



TITLE	<b>Environment Policy</b>
VERSION NUMBER	2
APPROVAL	
RESPONSIBILITY	Co-ordinators/Board of Management/Volunteers/Members
LAST REVIEWED	<i>April 2022</i>

## **Introduction**

Waminda Community House is committed to managing its operations in an environmentally responsible manner. Waminda Community House aims to:

- Promote favorable attitudes and behaviors towards the environment among all staff, volunteers, participants and the community.
- Reduce the adverse impacts of Waminda Community House's activities on the environment.

## **Purpose**

Waminda Community House is committed to supporting the principles of environmental sustainability and managing environmental effects of waste in compliance with our legal obligations. Furthermore, we will strive to continually improve our operations and commit to:

- Working to continuously improve the environmental practices of our staff, volunteers, partners, customers, suppliers and the local community
- Model and apply best practice standards for environmental management
- Improve efficiency of operations to minimise water use, energy consumption, waste and pollution generation

## **Principles**

This policy is based on the following environmental principles:

- Energy conservation
- Water conservation and responsible wastewater disposal
- Minimisation and, where possible, elimination of the use of harmful substances
- Correct and safe disposal of all substances
- Minimisation of waste generation through reduction, reuse and recycling
- Minimisation of pollution (noise, visual, electromagnetic radiation, odour)
- Environmentally sound planning and landscaping decisions

In summary:

- **Rethink** the products we purchase
- **Reduce** the amount of waste we create
- **Reuse** as much as possible
- **Recycle** whatever we can

## **Policy**

Waminda Community House is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of operations and seeks to continually improve the management of our environmental effects. As a progressive community organisation Waminda Community House will strive to:

- Recognise its environmental obligations, both locally and globally.
- Operate in a manner which protects the environment, especially the health of staff, volunteers, participants and visitors
- Model and set an example to the community in adopting and implementing principles of environmental protection and sustainability, including the minimization of energy, water consumption and efficient waste management
- Provide staff and participants with mechanisms and opportunities to discuss and participate in projects contributing to improvements in environmental outcomes
- Ensure that visitors and participants are made aware of the organisation's environmental values and the behaviors.

### **Procedure**

- Implement environmental management systems that include: energy consumption, waste production, water use, paper use and transport.
- Work closely with employees, volunteers, participants and the community to develop and implement agreed environmental initiatives
- Promote awareness of sustainability and good environmental management
- Provide leadership to the community by modelling and demonstrating environmentally sustainable practices.
- Identify roles and responsibilities for environmental management amongst staff and volunteers and include these in their role descriptions
- Operate in an environmentally sustainable manner by reusing and recycling energy, water and other material resources
- Consider environmental aspects in the purchase of products and services and ensure suppliers also meet standards of environmental performance
- Provide education and training for new and existing staff to increase awareness and promote environmental responsibility
- Provide a healthy, comfortable and safe environment for staff, volunteers and the wider community
- Coordinate environmental and Occupational Health & Safety objectives, for the handling of hazardous goods
- Comply with relevant Commonwealth and Victorian environment legislation, Occupational Health & Safety practices, and with the Victorian Government's environmental policies and initiatives

**Associated Policies and Procedures-** Occupational Health & Safety Policy