



GREEN



Green Clubs Environmental Module



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Introduction

Why should your club be a Green Club?

Making a commitment to environmental sustainability is not just about doing the right thing it's also about doing the smart thing! Being a Green Club could bring unexpected benefits and rewards such as:



Saving money – Many of the things you can do to reduce your club's environmental footprint* will also save you money. Cutting energy and water use and better managing waste are efficiency improvements that can reduce your bills and add up to significant savings over time – especially as the price of these services increase.

Demonstrating leadership – 'Green' is mainstream and having strong environmental credentials demonstrates leadership and can help to build your reputation in the community.

Partnering with your council – You may already have a relationship with your local council around management of the grounds and maintenance of club facilities but many more opportunities for connection and support will arise when you get serious about environmental sustainability.

* Your [environmental footprint](#) is the impact that you're having on the environment through your day-to-day operations.

It's a journey

It's important that you are able to choose your own sustainability journey from where your club is now – some clubs are already active and moving quickly in this area while others are just starting out. But where you are right now is not as important as where you are going. The following information and advice will help you take positive steps towards improving your club's environmental performance and help you to achieve Silver and Gold level accreditation in the Quality Clubs program.

The real keys to success are communication and education so that everyone involved in your club gets the message and gets behind it. For example, installing energy efficient light globes is great but if the lights are left on between training sessions you are still being a big energy waster. This means you're having a bigger environmental impact (through greenhouse gas emissions) and a will receive a bigger energy bill!

What's in the Green Clubs Module?

This module provides you with information, advice, tools and tips to help your club take steps (large and small) towards environmental sustainability. You'll also find links to places you can go to for more information. The first part of the module helps you to lay strong foundations by:

- Making a public commitment with an environmental pledge
- Doing an environmental assessment to establish benchmarks
- Developing an action plan (you'll draw on the second part of the module to do this)
- Suggesting ways to get everyone on board and follow through on your action plan

The second part of the module offers you the building blocks you need to create your action plan. It provides information; suggests specific actions for your plan; and offers tools to support you to achieve those actions.

The final part of the module covers additional resources with links to places you can find more information on a range of environmental topics. It also gives you some advice on seeking funding for some of your environmental initiatives.

We all support our different footy clubs, but everyone should be barracking green!



Part 1: Laying strong foundations

Make your environmental pledge

Making an environmental commitment, in the form of a pledge, is a good way to demonstrate that you mean business.

Here is an example of an environmental pledge.

Greenville Football Club is committed to providing a quality environment for everyone associated with our club and we acknowledge that focusing on our environmental sustainability is an important part of this.

Greenville Football Club is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and conserving resources. We are taking action to reduce our energy and water consumption; minimise our waste; and to recycle more. We are taking environmental sustainability into account in our policies, decisions and practices.

This is a journey of continuous improvement and we rely on the everyday actions and support of our members in order to become and remain an environmentally sustainable quality club – a Green Club.

When you make your environmental pledge ensure that everyone in the club knows about it. Put pledge posters up in busy areas around the club so that both members and visitors can easily see it.

Do the Green Club Environmental Assessment

The Green Club Environmental Assessment is a starting point, a simple way for you to get a snapshot of where you stand now with respect to environmental sustainability. Once you know this, you can start to develop a plan to make changes and improvements – your Green Club Action Plan.

Your responses now will also provide a benchmark. This is a great way for you to track your progress and see how far you've come.

Download the [Green Club Environmental Assessment](#).

Re-do the assessment as often as you want to – every six months to a year is recommended – in order to track improvements.

Consider getting a professional assessment

Did you know there are people with environmental knowledge and experience that you can engage to conduct a formal sustainability assessment of your club infrastructure and operations? This is worth considering if you have a large club and facilities. The other sporting clubs sharing your facilities might be willing to contribute to the cost of the assessment, which would make it an inexpensive but valuable exercise.

The assessment will involve reviewing and analysing historic energy and water data to identify trends and determine where changes can be made to your operations to save on energy and water. Current waste contracts and invoices are also reviewed to determine the quantities of waste generated and their associated disposal costs.

A site inspection of your club will focus on existing lighting, hot water, air conditioning and building control systems, and waste management practices. Opportunities for electricity and water savings are identified, along with opportunities to improve waste management and building control systems. At the end of the assessment process you'll have a range of opportunities and recommendations that can feed into your Green Club Action Plan.



Get to know your local council

Your local council will be a major source of local information, advice and support on the road to becoming a Green Club. Involve them and communicate with them every step of the way and there is every chance they will get behind your green agenda.

You may already have a relationship with your local council around management of the grounds and maintenance of club facilities. It's important to continue to build this relationship and to take it down environmental pathways.

Consider providing a copy of your Green Club Action Plan and talking through it with the following areas of your local council:

- Environment and sustainability
- Community engagement
- Maintenance and facilities management
- Major infrastructure

The mayor and councillors should also know about your proactive green initiatives and be invited to any launches or celebrations of your Green Club achievements.

Develop your Green Club Action Plan

Now you've benchmarked your club you'll have a sense of the priority areas that you need to focus on to improve your environmental credentials. Take this information and develop an action plan based on:

- A.** The information and ideas provided in this module. *You have the knowledge.*
- B.** The specific action suggestions and support tools provided in Part 2 of this module – 'Building Your Action Plan'. *You have the tools.*
- C.** Connections you make with your local council and others who can assist with advice and support. *You know the right people.*

The following is a sample action plan including just one action for each goal as an example. Download a [sample action plan](#) that you can adjust to meet the needs of your club.

As you read the rest of this module think about the actions you might include in your Green Club Action Plan and make a note of them.



Green Club Action Plan

Goal: Making environmental sustainability part of your club's everyday focus

Actions	How	Who	Resources	Status	Completion Date
<i>What will you do?</i>	<i>How will you do it?</i>	<i>Who is responsible?</i>	<i>Where can you find support?</i>	<i>Checking in.</i>	
Make a formal commitment to environmental sustainability.	Make a pledge.	President/everyone.	Use the pledge wording provided in the Green Clubs Module.		

Goal: Reduce energy

Actions	How	Who	Resources	Status	Completion Date
<i>What will you do?</i>	<i>How will you do it?</i>	<i>Who is responsible?</i>	<i>Where can you find support?</i>	<i>Checking in.</i>	
Change our thermostat setting so we're not overheating the club house and wasting energy.	Adjust the thermostat to the 'just right' winter setting of 18 20°C				

Goal: Reduce water

Actions	How	Who	Resources	Status	Completion Date
<i>What will you do?</i>	<i>How will you do it?</i>	<i>Who is responsible?</i>	<i>Where can you find support?</i>	<i>Checking in.</i>	
Install tap flow restrictors in all of our taps.	Ask our local council and water retailer whether they can provide some free tap flow restrictors or assist in any other way.				

Goal: Reduce waste

Actions	How	Who	Resources	Status	Completion Date
<i>What will you do?</i>	<i>How will you do it?</i>	<i>Who is responsible?</i>	<i>Where can you find support?</i>	<i>Checking in.</i>	
Do some investigation to find out how we can improve our recycling rate.	Check with council how the system works including a list of things we can recycle.				

Goal: Communicating your environmental commitment

Actions	How	Who	Resources	Status	Completion Date
<i>What will you do?</i>	<i>How will you do it?</i>	<i>Who is responsible?</i>	<i>Where can you find support?</i>	<i>Checking in.</i>	
Establish a regular Green Clubs environmental news section in our newsletter and on our website.	Include this on the agenda of the next web/newsletter planning meeting, and make it a regular item.				



Your action plan can (and should over time) expand to include other aspects of environmental sustainability beyond energy, water and waste efficiency.

This could include areas such as:

- Green purchasing
- Green events
- Green cleaning
- Community engagement
- Biodiversity protection and
- Environmentally sensitive club design and refurbishment

You might also consider setting a goal to encourage your members to take some environmental actions home with them. For example with sponsorship you could put together a 'take home sustainability pack' for your members.

Sticking to your plan

It's important to put timeframes on the actions you've identified in your plan and to review and update it regularly.

One way to ensure this happens is by making your Green Club Action Plan a standing item on your club meeting agenda. This becomes a regular time to review progress against your action plan and add new actions. Your plan stays relevant and things get done.

Making your action plan an agenda item also shows that you are taking your club's environmental commitment seriously – you are actually doing what you said you'd do in your pledge. You'll need to demonstrate this commitment and the actions that support it in order to gain your Silver and Gold level Quality Club accreditation.

You could also use this time on the agenda to invite someone to speak on the environment – your local council environment coordinator; a representative from a company selling an environmental product or service you are interested in; or a member of the club that has some environmental know how they are happy to share.

Getting everyone on board

A key to the success of your environmental sustainability plan is getting everyone on board. This usually requires repeating the message in many and varied ways – good communication and education are essential in encouraging people to change the way they do things.

As a club you have an identity. You need to be serious about making environmental awareness part of your club's identity. This means keeping it on the agenda (don't start strong and then run out of steam!); following through on commitments; and communicating your actions and achievements (everywhere and often).

Below are some ideas for getting everyone on board:

- Ensure senior people at the club take it seriously – the message has to be fully supported
- Appoint Green Champions and profile them and their work
- Give your Environmental Pledge prime wall space inside the club house and communicate it far and wide outside
- If you have energy, waste and/or water posters make sure they are in the right spots and highly visible
- Celebrate your successes, even if they are only small ones – it's the little things that can add up to create a big impact
- Take it home – encourage members to take sustainability actions and behaviours home

Appoint green champions

We know that volunteers are the life-blood of your club. You don't want to overburden them, but there are bound to be members of your club who are interested in and know something about living, working and playing more sustainably. Many workplaces these days have detailed environmental policies and treat sustainability in the workplace seriously – some of your members may be involved in green teams or initiatives at work.

Put the word out and see if there are one or more people in your club willing and able to take on the role of green champion(s). Their main responsibilities will be to:

- Help to keep the pledge and action plan alive
- Model the sustainable actions and behaviours your club is working towards
- Monitor everyday actions and offer gentle reminders when needed
- Reinforce and reward sustainable actions and behaviours

What does environmental leadership look like?



Environmental leadership is about taking action and doing the right thing to protect the environment that we live in so we can continue to enjoy our current lifestyle. It's also about safeguarding the future so that generations after us can live (and play footy) here for years to come.

Show your members and stakeholders that you care about environmental issues and are taking action to reduce your environmental footprint and climate change proof your club. Celebrate the fact that this is part of your commitment to them and to the local community.

Here are some ideas on how you can show you're walking the talk on environmental sustainability:

- Spread the word and showcase your club's environmental initiatives in your marketing communications. You could do this by:
 - i. Establishing a regular environmental news section in your newsletter, website, annual report and any other communications. *For example, you could feature World Environment Day (June 5) by publishing some 'sustainability at home' tips and encouraging your members/supporters to make a commitment to environmental sustainability at this time.*
 - ii. Including your Environmental Pledge on your website, in your newsletter, in your recruitment material, as a shortened version on your email signature – anywhere!
 - iii. Highlighting any achievements that might make a good story (for your website, newsletter and for the local paper). *It's useful to think about this when you're reviewing progress in your Green Club Action Plan in meetings.*

Tool: Be sure to walk the talk by having any printed material on 100 percent recycled or FSC accredited paper stock and state this clearly.

- Finding out if anyone in your club is passionate about and has some knowledge of an environmental issue and ask them to either give a talk or write an article.
- Forming a partnership with your local environmental group and consider arranging a regular 'green day' where you team up with your partner on an environmental project or initiative.
- Scheduling a regular 'green game' where donations are raised for your environmental partner or to go towards an environmental cause.
- Partnering with local schools and getting involved in some of their environmental activities.
- Putting local environmental events on your club calendar – advertise them and encourage member involvement.
- Working with other sporting clubs that are tenants in your club house and/or in the local area to coordinate your efforts, pool resources and develop a united front on green initiatives. Publicise this affiliation and any successes that come from it.
- Letting your sponsors know about your environmental commitment and ask them to support you in any relevant sustainability initiatives and actions.

Part 2: Building your action plan

Here are some sustainability actions that could be included in your Green Club Action Plan. They are divided into ENERGY, WATER and WASTE for easy reference.

Each of these areas is divided into a *Do it now*, *Think about it* and *Big-ticket items* section.

- **Do it now** contains ideas and actions that are simple, straightforward and either free or inexpensive. You'll find tools and advice to support these actions. A number of these should make their way into your first Green Club Action Plan.
- **Think about it** includes ideas and actions that may involve some more thought, extra help and/or additional funds. You might be ready to do some of these now or you may select some that you want to explore further. Either way, include them in your Green Club Action Plan.
- **Big-ticket items** are the things that will take some planning and investment such as installing infrastructure (a water tank or a solar hot water system); ensuring sustainability is high up on the agenda when planning an upgrade to your facilities; or paying for a lighting management system to be set up so you're not relying completely on people remembering to switch off.

Be proactive! Do some research and start a conversation with your local council about the big-ticket items you see as a priority and find out what their plans, timeframes and budgets are with respect to making improvements. Once they're on the agenda (and in your Green Club Action Plan) you can be more strategic about how to attain them.

Talk with the other sporting clubs that use the club facilities (and will benefit from the big-ticket item you're working towards) about co-investment and preparing a funding submission or putting a case to your local council together.

Within each of the areas outlined above you'll find other actions that will support the key action in the form of '**Tools**'. You'll also find background information on some of the suggested actions as '**Facts**'.

ENERGY

When you save energy you cut your greenhouse gas emissions and reduce your impact on global warming. It's also the smart thing to do because it saves you money and often makes your club a healthier place to work and play. You can take it a step further by switching to accredited GreenPower which means you are investing in clean energy from renewable sources.

ENERGY: Do it now



1. Set your thermostat to the '**just right**' temperature of 18-20°C in winter and 26°C in summer.

Fact: For every 1°C you decrease your thermostat by in winter you can save around 10 percent on running costs.

Tool: Use a thermometer to check the temperature in different parts of the room and building to make sure your heating/cooling systems are efficient.

Tool: If you're just a bit cold put a jumper on rather than turn the heater up!

2. Ensure your **heating/cooling systems are well maintained** – if they're not efficient they're probably using more energy than they need to.

3. Use a **gas heater** instead of reverse cycle air conditioning during winter.

4. **Switch it off** – Make sure lights and heating/cooling aren't left on in areas not in use. This includes grounds lighting. Where possible switch all appliances off at the power point.

Tool: Put an energy saver poster up in spots where people will see them and be reminded to switch off.

5. Check that your **hot water system** and hot water pipes are well insulated and adjusted so they heat water only when needed and to the right temperature. Also turn the water heater off if it isn't going to be used for a time – check the system first to ensure this is necessary and appropriate.

Fact: Having hot water on demand requires energy and if your hot water service is electric this means it's creating greenhouse gas emissions. Gas hot water heaters also generate emissions but significantly less than electric. On average an electric hot water system produces around four tonnes of greenhouse gases every year – this is equivalent to running an average sized car for a year!



6. **Change the globe** Only use compact fluorescent light globes (CFLs) instead of the old, inefficient incandescent globes. While they do cost marginally more than an incandescent they will pay themselves back in energy savings in less than a year.

Fact: Each old style incandescent globe you replace with a compact fluorescent light will last around six times as long and save you money in reduced energy consumption. So while CFLs are more expensive upfront, they are actually cheaper when you factor in their much longer life, reduced maintenance costs and lower electricity consumption.

Note: CFLs contain small amounts of mercury, so take care when cleaning up a broken globe and check on disposal options (other than land fill) in your area.

7. Check that your **fridges and freezers** are not colder than required by food safety standards – adjust them if necessary.

Tool: Use a thermometer to check fridge and freezer temperature.

8. Also make sure your **fridges and freezers** are located in well-ventilated areas away from heat sources to improve their energy efficiency and lengthen their life.

9. **Install timers** on appliances like boiling water units and turn them off when they're not needed.

Tool: Use a kettle instead of the boiling water unit during low demand times.

10. If you have office equipment such as computers, photocopiers and printers at the club, set them to **energy saving mode** to ensure they go to sleep when not in use (your supplier or the product manual can explain how).

ENERGY: Think about it

1. **Draught-proof** your club to avoid heat loss in winter and keep it cool in summer. In particular seal gaps around doors and windows and fit covers on exhaust fans that vent straight into the roof.

Fact: Draught-proof to save up to 25 percent on heating costs.

Tool: Draughts seals, weather strips, exhaust fan covers and other products that fix gaps and air leaks can be found at your local hardware store.

2. Switch to **government-accredited GreenPower**. You can get different percentages of GreenPower and work up to the full 100 percent over time. Be sure your provider has the green power accreditation tick so you know it's legitimate.

Fact: GreenPower is a government accreditation program for renewable energy – that is energy generated from sources like mini hydro, wind power and biomass which produce no net greenhouse gas emissions. When you choose to buy a GreenPower product the few cents extra you pay in addition to your electricity account each day is invested in the renewable energy sector. GreenPower helps make it easy for you to significantly reduce your impact on climate change. Find out more about [GreenPower](#).

Tool: Your current energy retailer may already offer a GreenPower product so it will be easy to make the switch. Check for accredited [GreenPower retailers and products](#).

3. When you need to **purchase appliances**, ensure you go for one that has a high standard in energy (and water) efficiency.

Fact: Most major household services and appliances now carry Energy Rating labels. These include televisions, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, gas space heaters, gas ducted heating furnaces and gas hot water systems.

Tool: When you are looking to purchase an appliance, look for one that has a high star rating for energy efficiency. Appliances and equipment that have an energy rating label have been properly tested and the rating verified. Find out more at the [Energy Rating website](#) or ask your local retailer for advice.

ENERGY: Big-ticket items

1. **Smarter hot water** – When you are ready to upgrade your electric hot water system consider the energy efficient alternatives such as solar, heat pump and gas. While the up-front cost may seem high these systems will often pay themselves back in reduced energy bills in a short space of time.

Solar hot water

Fact: Solar hot water systems use solar collectors (tubes or panels) to absorb energy from the sun to heat water for your home. The heated water is then stored in an insulated tank for when you need it. With a solar hot water system, you could get between 50 and 90 per cent of your hot water absolutely free.

Tool: You can access a step-by-step guide to installing a solar hot water system at the [Australian Government's Living Greener website](#).

Heat pump hot water

Fact: Heat pump hot water systems draw heat from the air to heat your hot water. They only use about a quarter to a third of the electricity of a standard electric storage system.

Tool: You can find out more about heat pump hot water systems on the [Australian Government's Living Greener website](#).

Gas hot water system

Fact: Natural gas produces much less carbon dioxide than electricity to heat the same amount of water but you'll need to check that it's available in your area.

Tool: When purchasing a gas hot water system, look for the gas energy rating label – the more stars on the label the more efficient the heater.



2. **Lighting plan** – You've already replaced all your old incandescent light globes with energy efficient compact fluorescents and made sure that all lights (indoor and outdoor) get switched off after training or a game, but there is still a lot more you could do to make your lighting more efficient.

Conduct a review of all your lighting and put together an indoor and outdoor **lighting management plan**. This may include the installation of occupancy detectors and sensor lights; single switches that will turn off all lights in the building; voltage reduction units for fluorescent lights; and outdoor solar lights.

3. **Solar power** – Think about switching to a renewable energy supply – the sun! Although the initial cost of a solar system can be high, you will have a source of free power. Find out about local, state and national subsidies for installing solar panels (often referred to as 'photovoltaics' or 'PVs') and converting to solar energy.

Fact: The average amount of solar energy that falls on Australia is about 15,000 times the amount of energy Australians use each year!

WATER

Water is an essential but climate change is making it increasingly difficult to count on a reliable water supply throughout the year. Changed and extreme weather conditions are creating both droughts and floods in different parts of the country. Increased water scarcity will increase prices for water (and water-based products), and repeated flood damage to infrastructure (including footy ovals and club houses) will make it harder to play the game in some parts of the country.

WATER: Do it now

1. Leak busting – Find and fix any leaks because even small leaks add up to large amounts of lost water over a year.

Fact: A typical leaking tap dripping 10 litres of water an hour wastes more than 89 kilolitres of water per year.

Tool: Ask the last person to leave the club to read the water meter and then read it again when the first person arrives the next day. If it has changed, you probably have a leak somewhere.

Tool: To check toilets you can put some food colouring in the cistern, and if after 15 minutes there is colour in the bowl, it's leaking!

2. Slow the flow – Often the water pressure and flow out of older style taps and showerheads is much greater than we need. Also the old single flush toilets use unnecessarily high volumes of water every time you flush.

- Put flow restrictors in your gushing taps – they only cost a few dollars and can reduce the flow to less than a third saving thousands of litres of water every year.
- Consider installing water restriction valves in your current shower heads or changing to a water saving shower head – they use much less water and there are good designs out there that give you a decent water pressure.
- Make some modifications to your toilet to save loads of water (see the *Tool* below).

Taps

Fact: A typical (older) tap discharges 15 to 18 litres per minute compared with low-flow and aerating models which use as little as two litres per minute depending on the intended application.

Tool: Use a bucket and stopwatch or a water flow measuring cup (your local water authority may be able to provide one) to find out whether your tap flows are excessive (remember to test all your taps).

Tool: Install flow restrictors.



Showerheads

Fact: A WELS 3-star rated showerhead can use as little as 4.5 litres of water per minute compared to a zero rated showerhead which, depending on water pressure and pipework, uses more than 16 litres per minute. This means big savings in **energy** as well as water because there is less water that needs heating!

Tool: [The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme \(WELS\) website product search](#) helps you to compare the efficiency and flow rate of different showerheads before you buy a new one.

Tool: Some water authorities and retailers offer free water efficient showerheads in exchange for your old showerhead. Check with your local water authority.

Toilet

Tool: If you have large, older-style single button toilet cisterns fill a two litre milk bottle with water and place it in the cistern. This will reduce the cistern capacity by two litres every time you flush. (Your water retailer may also have a device that does the same thing). Down the track you'll probably upgrade to more water efficient dual flush models as standards apply for all new toilets.

Don't overflush the beer lines – When cleaning beer lines, 60 seconds is usually ample time for flushing.

Tool: Use litmus paper to test the pH of the rinsing water. If it stays pink, the lines should be clean.



WATER: Think about it

1. When you need to **purchase appliances** ensure you go for ones that have a high standard in water (and energy) efficiency.

Tool: When you are looking to purchase an appliance, look for one that has a high star rating (four to six stars) for water efficiency. You can find and compare the water consumption and water efficiency ratings of different products on the [WELS website](#).

WATER: Big-ticket items

1. **Drought-proofing your grounds** – Depending on the management arrangement for your playing field, start a conversation with your local council about implementing drought-proofing initiatives such as **drought-resistant grass**, setting up **water-saving watering systems** and **installing rainwater tanks**.

Fact: Councils across Australia are quietly working towards sustainability for the communities they service. One area of activity is improving the environmental sustainability of sporting grounds to ensure the community can continue to safely enjoy coming together to play and watch local sport.

For example the City of Casey has implemented a program of converting sports grounds to warm season grasses as part of its commitment to combat the effects of the drought. Once established, warm season grasses use up to 60 per cent less water than the traditional cool season grasses. The City of Casey has also installed rainwater tanks at a number of existing sports facilities as part of Council's minor capital works program.

Tool: Your local council may already have implemented water management initiatives in partnership with community sporting clubs in your area. Make sure you know about them and that your club is involved!

Tool: You can access information about rain water tanks at the [Australian Government's Living Greener website](#).

Tool: Natural turf has always been the preferred option in Australia but climate change impacts led the AFL to investigate the use of artificial turf for sporting grounds. The AFL has developed a synthetic turf product for clubs to consider in appropriate circumstances.

2. **The bathroom** – Your club bathroom is a place where a lot of valuable water goes down the drain! Taps and showerheads were covered in the 'Do it now' section above but old style toilets and urinals can also be water wasters. When a facilities upgrade is planned consider upgrading your urinals and toilets to the current generation of water efficient systems – use the WELS website to compare the efficiency of different models on the market.

Fact: An old-style single-flush toilet could use up to 12 litres of water per flush, while a standard dual flush toilet uses just a quarter of this on a half-flush.

Fact: Did you know there is an innovative and proven range of *waterless* urinal systems?

Waterless urinals have three main designs:

- i. Oil barrier – either refillable or replaceable cartridge
- ii. Mechanical designs – one-way valves enable urine to pass into the plumbing system but stop odours coming back out
- iii. Microbial blocks – designed to work with your existing urinals so there are no capital costs (just maintenance costs)

Each design has different requirements for installation and maintenance, and offers different advantages and disadvantages.

Tool: A green plumber is a qualified plumber who is also trained to provide advice on energy efficiency and water conservation for plumbed systems. You can find a green plumber through their [national website](#). Ask around the club – someone might be or know a qualified green plumber that would be willing to do an assessment and give you some initial advice for free.



WASTE

Did you know that the waste your club produces also contributes to global warming? Your rubbish goes into landfill and contributes to the production of greenhouse gases. And if you throw away something that is recyclable you are also taking a valuable resource out of circulation. Don't think 'rubbish' think 'resource'!

Disposal of waste should be a last resort, and will become an increasingly significant cost to your club as waste contractors pass on scheduled rises in landfill disposal fees.

Last but not least, the better you manage your waste and recycling, the better your club will look after games and other events. It makes a difference to the place.

The best approach to waste management is:

1. **Avoid** – Is there any way you can avoid creating the waste in the first place? This is always more effective than dealing with it at the other end.
2. **Reduce** – If you can't avoid it, try to minimise the impact by using less.
3. **Reuse** – Remember how your grandparents used to keep *everything* and reuse it? There was a good reason for this and we need to move away from being tossers to keepers!
4. **Recycle** – Depending on where you are, recyclables collection costs are lower than waste collection costs so recycling saves you money.

WASTE: Do it now

1. Find out from your council **what can be recycled** in your area and **how the system operates**. Do any recyclables need to be separated or can they all go in together (comingled)?

Tool: Here is a list of things that can be recycled (recyclables). Not all councils can collect and process all of these, which is why you need to check with yours.

- i. Glass bottles and jars
- ii. Plastics – there different types so you'll need to check the number of the plastic to indentify it and find which numbers your council can take. Generally those numbered one, two and three (plastic milk and drink bottles and detergent containers) are recyclable but check on whether number four – seven plastics are taken
- iii. Paper and cardboard
- iv. Cartons
- v. Metal including steel and aluminium cans

Fact: Often you don't need to separate cans from bottles and plastic from paper because your council uses a comingled recycling system. This means that all the recyclables can be put into the same container and they get sorted and separated later.

2. **Check your rubbish bins** to see if significant quantities of recyclables are going to landfill.

Fact: Many plastics can be recycled again and again without losing their qualities. Using recycled materials to make new products decreases Australia's demand on natural resources, and reduces both energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Tool: Put stickers or signage on your regular rubbish bins (your council may be able to provide this) asking people to "Think before you throw! Can it go in the recycling bin?"

3. Provide visible, clearly labelled **recycling bins** at convenient locations inside the club house and in spectator areas outside. Your local council or recycling contractor should be able to provide these.

Tool: Organise for more recycling bins to be available on match days or when you are holding events at the club.



4. Get the right recyclables – Check inside your recycling bins regularly to make sure that only the right things are going in.

Fact: Putting the wrong materials in your recycling bin may lead to large amounts of recyclable material having to be sent to landfill because its too difficult to separate the right stuff from the wrong stuff.

Fact: Recyclable materials must be put into your recycling bin loose and not in a plastic bag. It is important to remember that plastic bags can't go in your recycling bin as they tangle up the machinery used to sort the recycling materials. Plastic bags can be recycled at most major supermarkets.

5. Make sure you have appropriate cigarette butt disposal bins and trays in areas where smokers congregate. Ask your local council where you can get bins and trays from and how to dispose of them when full.

Tool: Create designated smoking areas near the club house and have clean butt disposal bins and trays ready for the after game celebrations.

Tool: Put signage up in the spectator stands and in relevant areas outside the club house encouraging people to dispose of their cigarette butts properly. The '[Don't be a tosser](#)' poster is one you could use. For more information and promotional material on butt litter prevention go to the [Victorian Litter Action Alliance website](#).

6. Cut out the paper – Read and send documents electronically where possible. When you need to print a document, make it double-sided and print it on recycled copy paper.

Tool: When you get any material professionally printed make sure that it is on recycled (preferably 100 percent post-consumer recycled) or FSC accredited paper and be sure to say this on the document. Ask your printer for advice and options on paper stocks.

WASTE: Think about it

1. Manage your organics – organic waste can be food waste from your club kitchen or green waste (such as grass clippings) from maintenance of the grounds. These two types of organic waste are often managed separately but this depends on a number of factors including the volumes produced and access to collection services. Make sure there are waste management systems in place for your organic waste and if there aren't, start some!

Fact: Organic waste shouldn't go to landfill because:

- i. When food and garden wastes decompose in landfill, methane is created. Methane is a more damaging greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.
- ii. They can be transformed into something valuable! Organic waste can be processed onsite (or sent offsite to an organic waste facility) and turned into compost and fertiliser.
- iii. If you are charged by weight for your waste disposal you can save money by removing organic waste.

Fact: Did you know that organic waste can be converted to electricity?

Tool: There are a number of ways to manage organic waste to ensure it doesn't end up in landfill.

A. Firstly find out how much food and green waste you produce and what happens to all of this organic waste.

- i. What are the current food waste disposal practices in your club kitchen?
- ii. What does your local council or grounds management contractor do with all the green waste?

B. If your organic waste isn't being managed properly, explore the alternatives. Do some research and find out what options are available locally. Your local council, current waste contractor and/or grounds maintenance contractor will be able to provide information and advice. For example, if you are going to get a compost bin you need to ensure you get one that is fit for purpose – the right size and easy to maintain.

C. For food waste you can set up appropriately sized and sealed collection bins and a procedure for either having the food waste collected by an organic waste contractor (this is viable if you produce large volumes) or setting up your own compost system or worm farm (if volumes are lower).

While this is a simple way to manage food waste, there needs to be a proper system in place and responsibilities assigned – you definitely don't want food waste being left exposed for long periods of time in your kitchen. Neither should you have a compost system that isn't properly managed close to your clubhouse as it can attract pest animals and insects.

The compost bin also takes green waste (again depending on the volumes) as well as food waste so it's a good potential solution to your organic waste. You can access a step-by-step guide to composting at the [Australian Government's Living Greener website](#).

D. Your local council will also have information on compost systems and worm farms and may provide them free or at a reduced cost. Many councils also have a green waste collection service that you can subscribe to.

Tool: When you have club events and after game celebrations minimise your food waste by cooking to order as much as possible.

2. Conduct regular bin audits to ensure your recycling plan is working and everyone – players, volunteers and spectators – is putting their rubbish in the right place. If things are not working as well as they should be, ramp up your messaging – increase your signage and get the point across through internal communication channels.

3. Too hard basket? What do you do with things that can't go into the recycling bin but aren't general rubbish? Again, check with your local council for the right advice. Your state environment agency will also point you in the right direction.



Fact: It is possible to recycle a range of products that can't go through the usual recycling system including:

- Old mobile phones, printer cartridges, televisions and computers
- Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)
- Whitegoods (fridges, washing machines, etc.)
- Cooking oils
- Motor oils
- Chemicals
- Paints
- Batteries (including car batteries)
- Portable gas bottles
- Tyres
- Metals
- Building materials (including window glass, bricks, wood and concrete)
- Expanded polystyrene

WASTE: Big-ticket items

Consider formalising your approach to waste management by developing a **whole club waste awareness and management program**. This will include a number of the 'Do it now' and 'Think about it' items previously identified, but instead of doing them in isolation you can do them more systematically by including them in a plan or program. This also ensures you cover all bases when it comes to waste prevention and best practice management.

The program could include the following elements:

- Strategies for waste prevention and minimisation such as negotiating with suppliers to take back packaging – this encourages the use of reusable and recyclable packaging.
- Ensuring everyone knows what to do with rubbish by running a waste awareness program. This could be a short face-to-face training session or guide provided to everyone who is involved with the club. This sends a clear message that you are serious about waste prevention.
- Protocols for monitoring and maintaining high standards in waste management – this could be in the form of 'How To' and fact sheets that everyone can easily reference.
- Appointing a Green Champion who is active in waste prevention and management.
- Developing visible and durable signage with consistent messaging around waste disposal.
- Scheduling regular clean up events in you club calendar – these could be ones you organise or join in with local and national events such as Clean up Australia Day.
- Putting together a purchasing plan that including buying 'recycled' and 'recyclable'. Note the difference – 'recycled' means it is made from recycled product and 'recyclable' means it can be recycled.



Part 3: Additional tools and resources

Here some places you can go to find out more about environmental sustainability for your club.

- You local council website – check out their environment pages to see what’s happening and what’s on offer
- Living Greener is an Australian Government sustainability at home web portal. While the focus is on the householder, much of the information is equally relevant to clubs
<http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/>
- ResourceSmart’s ‘Little Shop of Big Ideas’ is a handy reference for a range of sustainability actions. While it has been developed by the Victorian Government much of the content is applicable nationally
http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households/default.aspx
- For information on the Australian Government’s energy efficiency programs go to
<http://www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/energyefficiency/index.html>
- Smart Approved WaterMark is a national labelling scheme for products and services that are helping to reduce water outdoors. Go to the ‘Water Rebates’ section for links to rebate information in your state or territory
<http://www.smartwatermark.info/home/default.asp>
- ECO-Find is an online directory of independently assessed green products and suppliers. You can search by ‘key word’ or by ‘category’
<http://www.ecobuy.org.au/director/ecofind.cfm>
- A ‘green tradie’ is a trained electrician, plumber or builder with additional knowledge and expertise in environmental sustainability products and systems applicable to their area. The following links will help you find an accredited ‘green tradie’ in your area:
 - i. EcoSmart Electrician – <http://www.ecosmartelectricians.com.au/index.php>
 - ii. Green Plumber – <http://www.greenplumbers.com.au/products/services/find-a-greenplumber/>
 - iii. GreenSmart Builder – when engaging a builder ask about his environmental expertise and credentials
- The Green Building Council of Australia provides a directory of accredited Green Start Professionals including architects, builders, project managers and engineers
<http://www.gbca.org.au/ap-list.asp>
- The Sustainable Living Foundation offers a comprehensive on-line guide to holding a sustainable or ‘green’ event
<http://www.slf.org.au/eventplanner/>

Finding funding for your club’s environmental initiatives

Local Council

Your local council is the best source of information and advice when it comes to funding for initiatives and infrastructure that will help make your club more environmentally sustainable. State and federal government grants are often run through local governments because they know what is happening at the grass roots.

It’s important to have good connections and regular contact with your local council to find out about opportunities as they come up. Sign up to your council’s on-line environmental newsletters and updates to ensure you find out about new initiatives, grants and subsidies at local, state and national levels.

Councils also advertise opportunities under a ‘community grant scheme’ or similar and some of the funding could be available for community based environmental initiatives. Be sure to check this area of your local council website regularly as well.

State Government

Check the website of your state environment department and/or authorities on a regular basis. Sign up for a grant alert if that is an option. As mentioned, most of these opportunities will come through your local council – either as news or they may be directly involved in grant allocation.

Local Media

Funding opportunities are generally advertised in the media. Check your local paper (in particular the community and tenders sections of the newspaper classifieds).

Local Business

You may have some solid local business supporters or sponsors that would consider supporting an environmental initiative that will save the club money over time. You could also target a business that provides the product or service you’re looking for and see if they would be interested in providing a donation or setting up an on-going sponsorship.



Your Members

Your members have day jobs. One or two of your members may be involved in a business that could assist in providing advice, products or other support for your environmental initiatives (and if they aren't, they might know someone that is). One of your members might be a 'green tradie' – a plumber, electrician or builder with additional training and expertise in energy efficiency, water efficiency and green building. Put the word out and see what come back to you.

State

You can use these grant finders to search for community and environmental initiative funding:

- Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development
<http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/web18/dvcgrants.nsf/headingpagesdisplay/grants+finder>
- Communitybuilders.nsw provides a list of funding programs from federal and state and local government, along with some opportunities through institutions, philanthropic trusts and companies
<http://www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs/>
- Queensland Government Grant Finder
<https://www.smartservice.qld.gov.au/services/grants/discoverbywizard.action.jsessionid=m0yivoy5jev>
- Grants available to communities and local governments in regional and metropolitan Western Australia
<http://www.grantsdirectory.dlg.wa.gov.au/>
- The Service SA grants page provides a list of links to state government grants and other sources of community support
<http://www.service.sa.gov.au/subject/employment+and+finance/Financial+support/Grants+and+subsidies>
- Tasmania Community Fund makes both general grants to community organisations as well as for particular initiatives which improve the well-being or assist in the social, environmental and economic development of a particular community
<http://www.tascomfund.org/>
- The Northern Territory Government offers financial assistance to sport, recreation and local government organisations to assist the delivery of services and programs within the community
<http://www.sportandrecreation.nt.gov.au/grants>

National

- Australian government grants available for community projects can be found at GrantsLINK. Areas to investigate include 'Environment and Nature' and 'Community and Society'
<http://www.grantslink.gov.au/Info.aspx?NodeId=0>
- The Australian Government Community Portal provides information for community groups including a selection of links to sources of grants and funding
<http://www.community.gov.au/>
- The Australian Government's Living Greener sustainability at home web portal includes a 'Rebates and assistance' page where you can find rebates for energy and water initiatives in your state or territory
<http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/rebates-assistance>
- Our Community offers a range of resources for community groups including a grant search. Note you'll need to subscribe to the [Easy Grants Newsletter](#) in your state or territory for a small annual fee
http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant_search.jsp
- Smart Approved WaterMark is a national labelling scheme for products and services that are helping to reduce water outdoors. Go to the 'Water Rebates' section for links to rebate information in your state or territory
http://www.smartwatermark.info/home/rebate_links.asp?PageID=618&snav=0