

Environment and Social Sustainability at Ecofund

Our Organisation

Ecofund Queensland (Ecofund) is a carbon and renewable energy advisory, environmental offsets, and brokerage service setup by the Queensland Government (Department of Environment and Resource Management) to help increase protected areas in Queensland and develop the carbon and renewable energy industries in Queensland.

Scope

Ecofund has developed this environmental and social sustainability framework to covers it operations in Australia and with the guidance of ISO14001:2006 (Section 4.2) and with the view of implementing a sustainability management system (EMS). The purpose of this system will be to measure, manage and improve environmental performance over time (including our carbon footprint) in order to operate more sustainably.

Our Vision

- To encourage value recognition of Queensland's environment and engage Queenslanders to take action to protect Queensland lifestyle.
- To create habitat and build important corridors of bushland in Queensland
- Enable native wildlife to respond to the impacts of climate change by migrating to suitable new habitats.
- To prepare Queensland for a low carbon future.
- To work in partnership and inspire environmental leadership.

Our Commitment

To continually improve our environmental performance we will:

- comply with applicable environmental laws and agreements and ensure that all who work for, or on behalf of us, comply with and exceed them
- systematically measure, manage and reduce the environmental impacts our business activities have, or could have, on the environment or on local communities
- prevent or minimise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, waste, the use of chemicals, deforestation and other human impacts in all our areas of our operations

- make best efforts to leave the natural environment in a better state than it was found
- assess the environmental impacts of our past activities and minimise future impacts through the development of an environmental management system
- carefully manage and minimise our energy and water use
- help our distributors, other operators, organisations and individuals to understand and implement more sustainable business practices
- monitor and report our performance and ensure our environmental decision-making is transparent
- ensure all managers are accountable for environmental performance in their areas of responsibility and that environmental protection is everyone's responsibility.
- set key performance indicators for all employees to support sustainable business practices and environmental volunteer programs
- engage with local land care, conservation and community organisations for subcontracting of on-ground environmental and carbon projects to support local engagement about environmental projects.
- support business and community events that encourage awareness of sustainable practices, the environment and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

At Ecofund we THINK, CHANGE, BALANCE

THINK

Ecofund has established a Sustainability Committee (the Green Team). This task force:

1. meets monthly to identify sustainability initiatives and action items
2. documents and implements action items as part of Ecofund's emissions management plan
3. educates and promotes good behavioural changes amongst employees
4. calculates the Ecofund corporate carbon footprint.

Ecofund measures its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or its carbon footprint every financial year. Both direct (Scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2 and Scope 3) emission sources are calculated. This is done in accordance with the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS)¹. NCOS is the best practice methodology for achieving carbon neutrality at the organisational level.

¹ <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/australian-carbon-trust/ncos-carbon-neutral-program.aspx>

CHANGE

Ecofund then reduces its GHG emissions by changing the way we do things.

Ecofund is currently investigating initiatives to:

1. use video conferencing facilities in place of business flights
2. reduce the amount of printing by adopting review and approval processes on-line
3. reduce paper consumption and ensure paper use includes a recycled component
4. composting more kitchen waste
5. putting in place incentives for catching public transport and car pooling

Ecofund has adopted sustainable practices into all we do. For example:

1. we use Green Power to run our website
2. we use recycled paper in all reports, and corporate printing including letters, business cards etc
3. we recycle all paper, including confidential material that is recycled through a secure paper manager.
4. we hire Prius's and other fuel-efficient cars where possible
5. we minimise taxi use by walking to all Brisbane CBD meetings
6. we enable computer power management settings, all computers are turned off when not in use
7. we have recycling facilities for paper and plastics

BALANCE

Ecofund proposes to offset emissions for financial year 2010/11 that could not be avoided or reduced. This may be through purchasing GreenPower Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) equivalent to its electricity consumption and NCOS eligible offset standards for residual GHG emissions or planting trees.

Ecofund commits to review this framework every two years and communicate it to our staff, contractors and the public via our website.



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