



## **Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**Thursday 20 April 2023  
6.00pm  
Council Chambers  
209 Comur Street, Yass**

**Attachments to Reports**

# Sustainability Advisory Committee

## Attachments to Reports

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**Policy:** Revised SUSTAINABILITY POLICY **SP-POL-06**

**Division:** Planning

**Responsible Officer:** Strategic Planning Manager

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

Council, Councillors and Council employees are required under s7(e) *Local Government Act 1993* to have regard to the principles of **ecologically sustainable development** in carrying out their responsibilities. It is also part of the legislative charter of a Council (i.e. s8(1)) to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the Yass Valley Local Government Area, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Council’s Community Strategi Plan includes a Strategic Objective relating to sustainability i.e.

*EN.2 Adopt environmental sustainability practices*

To meet this Strategic Objective the Delivery Program 2022-2026 identifies a number of strategies and actions.

**2. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

To demonstrate leadership to the Yass Valley community through the implementation of sustainability initiatives.

**3. POLICY SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Councillors and Staff and is intended to integrate sustainability into Council’s decision making to satisfy its statutory obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**4. POLICY PROVISION**

Council aims to achieve our sustainability Strategic Objectives by:

- EN2.1 Investing and implementing approaches to reduce out carbon footprint
- EN2.2 Investigating and adopting environmentally sustainable practices and purchasing across the organisation
- EN2.3 Encouraging the community. Businesses, government and community support services to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and adopt sustainable practices

Council is committed to the following actions:

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>
EN2.1	Investigate and implement approaches to reduce our carbon footprint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install solar power generation as part of Crago Mill Precinct Development</li> <li>• Investigate and implement the use of electric and low emission powered vehicles as part of Council Commercial and Operational Fleet</li> <li>• Investigate and install solar power generation systems and energy reducing technologies on Council facilities.</li> </ul>
EN2.2	We investigate and adopt environmentally sustainable practices and purchasing across the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain procurement and contracting policies and documents addressing environmental sustainability.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revolve Shed established at Yass Waste Transfer Station and supported by awareness campaign</li> </ul>
EN2.3	Encourage the community, businesses, government and community support services to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and adopt environmentally sustainable practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for opportunities to encourage business to use environmentally friendly practices</li> <li>• Publish #SustainabilitySunday on Council's social media platform</li> <li>• Complete a Climate Change and Natural Disaster Action Plan</li> <li>• Complete three in-school workshops on waste reduction</li> <li>• Use the Yass Valley Eco Champs program to showcase sustainability efforts of our businesses</li> </ul>

The Sustainability Advisory Committee have taken a broader view of sustainability to include environmental, economic and social sustainability. The Committee developed a Strategic Assessment Framework to assist with developing priorities for the Committee to undertake i.e.

- The design of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service
- A review of the current trends and approaches for Council to move to electric vehicles
- Engagement of other Advisory Committees on common interests
- A community led (Council supported) Climate Change Action Plan

The Committee will continue to use the Strategic Assessment Framework to reconsider priorities once the current priority projects have been completed.

## 5. REVIEW

The review of this policy will take account of relevant legislation and State Government policies, best practice guidelines and Council plans and priorities.

This policy will be reviewed following each general election of Council and the Director Planning & Environment is responsible for arranging the completion of the review.

## 6. LEGISLATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWROK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *NSW Government Sustainability Policy 2008*
- *Yass Valley 2030 Community Strategic Plan*

## 7. DEFINITIONS

The implementation of a sustainability philosophy requires recognition that all decisions and actions have an impact on present and future generations.

**Sustainability** broadly includes:

- Living within the limits of what the environment can provide
- Understanding the many interconnections between economy, society and the environment
- The equal distribution of resources and opportunities

**Environmental Sustainability** involves:

- Making decisions and taking action that are in the interests of protecting the natural world, with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life

**Ecologically Sustainable Development** (ESD) means:

- Ecologically sustainable development requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes. Ecologically sustainable development can be achieved through the implementation of the following principles and programs:
  - The precautionary principle**—namely, that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:
    - Careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment
    - An assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options
  - Inter-generational equity**—namely, that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations
  - Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity**—namely, that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration
  - Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms**—namely, that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, such as:
    - Polluter pays—that is, those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement,
    - The users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle of costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste,
    - Environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, that enable those best placed to maximise benefits or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems

## 8. RESPONSIBILITIES

Council and all Staff undertaking decision making on behalf of Council are required to take into account the provisions of this policy in relation to any service or project being undertaken by Council.

## 9. HISTORY

<i>EMT Review Date</i>	<i>Report to Council</i>	<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Exhibition Period</i>	<i>Adoption</i>	<i>Rescission Date</i>
12/06/2014	25/06/2014	122 131	26/6-31/7/2014	01/08/2014	
11/09/2019 Sustainability Advisory Committee Review	23/10/2019 4 April 2023	245	N/A	23/10/2019	





































































































































































































































































































































