



SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2022

Our purpose

To inspire, inform and connect communities to create a sustainable future

Our vision

A just and sustainable society

Our values

- Local action - global focus
- Ecological sustainability
- Equity
- Community capacity building
- Generosity of spirit

Our aims

- Encourage sustainable use of the earth's resources
- Strengthen community participation
- Build resilience to environmental, social and economic challenges

Our objectives

Our members	Our finances	Our internal systems	Our community
To have an inclusive and diverse membership.	To remain financially viable and to provide financial management systems for individuals and community groups to run their own projects.	To maintain a Committee that is effective in leading the organisation and is compliant with all legislative requirements.	To enable individuals and groups to reduce their ecological footprint and build capacity through local action.

Our members:

To have an inclusive and diverse membership

We will do this by	Strategies to meet our objective If we successfully implement these strategies will our objective be achieved?	Actions to implement these strategies	Measures of success
Fostering more community group membership	Develop a method to increase the number and diversity of current members and community groups.	<p>Develop a method of monitoring and maintaining current membership so that unpaid membership fees are addressed in a timely manner. 2017</p> <p>Develop a way to measure the diversity of membership. 2018</p>	<p>An increase in the diversity of members.</p> <p>A system of notifying and acting on unpaid membership fees.</p>
Partnerships	Develop formal and informal partnerships with like-minded organisations.	<p>Identify key potential partners, relationships and opportunities. 2017</p> <p>Connect with key partners to find synergies and mutually beneficial projects. 2018</p> <p>Collaborate with key partners to promote environmental sustainability. 2019</p>	A number of collaborative and ongoing relationships that are mutually beneficial.

Our finances:

To remain financially viable and to provide financial management systems for individuals and community groups to run their own projects

We will do this by	Strategies to meet our objective If we successfully implement these strategies will our objective be achieved?	Actions to implement these strategies	Measures of success
Maintaining a robust financial position that maximises funds to benefit the wider community.	Implement and maintain financial systems that are accountable, transparent and compliant.	Develop a budgeting plan to maximise financial resources. 2018	Completion of a budget with priorities, timeframes, responsibilities and actions.
Maintain financial processes.	Methods to monitor and review financial position to ensure funds are sufficient for strategic priorities and are compliant with regulations and legislation.	Financial processes in place. 2017	Annual financial reporting is accurate.
Provision of funding for individuals and community groups.	A process to determine the allocation of funds to individuals and community groups.	Develop criteria and a system to guide decision making for funding applications. 2019	Individuals and community groups successfully applying for and receiving project funding.

Our internal systems:

To have a Committee that is effective in leading the organisation and is compliant with all legislative requirements

We will do this by	Strategies to meet our objective If we successfully implement these strategies will our objective be achieved?	Actions to implement these strategies	Measures of success
Ensuring roles and number of Committee members are sufficient to undertake our work.	Quarterly meetings Regularly reporting to and communicating with members and external stakeholders.	Dividing key roles so that they can be delegated to members who may not be on the Committee. 2018	An active and engaged Committee in place. Regular meetings with agendas, minutes and reports.
Effective communication.	Adopting a new brand and logo Adopting a diverse range of media to ensure that our reach is broad and extensive.	Explore new ways of communicating, eg social media. 2018	Branding activity is completed Members and stakeholders are aware of the work and offerings of Sustainable Communities SA.
Effective monitoring and review processes.	Systems to review and monitor key activities.	Develop ways to review and monitor key activities, eg website, membership, diversity, finances, strategic planning and priorities. 2019	Review processes are in place and actions are taken to act on outcomes of these reviews.

Our community:

To enable individuals and groups to reduce their ecological footprint and build capacity through local action

We will do this by	Strategies to meet our objective If we successfully implement these strategies will our objective be achieved?	Actions to implement these strategies	Measures of success
Maintaining effective communication.	Helping community groups to disseminate information and activities.	Continue to provide communication channels that are informative and helpful.	Feedback from individuals, groups and the broader community is positive and people are informed about activities and projects.
Links to other resources.	Develop and maintain a concise formal and informal range of resources that can be widely shared and accessed.	Responsibility for updating resources from time to time. 2018	A concise pool of resources, eg website links, that is current and aligned with the strategic priorities of Sustainable Communities SA.
Links to key decision and policy makers.	Links and relationships with key people and organisations that are influential in the environmental sustainability context.	Develop and maintain a database of key people and organisations, eg Local Councils, which are influential in the environmental sustainability context. 2020	Ongoing relationships with key organisations and people The opinion of Sustainable Communities SA is sought and recognised.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Current priorities (12 October 2017)

1. Complete a Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Resource Management
Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges
2. Determine key roles that can be delegated to other members
3. Complete online branding that will refresh the image of Sustainable
Communities SA

Appendix 2: Summary: Sustainable Communities SA Future Planning Workshop

12 July 2017

Top priorities

Keep

1. Moral support for each other in community groups, focus on sustainability, behaviour, change and community capacity building
2. One Planet Market and Grow, Grow, Grow food security project
3. Incorporation and insurance

Change

1. Diversify the membership - culture, age, gender, etc. Find ways that Sustainable Communities appeals to these groups and demographics
2. Become more flexible in how we engage with ourselves and with the broader community

Create

1. Closer working relationships with local Councils
2. Repair café (global movement) uses volunteers
3. Food swaps every weekend in every Council area
4. More community activities & community groups locally based and in other areas

Of these priorities the strongest support was for:

- Diversifying the membership
- Closer working relationships with local Councils

Summary of all responses

Keep

1. Moral support for each other, community groups, focused on sustainability, behaviour change and community capacity building x 3
2. One Planet Market and Grow, Grow, Grow food security project x 5
3. Incorporation and insurance x 3
 - Communication, eg website, newsletter x 2
 - A bias to action - no-one wants to stay in a group that is mainly admin/discussion only in the longer term x 2
 - Email post outs x 1
 - Community education - workshops, public meetings x 1

Other ideas:

- Local and global

- Meeting in person as well as virtual online interaction
- Group meetings
- Ethical bias - counter cultural swapping giving away for free - its impressive
- Keep financial hygiene
- Local focus eg streets
- Spirit
- Hope
- Friendship
- Smiling

Change

1. Diversify the membership - culture, age, gender, etc. Find ways that Sustainable Communities appeals to these groups and demographics x 6
2. Become more flexible in how we engage with ourselves and with the broader community x 2
 - Don't have to retain past ways of working - groups, individuals - we can find new ways x 1
 - Become more flexible and adaptive x 1

Other ideas:

- More politically active
- Membership fees to group - provide benefit
- Approach to admin
- Share more studies

Create

1. Closer working relationships with local Councils x 6
2. Repair café (global movement) uses volunteers - keeps good going x 5
3. Food swaps and share every weekend in every Council area x 4
4. More community activities & community groups locally based and in other areas x 4
 - Link electronically with the global webs, eg change.org, 360.org, We the World Help us find our way through them x 2
 - Strengthen link to remote districts, eg Strathalbyn, Robe etc. x 2
 - Partnerships to get support with new/current directions, eg networks, capacity building and preparedness x 2
 - Ways to motivate those who don't act even if they know there are things they could do x 1
 - More groups - locally based x 1

Other ideas:

- Collaborations and networks with like-minded organisations
- Sustainability plans for individuals and/groups
- A different committee structure
- Re-create enthusiasm and activities
- Ways for members to connect, learn from each other - in addition to groups, eg Facebook discussion group
- Grants scheme
- Models to drive holistic approach to sustainability by groups over time
- Engage TAFEs
- Membership drive

Appendix 3: SWOT (strengths weaknesses, opportunities, threats)

<p>Strengths</p> <p>One Planet Market Grow, Grow, Grow and Food Security project Commitment to the principles of Sustainable Communities SA Values driven Optimism - hope filled Financial security Activity focus Unique offerings Incorporated body</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>Decrease in activities Decrease in membership Ageing population Diversity of membership, eg cultural, geographic, age Commitment of few members Limited time and energy of committee and members Leadership</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Partnerships, eg local Councils More groups and activities across local and regional areas Increased influence by contributing to public discourse, grants and funding</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>Retirement of key members No succession planning Non compliance with legislative requirements Constitution eg no Chair Decreasing energy and focus</p>