POLICY REGISTER

POLICY TITLE:	**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY FOR COUNCIL ASSETS**
FOLDER NUMBER:	F2007/00307
POLICY OWNER / DIVISION:	Office of the General Manager
POLICY OWNER / BRANCH:	Strategy and Place
FUNCTION:	Sustainability
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:	NSW Local Government Act 1993
POLICY ADOPTION/AMENDMENT DATE:	9 April 2025 **REPORT NUMBER:** CS3/25
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RELATED POLICIES:	**NSW GOVERNMENT RESOURCE EFFICIENCY POLICY 2019** NSW Climate Change Policy Framework 2016 NSW Government Net Zero Plan Stage 1 2020-2030 NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 Greater Sydney Commission's Northern District Plan Resilient Sydney- A Strategy for City Resilience 2018 Your Vision Your Future: Hornsby Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 Hornsby Shire Council Delivery Program 2024-2027 Sustainable Hornsby 2040 Climate Wise Hornsby Plan 2021 Hornsby Shire Council Sustainable Procurement Determination Hornsby Shire Council Water Quality and Conservation Policy

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1.0 Introduction

This Policy has been developed to integrate sustainability principles into the planning, design, construction and purchase of all new and refurbished Council assets.

This Policy applies to new or refurbished built assets, plant and equipment, in the following asset classes:

- Buildings and other structures
- Bushland
- Parks, landscapes and recreation
- Roads, car parks and footpaths
- Fleet (passenger vehicles, heavy vehicles, plant)
- Stormwater drainage
- Traffic facilities, road signs and traffic barriers
- Waste
- Water quality

2.0 Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Meet the objectives of the Sustainable Hornsby 2040 strategies, including:
    - Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and reduce Council's vulnerability to a changing climate (Climate Wise Hornsby Plan);

and

    - Achieve the 80% resource recovery target and support the circular economy (Waste Matters Strategy 2020).
- Create assets that minimise energy and potable water consumption and promote renewable energy and non-potable water alternatives.
- Build assets that promote the circular economy through the use of recycled content, reused, salvaged, locally made or lower embodied energy materials.

3.0 Guiding Principles and Requirements

The following is a list of sustainability principles and requirements that are to be considered in the implementation of all new or refurbished assets (as listed in section 1.0) regardless of value, location or use.

Prior to the scoping and/ or concept stage of any new, refurbished and replacement assets, Council's Sustainability Team is to be consulted regarding the Policy.

All projects must consider the following and document the decision-making rationale:

- Incorporate passive solar design to maximise daylighting and passive heating and cooling opportunities.
- All new electrical equipment purchased must comply with high efficiency standards specified in the NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy. Refer to the Appendix 1. All internal and external lighting should be energy efficient LED lighting.
- Optimise opportunities to use renewable energy sources and incorporate renewable energy technologies where suitable. Refer to Appendix 1.
- Minimise embodied energy in construction materials[1] or source materials with an Environmental Product Declaration[2].
- Ensure hot water systems are energy efficient electric systems (e.g. heat pumps).

- Comply with the minimum WELS star rating, dependent on appliance/fixture type, as stipulated in Appendix 1.
- Optimise alternative water supply while ensuring public health is not compromised.
- Maximise re-used and recycled content materials (e.g. concrete, asphalt), and the incorporation of low embodied energy or locally made materials if a suitable product is available.
- Transition away from gas and move to all electric buildings.
- Consider alternative to fossil fuels in vehicles, outdoor plant equipment and generators (used by Council and its contractors).
- All major buildings must also provide efficient control and effective maintenance systems that incorporate monitoring of energy consumption, (e.g. Installation of a Building Management System).

[1] *Embodied energy is a calculation of all the energy that is used to produce a material or product, e.g. bricks or timber have low embodied energy and steel has high (www.yourhome.gov.au/materials/embodied-energy)*

[2] *An Environmental Product Declaration includes information about the life-cycle environmental impact of a product and a verified carbon footprint (https://epd-australasia.com/).*

APPENDIX 1

Appliances and Equipment

The following appliance and equipment minimum standards are from the NSW Government Resources Efficiency Policy.

Minimum Standards for Water-using Appliances

Appliances and equipment in the following categories with star ratings under the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) must have at least the following star ratings:

- showerheads – 3.5 stars
- toilets and urinals – 4 stars
- washing machines – 4.5 stars
- dishwashers – 5 stars
- taps and flow controllers – 5 stars.

Minimum Standards for New Electrical Appliances and Equipment.

*Appliances and equipment purchased in the following categories with star ratings under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) will be at least the following:

- refrigerators – 2.5 stars
- clothes dryers (up to 10kg) – 3 stars
- washing machines – 3.5 stars
- dishwashers – 4 stars
- pool pumps – 7.5 stars
- fridge/freezers – 3.5 stars
- freezers – 3 stars
- air-to-air heat pumps and air conditioners – 4 stars if less than 4kW and 3 stars if
- greater than 4kW (applies to both heating and cooling for reverse cycle air conditioners)
- televisions – 5 stars (Tier 2 rating).

Equipment in the following categories will be endorsed as being high efficiency rating under ENERGY STAR® in Australia:

- computers (i.e. desktops, notebooks and tablets, workstations, small-scale servers and thin clients)
- printers
- photocopiers
- electronic screens and displays

Equipment in the following categories will meet the definition of 'high efficiency' under Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards:

- refrigerated commercial display cabinets – AS1731.14
- distribution transformers – AS2374.1.2
- electric motors – AS1359.5
- external power supplies – AS4879.2

Equipment in the following categories will meet the following performance benchmarks:

- air-cooled liquid chilling packages – IPLV of 5.1
- water-cooled liquid chilling packages – IPLV of 9.6
- closed-control air conditioners – AEER of 3.3

Renewable energy sources and technologies - Solar installations

- New solar installations are only economically feasible if the facility has electrical equipment that directly consumes most of the solar power produced during daylight hours or if energy storage batteries can be installed.
- New solar installations must be no smaller than 15kW and they must avoid exporting excess electricity into the grid.
- New solar installations must be designed and installed by a Solar Accreditation Australia accredited designer and installer.