

**Environment and Sustainability Policy**

**SUMMARY**

This policy demonstrates Lord Somers Camp and Power House’s commitment to the support of environmental sustainability in accordance with environmental legislation and principles. Our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan commits to strive for efficiencies in our operations and seek continuous improvement opportunities wherever possible. This means demonstrating leadership on environmental sustainable actions within the community and on behalf of Lord Somers Camp and Power House (LSC&PH) members by ensuring that impacts on the environment, as a result of our programs and activities and our facilities, are minimised.

Improving environmental sustainability also makes sense from a financial management perspective. Our valued funding can be wasted by inefficient building design, systems and by our programs and activities. This policy aims to avoid or minimise inefficient spending through efficient use of costly resources.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**a. Purpose**

Lord Somers Camp and Power House plays an important role in encouraging and increasing awareness of environmental responsibilities and implementing practices that contribute to a more sustainable future. This policy outlines principles, objectives and measures to be embedded into all programs and activities implemented by the Organisation.

**b. Responsibility**

This policy applies to all people who work, volunteer, are members of, or represent Lord Somers Camp and Power House. Employees and executive teams must ensure that this policy is applied within their programs and activities. Environmental and sustainability management is integrated with other planning processes and management activities and other Lord Somers Camp and Power House Policies including the Risk Management Policy.

**2. PRINCIPLES**

LSC&PH is committed to:

- understanding our environmental impacts;
- complying with all environmental legislation and regulations;
- protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural environment where ever we base our programs and activities;
- providing leadership to our members and visitors by becoming a role model camp that shows environmental initiative and incorporates environmental sustainability into everything we do including the our facilities, our programs and activities;
- seeking continual improvement in environmental performance
- motivating staff, volunteers and campers to become more environmentally conscientious.
- reducing the unnecessary costs of inefficient building design and systems.

**3. OBJECTIVES**

In applying these principles, LSC&PH will:

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**A. Minimise our carbon footprint resulting from our offices, facilities, programs and activities;**

This means that:

- the highest proportion of green power will be pursued through power supply contracts, where possible
- all facility maintenance activities and upgrades will be informed by Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles that the highest energy efficiency ratings will be pursued for all products and systems where feasible
- there will be clear guidance for all users on how to efficiently use the energy related products and systems (such as the heating).
- all programs and activities and our organisation’s practices will be reviewed regularly to identify and implement opportunities to minimise the use of energy and fuel consumption.

**B. Minimise the generation of waste and maximise reuse and recycling;**

This means that:

- all purchasing contracts including through the kitchen, office and facilities will be reviewed regularly to identify and implement opportunities to maximise the proportion of recycled and recyclable products and to minimise the amount of packaging entering the facilities.
- opportunities for composting all organic materials generated by the Somers Camp facility (including during hiring periods and that of the organisation’s activities) will continue to be pursued.
- the infrastructure for separating wastes streams from resources such as recyclables and organic materials will continue to be maintained consistent with the Australian Standards for Waste Management.
- There will be clear guidance for all users on how to effectively use the waste infrastructure at all facilities to minimise waste and maximise the recovery of resources (eg signage on different bins).

**C. Minimise our overall per capita consumption of water and improve water use efficiency;**

This means that:

- all facility maintenance activities and upgrades will be informed by ESD) principles and that the highest water efficiency ratings will be pursued for all products and systems where feasible.
- We will maximise the use of rainwater and greywater for reuse at our facilities where feasible
- all programs and activities and our organisation’s practices will be reviewed regularly to identify and implement opportunities to minimise the use of water.
- There will be clear guidance for all users on how to efficiently save water within the organisation’s facilities

**D. Minimising opportunities for pollution of the environment resulting from our programs and activities;**

This means that:

- Litter will be avoided by ensuring that waste bins are adequately placed around facilities in high risk or high usage areas and all users are encouraged to clean the facility following use.
- The waste collection facility will routinely be checked to contain any escaping materials.
- There will be clear guidance for all users to prevent any solid or liquid waste being discarded over fences bounding our facilities

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- There will be clear guidance for all users on best practice strategies for managing paint and other pollutants

**E. Enhance the native vegetation associated with our facilities;**

This means that:

- a routine program of planting, protecting and maintaining the native vegetation on our land and waterways will be developed and implemented

**F. Establishing our facilities as demonstration sites where environmental practices and efficient facility design are communicated and explained;**

This means that:

- We will strive to become leaders in environmental sustainability in the design of our facilities and the programs and activities we run
- We will provide information in induction packages to all users of our facility (including members and hirers) of the sustainable design elements of the facilities and of the most efficient usage of them.
- We will install educational signage and displays on the sustainable design of our building and systems.

**G. Monitoring progress to understand our impacts, effectively manage our budget and regularly reporting on progress;**

This means that:

- We will monitor, through our bills, energy and water use at our facilities to inform us of our overall performance, the effectiveness of our actions and also of priority areas for further attention
- We will monitor, through our bills, levels of waste disposal and resource separation to inform us of our overall performance, the effectiveness of our actions and also of priority areas for further attention.
- We will report on environmental performance and on the implications for our budget annually.

**H. Undertaking reviews to assess our environmental performance and embed environmental sustainability in all aspects of our activities;**

This means that:

- We will target high priority areas of our facilities and programs for targeted assessments of performance (such as a review of our progress on efficiently using resources, such as waste audits to determine contamination rates)

**I. Actively engage staff, members and camp users in the delivery of our program;**

This means that:

- An Environment Officer will be appointed for each camp and program. The role will be defined by the role description for the Environment Officer.

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- We will regularly gauge the views of our staff through meetings, our members through surveys and hirers through feedback forms with the view to continual improvement.

#### **4. RESOURCING**

Environmental sustainable practices should now be part of everything we do. Resourcing for improving the sustainability of our facilities during routine maintenance and upgrades will be incorporated within the relevant business cases.

For significant upgrades to improve efficiencies (such as solar energy, hot water etc) appropriate payback periods will be considered in the first instance, with external funding to be pursued as an alternative.

#### **5. REVIEW OF POLICY**

This Policy will be reviewed every two years by the Environment and Sustainability Committee or sooner if warranted by internal or external events or changes. Changes to the Policy will be recommended by the Environment and Sustainability Committee to the Board.

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