Learning & Teaching Grants
Objectives & Deliverables

August 2011

Learning & Teaching Background

The RMIT Greener Government Buildings (GGB) program provides loan funding from the Victorian Government for the identification and implementation of cost effective energy and water efficiency solutions in RMIT buildings. As successful tenderer on the RMIT City Campus Siemens program will result in greater than 50% emissions reductions and substantial utility cost savings which RMIT use to fund the repayment of the government loan over an eight year period.

As part of this GGB project Siemens is additionally working with RMIT colleges, schools, staff & students to coordinate the design and delivery of a program of Learning & Teaching (L&T) initiatives. The L&T initiatives will support the energy efficiency works and have as their goal the advancement of environmental sustainability awareness and behaviours at RMIT. The L&T program also provides the opportunity for colleges to deliver against the strategic directions set out in the RMIT University Strategic Plan and the RMIT Sustainability Action Plan.

The L&T program will specifically leverage work based learning opportunities from the GGB works and provide schools with a mechanism for the development of sustainability oriented curriculum, student participation in sustainability projects, research opportunities and the engagement in broader sustainable living programs on campus. In this context the GGB L&T program is viewed as a once in a generation opportunity to achieve a fundamental shift in momentum toward sustainability. Leadership is required now to take advantage of the limited time window for collaboration that this project provides.

An allocation of money derived from the above mentioned energy saving engineering works will be devoted to funding any L&T activities proposed by the colleges and which successfully meet the RMIT GGB governance committee evaluation criteria. The funding available for the GGB Program is projected to be approx. $5 (five) million dollars over an eight year period. A portion of the funding has the flexibility of being provided up-front or over a multi-year period depending on proposed project requirements.

In order to design a comprehensive L&T program, immediate engagement is required by the colleges and their relevant stakeholders to generate concrete proposals for projects that achieve RMIT’s sustainability objectives. The engagement process for the GGB Program encompasses a two stage process (i) Calling for Expressions of Interest; and (ii) Project proposals.

Siemens initial tender response provides a listing of sample programs in learning & teaching that may be used by the colleges as a guide to the types of ideas on L&T program development being sought.

Siemens proposal included program ideas in the following categories: (i) Green Lectures, (ii) Green Projects, (iii) Green Research, (iv) Green Living; and (iv) Green Careers (please refer to the attached presentation for an outline of Siemens tendered L&T proposal).

Please note that Siemens tendered proposal should be considered as a ‘DRAFT’ only – to be used as a guide to RMIT thinking. Ultimately it will be RMIT who shall develop and own the design and delivery of any L&T programs approved as part of the GGB program.
Objectives of the GGB L&T Program

The broad objectives that the Greener Government Buildings L&T program seeks to achieve for RMIT are:

- to position RMIT as the leader in Sustainable Futures and Sustainable Urban Living.
- to assist RMIT to deliver on key commitments of the RMIT Sustainability Action Plan.
- design L&T programs that embed sustainability into RMIT culture, systems, values & behaviours. This includes innovative proposals that achieve systemic organisational change.
- to foster collaboration across RMIT school boundaries on sustainability based curriculum development, student participation, research and industry engagement.
- foster creation of ‘living laboratories’ by creating projects that promote links between university, industry, government and community.
- to increase RMIT ability to offer students real life ‘work integrated learning’ opportunities in sustainability fields.

The participation by RMIT colleges and staff in the GGB L&T engagement process has the following specific objectives:

- provide opportunity for schools to access resources and funding to achieve their own sustainability goals aligned to RMIT strategy.
- provide opportunity for staff & students to contribute creative and practical ideas on how to positively shape and implement sustainability initiatives and showcase RMIT as an environmental leader.
- increase sustainability research funding and increase the number of sustainability related publications.
- enhance student awareness of sustainability issues and positively influence student attraction, participation and satisfaction.
- develop the next generation of sustainability education which meets the emergent demands of students, industry and society.
- improve the communication of sustainability related activities and successes within and across RMIT.

GGB L&T Engagement Deliverables

The key deliverables required as part of L&T program from RMIT colleges / schools are:

- RMIT colleges to nominate key staff to represent them as part of GGB project
- Nominated staff from each college / school are to attend & participate in GGB Information Seminar.
- Schools to allocate staff & resources within area of responsibility to prepare EOI submission and Project Proposals in accordance with relevant templates, information requirements and assessment criteria (to be provided).
- Submission of (i) Expressions of Interest (due 7th September); and (ii) Project Proposals (due 30th September).
- Colleges / Schools to consult with RMIT L&T Unit & Siemens on post EOI questions and clarifications required to finalise and evaluate L&T program proposals.
GGB Applications Stages & Key Dates

The engagement process for GGB L&T / Research Proposals consists of two stages as per the outline below:

**Applications Stages**

Stage 1:

(a) Call for GGB Expressions of Interest (22nd August – 7th September 2011)

Provides opportunity for RMIT colleges to submit expressions of interest to seek GGB Project funding for L&T / Research programs which advance sustainability at RMIT.

(b) GGB Information Seminar: (15th September 2011)

The objective of the GGB Information Seminar is to provide all staff from RMIT Colleges and Schools who are involved in submitting EOI or Project Proposals for GGB funding with:

- a detailed overview of the GGB Program, project structure and strategic objectives.
- a detailed explanation and guidance on the types of project submissions RMIT and Siemens are seeking
- feedback on the structure and quality of EOI submissions; and
- instructions regarding submission requirements and evaluation criteria for the Calls for Project Proposals.

Stage 2:

(c) Call for GGB Project Proposals: (16th September – 30th September 2011)

The formal mechanism for RMIT Colleges to submit official applications for funding of Project Proposals.

**Notification of Successful Applications**

Applications selected by RMIT for phased implementation will be notified via email by 15th December 2011.