

## Policy 3.05 Environmental Sustainability for Council Operations

<b>Directorate</b>	Community, Environment and Planning
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager of Planning and Sustainability

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### Record of Administrative Amendments

<u>Amendment Version No.:</u>	<u>Description of Administrative Amendment</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>
<u>4.2</u>	<u>Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i></u>  <u>Placed on Public Exhibition 23 July 2025</u>	<u>July 2025</u>
<u>4.1</u>	<u>Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i></u>  <u>Workshopped with Councillors May 2025</u>	<u>06/05/2025</u>

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Scope

Council decisions and activities have the potential to significantly impact the local and regional environment now and for future generations. This policy outlines ~~the~~ principles ~~implemented~~ to facilitate and enhance the environmental sustainability practices of all Council operations and services.

The policy demonstrates direct commitment to the following strategic guiding principles:

- Accountable | ~~C~~ommitment to risk management and compliance and proactive consultation and engagement organisation wide
- Transparent | ~~D~~ecision making processes are clearly outlined, including how a decision is made and who is involved
- Responsive | ~~C~~ommitment to serve the needs of the entire community
- Equitable and ~~i~~nclusive | ~~S~~trong consideration of the needs of all stakeholders
- Effective and Efficient | ~~C~~lear connection between policy and implementation

### 1.2 Purpose

- To display strong leadership to the community through the implementation of sustainability initiatives.
- To reduce the environmental impact of Council's operations and activities.
- To integrate the principles of sustainability into all Council functions and activities to achieve a healthy, clean and sustainable environment.
- To reduce financial costs associated with resource consumption across Council's many assets and activities.

### 1.3 Definitions

Word or Terminology	Description
<b>Sustainability</b>	To live within the limits of what the environment can provide, understanding the many interconnections between the economy society and the environment.

#### Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD is defined as development that uses, conserves and enhances our natural resources so that ecological processes, and in turn the quality of life now and into the future, can be maintained.

## 2 Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

## 3 Implementation

### 3.1 Policy statement

Bega Valley Shire Council will systematically address the environmental sustainability of Council operations and activities by:

- applying the principles of sustainability to all decision making functions and activities
- reviewing all policies, processes and procedures to facilitate capacity to deliver triple bottom line performance and improvement across Council operations
- underpinning Council's commitment to sustainability through the application of the established principles adopted by all levels of government in the National ESD Strategy of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD):
  - a. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity – Council will maintain and where possible enhance the range of native plants, animals and their habitats to protect the health of our local environment.
  - b. Precautionary principle – Council will actively manage environmental risks.
  - c. Inter-generational equity – Council will ensure ~~that~~ the health diversity and productivity of our environment is maintained and/or enhanced for future generations
  - d. Integrated decision making – Council will ensure that short and long term economic, social and environmental considerations are integrated into all decision making.
- improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources – Council will ensure that environmental factors are considered in asset management and service provision, and will also ensure the principle of 'polluter pays' will apply where the costs of containment, abatement or avoidance of pollution or waste are paid by the polluter.

### 3.2 Responsibilities

#### 3.2.1 Elected Council

Ensure decision-making considers the principles outlined in this policy.

### 3.2.2 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leadership Executive Group (LEG)

Ensure all directorates actively work to reduce the environmental impact of their operations, service provision and long term planning on the Bega Valley Shire environment.

### 3.2.3 All Directorates

Actively work to reduce the environmental impact of their operations, service provision and long term planning on the Bega Valley Shire environment.

Ensure environmental sustainability is a key consideration in all decision making, operations and service provision.

### 3.2.4 Environment and Sustainability section

Actively work across Council to review and reduce the environmental impact of Council's operations.

## 4 Supporting documents

### 4.1.1 BVSC procedures that relate to this policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
3.03.01	Soil and water management guidelines	<u>External</u>
3.02.2	Tree assessment	<u>External</u>
<u>3.02.3</u>	<u>Environment Levy</u>	<u>External</u>

### 4.1.2 BVSC policies that relate to this policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
3.01	Development Administration
3.02	Environment Management
<u>3.03</u>	<u>Soil and water management</u>
3.07	Climate Change
<u>3.14</u>	<u>Flood and sea level rise</u>
4.03	Public Regulation
4.05	Enforcement and Compliance
4.10	Lands under Council jurisdiction

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**Note:** Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on the Council website: [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au)

Under Review