. They may develop innovative projects related to environmental challenges, litter control, or the restoration of historic buildings. Liaison with groups such as Land for Wildlife, Bushcare, Ribbons of Blue or World Wildlife Fund (WWF) may also provide a good opportunity to broaden the environmental scope of Tidy Towns.
- **Youth** (young people up to the age of about 30) can be the most difficult to engage in Tidy Towns. Your local service club, Rural Youth Club, young farmers' group, church group, Community Development or Youth Officer at your local government may be able to offer advice.

You may wish to have someone from each group on your TTC to ensure your planning represents all sectors of the community. If this seems a bit daunting, remember that a TTC belongs to your community - it can be as simple or as complex as you need - basically it is whatever works best for your community.



A TTC is not expected to carry out all of the activities itself. Your TTC can coordinate and participate in some projects, but your main work should be in reporting on projects for other groups within the community. You should plan any of your own TTC projects with strict regard for your group's capacity.

Also, remember that if your town is large or a city, you could concentrate your efforts on part of it this year and focus your efforts on another part next year, in line with your long term Tidy Towns plan. Or you may wish to undertake one or two suggestions or initiatives (Recycling & Waste Management, Natural Heritage Conservation, Enhancing Cultural Identity and Water Conservation) this year, and focus on suggestions in future years.

Remember that Tidy Towns is not about how much money you spend on materials, your ability to produce a professional looking portfolio, or the relative size of the town, it is simply your ability to do the best with what your community already has. Communities that do well engage a broad range of community members.

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