



COUNCIL POLICY

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Approved by: *Strategy & Policy Committee. 27 March 2000*

Subsequent Amendments:

Date, authorisation and reference to aspects amended

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ACC2003/45518

The Adelaide City Council recognises that it has a major role in protecting the Environment.

In all its activities the Adelaide City Council is committed to:

- compliance with legislation and regulation;
- continual improvement in environmental performance;
- avoidance of environmental harm and minimisation of impacts;
- conservation of natural resources such as water and energy;
- preparation of plans that set objectives and targets for environmental performance;
- communicating this policy to all staff, elected Members and interested parties, including community interests and government agencies, and creating opportunities for their participation in its implementation.

To protect the environment the Adelaide City Council will:

- implement the programs and actions as specified in the Environmental Management Plan - Local Agenda 21 which is consistent with the Strategic Management Plan;
- establish programs (as specified in the Environmental Management Plan - Local Agenda 21) and set targets within the divisional and departmental business plans;
- report on performance through a periodical 'State of the Environment' Report;
- implement policies in the City of Adelaide Development Plan which seek to balance development requirements with the protection and conservation of the natural and built environment;
- enforce regulations and provide advice on matters of public and environmental health to local business, industry and the local community;
- adopt appropriate working practices that minimize the effects that the Council has on the environment;
- train and educate its employees and advise contractors in respect of the environmental policies and objectives.

Sustainability is the key underlying principle of responsible environmental management and it is the keystone of the Adelaide City Council Environmental Management Plan.

A widely used definition of sustainable development is:

“Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own”.

Sustainability encompasses economic, social and environmental goals, which the Council will support through the adoption of sustainability principles that are to be applied in how the Corporation conducts its business. In applying these principles, the Corporation will include the interests of future generations as stakeholders in all development or other proposals and include consideration of their needs in corporate consultative processes.

The principles are:

Promote Economic Success

- Create a vibrant local economy that gives access to satisfying and rewarding work without damaging the local, national or global environment
- Encourage necessary access to facilities, services, goods and other people in ways which minimise impacts on the environment.

Meet Social Needs

- Protect human health and amenity through safe, clean, pleasant environments and emphasise health services focused on prevention as well as care.
- Empower all sections of the community to participate in decision-making and consider the social and community impacts of decisions.

Protect and Enhance the Environment

- Value and protect the diversity of nature, including limiting pollution to levels which do not damage natural systems.
- Use energy, water and other natural resources efficiently and with care, including minimising waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery and finally sustainably dispose of what is left.