



An Australian Government Initiative



NORTHERN RIVERS

Environmental Policy

Purpose

Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers (RDA NR) acknowledges that its operations have both direct and indirect environmental impacts. As a regional leader, RDA NR is committed to minimising its environmental footprint and promoting sustainability across its activities.

Policy Statement

The Environmental Policy aims to drive continual environmental improvement by engaging with staff, stakeholders, and the wider community to reduce negative environmental impacts. This can be achieved through:

- Minimising waste by evaluating and optimising operations for efficiency.
- Reducing toxic emissions through responsible vehicle selection and use.
- Promoting recycling internally and among customers and suppliers.
- Sourcing and promoting environmentally responsible products to minimise production and distribution impacts.
- Complying with or exceeding environmental legislation related to RDA NR's activities.
- Offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from identified activities through accredited programs.

RDA NR operates within a jointly tenanted building, which presents limitations in controlling energy use, air conditioning, and other shared resources. This policy acknowledges these constraints while providing guidance for staff and members to take proactive steps in reducing environmental impacts.

Our Approach

1. Community Awareness – RDA NR will inform and educate the community on the importance of protecting, maintaining, and improving the region’s environmental assets.
 2. Policy Leadership – RDA NR will engage in and lead policy discussions on regional environmental issues.
 3. Climate Change Response – RDA NR recognises that climate change poses environmental, economic, and social challenges while also presenting opportunities. RDA NR will collaborate with Sustain Northern Rivers and other stakeholders to drive climate change awareness and action.
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Our Practices

4. Staff & Stakeholder Engagement – RDA NR will encourage members, staff, and stakeholders to actively participate in environmental initiatives at all levels. Employees will receive guidance on environmental policy and best practices.
5. Sustainable Procurement – RDA NR will prioritise purchasing recyclable, recycled-content, non-toxic, and locally produced products whenever possible.
6. Sustainable Catering – When providing food or beverages, reusable dishes and containers will be used. Offsite catering will be requested to provide reusable options whenever feasible.
7. Local Sourcing – RDA NR will prioritise locally sourced products, particularly for catering and office supplies.
8. Waste Management – RDA NR will adhere to the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle principles in managing waste.
9. Paper Reduction – RDA NR will minimise paper use by:
 - Encouraging double-sided printing.
 - Reusing paper when appropriate.
 - Seeking digital alternatives to hard-copy documents.
10. Composting – RDA NR will promote the composting of food scraps in its office and among staff and members.
11. Sustainable Travel – RDA NR will encourage carpooling as the preferred mode of travel and facilitate this practice among stakeholders participating in RDA NR activities.

12. Environmental Advocacy – RDA NR will actively promote its participation in programs supporting sustainable practices (e.g., composting, recycling).

Supporting Documents

This policy is supported by the RDA NR Sustainability Position Statement.

Review Date: March 2027

Responsibility: RDA Northern Rivers Board

Previous Versions: December 2011