

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION STATEMENT

In February 2024, Council adopted [the Council Plan 2023-2033](#), which outlines this community's strategic priorities, vision and desired outcomes for the next 10 years.

One of the five performance areas is "Planet", with desired outcomes including healthy ecosystems (outcome 3) and environmental sustainability (outcome 4).

Planet covers all aspects of the environment and sustainability, from the river foreshore and nature reserves to waste and energy management, water conservation, tree planting, and ranger services. This aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals as outlined below:



The following action statement outlines our commitment to you to ensure a shared understanding of what the Town can and will do, including to assist residents, businesses and visitors.

## NOVEMBER 2024

# Our Commitment

## ALL AREAS: CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Objectives	Actions/ Strategies
Managing environmental aspects and impacts Environmental compliance Improving environmental performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subscription to online environmental legislation directory and updates</li> <li>• Subscription to emissions, energy and water data monitoring platform</li> <li>• Council Purchasing Policy (Sustainable Procurement)</li> <li>• Management of an Environmental Risk Register and Environmental Compliance Register</li> </ul>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS “LIFE ON LAND” AND “LIFE BELOW WATER” (OUTCOME 3. HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS)

Objectives	Actions/ Strategies
Increase tree canopy cover to 30% by 2040 Conserve, protect and enhance the Swan River foreshore and nature reserves Value, conserve and protect our water resources and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street and Reserve Trees Council Policy</li> <li>• 10 and 1 year natural area management plans</li> <li>• Tree Canopy Action Plan 2023-2027</li> <li>• Collective Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Pesticide Use and Management Policy and Operational Guidelines</li> <li>• Signatory to the Reel It In: Fishing Line Bin MOU</li> <li>• Member of WALGA Urban Forest Working Group</li> <li>• Member of WALGA Local Government Integrated Weed Management Working Group</li> <li>• Foreshore condition assessment and priority site restoration</li> <li>• Bassendean Drainage Network Sampling and Analysis Plan</li> </ul>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS “LIFE BELOW WATER” AND “CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION” (OUTCOME 4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Objectives	Actions/ Strategies
Corporate ground water: do not exceed allocation set by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Corporate scheme water: Maintain at or below per capita levels of 1000L per person Community scheme water: Maintain at or below 125kL per capita until 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light Industry Audit Program</li> <li>• Participation in the Waterwise Council Program</li> <li>• Waterwise Council Action Plan</li> </ul>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL “RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION” (OUTCOME 4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Objectives	Actions/ Strategies
Waste generation reduction per capita by 5% by 2025 and 10% by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Plan 2021</li> <li>• Waste Services Council Policy</li> </ul>
Material recovery of 67% by 2025 and 70% by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Services Management Practice</li> </ul>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS “AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY” AND “CLIMATE ACTION” (OUTCOME 4. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Objective	Actions/ Strategies based on WALGA’s <a href="#">Climate Change Action Framework</a>
Strive to be carbon neutral by 2030	<p><b>Primary commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signatory to the WALGA Climate Change Declaration</li> <li>• Participation in the Cities Power Partnership Program</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary core actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2011</li> <li>• Waste Plan 2021</li> <li>• Corporate Emissions Reduction Strategy 2022-2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Tertiary- special actions and projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Investment Policy (Fossil fuel divestment)</li> <li>• Purchase of 100% renewable energy (electricity) for Town facilities since October 2021</li> <li>• Flood Risk Adaptation Plan 2021</li> <li>• Participation in the WALGA Energy and Renewables Project</li> <li>• Management of a climate change risk register</li> </ul>

### ACTIONS/ STRATEGIES

#### Land use planning and development control

- State Planning Policies/ Residential Design Codes
- Design Review Panel
- Environmental conditions on approvals
- Local Planning Policy No. 2 – Sustainable Development
- Local Planning Policy 13 - Tree Retention and Provision
- Local Planning Policy 14 - Stormwater
- Landscape Plan Information Sheet

#### Community engagement

- Plants to Residents
- Verge Rebate Program
- Participation in Switch your thinking
- Events, workshops and programmes
- Supporting community/ environmental volunteer groups
- Verge Treatment Guidelines
- Bushcare Volunteer Manual

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## What you can do

### Living more sustainably

For tips on how you can live more sustainably in the following areas, [click here](#).

*Waste*

*Water*

*Transport*

*Food*

*Energy*

*Cleaning*

You can also take advantage of a range of [discounts and rebates](#) the Town provides.

### Protect our waterways

You can help protect the Town's waterways by using [phosphorous free products](#) to wash your car on your lawn, or at a specialised car wash- not in your driveway or on the road. If your business runs a vehicle wash down bay or facility this must be approved by the Town.

If you own a dog, make sure you clean up after it and dispose of waste in bins provided or at home.

Minimise the use of fertiliser by following the [fertilise wise guidelines](#), or avoid it completely by planting a native, waterwise garden.

### Wildlife friendly gardens/ urban cooling

Support is provided for residents to establish native, waterwise gardens, through Plants to Residents and Verge Rebate Programs. Launching annually in autumn you can find more information [here](#).

You can request for a free street tree to be planted on your front or side verge via the [online form](#), and help take care of any existing street trees by providing additional watering in hot/dry conditions. For ideas on how to improve biodiversity on your property, [click here](#).

### Events and volunteering

There are many ways you can get involved in helping the environment; by attending a workshop or event or joining a Friends of Group that volunteers in the Town's natural areas. Explore local community groups [here](#).