

Our Vision

“That East Gippsland will retain its unique environment. We are all learning how we can tread a little more lightly in our environment. We want to make changes that will help us do our job in the best way we can. By doing this, Council aspires to help all East Gippslanders to live more sustainably.

Together we can make a difference”.



EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY SUMMARY 2008–2013



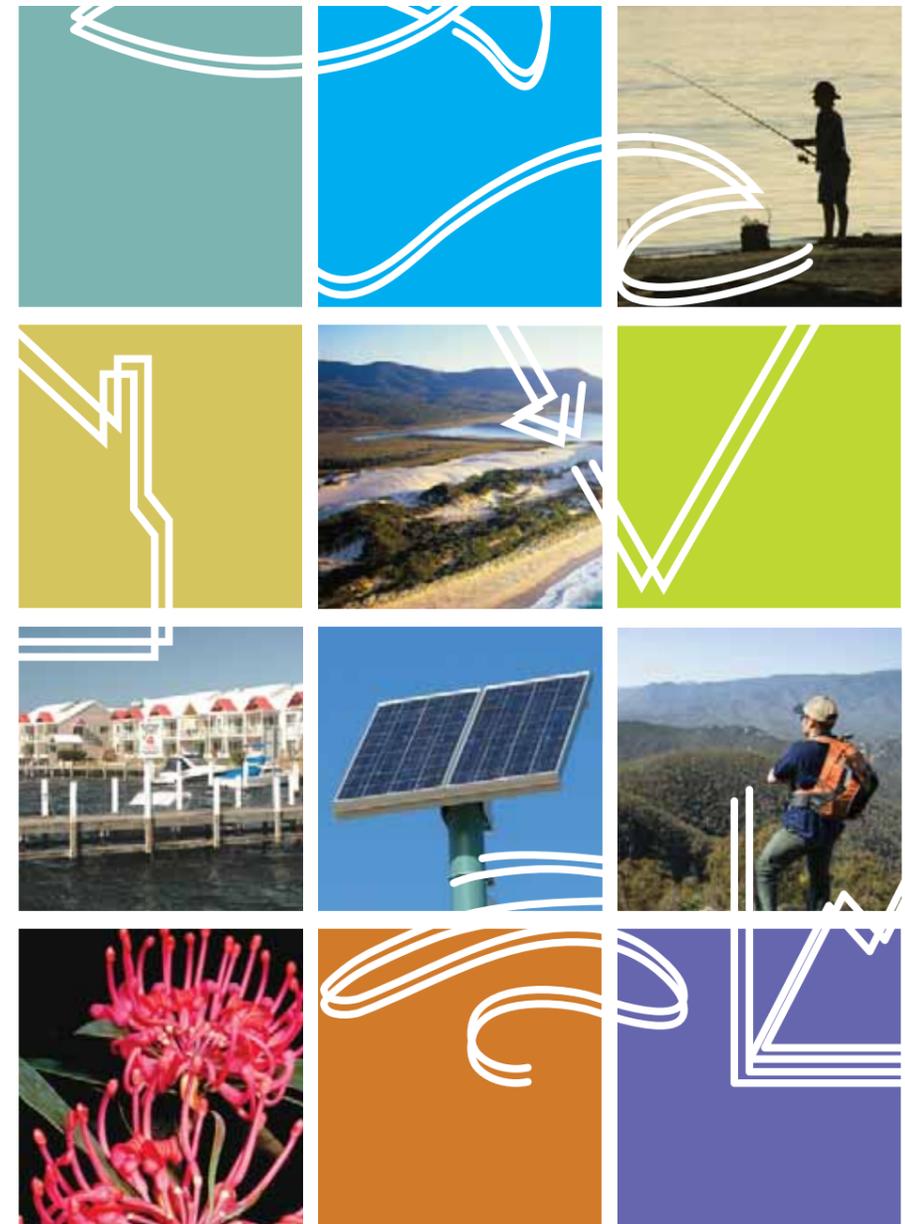
Victorian Local Sustainability Accord



This project was funded through the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund under the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord.

For further information you can visit the Council website www.egipps.vic.gov.au or contact the Shire's Sustainability Unit on (03) 5153 9500.

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About the Strategy

The East Gippsland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2008–2013 (the Strategy) presents Council's perspective on the issues of environmental sustainability in East Gippsland and consolidates the Shire's existing achievements, policies and plans about environmental sustainability. The Strategy identifies ways that East Gippsland Shire Council can help reduce resource consumption, protect land and biodiversity and make good decisions about land use and development.



Development

The Strategy has been developed through an extensive consultation process involving stakeholders, environmental and cultural groups, government agencies and community members, all of which have provided invaluable advice on the many issues identified within the Strategy.

Principles

The Strategy in conjunction with the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord aims to sustain our environment by committing to the following principles:

- Build a shared understanding,
- Establish shared local goals and priorities,
- Develop long-term strategic resource allocation and funding,
- Pursue alignment and cooperation in service delivery, and,
- Improve procedures for regular, effective evaluation and review.

Our Environmental Concerns

1. Biodiversity – maintaining and restoring our natural assets,
2. Water, Energy and Waste – using our resources more effectively,
3. Land Use and Economic Development – reducing our everyday environmental impacts.

Opportunities and Challenges

East Gippsland Shire Council has identified the following key opportunities and challenges. These were considered while developing actions to achieve the Shire's overarching vision.

- To develop more sustainable communities,
- To model positive environmental change,
- To help everyone understand how we individually affect our environment,
- To provide support and incentives for local businesses, individuals and community groups to make environmentally beneficial changes,
- To provide a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and review process of the effectiveness of the Strategy and its associated programs and activities.



Students from the Lucknow Primary School.
Photo Courtesy of Bairnsdale Urban Landcare Group.



Nurturing Social Change

Understanding that we all have a role to play in curbing our environmental impact is the first step to changing the way we conduct ourselves within our environment. Council has an important role in engaging and working with East Gippsland residents and visitors to build this awareness and to move toward environmental sustainability. East Gippsland Shire Council encourages our partners, industry, businesses, community groups and individuals to respond collectively by reducing our everyday impacts and to secure the future for the generations to come.

Key Issues	Priority Objectives
Land Use and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning for sustainable communities that are environmentally sustainable, that use resources wisely and that have minimal environmental impact. • Development that enhances and protects the environment in which we live.
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce potential threats to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems by implementing protection initiatives in Council-managed areas and encouraging their adoption across the Shire. • Strategically enhance East Gippsland's high quality biodiversity. • Improve land stewardship and weed management across the Shire.
Water Consumption and Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water consumption Shire-wide. • Improve the quality of water in our waterways.
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate efficient waste management practices. • Promote Shire-wide reductions in waste generation and adoption of reuse technology.
Energy and Greenhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions Shire-wide.
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote environmentally sustainable industry practice. • Expand and support environmentally sustainable tourism and promote 'Nature-based Tourism' in East Gippsland.

Table 1. Key issues and priority objectives for East Gippsland identified within the Strategy as concerning Council's areas of influence, specifically what Council can advocate, act on and regulate.

