

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2015-21

Introduction

At Council, sustainability is about integrating environmental, social and economic sustainability considerations into our policy, planning, decision making and operational processes, and balancing short term priorities with longer term needs. Sustainability is about respecting our people, looking after our places, and delivering services to improve the wellbeing and liveability of our City now and into the future.

This strategy builds on a strong history of action by Council in the area of sustainability, providing a solid foundation for continuous improvement into the future. It takes a broad understanding of the concept of sustainability and outlines our plan for action over the coming years.

This strategy outlines the key activities that will be taken by Council to implement our Sustainability Policy.

The Sustainability Journey of Penrith City Council

1999	Sustainable Penrith Program adopted
2002	Sustainability self-assessment completed
2003	Energy Performance Contract initiated Sustainable Penrith Action Plan & UNEP Sustainability Principles adopted
2005	Sustainability Champion appointed Resource Data Management System implemented Sustainability Revolving Fund Guidelines adopted Water Way – Water Conservation Plan adopted Carbon Neutral – Emissions Reduction Plan adopted
2006	Sustainable Purchasing Supply Policy adopted Greenhouse Purchasing Action Plan adopted Water Savings Action Plan 2006-2010 adopted
2007	Sustainable Penrith Schools Network established Sustainability Indicators incorporated into Annual Report Energy Savings Action Plan 2007-2011 adopted
2008	Facility Managers Group established
2009	Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation Planning undertaken Louise Petchell 'Learning for Sustainability' Scholarship established
2010	Alignment of Strategic Plan under the UNEP Sustainability Principles
2011	Sustainable Events Policy adopted Water Efficiency Plan 2011-15 adopted Sustainability Health Check completed
2012	Energy Savings Action Plan 2012-16 adopted
2013	Ecological Footprint of the City calculated
2014	Sustainable Buildings Policy adopted Launch of corporate engagement program – Think, Act, Share My Idea reFresh launched

Focus areas

Sustainability at Penrith City Council focuses on the following key areas:

1. Advance the Liveability of the City
 - Be accountable, transparent and ethical in decision making, balancing environmental, social, and economic considerations in the ongoing development of the organisation and the Penrith local government area that enhances liveability and responds to a changing climate.
 - Identify, manage and mitigate risks in a way that is consistent with the precautionary principle and business innovation, including the assessment of alternatives.
2. Leadership
 - Conduct effective governance, business improvement, and advisory processes, ensuring organisational performance is aligned with good practice and is responsive to change while compliant with legislation and relevant standards.
 - Act as an advocate for sustainability in instances where issues have the potential to impact our community, the organisation and our environment.
3. Business Innovation and Resource Efficiency
 - Establish and strive to meet corporate sustainability and innovation targets and report on our performance against these to the organisation and community.
4. Support Sustainable Practice
 - Communicate Council's sustainability expectations to all employees and ensure staff are supported to meet these expectations with appropriate information, training and recognition
 - Support the efforts of the Penrith community and our community partners in the transition to a sustainable future, and provide leadership in sustainability.

Implementation of these focus areas will be through implementation of but not limited to the actions outlined in the following table.

Focus Area	Action	Timeframe
Advance the Liveability of the City	Investigate liveability frameworks and their application to Penrith	
	Research key issues affecting or likely to affect the liveability of the City and disseminate information	
	Implement the 'Cooling the City' Strategy to address the issue of urban heat within the Penrith LGA	
	Research and develop an integrated urban food program	
	Work collaboratively to facilitate regional planning outcomes that will contribute to a liveable City	
	Identify opportunities to build a resilient City and respond to a changing climate	
Leadership	Initiate opportunities to improve the liveability of Penrith City	
	Seek, advance and showcase opportunities to promote council and City sustainability initiatives	
	Review and update relevant Council policies and strategies to include sustainability principles and	

	practices
	Identify and include key sustainability and liveability issues for the City in Council's advocacy program
	Work collaboratively to ensure that sustainability principles form an integral part of corporate planning and reporting
	Support and work with internal stakeholders to ensure sustainability and liveability considerations are included in the design and implementation of key projects
Business Innovation & Resource Efficiency	Research and apply business innovation to improve the environmental, economic and social sustainability of Council systems, operations and services
	Encourage and support the submission of a broad range of projects for funding by the Sustainability Revolving Fund with benefits across the quadruple bottom line
	Investigate the inclusion of sustainability considerations in standard tender and request for quote documents
	Participate in the Local Government NSW Sustainable Choice Program to identify opportunities to improve our supply chain
	Identify projects and initiatives that will reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources for Council's operations
	Develop a Renewable Energy Masterplan to support the transition to more sustainable energy supplies
	Undertake energy and water efficiency benchmarking for our major sites and a range of representative buildings
	Investigate the installation of rooftop solar systems on council facilities
Support Sustainable Practice	Develop sustainability management skills and expertise within the organisation and support sustainability leadership by staff
	Investigate and support staff participation in relevant external sustainability training opportunities
	Trial a competitive sustainability study tour under the 'Louise Petchell Learning for Sustainability' Scholarship
	Recognise and promote good sustainability practice
	Review and implement the corporate sustainability engagement program 'Think, Act, Share' to build corporate awareness and understanding of sustainability
	Investigate opportunities to support the community in the uptake of sustainable technologies e.g. solar PV
	Encourage and support community and business sustainability leaders
	Work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to increase community understanding and awareness of sustainability and liveability
	Develop electronic signage to demonstrate sustainability achievements to the community, e.g. real time solar generation

Monitoring and Review

This Strategy covers the remainder of the adopted Delivery Program 2013-7 and extends into the next cycle of the Delivery Program, which will be completed in 2021. The actions within this strategy will be incorporated into the Delivery Program and our annual Operational Plans to guide the activities and focus of Council in the area of sustainability.

Implementation of the Strategy will be monitored via Council's regular monitoring and reporting program which includes six monthly reports against the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, as well as annual reporting, including reporting against relevant indicators and targets.

The Strategy will be reviewed in 2020, with the results then able to feed into our integrated planning processes in the lead up to the development of the Delivery Program 2021-25.

Related Policies and Documents

There are a number of adopted policies and strategies that should be considered in conjunction with this Sustainability Strategy, including:

- Sustainability Policy (draft)
- Cooling the City Strategy (draft)
- Community Gardens Policy (draft)
- Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy
- Buildings Policy
- Sustainable Purchasing Policy
- Sustainable Events Policy
- Sustainability Revolving Fund Guidelines
- Penrith Progression
- City Strategy
- Delivery Program 2013-17
- Operational Plans