WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Grants

Guide for achieving Sustainable Facilities, projects and events

Wellington Shire Council is committed to achieving positive environmental outcomes through sustainable practices, which achieves value for money while minimising impact to the environment. Many projects funded through council community grants may have an impact on our environment. By planning ahead, we can minimize our impact by adopting Sustainable practices. Sustainable practices may include:

- maximising recyclable/recovered content
- minimising waste and greenhouse gas emissions
- conserving energy and water
- minimising habitat destruction and environmental degradation
- providing non-toxic solutions
- considering the impacts of climate change on your facility or project.

TIP 1: Include Sustainability features in grant application submissions.

TIP 2: By reducing water and energy consumption, your community group will save money year after year

The main objectives of sustainable practices (or Sustainable design) are to reduce, or completely avoid, depletion of critical resources like energy, water, land, and raw materials; prevent environmental degradation caused by facilities and events; and create built environments that are liveable, comfortable, safe, and productive.

Facility Projects

Building

Windows: Window size, orientation, shading and internal coverings can have a significant impact on energy efficiency and occupant comfort. Choose double glazed windows for thermal efficiency.

Insulation: Insulation is the cornerstone to all energy efficient house design. It reduces the cost of heating and cooling by over 40%. Choose the highest R rating you can.

Thermal mass: A building material which has high thermal mass is a dense heavyweight material like bricks or concrete while materials like timber or plasterboard are light weight and have much lower thermal mass.

Air leakage and air movement:
Uncontrolled air leakage can significantly reduce the energy efficiency of building. Choose sealing strips, reducing uncontrolled air leakage can prevent heat loss in winter

and prevent the entry of warm air in summer. This can save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs and improve comfort.

Design for sustainable transport: Features linked with cycling include end-of-trip facilities including showers and secure bike parking.

Energy

Solar power: Solar systems and battery systems are eligible for funding. Choose local retailers and suppliers that are registered with the Clean Energy Council. For further guidance www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/consumers/buying-solar/find-an-installer

Hot water systems: Council supports the uptake of solar or heat pump hot water systems A solar hot water system uses the sun's energy to heat water. When there isn't enough sunshine to fully heat the water, an electric booster will kick in as a back-up. There are 2 types of solar hot water systems: close-coupled systems and pumped systems. Council supports the transition from gas utilities to electric.

Lighting: LED lights must be used. An LED, or light emitting diode, is a semiconductor that converts electricity into light. LEDs use much less energy to provide the same amount of light as other forms of lighting.

Energy Efficient Appliances: Councils supports the use of electrical appliances with an Energy Rating Label of at least 5 stars.

Water conservation

Rainwater harvesting: installing water tanks is a great way to save water costs, particularly if you have outdoor irrigation/water use requirements.

Water Efficient appliances: Ensure any plumbing appliances are WELS rated. Showerheads should be at least 4-star, taps 6-star, toilets above 4-star.

Environment friendly materials and products

Material selection: Choose materials that have reduced impact on the environment and that provide a healthier indoor environment by reusing existing materials, maximising use of recycled materials, using locally produced materials and using non-toxic materials.

- **Sourcing eco-friendly** materials www.ecospecifier.com.au
- **Buy recycled materials** directories.sustainability.vic.gov.au/buy-recycled

Sustainable Events

Venue Choice

The first step to hosting a sustainable event is to get the location right. Does it offer access to refillable drinking water? Is the site powered by renewable energy? Is it located close to public transport, so participants don't have to drive?

Waste management

Events funded by council will need to consider ways to ensure that any waste generated managed appropriately.

Events that can demonstrate that waste sorting and diversion from landfill will be favourably assessed. Facilities within council's kerbside collection zones may opt

in to get a regular council bin services which includes landfill and recycling bins.

- Councils transfer stations accept commingled recycling for free – so if you can sort your recycling from your landfill waste you will save money.
- Consider investing in a trailer to help you manage your waste more efficiently and rent it out to other groups.
- Consider developing a waste management plan for your event.

To check whether your event location (facility) is within council's kerbside collection zone check our Waste Facilities and Waste Collection Map

Food and Drink

Catering often contributes the biggest impact of an event.

- Use BYO water bottles and filling stations rather than selling bottled water
- Ask caterers to use recyclable packaging for food and to reduce the amount of packaging
- Minimise use of plastic staws, balloons, take away coffee cups and plastic bags.
- Prioritise catering that uses local, seasonal, carbon neutral or other sustainable food options.
- Provide organics waste collection

Travel

Most events need people in attendance, and they have to get there somehow.

- Provide information and incentives to get people to walk, ride or use public transport to your event
- Ensure your event can support extra bikes/bike storage
- Provide a shuttle service.

Other useful links

1. Sustainability Victoria: sustainability.vic.gov.au/
2. Sports Environment Alliance: sportsenvironmentalliance.org/
3. Commercial and industrial facilities – design self-assessment: sustainability.vic.gov.au/susvic/Guide-Commercial-and-Industrial-facilities-Design-self-assessment.pdf
4. ESD guide for office and public buildings: environment.gov.au/sustainability/government/publications/esd-design/pubs/esd-design-guide.pdf
5. Home energy efficiency scorecard: victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/save-energy-and-money/get-a-home-energy-assessment/getting-an-assessment
6. Green Building Council of Australia: gbca.org.au
7. Building and designing a sustainable home: yourhome.gov.au/getting-started/welcome
8. Water efficiency labelling and standards: waterrating.gov.au/
9. Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources: climatechange.gov.au/
10. Energy rating: energyrating.gov.au/
11. Clean Energy Council – Technologies: cleanenergycouncil.org.au/resources/technologie

WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland