



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT POLICY NO.

Corporate Sustainability Policy

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#1099073

Policy - (Byron Shire Council Sustainability Policy)

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Date Adopted by Council		Resolution No.	
Policy Responsibility	Environment and Planning		
Review Timeframe	1 year from date of adoption		
Last Review Date:		Next Scheduled Review Date	

Document History

Doc No.	Date Amended	Details Comments eg Resolution No.
#1099073		Draft

Further Document Information and Relationships

Related Legislation	<i>NSW Local Government Act (1993)</i>
Related Policies	<i>Community Economic Development Policy (2011) Community Gardens Policy (2010) Ethical Catering Policy (2011) Interim Policy on Genetically Modified Agriculture in Byron Shire (2001) NSW Government Sustainability Policy (2008)</i>
Related Procedures/ Protocols, Statements, documents	<i>Greenhouse Action Strategy (2008)</i>

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POLICY TITLE Byron Shire Council – Corporate Sustainability Policy

FILE REFERENCE PLN657400 / #1099073

1. BACKGROUND

The *Byron Shire Corporate Sustainability Policy* enshrines Council's sustainability values in an overarching response that will support Council in meeting its strategic objectives and guide the organisation through periods of change. The Policy outlines Council's commitment and responsibility in delivering a sustainable organisation through reducing greenhouse emissions, efficient water and energy use, waste and fleet management, sustainable purchasing and community advocacy.

The philosophy of 'Sustainability' requires a recognition that all decisions and actions have an impact on present and future generations. Integrating sustainability across Council's everyday business practices will reduce the organisations' exposure to cost increases, enhance staff productivity and satisfy Council's statutory obligations under the NSW Local Government Act (1993).

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. Formalise Council's sustainability philosophy across the organisation.
- 2.2. Continually improve the sustainability performance of Council.
- 2.3. Support the efforts of the wider Byron Shire community in the transition to a low carbon community by fostering greater awareness about sustainability issues.
- 2.4. Acknowledge the inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental considerations in all decision-making.
- 2.5. Support efforts to reduce Council's ecological footprint, including corporate energy consumption, potable water consumption, greenhouse emissions and waste generation across all programs, assets and services.
- 2.6. Ensure Council employees have access to a work environment that embraces sustainable practices.
- 2.7. Meet the challenge of escalating resource prices, including petroleum resources and waste disposal costs.
- 2.8. Provide leadership to the local and broader community.

3. COUNCIL COMMITMENTS

- 3.1. Actively measure and report our progress towards sustainability through Council's:
 - State of Environment Report
 - Sustainability Snapshot
 - Corporate Greenhouse Emissions and Energy Consumption Report
- 3.2. Establish sustainability objectives and targets that demonstrate best practice and regularly review and report our performance against these objectives.
- 3.3. Identify opportunities for further improvement and adopt programs and strategies accordingly.
- 3.4. Support and initiate community programs that champion sustainability.
- 3.5. Support the production and consumption of local products and services.
- 3.6. Support an increase in the proportion of energy supplied from renewable energy sources.
- 3.7. Strive to improve biodiversity, protect remnant vegetation and promote ecological restoration efforts.
- 3.8. Support and advocate for sustainable food production and consumption, including increasing the proportion of chemical free, GM free and organic foods that are consumed in the Shire.
- 3.9. Strive to utilise 100% recycled paper-based products, including envelopes, business cards and photocopy paper etc.
- 3.10. Communicate Council's sustainability expectations to all employees within the organisation and to the community.
- 3.11. Provide appropriate education and induction training for all employees in relation to Council's corporate sustainability expectations.
- 3.12. Ensure all surplus IT equipment is appropriately reused or recycled.
- 3.13. Encourage carpooling among staff.
- 3.14. Support sustainable purchasing practices, including recycled content, waste and energy efficiency.
- 3.15. Ensure recycling and composting facilities are available at all Council-owned facilities.

4. CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS

4.1. Corporate Greenhouse Gas Reduction

*Minimum 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2003/04 levels by 2020.
(Res. 11-11)*