



1.0 Purpose

The Environmental Sustainability Policy (Policy) outlines Canterbury-Bankstown Council's (Council) commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all local government functions and services.

The Policy aim is to provide the guiding criteria and principles that will underpin Council plans, policies and procedures to ensure that Council actively reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces waste and manages aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, to achieve a clean, green and sustainable city.

2.0 Scope

This Policy applies to Council team members.

3.0 Terms and Definitions

| Term | Definition |
|------------------|---|
| Biodiversity | Variety of all living things; the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes and the ecosystems or habitats they form. |
| Circular Economy | The Circular economy is based on conserving resources by keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible, designing out waste, pollution and resource inefficiency. Maximising the use and value of resources brings major economic, social and environmental benefits. |
| Climate Change | Long term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns (storms, floods, heatwaves). Since 1800's, human activities have been the main driver of climate change primarily due to burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas). |
| Greenhouse gases | Greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and water vapour that are emitted naturally or by human activity, that trap heat in the atmosphere making the planet warmer via a greenhouse effect. |
| Net Zero | Achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions removed from the atmosphere. Achieving Net Zero requires supporting a range of initiatives, efficiencies and technologies such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, reducing waste to landfill and tree planting. |
| Sustainability | Addressing the needs of current and future generations through integration of social justice, economic prosperity and environmental protection, in ways that are transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible. |
| Team members | Any person engaged in work at Council in any of the following capacities: full-time, part-time, casual, temporary and fixed term employee. |

4.0 Policy Statement

Council is committed to being leaders in environmental sustainability and regards the application of strong and effective action as critical to achieving the objectives outlined in its *CBCity 2036* Community Strategic Plan and *Connective City 2036* – Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).



The LSPS identifies targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste to landfill, increase urban tree cover and achieve a clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas.

This Policy is aligned to the Clean and Green destination of the *CBCity 2036* Community Strategic Plan.

5.0 Policy Criteria

Considering ecological sustainable development is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1993* and embedding sustainability into all functions and services is necessary for the long-term protection of the environment. To achieve this Council will:

- Adopt an evidence-based approach to decision making processes and ensure regular review of plans, strategies, targets and benchmarks to ensure they remain consistent with the most recent knowledge and best available science regarding sustainability opportunities and challenges.
- Comply with legislation, ensuring sustainability principles are applied to the planning, design and decision-making process. Innovation and continuous improvement are encouraged with a risk managed approach.
- Support procurement practices across the whole organisation to procure goods and services that minimise environmental risk and maximise positive sustainable opportunities and benefits for the environment and circular economy.
- Work to improve the sustainability awareness of Council team members, Councillors and contractors through regular communication.

Council is committed to environmental sustainability through the following pathways delivering on the Clean and Green Lead destination of *CBCity 2036*.

5.1 Reducing our carbon footprint

Council is committed to an evidence-based approach in responding to climate change and working towards net zero emissions by 2050 through innovation and efficient use of resources.

5.2 Reducing waste to landfill

Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and recovering resources to support the circular economy through advanced waste and resource recovery processing solutions with proven and efficient technologies.

Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing food and organic waste to landfill and achieving better outcomes for community, economy and environment through waste reduction.

5.3 Protect and promote local biodiversity

Council is committed to the protection and promotion of local biodiversity through habitat restoration and increasing tree canopy cover in suburban areas to 40% by 2036 across the Local Government Area (LGA) together with fire and feral animal management.

Council is committed to sound aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem management principles for the protection of biodiversity, natural areas and waterways. Council is committed to working with the community to



increase native planting in natural areas and embedding Aboriginal cultural heritage in natural and open space planning and management.

5.4 Improve local waterway health

Council is committed to applying sound ecological principles to the management of catchments and waterways through water sensitive urban design principles and development controls to achieve healthy and clean waterways.

Council is committed to working with the community delivering programs that celebrate and teach the importance of healthy waterways as well as water conservation and re-use.

6.0 Approval and Review

6.1 Policy Owner

Manager Sustainable Future

6.2 Authorisation

Adopted by Canterbury-Bankstown Council on 27/06/2023

6.3 Reviews and Modifications

The next review is due on 01/07/2026

7.0 Related Documents

7.1 Laws and Standards

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)

Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)

Coastal Management Act 2016 No 20 (NSW)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021 No 31 (NSW)

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 No 92 (NSW)

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 No 58 (NSW)

Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)

7.2 Policies and Procedures

CBCity 2036 Community Strategic Plan

Connective City 2036 (LSPS)

CBCity Procurement Policy and Procedure

CBCity Single Use Plastics Policy and Closing the Loop Policy

NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good to Waste 2019

NSW Net Zero Plan Stage 1 2020-2030

NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (NSW Govt – DPIE)