

**Palm Beach Surf  
Life Saving Club**

# **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

## **2024-2028**

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DELIVERING ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS



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# INTRODUCTION



**Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club (PBSLSC)** was originally created by the community in the 1930s with a focus on supporting the community, and this Sustainability Strategy will be treated the same. Palm Beach Surf Club is now made up of Palm Beach (QLD) SLSC Inc & Palm Beach (QLD) SLSC Supporters Club Inc. We are committed to ensuring the community remains healthy and does not suffer the impacts of climate change.

Surf clubs around Australia and nonprofits as a whole have an important role to play in fostering social cohesion and promoting sustainability. Surf clubs are fundamental to meeting community needs, and ensuring they can keep supporting the community is a key focus at PBSLSC.

Our core values at PBSLSC of respect, unity, inclusive and involvement apply to all our activities at the club, including our Sustainability Strategy. The community, stakeholders and governance of the surf club and health of the environment are all interconnected and must be treated as such.

PBSLSC has begun the transition to more sustainable practices, such as becoming Surfrider Ocean Friendly Certified. By taking a proactive and conscientious approach to fulfilling our duty of care, this Strategy states our targets over the next 5 years and outlines how we intend to achieve those targets through specific actions and initiatives. As part of our Sustainability Strategy, we are working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2035.

Our aim is for Palm Beach Surf Club to become a driver and example of change for local clubs and the wider community. We hope to play a role in ensuring that the future of the Gold Coast is inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

# MISSION STATEMENT & TARGET

## Our core values



### RESPECT



### UNITY



### INCLUSIVE



### INVOLVEMENT

We respect our past, people, property and place and earn the respect of others through our actions and results.

We are united in pursuit of our combined vision, goals and purpose. We unite with aligned people and entities to improve the wider community.

We are welcoming to everyone that their ideas and feedback. We work together as a team in pursuit of our goals.

We get involved in our community and value involvement from our team and our members. We are involved in finding solutions and improvements.

## SUSTAINABILITY MISSION STATEMENT

PBSLSC has a desire to protect our local environment and a commitment to inspire sustainability leadership within the community. By working closely with local stakeholders we strive to develop best environmental practice for the surf life saving movement.

## NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2035

We plan to target net zero emissions by 2035 to demonstrate our commitment to environmental sustainability and align with global efforts to combat climate change. By setting and achieving this goal, we aim to play an active role in minimising our environmental impact and establishing a foundation for long-term resilience.

# PRIORITY SDGS



Our core values feed into our key sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Sustainability Strategy integrates the following key SDGs into our everyday operations.

## 1.



At the core of this Strategy is action to minimise our impact on climate change and the effects on the community by mitigating our energy, waste and water usage.

## 2.



Working closely with partners to decarbonise the supply chain while ensuring that the products we use and our activities do not negatively affect our ocean.

## 3.

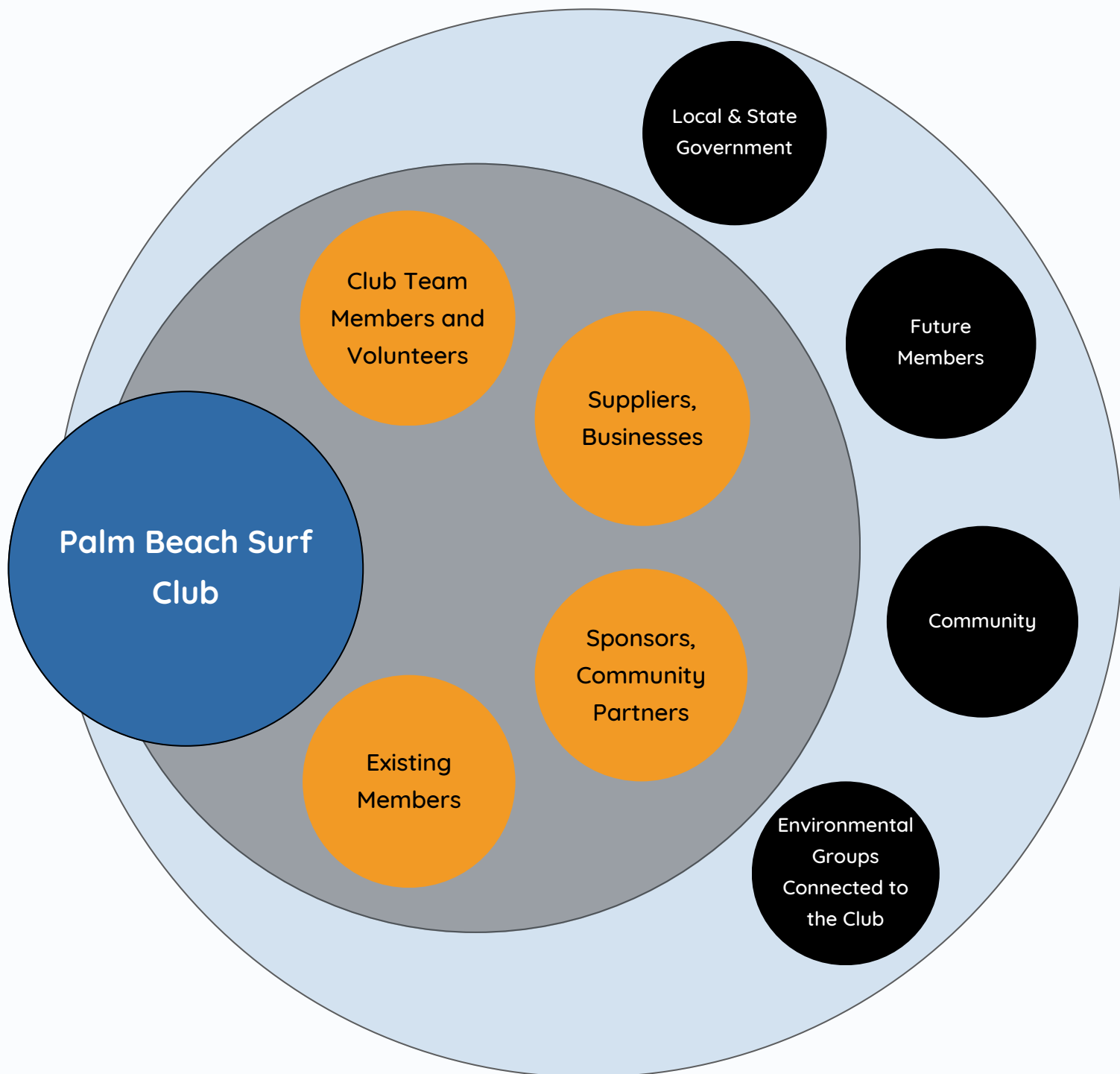


Maintaining equal access to the club and applying tiered learning and training opportunities to ensure equitability. Providing environmental education within the club and with external partners while fostering innovation and building resilience among the SLS movement and the wider community club network.

# STAKEHOLDERS

Considering key stakeholders is important to understand who is affected by the actions outlined in this Strategy, and to take their interests into account in our decision-making processes.

The diagram below identifies the key stakeholders of PBSLSC.





# CURRENT STATE & INITIATIVES




PBSLSC has made several sustainability improvements leading up to the formal creation of our Sustainability Strategy.

To ensure transparency, we are also disclosing our current state with regard to energy, waste and water to ensure that progress on the targets is clear and measurable.

## Initiatives to date

 <b>Surfrider Ocean Friendly Certified:</b> first surf club in Australia to become certified by eliminating all single use plastics within the club.	 <b>Compostable items:</b> switch to compostable items where possible (coasters, serviettes, coffee cups and lids, etc).	 <b>Partnerships:</b> partner with other organisations to fundraise promote sustainable events and activities.
 <b>ecoBiz:</b> completed an ecoBiz assessment with noted improvements in energy efficiency.	 <b>Vending machines:</b> remove all vending machines to limit single use waste.	 <b>Food organics:</b> distribute excess food to Oz Harvest and provide Southern Beaches Community Gardens with green and brown waste for compost.
 <b>LED lighting:</b> replaced all lights in the club with LEDs.	 <b>Cleaning products:</b> switch to eco friendly cleaning products and reusable cleaning materials, where practical.	 <b>Recycling:</b> provision of recycle bins and use of a glass crusher to minimise the volume of glass in transport.
 <b>Investigating solar:</b> we have begun investigating the use of onsite solar.	 <b>Suppliers waste:</b> encourage suppliers to use eco-friendly packaging and send packaging back to suppliers for reuse where possible.	 <b>Reuse over replace:</b> opt to repair over replace and use reusable materials where possible such as cutlery and food storage bins.

## Current state

 <b>Energy:</b> 100% of energy from coal-generated sources
 <b>Waste:</b> 2 x 1100L general waste bins, collected 5 times per week. 1 x 1100L recycling bin collected 6 times per week. All bins usually full. No organics stream currently in place.
 <b>Water:</b> Approximately 3007.97kL of water per year used

# CURRENT TRENDS IN THE SECTOR

We have outlined the trends within the nonprofit sustainability movement to ensure that this Strategy is informed by current developments in the sector. We have used this information in the Strategy to identify potential risks and opportunities for PBSLSC.

Nonprofit organisations are increasingly driving change and innovation in the sustainability space.

As public entities, nonprofits have a special need to maintain transparency and accountability as they operate with tax benefits. Donors and sponsors focus in closer on how nonprofits conduct their activities instead of simply what nonprofits do in the community.

Donors increasingly require nonprofits to adopt policies in line with their own policies surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion.

Nonprofits are increasingly benefitting from their sustainability initiatives in the form of grants, donors, sponsorships, and partner alignment on sustainability values.

Nonprofits are receiving increased visibility in the environmental sustainability space.

Nonprofits are beginning to follow for-profit business trends, including developing net zero targets and plans to reduce carbon emissions.

Younger community members are pushing for more environmentally friendly practices.

Nonprofits are becoming key advocates and leaders in environmental sustainability.

**Note:** These trends have been informed by our analysis of other nonprofit organisations leading the way and research on the role of nonprofits in meeting the SDGs.

Source: <https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/non-profit-organization-involvement-into-the-sustainable-development-goals/282940>



# GAPS & BARRIERS

In order to make progress on our Sustainability Strategy, it is important to acknowledge the current and future gaps and barriers to achieving our goals and targets. Acknowledging these will better equip PBSLSC to address them if they occur.

## Gaps

- Lack of a comprehensive baseline assessment to determine the carbon intensity of our energy, waste and water outputs as ecoBiz is limited to a high level assessment
- Lack of information on the location and quantity of water used in different parts of the club
- No formal sustainable procurement policy
- Lack of guidance on sustainability measures within the wider SLS Queensland and SLS Australia community
- Minimal focus on minimising landfill waste
- Uncertainty on payback periods
- No sustainability scorecard or framework to measure sustainability metrics

## Barriers



# STRATEGY TIMELINE

Our annual initiatives will be implemented based on the following roadmap system and will undergo yearly assessments through detailed action plans. This framework will align us towards achieving our goal of net zero emissions by 2035.

ASSESS

IDENTIFY

REVIEW

MONITOR &  
IMPLEMENT

## 2024



- Waste audit assessment report
- Implement further waste segregation systems
- Sustainable procurement policy
- Review club guidelines
- Train team members on new sustainability practices and introduce sustainability education throughout the club
- Install rooftop solar
- Establish the Green Team
- Sign new energy supply contract

## 2025



- Carbon audit (scope 1 & 2 emissions)
- Construct an emission reductions plan
- Investigate green power purchase agreement
- Install a smart energy meter
- Full implementation and enforcement of the sustainable procurement policy
- Sponsorship sustainability policy
- Install a smart water meter
- Seek partners for sustainability events & host fundraising events
- Promote PBSLSC's sustainability initiatives

## 2026



- Full carbon audit (scope 3 emissions)
- Develop targets to reduce energy, waste and water
- Investigate battery energy storage solutions
- Expand waste management plan
- Create a plan to reuse materials

## 2027-2028



- Full carbon audit (scope 1, 2 & 3) to measure progress since the baseline
- Increase investment in renewable energy
- Switch to more energy efficient equipment
- Release 2029-2033 Sustainability Strategy

## 2035

Net zero emissions

## Waste:

- Complete a full waste audit assessment report.
- Implement new initiatives and policy procedures to support recommendations from the waste report.
- Implement further waste segregation systems.
- Assess a food organics waste management plan to be implemented, for segregation and collection.
- Curate a waste education program to support all team members on appropriate new waste systems, use of bins and signage on each of the bin systems.
- Review the servicing frequency of waste being collected from the Club and look to support opportunities for minimising transport emissions.
- Review waste collection in the surrounding area of the club and on the beach to identify greater waste management.
- Assess and implement waste bin systems available for all SLS competitions and club-hosted events with appropriate signage and instructions for proper use of bins.

## Energy:

- Sign a new energy supply contract.
- Install rooftop solar.

## Policies:

- Develop a sustainable procurement policy to minimise the carbon intensity of the supply chain by reducing the club's supplier carbon emissions. Engage with current suppliers and wider Club network on how they can meet the policy standards, and where not possible, begin to source new suppliers that are able to adhere to the policy standards.
- Review all club guidelines and regulations to ensure protection of the environment is a key factor in all club policies.

## Education/Training:

- Train team members on new sustainability practices at the club such as the new waste management program.
- Introduce sustainability education within the existing lifesaving education programs, such as the nippers to master's program.
- Raise awareness of sustainability activities happening at the club through club-hosted events.

## Other:

- Establish a sustainability committee (the Green Team) with one representative from every department to meet once a month and oversee the implementation of the Strategy and monitor progress against targets.
- Apply for state and federal government as well as non-governmental funding assistance. The success of this funding assistance will determine how ambitious PBSLSC is able to be in its sustainability initiatives.

## Energy:

- Conduct a carbon audit to identify baseline levels of scope 1 and 2 emissions to identify the club's current performance and identify specific areas for improvement.
- Construct an emission reductions plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.
- Investigate a green power purchase agreement and prioritise local green energy sources.
- Install a smart energy meter to allow consistent monitoring of energy usage.

## Policies:

- Full implementation and enforcement of the sustainable procurement policy by actively evaluating all current and future suppliers against a set of standards/metrics/criteria. Those that do not meet the criteria will not be considered for a supply agreement with the PBSLSC. Evaluate which products can be ordered in large quantities to reduce the amount of delivery trips and packaging.
- Curate a policy to ensure that sponsors of PBSLSC have sustainability values that are in alignment with the club.

## Other:

- Install a smart meter to collect water use data at regular intervals.
- Seek local business and organisation partners such as conservation groups to conduct sustainability events such as beach cleanups and conservation projects.
- Promote the club's sustainability initiatives through the website, around the club, and in all branding to inspire the local community and the wider SLS movement.
- Host fundraising initiatives to raise money for green initiatives at the club.
- Educate members and the community about the importance of sustainability and the role they can play in protecting the environment. This could include hosting workshops, seminars, and events focused on sustainability, and providing resources and information on how individuals can make a difference.

## 2026 >>>

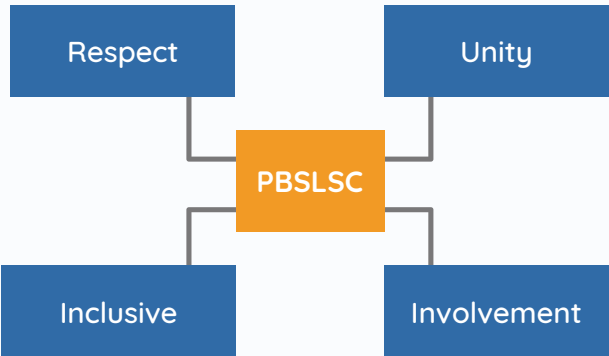
- Complete a full carbon audit for all indirect (scope 3) emissions.
- Develop targets to reduce energy, waste and water based off the carbon audit.
- Investigate a battery energy storage solution to store energy produced using solar panels and use during peak energy periods.
- Expand the waste management plan to include additional streams of waste.
- Create a plan to recover and reuse materials where possible, such as cardboard, aluminium, plastic and oil.

## 2027 & 2028 >>>

- Complete a full carbon audit of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to measure progress since the baseline measurements were taken.
- Increase investment in renewable energy by purchasing green energy from a local energy provider or increasing the amount of renewable energy produced by the club.
- Switch to more energy efficient equipment, prioritising equipment that uses the highest amount of energy as identified by the smart energy meter.
- Review and update (if required) the Sustainability Strategy and associated policies such as the waste management plan, sponsor policy and sustainable procurement policy.
- Release Sustainability Strategy 2029-2033 which will focus on reducing the highest sources of energy, waste and water from the most recent carbon audit.

# FUTURE OF THE STRATEGY

We are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed about our progress in achieving our sustainability goals and initiatives. To ensure effective oversight and communication of our progress, we will utilise detailed action plans on an annual basis. Our dynamic Sustainability Strategy will be regularly revised to accommodate changes in resources, innovation, regulations, and organisational operations. At PBSLSC, we actively encourage input from club members, team members, and the community to continuously enhance our Strategy.



Referring back to our key values of respect, unity, inclusive and involvement we are committed to being open and honest about the progress on this Strategy and fostering an open pathway of communication on future improvements to the Strategy.

While responsibility of the Sustainability Strategy lies on everyone involved in the PBSLSC, the Green Team, will track progress and maintain accountability of the specific initiatives and targets outlined in this Strategy.




The Sustainability Strategy is incorporated within our 10 year Strategic Plan to ensure further accountability and to maintain on track to meeting our target goals and objectives.

# CONTACT US



**Please contact us if you have any feedback on this Sustainability Strategy. We are always open to hearing new ideas to improve the Strategy.**



## Contact

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