



plate Events & Catering

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Introduction

Plate Events & Catering recognises that climate change is real and is affecting many weather and climate extremes across the globe. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other leading organisations, it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Strong, rapid and sustained changes in human decisions, actions and behaviours are required to limit human induced climate change.

Plate Events & Catering is committed to giving further consideration to its individual, collective and systemic practices in order to respond to the challenges posed by climate change to the environment.

In mounting a response to the challenges of climate change and its impacts on the environment, *Plate Events & Catering* is also committed to effectively listening to and learning from fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing. *Plate Events & Catering* acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' connection to country and the ongoing protection and custodianship of the lands and waters of this continent for thousands of years.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy and its procedures is to guide *Plate Events & Catering* in:

- responding to the challenges of climate change;
- integrating a philosophy of sustainability in its activities and standards;
- embedding and promoting sound environmental practices in all operations, services and products; and
- fostering responsible, sustainable and climate-conscious decisions and behaviours at an organisational level, including among management, staff, volunteers, [the clients we serve / the people we work with], stakeholders and suppliers.

This policy will better enable *Plate Events & Catering* to apply a sustainability lens to its activities and operations. As the causes of climate change and its impacts on the environment are widely understood by the IPCC and the world's leading scientists and organisations, it is the aim of *Plate Events & Catering* to consider, find and implement meaningful ways to minimise its impact on the environment and contribute to solutions that seek to limit climate change.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the definition of:

sustainability encompasses sustainability of the environment, ecology, people and economy; and

social justice lens encompasses considering the impacts of climate change on different or vulnerable sectors of the community.

Policy

Plate Events & Catering is committed to minimising its impact on the environment, fostering sustainability, repairing past harms and seeking improved future outcomes by:

- acknowledging and learning from fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing in caring for country;
- fostering an organisational culture of sustainability, where responsibility to the environment, climate, climate system and ecosystems is understood and put into practice;
- supporting and allowing management, staff, volunteers, [the clients we serve / the people we work with] to:
 1. better understand the interrelationship between their roles or activities and climate change impacts; and
 2. engage meaningfully with their emotional responses to climate change and its impacts;
- applying a social justice lens when considering the impacts of climate change on different or vulnerable sectors of the community [the clients we serve / the people we work with];
- identifying, analysing, evaluating, prioritising and addressing the physical, transitional, adaptation and liability risks associated with climate change and establishing [board / committee / management]-level mandates for climate risk oversight, monitoring and reporting;
- avoiding the use of products and practices that contribute to climate change, while promoting and favouring the use of products and practices that are at a minimum climate-neutral or, as a preference, have positive impacts on the environment;
- enhancing awareness within *Plate Events & Catering* and among [the clients we serve / the people we work with], stakeholders, suppliers and the wider community about our actions in seeking to operate in an environmentally responsible manner;
- using reasonable endeavours to conduct audits and self-assessments of *Plate Events & Catering's* compliance with this policy, in order to continually improve our environmental management systems and responses to climate change; and
- maintaining an open and honest dialogue with [the clients we serve / the people we work with], suppliers and the wider community about *Plate Events & Catering's* performance against this policy.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of **Management** to establish and maintain policies and procedures and to bring these procedures to the Environmental Sustainability policy into effect.

It is the responsibility of **our Owner and other Directors** to ensure the implementation and ongoing observation of these procedures to the Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Processes

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to incorporate fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' perspectives on climate change, including through:

- inviting Elders or representatives to share their wisdom at training sessions, functions or events;
- encouraging staff to attend relevant workshops; and
- promoting the reading of relevant research, books and reports.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to develop guidelines for staff, volunteers and [the clients we serve / the people we work with] (as the context requires) to adopt sound environmental work practices that incorporate:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' perspectives;
- a social justice lens that considers the impacts of climate change on different or vulnerable sectors of the community and [the clients we serve / the people we work with]; and
- the latest in research on the causes, impacts and solutions to climate change.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to ensure:

- appropriate and relevant training is provided;
- appropriate time, funds or resources are allocated; and
- best practice psychological and behavioural change approaches are adopted, to ensure sustainability practices are embraced and embedded across all areas of the organisation.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that **Management** members are:

- appropriately inducted and trained in their responsibilities for climate risk oversight, monitoring and reporting; and
- cognisant of their ongoing responsibilities to identify, analyse, evaluate, prioritise and address the physical, transitional, adaptation and liability risks associated with climate change.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to ensure its:

- banking and finance providers do not invest in fossil fuel industries; and
- investments are not in fossil fuel industries.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to conserve energy, including by improving energy efficiency. Our facilities utilise Google Home technology and sensors to conserve energy as efficiently as possible.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that its operations, events, services and products are efficient in their use of energy and protective of the environment, and utilise suppliers with the same initiative.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to avoid the unnecessary purchase of materials resulting in waste. We refuse to use single use plastics and single use items.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to reuse and recycle materials, purchase recycled materials and use recyclable packaging or other similar materials. All packaging used is 100% bio-degradable and/or compostable at all of our events.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to prevent air, water or other pollution and dispose of waste safely and responsibly.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to monitor, consider and reduce supply chain emissions.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to give preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources when feasible. Our facilities are powered by renewable energy sources through our supplier, *Red Energy*.

Plate Events & Catering will consider any carbon-offsetting opportunities that may be available, including with all air travel.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to utilise its particular knowledge and experience to contribute to environmentally sustainable techniques, technology, knowledge and methods.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to contribute to the maintenance and increase of biodiversity through its management of its facilities.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to meet or exceed all applicable Government requirements and voluntary requirements generally observed in its field.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to conduct audits and self-assessments of its compliance with the Environmental Sustainability Policy and these procedures in order to continually improve its Environmental Management System.

Plate Events & Catering and its Management will maintain an open and honest dialogue with staff, volunteers, stakeholders and the community about the Environmental Sustainability performance of its operations, services and products.

Plate Events & Catering will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that staff, volunteers and suppliers are informed of and expected to follow (as the context requires) the Environmental Sustainability Policy and these procedures and to report any environmental concerns to Management. Management will use reasonable endeavours to consider any reported concerns and take appropriate action as it sees fit.

Plate Events & Catering is a Zero Food Waste operation, with all foods being used or recycled in some way, shape or form:

- through donating leftover edible foods to local community and feeding the less fortunate;
- the ingenuity of turning scraps foods and food waste into other products; or
- through our in-house bio-food cycling - creating garden food chips, composts and utilising worm farms to create fertiliser.

Plate Events & Catering Pty Ltd, Plate Hospitality Group Pty Ltd and the businesses we operate (*Chef Matt Atkins, Nguuwalaana, Plate Providore, Wilka Thalta, nunka. Hampers & Gifts* and *Nguuwa*), are committed to the practices outlined in this Environmental Sustainability Policy to ensure we and those around us all continue to *Care for Country*, as we like to call it in Community as identifying Aboriginal people.