



## **CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSAL: SUMMARY**

### **Climate Change: An Integrated Practice-based Land Management Solution**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This Proposal supports the Application for funding under the Climate Change Grant Program submitted by Co Serve on the 28 July 2011.

Community initiatives are important in sharing knowledge about ways of mitigating climate change. This Proposal includes projects that promote wider understanding of the contribution organic and allied land management systems, which adopt an integrated approach, can make to climate change and other contemporary environmental challenges.

Our Proposal includes evaluation and reporting of project outcomes, in relation to the Climate Change Grant Program objectives, as a discrete component.

#### **PURPOSE**

Our purpose is to further develop strategies for communicating the organic message, beyond organic boundaries and as part of the contemporary climate change debate with special reference to disengaged sectors.

We will develop a specific website which consolidates and makes accessible organic and kindred knowledge as applied to climate change and associated problems.

#### **MAIN MESSAGE**

The core message concerns systemic solutions and an integrated approach to a range of environmental challenges, including climate change problems, using land management systems based on holistic organic and biological practices.

The particulars of the message may vary depending on its practical and social context.

## **CoServe**

PO Box 462 KATOOMBA NSW 2780

4 August 2011

## ACTIVITIES

The following outline of proposed project activities is indicative and will be further developed and refined as the project unfolds:

### **Virtual Meetings**

Facilitate initial and concluding meetings with organic and allied experts for project planning, including advice and evaluation.

This novel mode of meeting and collaboration is both energy efficient and will enable communication beyond organic boundaries, as part of the contemporary climate change debate, with particular attention to how holistic land management practices build a clean energy future.

### **Archive Consolidation**

Consolidate dispersed organic knowledge sites (including electronic and other media) and situating organic knowledge within mainstream research and development sites.

In particular consolidate knowledge of land management practices that aid reduction in carbon pollution as an essential element of a clean energy future.

### **Research & Knowledge Transfer**

Generate comparative profiles of organic and conventional farming concerning relative climate change impacts.

Create profile and network opportunities for inter-generational and inter-regional transfer of knowledge (wisdom) and skills (technology).

These activities will transfer research and knowledge of innovative land management practices to help build a clean energy future.

### **Evaluation, Reporting & Promotion**

Integration and evaluation of project activities across boundaries. Evaluate and prepare final report. Promote report and project outcomes.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Parties to the contemporary climate change debate with special reference to disengaged sectors, specifically:

### **Virtual Meetings**

The audience will include the national and state organisations of the organic and allied sectors (as per the landmark Virtual Meeting in October 2010). Additional virtual meetings for this project will confirm the message and extend partnerships and linkages, to further our aims in alliances which cross existing boundaries.

In a move ahead of time, the Organic Climate Change workshops held for producers in 2010 by the Organic Federation of Australia points to a relatively engaged audience within the sector. It is important to carry (electronically) this heartland with us in this project to engage audiences beyond organic circles, including consumer education.

An early outcome will be a conference presentation for peer review.

### **Archive Consolidation**

To consolidate dispersed organic knowledge sites (including electronic and other media) within mainstream research and development sites potentially reaches a very large population supportive of conventional agriculture.

This challenge reaches out to an audience which may be relatively disengaged in two respects, in understandings relating to both climate change and as to how it can be addressed by a form of holistic agriculture which is systemic in its approach to soil biology as a foundation for its positive environmental impacts.

### **Research & Knowledge Transfer**

The construction of the comparative profiles will assist in transferring knowledge, reaching all relevant audiences, including electronically, the wider Australian public.

Within this broad category, this project utilises an innovative methodology to connect disengaged audiences from both older and younger generations to enhance their social capital in relation to climate change issues and more broadly for achieving more sustainable ways of living.

### **Evaluation, Reporting & Promotion**

Promotion across boundaries within the Australian public with a community based focus assisted by electronic and audio-visual reporting to reach those disengaged from the climate change debate and, by extension, through this project to reach those disengaged from the solutions available through land management systems based on holistic organic and biological practices which have positive environmental benefits.

## EVALUATION

Experts from diverse perspectives, including the organic sector, will form a panel for on-going project evaluation and assessment.

In addition, we will make a conference presentation for peer review, within Australia, including the long-running Australasian Agrifood Research Network Conference.

## TIMELINE

Project Start Date: 01 October 2011

### **Virtual Meetings**

Start: 01 October 2011

Finish: 30 April 2012

### **Archive Consolidation**

Start: 01 November 2011

Finish: 01 March 2012

### **Research & Knowledge Transfer**

Start: 01 November 2011

Finish: 30 April 2012

### **Evaluation, Reporting & Promotion**

Start: 01 October 2011

Finish: 30 June 2012

Project Finish Date: 30 June 2012

The proposed implementation program outlined above has an indicated project duration of 39 weeks from commencement.

The initial virtual planning meeting is intended to establish more finely grained durations for project activities and determine contingent tasks.

Some project activities may be conducted concurrently.

## KEY RESOURCES

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NOTE: The expertise available for the project is professionally diverse crossing several boundaries including and beyond organic circles and encompassing relevant scientific, technological, social and community engagement research capabilities.

Additional research and other staff are to be sourced subject to need and availability.

REFEREES

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