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# **RCH** CONTRACTS

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## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



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## **INTRODUCTION**

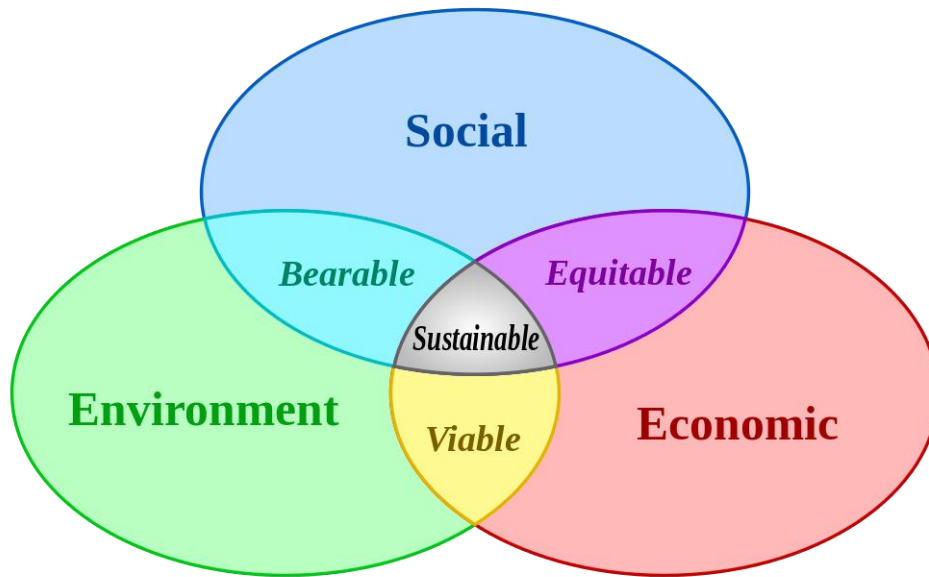
**RCH** contracts wish to be known as a company that has total regard for ensuring that all aspects of our activities comply with good practice regarding Sustainability.

**RCH** contracts realise that they have an influence and potential impact upon the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the communities in which the Company operates. By recognising, addressing and embracing these issues as a fundamental part of maintaining a sustainable business today, RCH Builders and Contractors is committed to meeting its responsibilities for the sake of future generations.

## **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

For **RCH** contracts, the term 'Sustainability' describes how we manage our environmental, social and economic responsibilities in respect of our everyday management of the business and our projects. We are committed to making significant, long term contributions to the environmental, social and economic fabrics of the communities in which work.

We believe that integrating sustainable development principles into our core business strategy helps us to create and add value to our business by enabling us to acquire appropriate contracts and operate efficiently, building sustainable homes for our customers.



## SOCIAL IMPACT

To improve the social influence and impact of the services provided by RCH contracts we aim to:

- ♣ For the duration of any project RCH contracts seeks to involve itself with the local community and keep the residents fully informed of works which will affect their homes and impact their day to day lives.
- ♣ Carry out all works with positive consideration to the needs of the traders and businesses, site personnel and visitors, pedestrians, shoppers, the general public and the environment in general.
- ♣ Ensure that full and regular consultations regarding programming and site activities are maintained from pre-contract to completion.
- ♣ Pay special attention to the needs of those with sight, hearing or mobility difficulties.
- ♣ Support the use of local labour, where feasible, and the training of people within the construction industry. This will aid to improve the local community, address the skills shortages within the industry and most importantly gives people assistance in finding meaningful employment.
- ♣ Provide the opportunity of practical training for people wishing to pursue a career in construction.

- ♣ Embrace a variety of construction training initiatives including onsite training for locally sourced labour, work placement for trainees and in house management training.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**RCH** contracts are committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner such that pollution of the environment is prevented, the environment is enhanced wherever possible and that there are no adverse effects on human health. In order to achieve this **RCH** Contracts aims to:

- ♣ Pay particular attention to waste management, the avoidance of pollution including noise, the recycling of surplus materials and the protection of trees, vegetation and wildlife. The working site is kept clean and in good order at all times with temporary safety barriers, lights and warning signs maintained in a clean and safe condition. Surplus materials are not allowed to accumulate on the site or spill over onto the surrounding environment and dust from construction operations shall be kept to a minimum.
- ♣ **RCH** contracts will continue to invest in the research, development and the implementation of new technologies to ensure that waste management is carried out with the minimum effect upon man and the environment, and that there are facilities, which are environmentally acceptable, to deal effectively with society's more

hazardous wastes. The facilities operated by the company will be of the highest standards so that they are efficient and visually unobtrusive.

- ♣ The Company will operate in a manner designed to minimise risk and ensure protection of its employee's and the environment. Paramount to achieving this aim is a commitment to training all members of staff, whether they be Management, Skilled or Semi-skilled operatives. Safe methods of working will be continuing development and will be enshrined in Company Health and Safety Policy which relate to all of its activities including actions to be taken in emergency situations. A cornerstone of this strategy will be the encouragement of open dialogue between operatives and management, particularly in relation to matters of safety.
- ♣ The Company will canvass to minimise waste production and to encourage the reuse and recycling of waste materials at source. Where this is not possible every effort will be made so that those wastes that lend themselves to recovery or re-use or as an alternative source of energy will be so treated.
- ♣ Every effort will be made by the Company to assist the Government in achieving its environmental objectives and where possible to actively participate with interested parties and agencies so that environmental issues are better understood.
- ♣ Compliance with legal and professional requirements will be set as a minimum standard of achievement for all Company operations to ensure environmental excellence.
- ♣ The Company will use, wherever practical, recycled products and materials.
- ♣ Consistently incorporate sustainable sourced timber and insulation products with greater performance than Building Regulation requirements.
- ♣ Give careful consideration to deliveries in general, maximising storage and sequencing to minimise deliveries required. This is not only ecologically sound but also economical financially. Within the Company we are revisiting waste management strategies via the best practice route, with the constant aim of reinforcing our commitment to sustainability and the future in general.

- ♣ On a continual basis we endeavour to minimise the environmental damage of our works by the selection of working methods and materials that make use of natural resources.
- ♣ We endeavour to use environmentally friendly building and finishing materials and to ensure that any timber products are procured from sustainable forests where possible.



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

**RCH** contracts are committed to the principles of Best Value, the benefits of which contribute to the growth of the economy and thus increase opportunities within the construction industry. These economic benefits include:

- ♣ More predictable workloads and profit levels.
- ♣ Repeat business opportunities.
- ♣ Cost savings.
- ♣ Improved predictability and cost certainty.
- ♣ Reduced defects during defects liability period.
- ♣ Phased, overlapping programmes within strategic agreements.

**RCH** contracts recognise the importance of, and is committed to, inward investment and the promotion of a career in the construction industry either at trade or professional level. It supports the use of local labour and training of an experienced workforce for the construction industry.

**RCH** contracts takes a pivotal role in providing employment opportunities both during training and for providing permanent employment thereafter, either directly, or through our approved register of specialist labour subcontractors.



## **VISION, AIMS AND GOALS**

**Our Vision** is to be acknowledged as an industry leader in building and construction by building, repairing or renovating quality, cost effective and sustainable homes; safely and on time.

**Our Aim** of sustainable development is to balance our economic, environmental and social needs, allowing for prosperity now and for future generations. These include social progress and equality, environmental protection, conservation of natural resources and stable economic growth.

**Our Goal** is to reduce the amount of waste material from construction going into landfill where it can be recycled into future building materials.





## OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGIES

In building affordable housing it is important to be able to combine an environmentally sustainable design, the construction and operational practices to significantly reduce negative impacts on the community and the environment by following some of the following principles.

- Energy efficiency
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Water conservation
- Waste avoidance, reuse, recycle
- Built to last and compatible with climate change

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS** - reduce energy through good design, the use of energy efficient technologies and behaviour that focuses on energy conservation.

*Lighting – responsible for consuming 8-15% of the average household electricity budget. Consider design techniques to maximise natural daylight, lamp technologies such as LED or compact fluorescent.*

*Appliances - on average, household appliances and equipment account for about one-third of household energy use and almost half of household greenhouse gas emissions. Of all appliances, the fridge/freezer and television are typically the highest individual electricity users.*

*Choices about purchases of whitegoods (refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers) and equipment for pools and spas (pumps and filters) should include operation and maintenance, not just the original price. Appliance choices can be informed by the Energy Rating Label scheme and Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme allow comparison of different appliances by a star rating. The more stars, the more water or energy efficient the appliance. However, size is also a factor: a large 5 star model may use more energy or water than a small 4 star model. The label includes total energy or water consumption figures, alongside the star rating.*



**GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS-** *the introduction of the design features of our homes will result in a reduction of 10% of the average Australian home greenhouse gas emission. This reduction is achieved by utilising energy efficient savings incorporating solar power.*

*By choosing timber as the appropriate building material wherever possible this reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For example if half of the new homes constructed in Australia were building predominantly using timber this would save over 1.3million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. On a single home the saving can be as much as 25 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.*

**WATER CONSERVATION-** *rainwater is a valuable natural resource that has been collected by Australian households for domestic use since colonial times.*

*Opportunities for rainwater collection and use vary with location. Urban households typically have a connection to a reticulated, treated (mains) water supply but can significantly lower mains water usage by installing a rainwater harvesting system.*

*Most rural households have to source all their water on their property, and rainwater often provides a better quality household supply than river, bore or dam water.*

*Using rainwater can reduce water bills, provide an alternative supply during water restrictions and help maintain a green, healthy garden. Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help:*

- *reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants*
- *protect remaining environmental flows in rivers*
- *reduce infrastructure operating costs.*

*Our homes will be built with slimline rain tanks installed to collect rainwater*



*Showers - The shower is one of the easiest and most cost effective places to decrease water use.*

*An inefficient showerhead can use between 15L and 25L of water every minute while an efficient WELS 3 star rated one gives a high quality shower using as little as 6L to 7L every minute.*

*Water efficient showerheads can save a two-person household at least \$160 annually on household energy and water bills. The reduction in hot water means less energy is needed for water heating.*

*Water efficient showerheads give a high quality shower while saving water.*

*Many water authorities offer retrofit kits, free showerhead exchange or generous rebates on water efficient showerheads.*

*The environmental benefits are:*

- *lower water use*
- *decreased wastewater volume*
- *fewer CO2 emissions from reduced hot water use.*

**WASTE AVOIDANCE** – *RCH contracts are committed to reducing the volume of building waste materials that go into landfill and are not recycled.*

*Waste recycling is an important part of our sustainability procedure. Our development sites have separate bins from our waste management providers so that materials can be sorted onsite to reduce unnecessary wastage and to promote recycling of materials.*

**RCH** *contracts acknowledge their responsibility in complying with WA Regulations impacting on construction waste as follows;*

- ♣ Environmental Protection (EP) Act 1986
- ♣ Environment Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004.
- ♣ Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.
- ♣ Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004.
- ♣ Contaminated Sites Act 2003.



## COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

**RCH** contracts understand the engagement with Stakeholders is critical with the Company's sustainability efforts.

- ♣ By engaging with stakeholders sooner, rather than later to develop a more material and effective strategy, enables the Company to have a proactive approach sustainability.
- ♣ Use of social media is a useful tool for engaging with stakeholders. **RCH** contracts website and facebook page provide current information on developments with company policies and procedures.
- ♣ The 'Voice of the Customer' is a valued measuring tool for reflection and reaction to continue with the ongoing development.
- ♣ An annual report is compiled and distributed to stakeholders detailing and documenting performances over the preceding 12 months as well as providing details of projected targets and goals.
- ♣ Internal communication with employees is on a regular basis with email, company webpage publications and face-to face meetings to update and educate on new internal policies.
- ♣ At **RCH** contracts employees are empowered to participate in the sustainability policy with employee incentives for achievements

## BUSINESS PRACTICES

At **RCH** contracts we implement business practices to endorse and emphasise our commitment to planning for a sustainable future. An example of this relates to the following:

- ♣ Motor Vehicle Fleet Management – our motor vehicle fleet is serviced and maintained in compliance with manufacturer recommendations.
- ♣ Our vehicles having GPS tracking installed so we can have accurate usage and consumption data collated. This also enables the allocation of our nearest contractor to a Customer when required thereby saving on fuel.
- ♣ All vehicle use unleaded petrol
- ♣ Office recycling of documents and use of recycled printer toner cartridges
- ♣ Energy efficient lighting
- ♣ Consideration when printing documents vs electronic records
- ♣ Engagement of suppliers who meet our environmental policy for sustainable materials
- ♣ Waste management with the storage of excess materials on our premise for use on other projects

## **CONCLUSION**

The world is undergoing changes that force us to think in new ways about how we build houses for the today and tomorrows' generations. Urbanization, global warming and resource shortages are just a simple few of the challenges we face. Maximum efficiency has top priority – and not only where energy is concerned. In addition, we need to increase comfort for the well-being of users. Also, our need for safety and security is constantly growing. For our customers, success is defined by how well they manage these challenges.

**RCH** contracts has the answers.

