

Environmental Management Policy

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Unit	International Program, Habitat for Humanity Australia		
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Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the HFHA office and our international program activities are guided by the principles of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation and represent our organisation's commitment to the environment in development assistance. This policy also serves as a practical guide to HFHA staff in our relationships with partner organisations and the communities in which we work to ensure that our program activities are informed by appropriate analysis of the potential environmental impacts of our program activities. The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act defines the environment as:

- a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities
- b) Natural and physical resources
- c) Qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas
- d) Heritage values of places
- e) Social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in a, b, c, or d.

Policy Statement

HFHA is committed to planning, designing and building more energy and water efficient homes that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. Through all of our work we are dedicated to ensure that our overseas work does not cause, and is not likely to cause, a significant impact on the environment, and take steps to avoid and/or mitigate any negative impacts.

HFHA will ensure that our projects are, and encourage and support other initiatives that:

- Promote sustainable housing design, including the use of safe and sustainable raw materials in the construction of Habitat houses, appropriate to the local community.
- Protect and maintain the health, diversity and productivity of natural habitats.
- Promote the installation of water tanks for water harvesting.
- Promote 'green' septic/drainage systems.
- Promote the use of grey water for water recycling.

- Promote energy-efficiency through use of appropriate technology.
- Promote waste reduction during construction and occupancy.
- Protect and conserve natural and cultural heritage.

Policy in Practice

HFHA will ensure that our office adopts working practices that contribute towards environmental improvement, pollution prevention and carbon footprint reduction by:

- Reducing the amount of waste produced by reducing, reusing and recycling as much as possible.
- Using energy in an efficient way by turning off appliances at powerpoints, turning off the lights when not required, and using a renewable energy provider.
- Provide environmental education as part of new employees induction programme.
- Where possible, purchase environmentally friendly goods such as fridges with high energy ratings, and buying second hand goods.
- Reducing the amount of paper used by encouraging electronic methods for meetings etc, printing double sided, purchasing 100% recycled paper and recycling used paper and ink cartridges.
- As part of our marketing and community awareness programs, raise awareness of individuals and companies choices and behaviours that impact the environment and climate change and how this affects the poor and secluded communities.
- Support the development of relationships with suppliers who have environmentally-sustainable products and ways of operating.

HFHA will ensure that our international program:

- Staff and local counterparts understand and support environmental protection and biodiversity conservation principles and practices and seek environmental expertise when required.
- Considers the environmental issues and potential impacts (both positive and negative) when designing and implementing all program activities (initial environment assessment). This will be achieved by answering environmental marker questions as required and developing appropriate environmental management plans.
- Where environmental assessment of a HFHA project was assessed as likely to have a significant impact on the environment, no contractual arrangements will be entered into without first developing a mitigation plan which is agreed between all the stakeholders.
- Monitoring and reporting activities include environment outcomes through appropriate activity designs that include environmental performance indicators and reporting mechanisms to ensure all environment-related information is collected, analysed and reported.
- Encourage our partner families and communities to purchase fuel-efficient burners, generators, water tanks and other sustainable energy efficient devices by educating them on their benefits and sourcing cost-effective providers through our partners.
- Ensuring that an environmental standards clause is written into all Memorandums of Understanding with partners and into all Project Agreements.

- [Refer also to ***HFHA Disaster Risk Reduction Policy***; ***HFHA Sustainability Policy***]