



WATER
E!

FREE CHILLED WATER
REFILLS HERE!

Sustainable Living

Outcome 2041:

Sustainable living practices are embedded in our community culture.

Target:

Increase community understanding and adoption of sustainable living practices by 2041.





Sustainable living focuses on the relationship between how people live in the natural and built environments. It is about responding to change and making sustainable choices and decisions that reduce the use of natural resources, improves wellbeing and builds resilience.

Sustainable living applies to communities, individuals, households, and to business and industry. It also applies to how council undertakes its own business and makes decisions.

Key areas of focus are choices and behaviour relating to:

- transportation and mobility
- energy consumption and renewable options, resource efficiency (including water and waste)
- food and other consumables
- connections to the natural environment
- sustainable and affordable living (capacity to live within our means)

As many communities strive to live more sustainably, the Sunshine Coast has struggled to reduce dwelling size with the average house on the Sunshine Coast increasing in size over the last 10 years. These larger homes are often being built on smaller lots changing the way our neighbourhoods function, placing greater pressure on public land for access to green space and outdoor activities.

With the majority of residents living in large detached low density housing with a reliance on private car travel and limited access to frequent public transport, we place significant pressure on our finite resources and existing infrastructure.

The benefits and outcomes of sustainable living can offer both long-term and short-term gains.

Benefits include:

- cost savings from reducing energy and resource consumption
- enhanced financial advantages and performance
- reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- improved community wellbeing, social cohesion and resilience
- mitigating human impact on the environment

The impacts of consumer choices and other behaviours vary, depending on the nature of the business and/or a person's location, habits, and personal preferences. To maintain and improve our enviable lifestyle and healthy environment it is essential to enable the community and businesses to strengthen their knowledge, skills and social connections to live sustainably.

Having a better understanding of how current living practices impact our natural environment and liveability will enable us to deliver more effective programs and information to enable a transition to a more sustainable lifestyle.

Enabling informed decisions, through innovative systems and processes that can demonstrate the benefits, will increase our capacity for taking collective action.



Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on sustainable living and will continue to present challenges for the future.

Key impacts may include:

- an increasing requirement for effective sustainability engagement and change management programs
- an increasing demand for services and infrastructure
- a decline in liveability and affordability driven by rapid population and economic growth
- disruptions to our way of life caused by more extreme weather events
- changes in climate that impact the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly vulnerable groups.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

Council's role

Council's role is to support the community, industry and business to take a more sustainable approach to living on the Sunshine Coast, become more resilient to climate change through strong leadership, education, partnerships and ongoing advocacy.

Within its own business activities, council's role is to demonstrate leadership and embed sustainability and resilience into council systems and processes, delivery of infrastructure and facilities and service provision.



Sustainable Living policy positions

11.1 Strong leadership and collaboration enables the community, industry and business to act and embrace sustainable behaviours to support health and wellbeing and economic outcomes:

- a Community willingness to act is supported and community capacity enhanced.
- b Innovative technologies and concepts are trialled and knowledge shared to increase community awareness and uptake.
- c Strong and enduring partnerships are established and supported to improve resilience, embed sustainable living practices and grow business knowledge and opportunities.
- d Sustainability principles are embedded into systems and processes to inform and guide decision-making.

