

Sustainable living display

This fact sheet provides you and your family with useful information about how to take steps towards making a sustainable future.

Defined by our spectacular beaches, hinterland ranges, forests and waterways, the Gold Coast is an outstanding city which celebrates nature and connects distinct communities with the common goal of sustainability, choice and well being for all.

How big is your carbon footprint?

Your carbon footprint measures the greenhouse gas emissions an individual releases during the year. Your choices can influence your contribution to climate change and environmental sustainability.

Ways to reduce your carbon footprint

- Be energy efficient – for \$50 the Queensland Government ClimateSmart Home Service will visit your home to show you how. www.climatesmarthome.com
- Leave your fossil fuel reliant car at home by carpooling, cycling, walking or using public transport.
- Grow an edible garden at home to decrease your consumption of packaged and processed food, which minimises the food miles and cool store requirements of your food supply. Or join a community gardening group.
- Go native by planting local natives in your garden for maximum carbon offset and biodiversity.

Did you know?

You can calculate your carbon footprint by visiting www.wwf.org.au/footprint/calculator

Say no to plastic bags

In 2006 Australians used 6 billion plastic bags – of those 3.9 billion were the supermarket variety that take up to 100 years to decompose in a landfill.

Why say no?

- Plastic bags are made from oil, a non-renewable resource that the world relies on for many functions.
- 20,700 tonnes of plastic bags become waste in Australian landfills every year.
- Less than 3% of plastic bags are reused per year.
- Plastic bags clog drains and cause flooding, kill our animals and carry pests and diseases.
- All major cities will reach present landfill capacity by the end of 2010.

Did you know?

8.7 plastic bags contain enough embodied energy to drive a car 1 km

What a waste

Gold Coast residents bury more than 1,500 Olympic sized swimming pools full of waste every year. This has to go somewhere. It leaches contaminants into our environment and contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

What can you do to help?

- Refuse all packaging when shopping.
- Reduce the amount of waste by:
 - minimising your purchases
 - shopping locally and using green bags
 - refilling containers or buying refillable products



- Reuse potential waste by:
 - selling or donating unwanted items
 - composting garden and food waste
 - using food packaging for storage, arts and crafts or seedling pots
- Recycle at home, at work and away from home.

Did you know?

- Recycling just one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a light bulb for 30 hours.
- Just one recycled aluminium can save enough energy to run a television for 3 hours.
- Each tonne of paper or cardboard recycled saves 30,000 litres of water.
- Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a washing machine for 10 minutes.

Use water sensitive urban design

Work with the land

- Design and build with minimal effect on the environment.
- Care for our natural waterways and protect them by using native vegetation as a buffer.
- Limit stormwater run-off using natural drainage pathways and infiltration basins.
- Minimise earthworks and disturbance to the land.

Orientate your home for healthy comfortable living

Exposure to the elements, lighting, climate control and ventilation are important features for any home.

Your home should

- exclude summer sun and create maximum exposure to cooling breezes
- have living spaces with good access to winter sun e.g. north facing areas, balconies and outdoor space
- minimise west facing glass and have adjustable shading to prevent over-heating
- limit shadowing from adjacent buildings or trees
- ensure access in some areas to year round sun for clothes drying and solar energy options

www.yourhome.gov.au

Insulate your home for climate control

A well insulated home

- keeps out the heat during summer
- keeps in the heat during winter
- helps to maintain a healthy building
- reduces energy consumption

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Did you know?

- A well insulated ceiling and roof space will reduce winter heat loss by 25–35%.
- Insulating walls and floors will prevent a further 25% loss of heat.
- Wall insulation can be retrofitted but results are influenced by cavity and frame width.

Save electricity – good for you and good for the environment

It is predicted that emissions trading and infrastructure costs will increase electricity costs by as much as 40%. Save money by reducing your electricity use.

Be energy wise

- Use energy efficient lighting.
- Avoid leaving lights on or appliances on stand-by power.
- Keep air conditioners at 24°C.
- Design and insulate buildings to maximise natural lighting, heating and cooling.
- Convert to solar hot water
www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/solar_bonus_scheme.cfm
 and renewable energy
www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/renewable_energy.cfm

Did you know?

There is plenty of energy saving information on the internet. The following are two websites that provide some great tips.

- The low carbon diet will help you green your carbon footprint in just 30 days by making some easy lifestyle changes
www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/get_involved/low_carbon_diet
- Ways to save shows you smarter ways to use electricity and gas
www.energy.com.au/energy/ea.nsf/Content/Ways+Home