Health and Sustainability Policy
Adopted 14 December 2010
Environmental Services

KIAMA
MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL

Health and Sustainability Policy

1.0   Purpose

This policy will provide Kiama Council with a sustainable direction to apply across all council operations. Tied to this policy will be a set of guidelines designed to provide direction to Council towards implementing this policy in all facets of its operation. Where a guideline does not directly apply to a project, this policy will provide the principals of sustainability to be applied to the determination or operation of that project.

2.0   Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To host Council and community events in a sustainable manner that actively seeks to reduce the impacts upon the local and wider environment without compromising the health and safety of participants, or economic viability of the event.

- To ensure that the use of Community sporting grounds and facilities is managed in a sustainable manner that actively seeks to reduce the impacts upon the local and wider environment without compromising the health, safety, or economic viability of the facilities.

- To provide sustainability focused procurement guidelines for the purchase, use and disposal of all plant, equipment and supplies for Council's operations.

- To provide sustainability focused guidelines when refurbishments for existing buildings and facilities are undertaken and when construction of new buildings or facilities are undertaken.

- To provide sustainability focused guidelines for the management, protection, and enhancement of Kiama Municipal Council's biodiversity assets on Council land.

- To aid in the integration of sustainability into job descriptions and reporting processes.

- To develop sustainable fleet management guidelines to reduce Council's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, without compromising the health, safety or economic viability of Council's fleet.

- To set targets for the reduction of energy and water usage, and waste production and commit to meeting these targets.
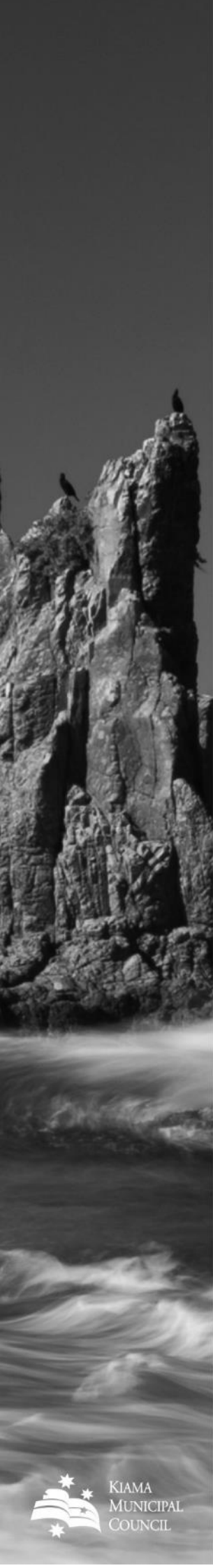
3.0   Scope

This Policy applies across all Kiama Municipal Council projects, supported activities, events, and operations.

4.0   References

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- Green Fleet Guidelines (TBA)

- Fleet Management Policy

- Sustainable Procurement Guidelines (TBA)

- Sustainable event Management Guidelines (TBA)

- Sustainable Development and Refurbishment Guidelines (TBA)
- Kiama Council's Water Savings Action Plan
- Illawarra Sustainability Roadmap
- Healthy and Sustainable Cities Plan.

5.0   Definitions

For the purpose of this document the following definitions apply:

- ??? list definitions here (style type is 'bullets dash')

6.0   Policy

Sustainability as it relates to our municipality and the functions of Council is encapsulated within the 10 Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities. The 10 Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities are adopted by this policy as principles against which Council can measure whether it is acting in a sustainable manner, utilising the best information available at the time.

The 10 Melbourne Principles of Sustainable Cities were developed at a United Nations Environment Program Workshop in Melbourne in April 2002. The 10 Melbourne Principles were presented to and formally adopted by the local government session at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, as a statement by local government calling for action on implementing sustainable development at a local level. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the 10 Melbourne Principles.

7.0   Attachments

- Appendix 1 – 10 Melbourne Principles of Sustainable Cities

8.0   Document control

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Policy name:	Health and Sustainability Policy
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Appendix 1

The 10 Melbourne Principals

1. **Provide a long-term vision for cities based on: sustainability; intergenerational, social, economic and political equity; and their individuality.**
   A long-term vision is the starting point for catalysing positive change, leading to sustainability. The vision needs to reflect the distinctive nature and characteristics of each city. The vision should also express the shared aspirations of the people for their cities to become more sustainable. It needs to address equity, which means equal access to both natural and human resources, as well as shared responsibility for preserving the value of these resources for future generations. A vision based on sustainability will help align and motivate communities, governments, businesses and others around a common purpose, and will provide a basis for developing a strategy, an action program and processes to achieve that vision.

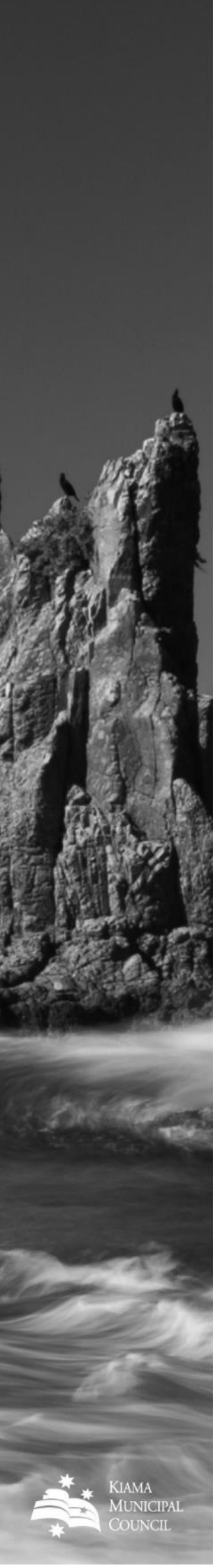2. **Achieve long-term economic and social security.**
   Long-term economic and social security are prerequisites for beneficial change and are dependent upon environmentally sound, sustainable development. To achieve triple bottom line sustainability, economic strategies need to increase the value and vitality of human and natural systems, and conserve and renew human, financial and natural resources. Through fair allocation of resources, economic strategies should seek to meet basic human needs in a just and equitable manner. In particular, economic strategies should guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, shelter and safe sanitation. Cities are the locus of human diversity; their policies, structures and institutions can significantly contribute to fostering cohesive, stimulating, safe and fulfilled communities.

3. **Recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and protect and restore them**
   Nature is more than a commodity for the benefit of humans. We share the Earth with many other life-forms that have their own intrinsic value. They warrant our respect, whether or not they are of immediate benefit to us. It is through people's direct experience with nature that they understand its value and gain a better appreciation of the importance of healthy habitats and ecosystems. This connection provides them with an appreciation of the need to manage our interactions with nature empathetically. Just as humans have the ability to alter the habitat and even to extinguish other species, we can also protect and restore biodiversity. Therefore, we have a responsibility to act as custodians for nature.

4. **Enable communities to minimise their ecological footprint.**
   Cities consume significant quantities of resources and have a major impact on the environment, well beyond what they can handle within their borders. These unsustainable trends need to be substantially curbed and eventually reversed. One way of describing the impact of a city is to measure its ecological footprint. The ecological footprint of a city is a measure of the 'load' on nature imposed by meeting the needs of its population. It represents the land area necessary to sustain current levels of resource consumption and waste discharged by that population. Reducing the ecological footprint of a city is a positive contribution towards sustainability. Like any living system, a

community consumes material, water and energy inputs, processes them into usable forms and generates wastes. This is the 'metabolism' of the city and making this metabolism more efficient is essential to reducing the city's ecological footprint. In reducing the footprint, problems should be solved locally where possible, rather than shifting them to other geographic locations or future generations.

5. **Build on the characteristics of ecosystems in the development and nurturing of healthy and sustainable cities.**
    Cities can become more sustainable by modelling urban processes on ecological principles of form and function, by which natural ecosystems operate. The characteristics of ecosystems include diversity, adaptiveness, interconnectedness, resilience, regenerative capacity and symbiosis. These characteristics can be incorporated by cities in the development of strategies to make them more productive and regenerative, resulting in ecological, social and economic benefits.

6. **Recognise and build on the distinctive characteristics of cities, including their human and cultural values, history and natural systems**.
    Each city has a distinctive profile of human, cultural, historic and natural characteristics. This profile provides insights on pathways to sustainability that are both acceptable to their people and compatible with their values, traditions, institutions and ecological realities. Building on existing characteristics helps motivate and mobilise the human and physical resources of cities to achieve sustainable development and regeneration.

7. **Empower people and foster participation**.
    The journey towards sustainability requires broadly based support. Empowering people mobilises local knowledge and resources and enlists the support and active participation of all who need to be involved in all stages, from long-term planning to implementation of sustainable solutions. People have a right to be involved in the decisions that affect them. Attention needs to be given to empowering those whose voices are not always heard, such as the poor.

8. **Expand and enable cooperative networks to work towards a common, sustainable future.**
    Strengthening existing networks and establishing new cooperative networks within cities facilitate the transfer of knowledge and support continual environmental improvement. The people of cities are the key drivers for transforming cities towards sustainability. This can be achieved effectively if the people living in cities are well informed, can easily access knowledge and share learning. Furthermore, the energy and talent of people can be enhanced by people working with one another through such networks. There is also value in cities sharing their learning with other cities, pooling resources to develop sustainability tools, and supporting and mentoring one another through intercity and regional networks. These networks can serve as vehicles for information exchange and encouraging collective effort.

9. **Promote sustainable production and consumption, through appropriate use of environmentally sound technologies and effective demand management.**
    A range of approaches and tools can be used to promote sustainable practices. Demand management, which includes accurate valuations of natural

resources and increasing public awareness, is a valuable strategy to support sustainable consumption. This approach can also provide significant savings in infrastructure investment. Sustainable production can be supported by the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies which can improve environmental performance significantly. These technologies protect the environment, are less polluting, use resources in a sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products and handle all residual wastes in a more environmentally acceptable way than the technologies for which they are substitutes. Environmentally sound technologies can also be used to drive reduced impacts and enhance value along a supply chain and support businesses embracing product stewardship.

10. **Enable continual improvement, based on accountability, transparency and good governance.**

Good urban governance requires robust processes directed towards achieving the transformation of cities to sustainability through continual improvement. While in some areas gains will be incremental, there are also opportunities to make substantial improvements through innovative strategies, programmes and technologies.

To manage the continual improvement cycle, it is necessary to use relevant indicators, set targets based on benchmarks and monitor progress against milestones to achieving these targets. This facilitates progress and accountability and ensures effective implementation. Transparency and openness to scrutiny are part of good governance.

The vision promoted by the Melbourne Principles is to create environmentally healthy, vibrant and sustainable cities where people respect one another and nature, to the benefit of all. The principles provide a key to unlocking a sound approach to transforming cities towards sustainability. They provide a:

- holistic approach to making cities sustainable

- framework around which consensus and commitment can be built and strategy developed

- framework in which cities can build their programs and engage their communities

- framework in which international, regional and country programs can coalesce and strengthen linkages and cooperation.