



# Environmental Sustainability Policy

<b>Reference Number:</b>	5.5
<b>Type:</b>	Council
<b>Category:</b>	Environment & Open Space
<b>Relevant Community Plan Outcome:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions.</li> <li>• Enhance the state of the City's environment and biodiversity.</li> <li>• Lead and educate to reduce the City's impact on the environment and build resilience.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Officer(s):</b>	General Manager Asset Management Services
<b>First Issued/Approved:</b>	April 2008
<b>Minutes Reference:</b>	CoS 3/09/2018, Item 3.44
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	September 2018
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	September 2020
<b>Applicable Legislation:</b>	Environment Protection Act 1993 South Australian Public Health Act 2011
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Living Green to 2020 Refresh – Environmental Plan 2014-2020
<b>Related Procedures:</b>	Not applicable

## 1. Purpose

At the City of Charles Sturt we value our local environment and recognise the important role we play in preserving and enhancing it. We are committed to fulfilling our statutory environment responsibilities and ensuring that all operations and activities carried out by and on behalf of the Council, comply with or exceed statutory environmental requirements.

We are committed to protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations and will endeavour to undertake all activities in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), which include:

- **Precautionary Principle:** Acting to avoid serious or irreversible potential environmental harm, despite lack of scientific certainty as to the likelihood, magnitude or causation of that harm.
- **Inter-generational equity:** Meeting the needs of the current generation whilst planning for and not compromising the needs of future generations to meet their needs.
- **Biodiversity:** Protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
- **True valuation of environmental resources:** Ensuring full integration of environmental and economic considerations into our policies and decision making processes.

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy spells out our key commitments and objectives for preserving and improving our environment. We are committed to establishing an appropriate governance structure and policy framework in order to achieve our objectives on an on-going basis.

## 2. **Scope**

The policy is intended for use by the whole of Council (staff, council members, volunteers and contractors), as it sets out our guiding principles for moving towards environmental sustainability.

## 3. **Policy Statement**

'Living Green to 2020 Refresh' is the City of Charles Sturt's environmental plan. It takes the place of our previous plan, 'Towards One Planet Living: 2008 – 2013'. 'Living green to 2020 Refresh' is a strategic plan of Council, and has been put together based on community, staff and stakeholder input. It describes how Council will approach environmental issues for the coming years, in partnership with our community. The plan presents strategies and actions under five key themes: our community, our liveability, our environment, and our leadership. This Policy ensures Council monitors these strategies, raises awareness and the implementation of this plan.

To assist in the implementation Council will:

### **Involve our Staff, Contractors and Suppliers**

- We will ensure that all employees, volunteers and Council Members are familiar with this policy and their own responsibilities towards the environment. Relevant aspects of this policy will be integrated into Council induction sessions and environmental awareness programs and training for employees and Council Members.
- We will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance so that, when working for Council, they strive to adopt equivalent environmental standards.
- We will ensure sustainability and environmental factors are reflected across Council's programs and decision making processes

### **Engaged and Communicate with the Community**

- We will involve the local community in decision-making on projects which impact on their local environment.
- We will promote a wider understanding of and participation in environmental issues through information, education and consultation so the community is highly aware and actively engaged in environmental initiatives.
- We will promote council's commitment and efforts to preserve and enhance our environment for the benefit of our community – current and future.

### **Reduce Councils Risk**

- We will develop and implement a robust risk management framework to identify, avoid and reduce environmental risks caused by our operations.

### **Implement Our Environmental Policy**

We will ensure that our Policy objectives are pursued effectively by implementing systems that will include:

- Implementing Council’s environmental plan 2014-2020 “Living Green to 2020 Refresh”.
- Undertaking regular reviews and updates to that plan with a view to continuous improvement.
- Establishing responsibility, co-ordination and review structures that set out clearly who are responsible for developing, managing and reviewing all aspects of our operation.
- Developing and implementing specific environmental objectives linked to aspects of Council activities that have or could have significant impacts on the environment (environmental risks).
- Implementing internal communication and training strategies that promote a greater understanding of and responsibility for this environmental policy amongst Council Members and employees at all levels.
- Implementing external communication and partnership processes that enable stakeholders in the wider community to find out more about Council's environmental performance and work with us to improve the environment for everyone.
- Conducting environmental reviews at regular intervals to check how well all parts of this environmental policy are being implemented.
- Establishing supplier and contractor policies and procedures that set out the environmental standards we actively encourage these organisations to aspire to.

#### **4. Definitions**

List all key terms and acronyms that are used in the policy, and their definition.

Key Term – Acronym	Definition
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development