

Sydney Opera House Policy

Title:	Environmental Sustainability Policy
Policy Number:	2021/4
Effective Date:	25/06/2021
Authorisation:	Chief Executive Officer
Authorisation Date:	22/06/2021
Superseded Policy:	Environmental Sustainability Policy – SOH119
Accountable Director:	Executive Director, Building, Safety & Security
Responsible Officer:	Environmental Sustainability Manager

1. CORE PROPOSITION

- 1.1. As outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Policy (this Policy) and in line with SOH's *Strategy (2018-23)* and *Environmental Action Plan (2020-23)*, SOH aims to be an Environmental sustainability leader by:
- Embedding Environmental sustainability in strategic planning and operational delivery across its diverse business, while conserving and enhancing SOH's heritage values.
 - Identifying impacts and managing risks in order to protect and enhance the environment in which SOH operates.
 - Engaging Employees, partners and the community on key sustainability issues and inspiring them to effect positive change, individually and collectively.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **Environmental sustainability** – means undertaking business operations in a manner that balances the needs of present and future generations.
- 2.2. **Employee** – means SOH permanent, temporary and casual employees.
- 2.3. **Global Goals** – means the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, described by the United Nations as a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The goals address global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.
- 2.4. **Worker** – has the meaning provided in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)* and includes all Employees, and any other person engaged to undertake work in any capacity on behalf of SOH, including suppliers, contractors, subcontractors and their employees.
- 2.5. **Cultural heritage significance** – includes the State, National and World heritage values of a property. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* provides that a property's World and National heritage values are its natural heritage and cultural heritage. *The Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* refers to the protection and conservation of items of State heritage significance (meaning significance to the State or to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item).

3. SCOPE

- 3.1. This Policy applies to all Workers, visitors and users of SOH (including resident companies, presenting companies, venue hirers and onsite commercial operators) while at any SOH-owned or operated site.
- 3.2. This Policy should be read together with:
- Relevant SOH corporate plans and strategies including: *Strategy (2018-23)*, *Environmental Action Plan (2020-23)* and *Biodiversity Statement of Commitment, Conservation Management Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan (2020-22)* and *Accessibility Action Plan*.
 - Relevant SOH policies and procedures including: *Code of Conduct, Staff Delegations of Authority Manual, Work Health and Safety Policy* and *Smoke-free Environment Policy*.
- 3.3. This Policy aligns with the *NSW Government Circular Economy Policy, Resource Efficiency Policy* and *Climate Change Policy Framework*.

3.4. This Policy aligns with environmental legislation and regulations including the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), as applicable.

4. PRINCIPLES

4.1. SOH strives to be at the **forefront of Environmental sustainability**.

4.2. SOH **recognises and respects** the past and future contribution of Australia's First Nations people when planning for and engaging in sustainable practices.

4.3. SOH acknowledges that sustainability goals contribute to **long-term financial viability**.

4.4. SOH takes responsibility for conserving and respecting the building's **Cultural heritage significance** in all environmental projects and initiatives.

4.5. SOH is committed to the **Global Goals** as they encapsulate SOH's commitment to Environmental sustainability, creativity, diversity, cultural rights and respect for heritage. SOH has aligned its *Environmental Action Plan (2020-23)* with the Global Goals.

4.6. SOH will take **positive action** to prevent pollution and lessen environmental impact through its programs and initiatives.

4.7. SOH recognises the importance of developing and cultivating **partnerships** that will help SOH achieve its environmental goals and is committed to cooperation and collaboration in this space.

4.8. SOH will demonstrate **leadership and creativity** by taking action that engages and inspires positive change in the community.

4.9. All members of the SOH community have a **shared responsibility** for SOH's sustainability performance through promoting sustainable practices and fostering behaviour change.

4.10. SOH will **engage** with Workers on sustainability decision-making processes and outcomes and will openly communicate and report on objectives, actions and plans.

4.11. Through sustainability messages, themes and programming, SOH will **inspire visitors and audiences** to contribute to sustainability.

4.12. SOH will continue to work towards achieving and maintaining a **six-star Green Star rating** and developing a strategy to become climate-positive.

5. PLANNING

5.1. The *Environmental Action Plan (2020-23)* (EAP) sets up specific goals, actions and timeframes to improve SOH's environmental performance and mitigate risk by:

- Committing to initiatives and projects that align with SOH's vision and values.
- Setting ambitious environmental objectives and targets, and creating a roadmap for their achievement.
- Defining clear responsibilities and timeframes with regard to SOH environmental actions.
- Confirming SOH's commitment to the Global Goals and engaging with Workers and the community to inspire positive change.

6. OPERATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

6.1. SOH will seek to identify and implement principles of Environmental sustainability in all operations (including construction and maintenance work and commercial operations), to mitigate risk, reduce environmental impact and lead by example.

6.2. SOH is committed to maximising the efficient use of resources in its operations, and to embedding circular economy principles, which are:

- Sustainable management of all resources.
- Valuing resource productivity.
- Design out waste and pollution.
- Maintain the value of products and materials.

- Innovate new solutions for resource efficiency.
- Create new circular economy jobs.
- Foster behaviour change through education and engagement.

6.3. SOH is committed to meeting Environmental sustainability national and international standards, and specifically to embed the principles of sustainable event management in its entire event management cycle, and to develop initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of all SOH events, festivals and performances.

6.4. In implementing its *Community Donations Policy* and *Sponsorship Policy*, SOH will identify opportunities to collaborate with existing or future partners and the community to improve SOH environmental performance.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1. SOH will consider this Policy in all SOH initiatives, programs and events and ensure Environmental sustainability principles underpin SOH planning and decision-making.

7.2. The EAP will be publicly available on SOH's website and included in all Employee training packages.

7.3. SOH will:

- Undertake procurement in accordance with Environmental sustainability principles and the SOH Procurement Policy so that goods and services are procured in an environmentally, socially and financially responsible manner.
- Embed effective environmental risk management in all SOH processes and activities, in line with the SOH Risk Management Policy.
- Establish practices to comply with applicable environmental legislation, government policies and industry standards, and will incorporate these into its policies, strategies and business plans.
- Ensure transparency and accountability by monitoring, reviewing and reporting as required on SOH's Environmental sustainability commitments, in accordance with the EAP.
- Make Environmental sustainability training available to all Workers to engage and educate them about SOH's strategic goals and objectives with regards to Environmental sustainability.

7.4. SOH's marketing and communications teams will implement appropriate mechanisms and channels to communicate to Workers and to the broader community on sustainability issues.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1. **Everyone** is responsible for complying with this Policy and actively contributing to the achievement of its goals.

8.2. **Managers and supervisors** are responsible for supporting Employees in their participation on Environmental sustainability initiatives.

8.3. **Environmental Sustainability Manager** is responsible for:

- Leading the review of the EAP every three years and reporting to SOH's Executive team biannually and to the SOH Trust as appropriate.
- Implementing and reviewing this Policy as appropriate and in line with the EAP.
- Reporting on SOH environmental performance.

8.4. **Sustainability Committee** is responsible for:

- Supporting the implementation of the EAP across SOH.
- Acting as a 'hub of influence' to engage Employees and embed Environmental sustainability across the organisation.
- Leading Employee engagement projects, ideas and initiatives.

- 8.5. **Senior Leadership Team members** are responsible for embedding Environmental sustainability principles into their areas of work and engaging with their teams to support and promote SOH Environmental sustainability activities.
- 8.6. **Executive Team members** are responsible for their portfolio's Environmental sustainability performance and supporting EAP implementation.
- 8.7. **Chief Executive Officer** is responsible for SOH's overall Environmental sustainability performance and delivery of EAP goals and objectives.

9. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Performance Tool
- Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)
- Conservation Management Plan
- International Organisation for Standardisation – Environmental Management System ISO14001
- International Organisation for Standardisation – Sustainable Event Management ISO 200121
- International Organisation for Standardisation – Sustainable Procurement ISO 20400
- NSW Circular Economy Policy
- NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy
- NSW Government Climate Change Policy Framework
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals)
- United Nations Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties.
- World Heritage Committee's Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention

10. SOH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Accessibility Action Plan (2020-23)
- Biodiversity Statement of Commitment
- Code of Conduct
- Community Donations Policy
- Delegations Manual
- Environmental Action Plan (2020-23)
- Inspiring Positive Social and Environmental Change booklet
- Procurement Policy
- Reconciliation Action Plan (2020-22)
- Risk Management Policy
- Strategy (2018-23)
- Sponsorship Policy
- Utzon Design Principles
- Work Health and Safety Policy

Version History

Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date	Sections modified
1.0	Chief Executive Officer	22/06/2021	25/06/2021	New policy

APPROVED



Chief Executive Officer
Date: 22/06/2021