



# Our Environment Our Business

**Tips and Tools for Sustainability  
Action for Local Business Leaders.**

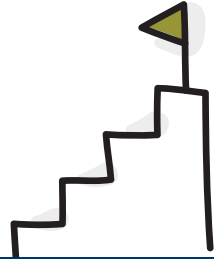


Woollahra Council's sustainability program, **Our Environment Our Business** supports and showcases local businesses and not-for-profits who are leading the way with sustainability action.

Does your business already promote sustainability?

**Would you like support to make your business more sustainable?**

# Get involved.



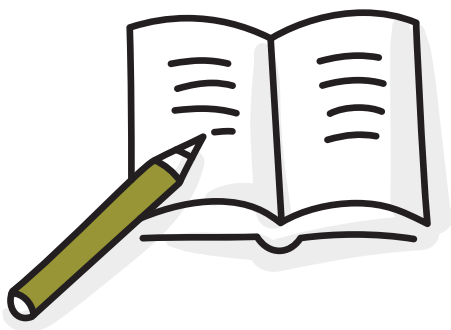
## Share your story.

Share and promote your sustainability projects with the local community & inspire others to take action.



## Learn simple steps.

Your business can save money while reducing your impact on the environment, get top tips & share your learnings.



## Get access to resources.

Get discounts, services, mentoring & info to help you reduce energy bills, avoid single-use plastics, manage waste & more.



## Be more visible.

We'll help you to showcase your business and the sustainability steps you're taking, to make your efforts & actions more visible.



## Get started.

This booklet will help support and boost your sustainability actions, voice and advocacy now and into the future...



“ How can I save energy & reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions? ”

“ How can we be more water efficient? ”

# Get started.

Talk to Council's sustainability team on **02 9391 7000** or email [sustainability@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

## Why get involved?

1. We'll link you with discounts, services, mentoring and information to help you reduce your energy bills, manage your waste, select sustainable products and reduce your water consumption.
2. We'll help make your sustainability actions more visible by providing opportunities to showcase your business and the steps you're taking.

## How will we share your story?

### We'll help you get the word out about your sustainability action by:

1. Creating a tailored sustainability pledge certificate for display at your shopfront
2. Creating a sharable social media tile that highlights the actions you've taken
3. Adding your business or organisation to our sustainability action map
4. Profiling your business's sustainability actions in Woollahra Council's newsletters and social media.

“

What can we do to **reduce waste & single-use plastics?** ”

“How can I select **more sustainable products?** ”



## How do I get started?

### STEP ONE

Review the material in this booklet and discuss your situation with our team to consider your current sustainability actions, your future plans and resources available to support you.

### STEP TWO

Make a sustainability action pledge and share your story with us so we can print your certificate, create your social media tile and add you to the sustainability action map.

Your pledge might include actions such as:

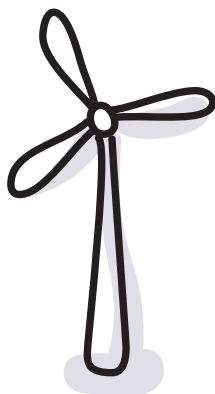
- We've replaced our old lighting with energy-efficient LEDs.
- We've switched to paper straws and bamboo cutlery.
- Our staff are walking and cycling to work.
- All our paper products are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.
- We've upgraded to water efficient appliances.

### STEP THREE

Make your actions more visible by sharing them through your own social media, shop displays and business profile.



# Energy saving.



How can I save energy and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

## Switch to GreenPower

Over 25,000 Australian businesses have chosen GreenPower as an effective way to reduce their environmental impact and support Australia's emerging renewable energy sector. The GreenPower website provides information to help businesses make the switch.

[www.greenpower.gov.au/Business](http://www.greenpower.gov.au/Business)

## Check out the Energy Saver program for small business

The NSW Government Energy Saver program provides information on energy management, as well as access to offers that will help you upgrade your equipment at a lower cost.

**Access advice, discounts & incentives:**

### Install LED lighting

to replace your old lights, this can reduce your electricity bill by hundreds of dollars a year.

### Install new refrigeration

equipment or modify your current system. This can make it more energy efficient and make a difference to your bottom line.

### Upgrade heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC)

in commercial buildings, HVAC systems are often the biggest energy guzzlers.

[www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business](http://www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business)

## Develop a Clean Energy Strategy

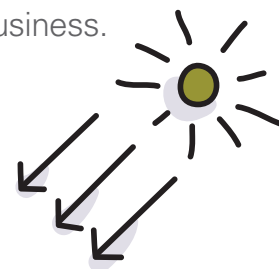
More and more NSW businesses are taking action to develop a clean energy strategy. A clean energy strategy can help you understand your energy profile, identify where your energy costs come from, and develop a roadmap to improve competitiveness, reduce costs and build the reputation of your business.

[www.energy.nsw.gov.au/media/1531/download](http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/media/1531/download)

## Install Solar Panels

By installing a solar panel system on your office or warehouse rooftop you can reduce the greenhouse gas impact of your business and save money too.

[www.energy.nsw.gov.au/media/1461/download](http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/media/1461/download)



## Sample pledges.

### We've switched to 30% green energy

We've replaced our old lighting with energy-efficient LEDs

### We've installed solar panels

We've developed a clean energy strategy

### We've upgraded to more energy efficient air-conditioning

# Reduce waste.



What can I do to reduce waste?

## Participate in Bin Trim

The Bin Trim program is here to provide free help and support for NSW businesses to maximise recycling and minimise waste to landfill. It also helps save time and money, while caring for the environment.

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim)

## Join Responsible Cafes

Responsible Cafes supports cafes and catering businesses to reduce single use plastics and stop plastic ending up in landfill, littering our oceans and neighbourhoods.

[www.responsiblecafes.org](http://www.responsiblecafes.org)

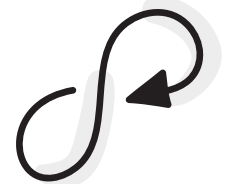


## Join Sustainable Salons

Sustainable Salons is the first comprehensive resource recovery program designed for the salon environment that rewards salons and gives back to the community. How?

Explore below to find out!

[www.sustainablesalons.org](http://www.sustainablesalons.org)



## Increase recycling

Access the War on Waste Toolkit for Business and search for business recycling services and equipment for around 90 different materials.

[www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au)

## Access Environmental Action Guides

The NSW Environment Action Authority has several industry specific guides to help manage waste and environmental impacts of businesses including automotive service, smash repairs and printers.

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

Search for

'Environmental Action Guide'



## Sample pledges.

### We send 80% of waste to recycling

We're committed to reducing single-use plastics by...

### We've reduced our waste by...

Our organic waste goes to...

### We have a worm farm for waste from our staff

# Sourcing sustainably.

How can I reduce single use plastics and select more sustainable products?

## Look for ways to reduce plastic packaging

Getting rid of plastics from your business's everyday practices can make a big impact. For tips on how to refuse single-use plastic products and packaging in your business see Plastic Free July.

[www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org)

## Check suppliers in the Bye Bye Plastic Sustainable Suppliers Guide

Bye Bye Plastic Hello BYO encourages businesses and shoppers to replace single use plastic items like bags and straws with reusable items. The suppliers guide lists a range of suppliers for alternate products.

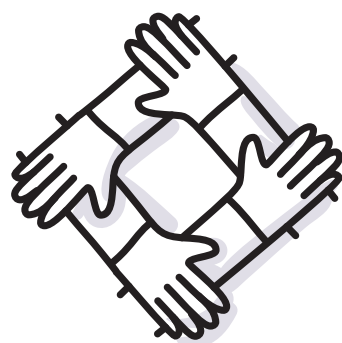
[www.byebyeplastic.org.au/sustainable-supplier-guide](http://www.byebyeplastic.org.au/sustainable-supplier-guide)

## Review the Sustainable Procurement Guide

Sustainable purchasing looks at the life cycle of the goods and services, taking into account associated costs, environmental and social risks and benefits, and broader social and environmental implications.

[www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

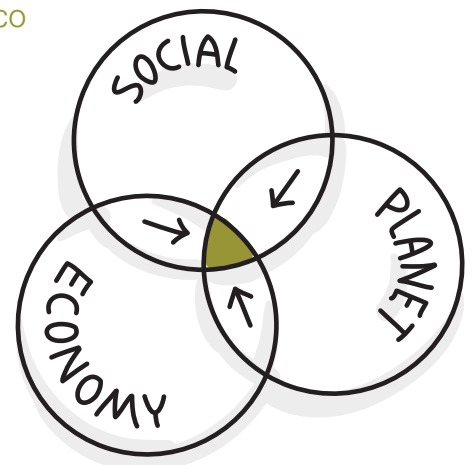
Search for 'Sustainable Procurement Guide'



## Select products recognised by Good Environmental Choice Australia

GECAs Product Database is a tool to help you choose goods and services that are better for the environment.

[www.geca.eco](http://www.geca.eco)



## Sample pledges.

We're committed to reducing single-use plastics by switching to paper straws

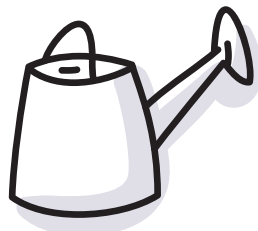
**Our paper/bamboo/timber products are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**

The packaging we select can be recycled within Australia

**We assess the environmental and social impact of products including...**

We buy products that use recycled materials including...

# Water wise.



How can we be more water efficient?

## Review Sydney Water's water efficiency tips for business

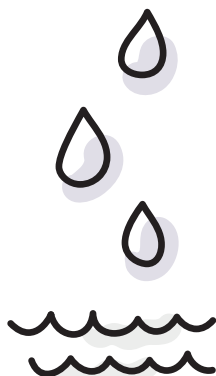
Saving water makes good business sense as you save money, reduce demand for water from dams and improve your business reputation. Even small businesses with limited water use can do their bit by upgrading basic items such as taps, showers or toilets, to WELS- rated water efficient models.

[www.sydneywater.com.au/businessstips](http://www.sydneywater.com.au/businessstips)

## Check water efficiency rating labels

Look for the water rating label or text advice on all products regulated under the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme. The label is designed to help you make informed choices about the water efficiency of products you are buying.

[www.waterrating.gov.au/](http://www.waterrating.gov.au/)



## Compare your water use to similar businesses

Sydney Water has benchmarks to help you easily compare your water use with other businesses like yours.

[www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

Search for 'Benchmarks'



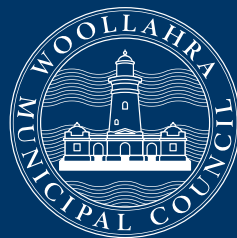
## Sample pledges.

### We've upgraded to water efficient dishwashers

We've installed a smart watering system to minimise use of water on our garden

### We've planted natives in the garden

We've installed water tanks



Our  
Environment  
**Our business**

**Woollahra Council**

536 New South Head Road  
Double Bay  
NSW 2028

**02 9391 7000**

[sustainability@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

[www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

[facebook.com/woollahracouncil](https://www.facebook.com/woollahracouncil)

[twitter.com/woollahramc](https://twitter.com/woollahramc)