

**QUEENSLAND  
MUSEUM**  
PRESENTS



# **WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

## SHARE IN OUR VISION



**At Queensland Museum, we are committed to continuous improvement, and to valuing and protecting our natural environment for current and future generations. As a part of this commitment the World Science Festival Brisbane (WSFB) is promising in 2020 and beyond, to ratchet up our efforts towards a sustainable future.**

We have big goals—and we'll be taking steps each year to make sure we reach our targets. We will deliver an engaging event that is safe, healthy and fun, without compromising the needs of future generations.

Accordingly, we've developed a comprehensive three-year plan to improve our environmental sustainability. Our plan considers local, State and Federal best practice guidelines as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We are challenging business as usual, emphasising the value of our environment and resources, and setting a path towards zero emissions and no waste.

We recognise the path towards a sustainable future is a shared journey, so the WSFB is inviting you to come with us. If we all do a little bit more each year, the future will be bright. We're excited!

# ABOUT OUR PLAN

The WSFB environmental sustainability plan is based around six principles to guide our choices and actions. It commits us to placing sustainability at the forefront of our decision-making and embeds the global sustainability agenda into our work.

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## 01. CLIMATE ACTION

Manage resource use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Design-out emissions intensive products, services and processes. Challenge emissions-intensive design, choices and behaviours.



## 02. LOW WASTE

Respect the waste hierarchy and close the loop on waste. Eliminate single use plastics.



## 03. ENVIRONMENT

Minimise harm and preserve ecological integrity through careful environmental interaction. Limit the release of environmental pollutants.



## 04. PROCUREMENT

Avoid non-essential purchases and commit to sustainable procurement. Consider material choice, packaging and product life-cycle.



## 05. ENGAGE

Bring others on the journey towards a sustainable future. Engage audiences and stakeholders. Communicate sustainability objectives and outcomes to encourage behavioural and systemic change.



## 06. AMBITION

Commit to advancing the global sustainability agenda. Measure, plan, resource, and action. Raise ambition year on year.



01.

## CLIMATE ACTION

We're aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 to reduce our production of greenhouse gases and adapt to our climate.

### Here's what we're doing:

- › Powering parts of our City of Science site using solar power and striving for a “solar city” in future years.
- › Measuring our power use and travel miles to enable future carbon offsets.
- › Designing the program and venues to account for the hot weather, adding shade and misting sprays around the City of Science.
- › Saying no to temporary air-conditioning in outdoor venues and holding our breakfast sessions indoors to avoid the heat.
- › Implementing energy efficiencies such as switch off policies for air conditioning non-essential cooling hours.
- › Creating efficiencies in our road transport schedules to reduce the number of loads.
- › Using a hybrid vehicle fleet wherever possible.
- › Inviting our visitors to use public transport, and installing bike racks to support active travel.
- › Diverting organic and recyclable waste to limit methane emissions in landfill.
- › Minimising menu items that contain emissions-intensive products such as red meat.

**WE'RE MANAGING RESOURCE USE TO REDUCE EMISSIONS / CHALLENGING EMISSIONS-INTENSIVE DESIGN, CHOICES & BEHAVIOURS / MEASURING POWER USE. SWITCHING OFF. REDUCING LOADS. / STRIVING FOR A “SOLAR CITY”!**

## 02.

**LOW WASTE**

WSFB is striving to become a plastic free event, aligning with the Queensland Government's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan. Furthermore, we're working towards closing the loop on waste by observing the waste hierarchy, valuing resources and keeping our production and consumption in check.

**We are:**

- › Phasing out single use plastics. We've asked our Activity Providers to avoid using new single-use plastics, and we've asked our food vendors to use biodegradable packaging.
- › Positioning recycling and organics waste bins around the City of Science, so any biopack food packaging that's placed in the organic waste bins will be commercially composted.
- › Positioning free drinking water refill stations around the City of Science and urging visitors to bring their own reusable cups or bottles.
- › Substantially reducing the number of printed programs and collateral.
- › Finding alternative solutions to single use materials and production consumables such as cable ties. We're replacing cable ties with re-useable cord in many places.
- › Re-using and repurposing existing assets, and ensuring these are well stored and maintained to extend their life.
- › Enabling composite and digital ticketing to reduce the incidence of printed tickets.
- › Setting up our production office with double sided printing, prioritising digital communications, and expanding our waste diversion streams to include soft plastics and batteries.
- › Re-thinking our merchandise, gifts and giveaways to ensure they correspond with our sustainability principles.
- › Linking in with our procurement goals to avoid effectively buying-in waste.

**WE'RE RESPECTING THE WASTE HIERARCHY &**

**CLOSING THE LOOP ON WASTE / ELIMINATING**

**SINGLE USE PLASTICS / COMMERCIAL**

**COMPOSTING / AVOIDING BUYING-IN WASTE**

# 03.

## ENVIRONMENT



**We're being careful with our environmental interactions to minimise harm and preserve ecological integrity.**

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**We are:**

- › Banning glitter and plastics that will spread and pollute.
- › Installing protective ground coverings to preserve horticultural areas.
- › Keeping the site clean to prevent rubbish blow into gardens and waterways.
- › Ensuring chemicals are well contained and safely used and managed.
- › Promoting low use of soaps, detergents and chemicals.
- › Ensuring our logistics solutions are safe to the reduce risk of spills or discharge in processing or transit.

**WE'RE LIMITING ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLLUTANTS / MINIMISING HARM &  
PRESERVING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY**

04.

## PROCUREMENT



We're emphasising avoidance of non-essential purchases and committing to sustainable procurement. High on the agenda is consideration of material choice, packaging and product life-cycle.

### That means:

- › Working in with our waste goals—trying not to buy more stuff!
- › We're hiring, not buying as much of our festival infrastructure as possible, which means designing our festival site and activities around available hire items.
- › We're choosing 100% recycled paper for our printed materials.
- › We are re-using corflute signage from last year wherever we can and redesigning new signage to incorporate reused and/or recyclable materials.
- › We're integrating sustainability into our procurement process as per Queensland Government guidance materials.

**WE'RE THINKING ABOUT MATERIAL CHOICE,  
PACKAGING & PRODUCT LIFE-CYCLE / WE'RE  
WORKING IN WITH OUR WASTE GOALS—TRYING  
NOT TO BUY MORE STUFF! / WE'RE INTEGRATING  
SUSTAINABILITY INTO OUR PROCUREMENT PROCESS**



05.

## ENGAGE

**This is a big one for us! As a festival, we have a voice and an obligation to use it. We will engage audiences and stakeholders, bringing others on the path towards a sustainable future. We will communicate our sustainability objectives in alignment with the global agenda, seek cooperation, and report on our outcomes to encourage behavioural and systemic change.**

### Our actions include:

- › Integrating 9 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals into our program, and using them as wayfinding around the site—educate and navigate!
- › Delivering many events featuring discussions around sustainability and the environment, as well as reinforcing global environmental movements. Celebrate Earth Hour outside the Museum with a 250-voice choir at 8.30pm on Saturday 28 March and be taken on an inspiring journey of song, all powered by the sun!
- › Development of a “how to” guide with some tips on reducing the impacts of festival attendance—bring a re-fillable bottle, use the right bin, leave the car at home.
- › Asking our partners directly for help in measuring our impacts.
- › Partnering for the future - communicating with our activity providers, food vendors, suppliers and partners in an effort to mitigate our impacts and build momentum on our journey. We're laying the foundations for more ambitious plans.

**WE'RE ENGAGING AUDIENCES & STAKEHOLDERS**

**IN OUR JOURNEY / ENCOURAGE BEHAVIOURAL &**

**SYSTEMIC CHANGE / BRING A RE-FILLABLE BOTTLE,**

**USE THE RIGHT BIN, LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME!**



06.

## AMBITION

We're committed to advancing the global sustainability agenda, and raising our ambition year on year.

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### We will:

- › Calculate our emissions and establish a baseline for offsetting.
- › Evaluate our sustainability results, review our plan and determine new targets.
- › Enable progress by resourcing our plan and placing sustainability at the core of our work.
- › Commit to being open and innovative in finding better ways of doing business!

**WE'RE FINDING BETTER WAYS OF DOING BUSINESS / ADVANCING THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA / CALCULATING EMISSIONS & OFFSET! / PUTTING SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CORE OF OUR WORK / MEASURE, PLAN, RESOURCE & ACTION. RAISE AMBITION YEAR ON YEAR!**

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