



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Reference Number:	5.5
Type:	Council
Category:	Environment & Open Space
Relevant Community Plan Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenhouse gas emissions significantly reduce, and we adapt to our changing climate• Our city is greener to reduce heat island effects and enhance our biodiversity• Charles Sturt is recognised as a leading partner and educator in pursuing a sustainable future with our community• Reduce waste production across our city, combined with the growth of our circular economy• We advocate for the protection of our coastal areas and enhancing biodiversity along our coast
Responsible Officer(s):	General Manager Asset Management Services
First Issued/Approved:	April 2008
Minutes Reference:	CoS 5/09/2022, Item 4.28
Last Reviewed:	September 2022
Next Review Due:	September 2024
Applicable Legislation:	Environment Protection Act 1993 South Australian Public Health Act 2011 Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reductions Act 2007
Related Policies:	AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Western Adelaide Region) Net Zero – Our Map to Net Zero Corporate Emissions 2020-2025 Risk Management Policy Community Emergency Management Policy
Related Procedures:	Not applicable

1. Purpose

At the City of Charles Sturt, we and our community 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 and the principles reflected in this policy.

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**

The City of Charles Sturt declared a climate emergency on 9 December 2019. 'Net Zero: Our Map to Net Zero Corporate Emissions 2020-2025' sits alongside the regional 'AdaptWest' climate change adaptation as the two cornerstones of Council's response to that declaration. Those plans and their implementation will drive and inform Council's efforts to address climate change risks and reduce climate change impacts.

This Policy ensures Council monitors these strategies, raises awareness and maintains focus on their implementation.

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, and we will reflect this approach in our procurement processes and practices.
- We will ensure climate change factors are reflected across Council's programs and decision making processes.

Engage and Communicate with the Community

- We will involve the local community in decision-making on projects which impact on climate change and their local environment.
- We will promote a wider understanding of and participation in climate change and environmental issues through information, education and consultation so the community is highly aware and actively engaged in climate change 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 climate change and environmental risks caused by, or impacting on, our operations.

Implement Our Environmental Policy

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

- Evaluating and tracking progress against the targets set in 'Net Zero: Our Map to Net Zero Corporate Emissions 2020-2025'
- Implementing 'AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Western Adelaide Region)', as it applies to the City of Charles Sturt
- Undertaking regular reviews and updates to the above plans with a view to continuous improvement.
- Taking a 'whole of Council' approach to addressing the risks of climate change and other environmental issues, ensuring environmental considerations are integrated across Council's plans, strategies, roles and responsibilities.
- 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, and associated environmental plans, are being implemented.
- Establishing supplier and contractor policies and procedures that clearly identify the required environmental standards and reflecting the benefit of environmentally sustainable options in procurement policies and practices.

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