

the east
gippsland
sustainability
kit

a stitch in time

This (handy) little booklet provides ideas that you can use to bring sustainability issues into your community planning process - a new 'lens' through which to view your group's plans and actions. Think of it as your sustainability toolkit.

The kit is in two parts. First we take a look at East Gippsland's place in the national and global context. We look at how our personal, household and community actions impact on the environment. We suggest some simple questions and checklists to consider when planning events, developing business and community initiatives, or maybe even just thinking about your day to day operations.

The second part comes as a set of case study cards - each describing how 'real' people are reducing their ecological footprint and building a stronger community. Local stories told by the people who are making them work.

These case studies describe people working together to reduce the use of resources like energy and water; to create local jobs and to build local

economies. We hope this set of cards will grow as new ideas are tried and shared.

While the future is unknown, some trends are clear.

We know that our climate is changing. We know that energy will cost more and that this will flow on to every aspect of our lives. We are already feeling the impacts of changes in agriculture, government services and businesses because of decisions made outside our towns.

Many solutions to these challenges can be found within our own communities, with our own ideas!

As individuals, families and businesses we can make a difference - if we work with our communities, we can do a whole lot more.

We hope you refer to this booklet often. Keep it handy. Have it on the table at your next community meeting - it's bound to start a whole new conversation!

sustainability..goggles...planning for change.....

The sustainability lens

'Sustainability' means handing on to our children a planet in as good condition as we enjoyed.

We all want to do that. And our local communities are a good place to start.

"The perfect scale for the creation of socially and ecologically sustainable role models is at the municipality level. Communities hold the key to a sustainable world in their hands."

Dr. Karl Henrik Robert, Founder of The Natural Step

Sustainability is about everything we do, from how our local economy works to how we get on with our neighbours.

The 'sustainability lens' reveals the link between our decisions and their effect on our environment, our economy and our society. It encourages us to see (or consider) things we'd otherwise miss when we plan events and projects.

One way of applying the sustainability lens is by remembering to ask questions

about our activities. (Or reminding others to ask them!)

Is it a step in the right direction?

1. Does it satisfy local needs?

(+does this need expanding on?)

2. How will it affect different groups in our community?

(+does this need expanding on?)

3. What materials and labour can we source locally?

4. Does it use natural resources efficiently?

5. How much waste does it generate?