

## COU0017: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

<b>Policy Type:</b>	Council Policy
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	City Development
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager City Design
<b>Related Policies and Procedures</b>	Environment & Sustainability Strategy
<b>Community Plan Link</b>	<i>Environmental Stewardship</i> We will maintain and enhance our urban environment, and strengthen our City's resilience to climate change by providing leadership to our Community
<b>Date Adopted</b>	22 October 2012: C135/11
<b>Last review date</b>	25 November 2019: C0132/19
<b>Next review date</b>	November 2022
<b>Reference/Version Number</b>	COU0017: Version 3
<b>ECM Doc set I.D.</b>	<a href="#">1840104</a>

### 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. The City of Unley recognises that it has a responsibility to protect and enhance natural resources, and to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for both present and future generations as reflected in the Community Plan 2033.

### 2. SCOPE

- 2.1. Provide an overarching policy framework, which defines the role of the City of Unley in managing the environment for both present and future generations. It integrates with the Community Plan 2033 which has a key theme on environmental stewardship.

### 3. POLICY PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1. Policy Objectives

- (a) To protect and enhance natural resources and to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for the community both now and in the future.
- (b) To ensure that environmental considerations become integral to the Council's every-day decision-making and operations.
- (c) To promote greater awareness and understanding of environmental issues within the Council and the community.

- (d) To support the establishment of partnerships for ecologically sustainable practices within the community.

#### 4. DEFINITIONS

**Ecology** refers to the interaction of organisms with one another, and their environment.”

**Ecosystem** refers to a large community of living and non-living organisms within a particular environment, and the intermingled energy and nutrient cycles.”

**Environment** refers to the surroundings in which the organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation.

**Green Infrastructure** refers to the network of green spaces and water systems that delivers multiple environmental, social and economic values and services to urban communities including parks, reserves, backyards, gardens, waterways, wetlands, streets, transport corridors, pathways, greenways, roof gardens and living walls.

**Sustainability** refers to the process of maintaining a resource and meeting the needs of an individual or population without exhausting the ability for future generations to meet their own needs.”

#### 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. This Policy will be administered on behalf of Council by the:

- General Manager, City Development
- Manager City Design
- Coordinator Environmental Projects and Strategy

#### 6. POLICY STATEMENT

##### 6.1. Leadership

- 6.1.1. Council will plan for, promote and model ecologically sustainable development.
- 6.1.2. Council will ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the Council's everyday decision-making and operations.
- 6.1.3. Council will integrate the principles of sustainability into Council tender documents and contracts where possible and as required. Use of renewable resources will be preferred where possible and as required.
- 6.1.4. Council will participate with other Councils, and with state and national governments, in setting public policy and achieving regional, state and national objectives.
- 6.1.5. Council will adopt environmentally sound working practices within Council operations that reduce the consumption of natural resources and prevent pollution by:
- implementing a range of actions to ensure that the refuse/reduce/re-use/repair/recycle philosophy is fundamental to Council operations;
  - reducing waste to landfill from Council buildings;

- establishing and maintaining facilities for recycling and/or composting within Council-owned and occupied buildings;
  - purchasing sustainable goods wherever possible and using contractors and goods from companies that have environmental policies;
  - limiting risk of pollution to groundwater and creeks through minimisation of chemical use, efficient street cleaning and prevention of discharge of polluting substances during Council works;
  - reducing water consumption in Council properties, parks and reserves;
  - utilising alternatives to mains water wherever possible through exploring use of rainwater, stormwater and wastewater; and
  - enhancing biodiversity within parks, reserves and streetscapes.
- 6.1.6. Council will continue to endeavour to encourage alternative and renewable energy use to reduce its carbon footprint.
- 6.1.7. Council will encourage energy efficiency and the minimisation of water use and run-off in building design and orientation.
- 6.1.8. Council to support waste minimisation, recycling and re-use schemes within the community by providing efficient, environmentally friendly waste collection and recycling services.
- 6.1.9. Council will identify opportunities to extend the City of Unley's open space network and availability.
- 6.1.10. Council will identify opportunities to expand the City of Unley's green infrastructure including trees, plants and water features.
- 6.1.11. Council will encourage walking, cycling and public transport as an alternative to the private motor vehicle and will emphasise pedestrian and cyclist safety in urban design.
- 6.1.12. Council will ensure a sustainable, safe and integrated transport system is developed for the community considering a balance between intra-city and inter-city demands.
- 6.1.13. Council will investigate opportunities for the revegetation of creeks and their environs.
- 6.1.14. Council will maximise opportunities to increase indigenous vegetation throughout the City of Unley.
- 6.1.15. Council will ensure remnant/significant vegetation throughout the City of Unley is protected.
- 6.1.16. Council will continue to deliver on the Resilient East adaptation plan building resilience to the challenges of climate change
- 6.1.17. Council will ensure the protection, management and enhancement of the natural resources and built environment of the City through all Council activities.

## **6.2. Legislation**

- 6.2.1. Council will comply with the requirements and intent of relevant legislation, conventions, standards and codes aimed at conserving natural resources and pollution prevention.
- 6.2.2. Council will introduce performance targets and standards for Council operations, which go beyond legislative compliance.

## **6.3. Partnerships/Community Education**

- 6.3.1. Council will support programs that focus on international, national, state and local events, which highlight sustainable living and other environmental issues.
- 6.3.2. Council will establish and maintain working partnerships with government agencies, local industries and the community to promote projects which improve the local environment.
- 6.3.3. Council will provide small grants through the Community Grants Scheme to non-profit groups initiating projects with environmental outcomes.
- 6.3.4. Council will advise local traders, property owners and residents of initiatives and assistance available to reduce pollution risk on their properties.
- 6.3.5. Council will encourage a sense of ownership and guardianship of water management within the community of the Patawalonga Catchment area.
- 6.3.6. Council will support and promote community-based initiatives, which conserve natural resources, prevent pollution and raise awareness of environmental issues.

## **6.4. Advocacy**

- 6.4.1. Council will act as an advocate on behalf of the community where environmental harm has occurred and jurisdiction lies outside Council control.

## **7. POLICY DELEGATIONS**

- 7.1. Not applicable

## **8. LEGISLATION**

- *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993 (SA)*
- *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*

## **9. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY**

- 9.1. The Policy is available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

The Civic Centre,  
181 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061.

A copy may be purchased for a fee as determined annually by Council.

It is also available for viewing, download and printing free of charge from the Council's website [www.unley.sa.gov.au](http://www.unley.sa.gov.au).

## 10. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Ref/Version No.	Comment
23 May 2011	C135/11 (V1)	
22 Oct 2012	C564/12 (V2)	
25 November 2019	C0132/19 (V3)	