

Climate Emergency

Read more Council and community stories at environmentsurfcoast.com.au

In this Climate Emergency update we shine a spotlight on four teams at Surf Coast Shire Council demonstrating environmental leadership and supporting our Climate Emergency response.

Early Years commitment to sustainability

The Early Years team have strengthened their commitment to sustainability and supporting a Climate Emergency response. The team are currently working together to develop Sustainability Work Instructions and identify strategies which will inform the corresponding Action Plan. Both the Work Instructions and Action Plan will provide guidance, and a commitment by the Early Years team and teachers, to make positive environmental changes.



Council projects to consider climate change

Climate change considerations have been incorporated into the 2020/21 Project Charter and Workbook by the Project Management Office. This means that in the project planning stage, the majority will be required to consider implications for climate change, including steps to reduce emissions; identifying climate change-related risks and impacts; and implementing appropriate measures to respond to them.



Photo credit: Matt Hull

Surf Coast Shire Events to protect the environment

Recognising the role of Surf Coast Shire's natural environment in attracting events to the region, the Events team has developed criteria to ensure that event organisers contribute to protecting and enhancing our local environment. Several pass or fail criteria have been introduced into both the Great Ocean Road Event Closure Guidelines and Event Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines, cementing the importance of environmental leadership for Surf Coast Shire events. This work extends on Surf Coast Shire Council's [Plastic Wise Events and Markets Policy](#) introduced in 2016.

Recycled materials on the rise

Incorporating recycled materials into infrastructure and building projects is another avenue being pursued in response to the Climate Emergency. Recent examples include incorporating recycled plastic park furniture and bollards in Council reserves and planter boxes at community gardens within the Surf Coast Shire. The additional kerbside bins which households will receive in February 2021 as part of the [four bin kerbside waste service](#) are made from 60% recycled plastic content. Shifting to products that incorporate recycled content is an important aspect of supporting a local circular economy, which aims to recover the value of the materials we use and avoid them going to landfill.