



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

This Environmental Sustainability Policy formalises our commitment to supporting the principles of environmental sustainability and recognises that a sustainable environment is central to our lives.

The aim of our Environmental Sustainability Policy is to:

- implement environmental actions within the organisation
- monitor the environmental actions and improvements internally
- communicate environmental initiatives internally and externally.

This policy and associated procedures apply to all volunteers, staff and contractors working for the organisation.

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens (FGBG) respects our relationship with the natural environment and its ecosystems. We acknowledge the adverse impacts that human activity can impose and take actions to prevent degradation of those natural systems.

FGBG commits to the following principles and practices:

- Monitoring and managing our environmental performance and working towards minimising adverse impacts.
- Complying with relevant Australian Commonwealth, State and Local environmental policy, practices, regulations and legislation.
- Reducing the consumption of natural resources in daily operations, including water, paper and energy.
- Maximising the recycling of resources.
- Disposing of waste appropriately.
- Committing to the principles of preventing pollution to the environment and continual improvement.
- Communicating this policy to all volunteers, contractors and other stakeholders, as well as making this policy available to the general public.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES FOR FGBG:

Management Of Waste Disposal at Geelong Botanic Gardens

- The disposal of waste program is undertaken by the GBG. There is currently no facility for recycling plastic, cans, glass.
- FGBG have at our disposal a paper recycling container. Dry paper waste should be placed in this bin. The recycling of the paper in this bin is organised by the GBG.
- Other waste is collected by the GBG cleaner.

Guidelines For FGBG Volunteers & FGBG Functions

- The usual practise is for FGBG is to use ceramic cups and plates for functions and meetings.
- However, due to a limitation of storage space, if an event of more than approximately 30 people occurs, (or people available to wash dishes is not adequate) the use of biodegradable plates, cups and cutlery is necessary.
- Biodegradable products will also be used on self-drive and coach tours.
- When shopping for such events biodegradable products only will be purchased.
- In the kitchen, when a function is held, compostable waste will be collected. This will be offered to a member for poultry food or composting.
- Currently there is no facility for recycling plastic, cans, glass. A volunteer may take recyclable materials home to dispose of in appropriate waste disposable manner.
- In the nursery, where plants are grown for sale, the practise is to recycle the black plastic pots to ensure that the number of pots purchased is kept to a minimum.