



FOCUS AREA 1:

Environmentally accountable Council

Council is committed to showing leadership in environmental sustainability. This section outlines how Council will work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable in its own operations.

Policy position

Moira Shire Council will:

- Strive to be a leader in environmental sustainability decision-making and activities;
- Integrate environmental sustainability across all areas of Council, in all decision making and project implementation;
- Comply with legislative requirements relevant to environmental sustainability;
- Be committed to environmentally sustainable procurement;
- Improve its capacity to identify, monitor and report on its purchasing, consumption and waste; and
- Strive to ensure environmental sustainability is considered in other Council plans, strategies, policies, programs and decision making at all levels.

Policy rationale

Council recognises:

- The need to act responsibly in regards to environmental sustainability; and
- There are many synergies where corporate actions that are good for the environment also have economic benefits.

Performance Indicators (by 2021)

1. Waste from Council activities is reduced.
2. Council's consumption of energy (by vehicles and office-based activities) is reduced.
3. Ecologically Sustainable Design Principles are considered in the planning stage of all Council projects (capital works, subdivisions, new buildings, building renovation).
4. Environmental sustainability features in the Council Plan and other Council Strategies as they are reviewed and updated.
5. Environmental sustainability is considered across all areas of Council, in all decisions and in project implementation.

Example actions

- Investigate and evaluate use of electric vehicles as part of Council fleet.
- Develop guidelines and processes to allow Council projects and programs to consider environmental risks and benefits.
- Review Council's consumption of resources.
- Ensure procurement processes consider long-term impacts (including construction and demolition).
- Complete development of, and implement the Environmental Sustainability Reporting Program.
- Undertake internal training for Council staff on environmental sustainability.
- Continue to use the Green team to increase understanding, awareness and action regarding environmental sustainability in the workplace and at home.
- Continue to use the Environment Working Group to foster cross-departmental discussions about environmental sustainability and reporting on ESS implementation.
- Apply Landscape Guide (2017) for Council projects.

Refer to Focus Area 4 for performance indicators and example actions relating to renewable energy.