



CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Introduction:

Ryde Town Council recognises the importance of protecting and preserving our environment for the benefit of current and future generations. We acknowledge the urgent need to address environmental challenges and commit to sustainable practices in our operations and decision-making processes. This Environmental and Sustainability Policy outlines our commitment to minimising environmental impact, conserving resources, and promoting a sustainable and resilient community.

Policy Statement:

Ryde Town Council is committed to promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable practices throughout its operations, services, and activities.

WE WILL STRIVE TO:

Environmental Responsibility:

- i. Comply with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards.
- ii. Minimise our carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and waste generation.
- iii. Promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies.
- iv. Protect and preserve local ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources.
- v. Prevent pollution by implementing effective waste management practices, including recycling and waste reduction initiatives.
- vi. Promote sustainable transportation options and reduce reliance on private vehicles.

Sustainable Resource Management:

- i. Optimise the use of water resources and implement water conservation measures.
- ii. Promote responsible consumption and waste reduction in all Council activities.
- iii. Encourage the use of recycled and environmentally friendly materials in our procurement processes.
- iv. Foster sustainable land use practices and support green spaces, parks, and urban forestry.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:

- i. Implement measures to adapt to climate change impacts and build community resilience.
- ii. Promote public awareness and education on climate change issues.
- iii. Support initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy.
- iv. Collaborate with community stakeholders, regional organisations, and government agencies to address climate change challenges.

Community Engagement and Collaboration:

- i. Engage with residents, businesses, community groups, and stakeholders to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices.

- ii. Foster partnerships with local organisations, academic institutions, and government agencies to develop and implement sustainable initiatives.
- iii. Provide information and resources to the community to facilitate sustainable lifestyle choices.

Continuous Improvement:

- i. Regularly monitor and evaluate our environmental performance.
- ii. Continuously seek opportunities for innovation and improvement in environmental and sustainability practices.
- iii. Ensure adequate training and resources are available to staff and members to support the implementation of sustainable practices.
- iv. Regularly review and update this policy to reflect evolving environmental challenges and best practices.

Implementation:

Ryde Town Council is committed to the successful implementation of this policy. The responsibility for implementing this policy lies with all Council employees, elected representatives, and volunteers. The policy will be reviewed annually to assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure its continued effectiveness.

By adopting this Environmental and Sustainability Policy, Ryde Town Council aims to lead by example, inspire positive change, and contribute to a sustainable and resilient future for our community and the environment.