

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Approved 22 June 2020
Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees

1. PURPOSE

This policy presents the framework for the integration of environmental sustainability practices into the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art's ('the Gallery' or 'QAGOMA') operations. It provides objectives and structures to direct the Gallery's implementation of sustainability principles and practices.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Gallery staff (including permanent, temporary and casual employees, volunteers and interns), contractors, consultants and services provided by related parties.

The following key areas are in scope for the life of the policy¹:

- recycling and waste
- stationary energy (electricity and gas)
- water
- heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC)
- purchasing and procurement
- freight and staff travel (shipping, fleet vehicles, air travel, commuting, accommodation)
- environmental risk

The Gallery holds a unique status as tenant of the two buildings, Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) and Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) owned by The State of Queensland represented through Arts Queensland (AQ) as the designated landlord. The lease agreement between QAGOMA and AQ provides the governing terms of use responsibility for capital works in relation to occupation of the building, including maintenance, repairs and funding for upgrades and improvements. The Gallery will use its best endeavours to improve sustainability in respect of areas that fall under the mandate of the building owners. It should be noted that the Queensland Art Gallery building is heritage listed and any changes to building form, structure or fabric are subject to relevant approvals.

QAGOMA will also continue to work closely with AQ (through Arts Property and Facilities (APAF)) to improve the sustainability of the Gallery and the Cultural Precinct generally. These efforts are in addition to the improvement of internal work practices that are outlined within this policy.

3. VISION STATEMENT

The Gallery's sustainability vision is to become carbon neutral, minimise environmental impact and be a leading example of sustainable museum practices.

The Gallery is committed to:

- achieving readiness for [Climate Active](#) carbon neutral certification through the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy by end of 2024-25
- reducing the environmental footprint of the Gallery's operations through:
 - enhanced energy management and emissions education
 - procurement practices, including reducing purchasing of plastics

¹ To the extent of control under QAGOMA operations, noting Art Queensland's role as building owners in control of building infrastructure and maintenance

- re-using and re-purposing materials
- diverting waste streams away from landfill
- monitoring, reporting and sharing QAGOMA's sustainability story in support of its brand and reputation
- supporting the QAGOMA Sustainability Committee to educate staff, improve work practices, provide clear communication pathways for sustainability suggestions and concerns, and to assist in the review and planning of sustainability initiatives.

4. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this document:

Carbon emissions: Carbon dioxide that is produced by combustion of carbon and released into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.

Carbon neutral: Making or resulting in no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, including as a result of carbon offsetting.

Climate Active certification: For an entity to be certified it must meet the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard (formerly the National Carbon Offset Standard). Broadly, this means that to achieve certification an entity must measure emissions, reduce these where possible, offset remaining emissions and then publicly report on the achievement.²

Recycling: The action or process of converting waste into reusable material, especially as a diversion from landfill.

Single-use plastics: Plastic items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery.

Sustainability: Avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance

Waste: Eliminated or discarded materials no longer useful or required after the completion of a process or project.

5. POLICY ELEMENTS

5.1 CLIMATE ACTIVE CERTIFICATION

The Gallery is committed to achieving readiness for [Climate Active](#) certification by the end of June 2025. To achieve this QAGOMA will:

- define QAGOMA's carbon emissions boundaries, including sources, approach, scope, relevance and materiality
- collect data on emissions sources and create a carbon account to track and report on all of QAGOMA's relevant emissions
- develop, implement and maintain an emissions reduction strategy
- identify funding initiatives and opportunities to purchase ongoing carbon offsets, which will enable progression to climate active certification status

² As defined on the [Climate Active](#) website

5.2 REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

To reduce QAGOMA's environmental footprint, where it is **reasonably feasible and practical** the Gallery will:

- record and report all emissions from electricity, fleet and air travel under the Queensland Climate Transition Strategy model
- procure low carbon emissions materials
- procure the best value-for-money energy and/or water efficient appliances and equipment
- eliminate single-use plastics from all operations and reduce plastic usage
- reduce emissions from all utilities, materials, and activities in line with QAGOMA's emissions reduction strategy
- work closely with AQ to identify funding opportunities for upgrades to relevant equipment and plant to support the vision and emissions reduction strategy
- preference sustainable initiatives and products, and companies that engage proactively in sustainable programs.

5.3 SHARE QAGOMA'S SUSTAINABILITY STORY

QAGOMA will share its sustainability story in support of the Gallery's brand and reputation by:

- publicly reporting on progress as appropriate through government
- articles and posts across QAGOMA's owned communication assets and channels: Annual Report, Annual Review, Artlines magazine, Blog, Social Media, etc.
- exploring opportunities with partners with complimentary sustainability objectives
- ensuring QAGOMA's staff are aware of the Gallery's sustainability strategy and outcomes in order to champion its successes with all stakeholders, including visitors, patrons, guests, partners and sponsors.

5.4 SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee (the Committee) is formed through each QAGOMA business area providing a sustainability representative. The sustainability representative position can be changed as required.

The Committee meets three times each year to discuss, endorse / recommend, develop and implement sustainability initiatives across QAGOMA's operations.

5.5 MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

- QAGOMA will report quarterly data on sustainability performance including emissions and annual targets.
- Sustainability achievements and data will be produced for the QAGOMA Annual Report.
- Business areas will be responsible for reporting all emissions data relevant to the carbon account.
- Sustainability objectives and performance measures will be included in QAGOMA's Strategic and Operational Plans.
- Sustainability targets will be reassessed annually, with a more substantive review of initiatives, actions and progress by end of 2021-22.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Approves the QAGOMA Sustainability Policy.
- Approves annual sustainability targets for energy and waste.
- Ensures Gallery forward planning considers sustainability objectives and reporting of outcomes against targets in the annual report.
- Ensures inclusion of sustainability principles and goals in the Gallery's Strategic Plan and Operational Plan.

DIRECTOR

- Reviews policy changes and targets and endorses sustainability initiatives.
- Models a leading sustainability role, supports and promotes initiatives and the ongoing education of staff.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Models a leading sustainability role and supports initiatives and the ongoing education of staff.
- Ensures compliance of reporting responsibilities for sustainability goals, such as carbon emissions.
- Supports the Sustainability Committee through one Executive Management Team representative attending each meeting.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Model leading sustainability roles in each business area and supports initiatives and the ongoing education of staff.
- Ensures compliance of reporting responsibilities for sustainability goals, such as carbon emissions from operational activities.
- Ensures each business area maintains a presence in the Sustainability Committee by providing an ongoing representative (including replacement as required).

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

QAGOMA Facilities perform the role of Sustainability Coordinator. The Sustainability Coordinator's duties are to:

- record and report on sustainability initiatives and data
- develop, implement and maintain emissions and waste reduction strategies
- oversee the Committee and provide a conduit for information, endorsements and initiatives to flow between it, the Executive Management Team and AQ
- organise, chair and record the Committee meetings
- liaise with AQ to implement sustainability initiatives, or lobby for upgrades, improvements and initiatives that fall within its responsibilities
- attend Queensland Cultural Centre Precinct Sustainability Action Group meetings.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Be champions for sustainability at the Gallery and reiterate the positive actions taken.
- Attend regular Committee meetings, for example three per year.
- Represent their business and work area by discussing sustainability with their team and relaying ideas, initiatives, concerns or feedback between the Committee and their business area.
- Represent the Committee by supporting the Gallery's sustainability initiatives in their work area and communicating the minutes and information from the meetings back to their team

STAFF

- Support sustainability initiatives and their implementation.
- Dispose of waste according to the waste streams available.
- Report emissions and relevant sustainability data as required.

7. ADMINISTRATION

7.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations](#)
- [Conservation Management Plan 2017](#)
- [Conservation Policy](#)
- [Pathways to a clean Growth economy: Queensland Climate Transition Strategy](#)
- [Procurement Guidance: Integrating Sustainability into the Procurement Process](#)
- [Procurement Policy](#)

7.2 DOCUMENT OVERSIGHT

Approval authority	Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees		
Maintained by	Head of Facilities		
Release	Internal and External	File reference	QR/20/40789
Approval date	22 June 2020	Next review by	June 2023

7.3 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Date	Revisions
1.0	Board of Trustees	June 2015	Developed as an action from the QAGOMA Operational Plan 2014-15.
2.0	Board of Trustees	22 June 2020	Major review based on operational developments and direction amendments. Key new elements include: the introduction of carbon neutrality as a major objective with associated reporting and planning changes; Sustainability Committee structure, roles and responsibilities; updated reference material and Government objectives. Policy transferred to current QAGOMA policy template.