



BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL

Policy

TITLE	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
POLICY NUMBER	45
COUNCIL FUNCTION	ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
LEGISLATION	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
ADOPTED	February 1998 Minute Ref 16138
REVIEWED/AMENDED	7 May 2002 Minute Ref 23535 3 November 2004 Minute Ref 29618 October 2005 Minute No. 30820 28/08/13 – Minute OM002473 23/11/16 Ordinary Meeting – Minute OM003610
NEXT REVIEW DUE	August 2020

SCOPE

This policy applies to the operation of all of Council's activities as a Local Government including all employees, Councillors, contractors and volunteers.

OBJECTIVE

Council aims to conduct activities and decision making processes in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development to assist with the protection and enhancement of the environment in accordance with these principles.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Best practice environmental management	is the management of an activity to achieve ongoing minimisation of the activity's environmental harm through cost-effective measures assessed against the measures currently used nationally and internationally for the activity (s21, <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>)
Council	Banana Shire Council

Term	Definition
Ecologically sustainable development	<p>a) using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased (<i>Australia's National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992)</i>); and</p> <p>b) to protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (s3, <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>).</p>
Environmentally relevant activities	For the purpose of this policy are those activities prescribed under section 19 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 as an environmentally relevant activity

POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises the need for development which aims to meet the needs of the Banana Shire today, while conserving the environment for the benefit of future generations.

POLICY

To achieve a high standard of environmental care in all of Council's activities and decision making processes as a Local Government.

Specifically, the Banana Shire Council shall:

1. Comply with and where practicable, exceed the requirements of relevant legislation, policies and standards to continually improve our environmental performance.
2. Develop and maintain a system of operating, monitoring and reporting on all Council's environmentally relevant activities to ensure all statutory requirements are met, and where practical, using best practice environmental management.
3. Provide necessary resourcing to enable best practice environmental management to be achieved.
4. Work in partnership with the Banana Shire communities and organisations to enhance environmental quality, while respecting cultural, social and economic values.
5. Strongly advocate that Councillors, employees and contractors are aware of, and held accountable to, their environmental responsibilities.
6. Continue to make improvements in environmental management by reviewing, reporting and updating Council's Environmental Management Plan and associated procedures, including the incorporation of non-environmentally relevant activities.
7. Strive to be a community leader in environmental management.
8. Develop and implement waste reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery programs, including energy use.

9. Improve Council's environmental performance through setting measurable objectives and targets.
10. Prevent pollution at its source and continually improve Council's response to pollution incidents to minimise their impacts and occurrence.

These guiding principles will be reflected through the development of Council's corporate planning documents.

PROCEDURE

Council shall ensure that the Environmental Policy is communicated to all employees, Councillors, contractors and volunteers as part of the general induction process.

High standards and environmental objectives and targets shall be promoted throughout the departments and all works will pursue good environmental practices.

The Environmental Policy and other general environmental outcomes shall be communicated openly and constructively with the public, responsible environmental interests and government authorities, upon request.

CERTIFICATION



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL

9.12.16
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DATE