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Our new green resolutions

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MANY Sydneysiders are vowing to become "greener" in 2008, but most of us just want to shed the kilos.

A survey commissioned by the City of Sydney has found that one in four people will make the environment their priority in the new year.

One in five respondents named climate change as the most important area to be tackled next year. Fifteen percent resolved to lead a "greener" lifestyle by doing things such as switching off unused lights and appliances, changing to energy-efficient light globes, using green power and helping to spread the environmentally friendly message to family and friends.

However, losing weight and leading a healthier lifestyle was the most popular resolution, with one in three (32 percent) people nominating it as their goal.

Paying off the credit card was the most popular resolution for 13 percent of respondents.

Just 8percent of respondents resolved to quit smoking, although this may have to do with there being lower numbers of smokers.

And only 4percent resolved to donate to charity next year.

In terms of how they viewed New Year's Eve, seven out of 10 respondents saw it as a chance to celebrate the end of one year and see in the "hopeful" beginning of 2008.

But for 5 percent, it was all about letting their hair down.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the survey results showed Sydney residents would be looking to government to show the way in protecting the planet.

"While their new year's resolutions are focused on tackling individual issues, the majority of survey respondents are very concerned about climate change and are willing to take and support the steps necessary to make a difference," Cr Moore said.

"As the first global city to welcome the new year, we should feel proud of our city, good about our achievements and look to contributing to a greener environment and more caring society."

The Pureprofile research surveyed more than 300 people in NSW between December 21 and December 24.

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The top five

1. Lose weight and be healthier

2. Lead a greener lifestyle
3. Pay off credit card
4. Quit smoking
5. Donate to charity

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