

Tap into SAP, it's where we're at!

COUNCIL NAME

Tumut Shire Council

WEB ADDRESS

www.tumut.nsw.gov.au

SIZE

4,566 square kilometres

POPULATION

11,316

Overview

Tumut Shire Council's Sustainable Action Plan (SAP) is more than a plan, it's a dynamic document that utilises expertise from government programs, external business practices/recommendations; and internal Council processes to enable Council to be more sustainable. The integration of information from external sources with legislated reporting processes of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) is paramount to the success of the SAP.

SAP actions provide a baseline and direction for Council to implement actions with reportable indicators to ensure sustainability. SAP has identified areas that Council needs to address, assigns task to the responsible individuals and reports outcomes to the community. The SAP has achieved estimated annual savings of \$213,000, with projected annual savings from scoping reports estimated at \$119,000. An additional annual saving of \$22,000 is estimated for the community.

Background

In reviewing its 2008 Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Action Plan, Tumut Shire Council decided to take a more holistic approach. Council conceived the idea for an integrated Sustainable Action Plan (SAP) that integrates Key Performance Indicators (KPI) from sources such as:

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP).
- Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) Sustainability Advantage - Organisation Diagnostic.
- Utility monitoring of energy and resource efficiency.
- Council internal resource/assets efficiency processes through the Environmental Sustainability Policy (Organisational) and Environmental Policy (Operational).

Implementation

In late 2013, the project started with a Council resolution to develop the SAP. Since then, Council developed a strategy to combine many different measures such as OEH Sustainability Advantage modules and energy consumption data, and integrated the SAP into Integrated Planning and Reporting framework (IP&R).

Council wanted to ensure that the tasks and actions of the SAP were undertaken. The KPI's of the SAP are bound to staff KPI's and performance reviews. Each staff member reports to their Director biannually using Council's IP&R software. The Green Team monitor and report to Managers and Executives the biannual and annual performance of the SAP's KPI's for the whole of the organisation. The integration of external organisations' data and public review of the SAP harvested support and ensured that Council was using internal and external participation to create the SAP.

Through SAP, Council and the community specifically target:

- Climate change and energy consumption.
- Development and built environment.
- Biodiversity conservation and protection.
- Resource recovery and waste avoidance.
- Water and sewerage.
- Business sustainability.
- Construction, transport and traffic.
- Education.



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REFERENCES

www.tumut.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental-projects/climate-change-action-plan.aspx

The actions identified in this SAP will be reflected in the Council's four year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan. Council uses the KPIs to report on how Council is meeting the environmental sustainable objectives of the CSP. This process has reduced duplication in the organisation and ensured that Council uses staff time and resources effectively and efficiently.

Outcomes

For long term business sustainability, Council looked at areas that need to be managed in a more sustainable manner. An example of this being Council's resolution to implement energy savings at all sewage treatment plants. The project installed solar panels, power factor correction and reviewed purchasing arrangements over two years at 5 sewerage treatment plants, saving \$28,000 per annum. Council is also in the process of installing solar panels at four community facilities.

An Energy Usage Review analysed historical electricity consumption and reviewed the energy purchasing arrangements and network tariff designation for 77 sites operated by Council. The project will save approximately \$73,480 per annum. Council also undertook an Energy Usage Review for the community across the 14 sites that participated. The total annual estimated savings were \$22,248/year (average \$1,589 pa/site). The cost of implementing the recommendations was estimated at \$26,728 (average \$1,909 pa/site) with an average payback period of 1.2 years.

Council's premier project, the Riverina Highlands Building Energy Efficiency Project, comprised of lighting and insulation upgrades, solar PV, power factor correction, metering optimisation and retrofit of a Geoexchange heating and cooling system. The results are a 66% annual cost reduction of over \$213,000 for energy and maintenance, and a reduction in maximum electrical demand of 75%.

Council's business arm, Snowy Works and Services (SWS), is working on the "Greening" of Council's fleet of heavy plant, light trucks, utility vehicles and cars. SWS have undertaken the whole of life costing for utilities and cars based on information obtained from the green vehicle guide on the fuel consumption and emissions of the utilities and cars.

Key Learnings

Council has learnt that the collation of external sources, the monitoring of internal actions and setting the targets for SAP on an annual basis ensures that Council will be able to accurately assess and report on the objectives of the SAP now and into the future.

In order to measure success, Council realised the need to collect baseline data. Since collection of the baseline data for SAP, Council has been able to map in the GIS system the assets where sustainability activities have been undertaken.

On an annual basis each department in Council is assigned specific sustainability actions. However, the success of this SAP lies with all of us, not only Council. Through working together in collaboration and taking ownership of the strategies detailed in our SAP, we can work together to create a future that this plan aims to achieve for a sustainable organisation and community.

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This project was the 2014 Division A winner of the Local Sustainability category at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards.