

# Shire of Denmark Sustainability Program

by Yvette Caruso,  
Sustainability Officer  
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# Shire's Vision Statement

“A happy, healthy and eclectic community that embraces creativity, values the natural environment and is invested in a strong local economy.”



## E1.0

### Our Economy

*We are an attractive location to live, invest, study, visit and work*

- E1.1 To have a stable and locally supported business community that embraces innovation, creativity, resourcefulness and originality
- E1.2 To be a vibrant and unique tourist destination, that celebrates our natural and historical assets
- E1.3 To have diverse education and employment opportunities
- E1.4 To recognise the importance of agriculture in our local economy and protect prime agricultural land

## N2.0

### Our Natural Environment

*Our natural environment is highly valued and carefully managed to meet the needs of our community, now and in the future*

- N2.1 To preserve and protect the natural environment
- N2.2 To promote and encourage responsible development
- N2.3 To reduce human impact on natural resources, reduce waste and utilise renewable energy
- N2.4 To acknowledge and adapt to climate change

## B3.0

### Our Built Environment

*We have a functional built environment that reflects our rural and village character and supports a connected, creative, active and safe community*

- B3.1 To have public spaces and infrastructure that are accessible and appropriate for our community
- B3.2 To have community assets that are flexible, adaptable and of high quality to meet the purpose and needs of multiple users
- B3.3 To have a planning framework that is visionary, supports connectivity and enables participation
- B3.4 To manage assets in a consistent and sustainable manner
- B3.5 To have diverse and affordable housing, building and accommodation options

## C4.0

### Our Community

*We live in a happy, healthy, diverse and safe community with services that support a vibrant lifestyle and foster community spirit*

- C4.1 To have services that foster a happy, healthy, vibrant and safe community
- C4.2 To have services that are inclusive, promote cohesiveness and reflect our creative nature
- C4.3 To create a community that nurtures and integrates natural, cultural and historical values
- C4.4 To recognise and respect our local heritage and Aboriginal history

## L5.0

### Our Local Government

*The Shire of Denmark is recognised as a transparent, well governed and effectively managed Local Government*

- L5.1 To be high functioning, open, transparent, ethical and responsive
- L5.2 To have meaningful, respectful and proactive collaboration with the community
- L5.3 To be decisive and to make consistent and well considered decisions
- L5.4 To be fiscally responsible
- L5.5 To embrace change, apply technological advancement and pursue regional partnerships that drive business efficiency
- L5.6 To seek two-way communication that is open and effective

The Shire of Denmark acknowledges the importance of the natural environment to the residents of Denmark and the region.

*These five pillars represent the community's feedback and the way forward for the Shire of Denmark. Naturally some decisions may reflect a greater alignment to one aspiration over another, however Council and staff consider the impact that a decision will have across all pillars when considering projects, activities and requests.*

*Shire of Denmark Community Strategic Plan (2027)*



# Shire of Denmark Biodiversity Values

- ▶ The South West of Western Australia is one of the 34 biodiversity hotspots in the world - an area of high conservation value due to level of species richness and endemism, but also one on a rapid rate of decline
- ▶ The Shire's Sustainability Services works towards effective management and conservation of biodiversity values found in the Shire of Denmark's bushland, coastal and foreshore reserves





# Biodiversity Management

- ▶ Bushland, Coastal and Foreshore Reserve Management
- ▶ Flora and Fauna Protection
- ▶ Invasive Species Management - weeds, ferals, pathogens
- ▶ Native Vegetation Clearing - environmental impact assessments
- ▶ Waterways - management of waterways for nutrient control and protection of riparian vegetation
- ▶ Indigenous Heritage - recognition and acknowledgement of the first nation's peoples knowledge, connections and ongoing contributions to the land
- ▶ Sustainability - facilitation of best sustainable practice for Shire operations and community
- ▶ Community education on best sustainable practice





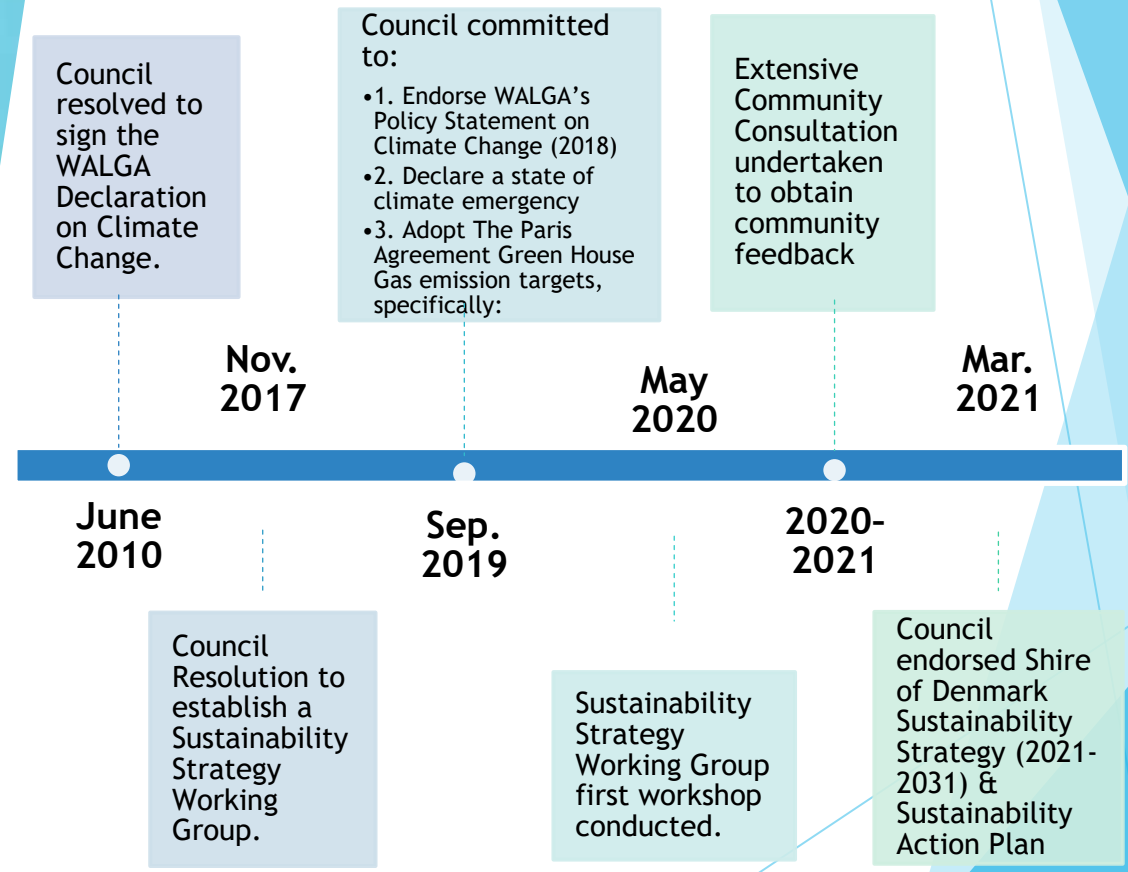
# Sustainability Definition



- ▶ Sustainability refers to meeting the needs of future generations through **environmental** protection, **social** advancement and **economic** prosperity.
- ▶ The effect of **human-induced global climate change** has in recent years emerged as having **increasing impacts** upon biodiversity, human health and natural resources.
- ▶ It has become paramount for the developed world to **act as leaders** in the global community to implement sustainable practices, **mitigation actions** and **adaptation strategies** to address impacts from a changing climate.
- ▶ Sustainability Services at the Shire of Denmark utilises a multi-faceted approach to strive towards **balancing economic, social and environmental factors** and setting **key environmental priorities** for the future.
- ▶ The Shire **monitors the effects of climate change** and **implements and advocates for policies** that will not only mitigate any adverse effects, but also take advantage of any opportunities created.



# Shire Climate Change Commitments





# Shire Sustainability Documents

*Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)*

*Shire of Denmark Sustainability Action Plan*

*Shire of Denmark Sustainable Events Policy*

*Waterwise Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)*

# Shire Biodiversity Management Documents

*Shire of Denmark Coastal Reserves Management Strategy & Action Plan (2010-2020)*

*Ocean Beach & Peaceful Bay Coastal Hazard Risk Management & Adaptation Plan (2018)*

*Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan (2008)*

*Mount Hallowell Reserve Management Plan (2008)*

*A Study into the Risk of Phytophthora Dieback in Ten Peri-urban Reserves*



# Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)

Endorsed by Council March 2021

10 Year Strategy

10 Sustainability Pillars

10 Sustainability Pillars	
 <p><b>Health &amp; Happiness</b> Building the wellbeing of our people is important for the long-term health of our community.</p>	 <p><b>Local &amp; Sustainable Food</b> A sustainable food system that provides health food to the community focuses on the production, processing, distribution, and disposal in ways that contribute to the health of the local economy.</p>
 <p><b>Equity &amp; Local Economy</b> We value the local economy and want to optimise how all members of our community can benefit from sustainable investment.</p>	 <p><b>Sustainable Travel &amp; Transport</b> Sustainable or Green Transport aims to limit the reliance on diminishing natural resources that leave a high carbon footprint.</p>
 <p><b>Culture &amp; Community</b> We value our community's cultural knowledge and sharing this with future generations.</p>	 <p><b>Sustainable Materials &amp; Products</b> Sustainable Materials aim to have a limited negative impact on people and natural resources and do not deplete or degrade the environment.</p>
 <p><b>Land &amp; Nature</b> We will protect and enhance our natural systems that are vital to the sustainability of our local community.</p>	 <p><b>Zero Waste</b> The Shire seeks to embrace the role of a leader in the community by minimising waste.</p>
 <p><b>Sustainable Water</b> A sustainable water approach seeks to manage the threat to the supply and quality of water resources for our community while also seeking to minimise usage.</p>	 <p><b>Zero Carbon Energy</b> Committing to working towards a net zero emissions target is an important step in tackling climate change.</p>



# Sustainability Action Plan

Intent as dynamic document - to be reviewed Annually

Actions derived from community input and from Shire Managers and staff

Actions are set out in tiers:  
Governance, Shire Operations, Community

Sustainability Actions incorporated into Shire's Operational Plan across all directorates



# Shire Sustainability Initiatives

The delivery of the *Sustainability Strategy* is driven by dedicated and forward thinking Councillors and citizens who understand the commitment that is needed to change the way we do things, in order for us to live within the means of this planet.



- ▶ Organisational restructure with formation of Sustainable Projects Team
- ▶ Formation of Shire Council Sustainable Projects Committee in early 2022

# Health & Happiness

*Building the well-being of our people is important for the long-term health of our community.*



## Community Collaboration

- ▶ Shire's role to facilitate and foster **community connections** across the Shire
- ▶ Annual conduction of **community survey** to monitor and respond to community concerns
- ▶ Conduct and support **education programs** informing the community around **sustainable living**



# Equity & Local Economy

*We value the local economy and want to optimise how all members of our community can benefit from sustainable investment.*

## Support the community to promote a circular economy and buy local philosophy

**Garage Sale Trail** - annual event facilitated by the Shire to raise awareness and encourage community to adopt ethos of circular economy

Council adoption of **Tourism Strategy** incorporating sustainable business practice and sustainable tourism

Shire **Community Grants Policy** reviewed and endorsed by Council to incorporate a sustainable weighting to the assessment process

**Promoting partnerships** with NFP NGO's to leverage funding for sustainable enterprise activities

Investigate feasibility of developing a **Responsible Sustainable Investment Policy** for the Shire





# Culture & Community

*We value our community's cultural knowledge and sharing this with future generations.*



## Community Oriented Environmental Education Program

5 x Community Garden Workshops

Owl Friendly Denmark Region Campaign

Elders Gathering Kwoorabup Beeljar to show respect for culture and waterways

Garden Escapees and Local Native Weed Look-alike Plants workshops

2 x Plant Propagation workshops

4 x movie screenings of the movie 'Blue' on plastic pollution and over-harvesting of our oceans

FoodScraps to Fertiliser workshop

Waste Audits & Waste Education workshop





# Land & Nature

*We will protect & enhance our natural systems that are vital to the sustainability of our local community.*

- ▶ Incorporation of **ESD** and sustainable principles into current development of Local Planning Strategy
- ▶ **Biodiversity management** - protection of ecological values, mitigation of threats from invasive species and pathogens, increased visitor and population pressures
- ▶ **CHRMAP** - Assessment of coastal erosion processes and ESL events with mitigation and adaptation planning across coastal reserves
- ▶ **Waterways** - collaboration with agencies, community organisations and stakeholders on decision making impacting upon health of our inlets and estuaries
- ▶ **Invasive weed species** targeted management across the Shire with representation on WALGA Integrated Management and Herbicide Weed Working Group
- ▶ Shire representation on regional SCNRM Healthy Environments Reference Group

2021



# Sustainable Water

*A sustainable water approach seeks to manage the threat to the supply & quality of water resources for our community while also seeking to minimise usage.*

- ▶ Water wise Council - since 2016
- ▶ *Water Efficiency Action Plan 2017-2022*
- ▶ Water Management Team meetings - quarterly
- ▶ Waterwise Annual Re-endorsement as a Waterwise Council
- ▶ Auditing of Shire water consumption - corporate and community
- ▶ Recent project - in collaboration with Water Corporation to divert Waste Water Treatment water to irrigate McLean oval
- ▶ Shire Verge Policy being developed to incorporate Waterwise native vegetation considerations





# Sustainable Travel & Transport

*Sustainable or Green Transport aims to limit the reliance on diminishing natural resources that leave a high carbon footprint.*

- ▶ Trickle-charging station located behind the Shire for community use
- ▶ Council commitment of funds for installation of fast charging station(s) to be installed in CBD
- ▶ Shire fleet has 3 x hybrid e-vehicles leased for Councillor and staff use
- ▶ Shire purchase of 2 x electric vehicles in 2021 and early 2022
- ▶ Shire purchase of electric bike for Shire staff use to encourage sustainable practice and less reliance on fossil fuel transport options
- ▶ New innovative sustainable engineering technologies and products such as crumbed-rubber sealed roads along Mt Shadforth Rd, She-oak Drive and Ti-Tree Lane in early 2022
- ▶ Transport Infrastructure Plan to be developed to incorporate building bicycle paths and improved pedestrian networks







# Sustainable Materials, Products & Food

*Sustainable Materials aim to have a limited negative impact on people & natural resources and do not deplete or degrade the environment.*

- ▶ *Sustainable Events Policy P100516* - all events held on Shire managed lands are conducted using sustainable practices
- ▶ Plastic Free July - positive action to refuse single-use plastic, reuse, reduce and recycle
- ▶ Liaising with Plastic Reduction Denmark to provide sustainable festive events bunting for Shire community events
- ▶ Waste education workshop in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce showcasing alternative sustainable products to encourage local small businesses to reduce reliance on single-use disposables in line with State WA Plan for Plastics
- ▶ Shire support for Denmark Local Arts markets

EVERY PIECE OF PLASTIC WE HAVE EVER USED IS STILL ON THE PLANET TODAY.

**How you can make a difference:**

- Keep a reusable coffee cup in your car
- Use reusable containers for your lunch
- Use bees wax wrap instead of cling wrap
- Avoid buying products with individually packaged items
- Utilise the compost bin in workplace kitchen
- Recycle items including printer cartridge soft plastic, and paper in workplace recycling stations

**We're working hard to avoid:**

- 1 Plastic shopping bags
- 2 Single use plastic cutlery
- 3 Plastic straws and stirrers



# Zero Waste

*The Shire seeks to embrace the role of a leader in the community by minimising waste.*

Containers for Change; Plastic Free July; Waste education audits and waste education workshops

Denmark Tip Shop; Garage Sale Trail

Feasibility study for FOGO; composting workshops

Cloth nappy initiative; Mug Library (reusable coffee cups)

Household hazardous waste program (batteries and light bulbs); E-waste

Green waste - investigations into processing alternatives to burning

Recycling - bin lid colour change to promote better bins behaviour practice





# Zero Carbon Energy

*Committing to working towards a net zero emissions target is an important step in tackling climate change.*

- ▶ Solar PV panels on Shire administration building since 2012
- ▶ Investigations into Business Plan being developed for installation of solar PV on additional Shire facilities
- ▶ Auditing of electricity consumption - corporate and community
- ▶ Shire representation on WALGA Climate Change Collaborative working group and WALGA Carbon Accounting working group
- ▶ Successful application to Regional Climate Alliance with other participating SCA LGs
- ▶ GHG emission baseline data collated for 20-21 financial year
- ▶ Roadmap to Zero being developed through RCA project



# Thank you!

For further information please access  
Shire website Sustainability &  
Biodiversity website page at:  
<https://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/residents/sustainability-and-biodiversity.aspx>

