

What Councils Are Doing In-house

In addition to the projects which involve our community and businesses, the three Councils are also leading the way with their own operations.

They have jointly developed a sustainability plan which sets out how the three Councils in our region will work together on sustainability issues and develop the principles we need for a sustainable future.

The **Our Living Coast Council Action Learning** project will see our three Councils attempting to implement practices and technologies which assist us to improve the organisations' environmental performance.



Our Living Coast

towards Sustainability for our Region

www.ourlivingcoast.com.au



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Contact Us

To contact us for further information

Email : info@ourlivingcoast.com.au

Website : www.ourlivingcoast.com.au



Our Living Coast is a joint project of the Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Nambucca Councils.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.



The Our Living Coast Project

Local Councils and communities throughout Australia are increasing their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Some of the challenges that Councils face are limited resources, growing community demands, based on increased environmental and social justice awareness, and - particularly for coastal councils - concerns about the future impacts of climate change.

The Coffs Coast is one of the most diverse areas in Australia in terms of plants, animals, forests and ecological communities. It is one of the few places on the East Coast of Australia where the Great Dividing Range meets the sea. It is also a popular sea-change destination and is coming under increased pressure from urban development.



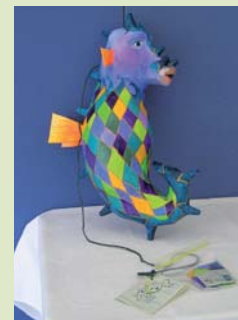
In response, three Councils across our region - Coffs Harbour City Council, Bellingen Shire Council and Nambucca Shire Council - are working together towards a sustainable region. The three Councils have developed the **Our Living Coast** Project and have obtained funding from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust to begin a number of exciting projects.

The *objectives* of **Our Living Coast** are:

- To improve biodiversity and sustainability outcomes;
- To increase the community's ability to achieve environmental improvements and conserve biodiversity in urban areas;
- To improve the three councils' response to sustainability; and
- To build and strengthen local and regional partnerships for better environmental and sustainability outcomes.

There are a number of opportunities to get involved:

- A series of free *Living Smart* community workshops on a range of sustainability topics such as reducing your electricity use to save energy and money, passive solar housing design, growing your own food, car pooling and much more. Workshops will be offered in the three local government areas according to community demand.
- A free, structured course using the scientifically-based CSIRO Energymark program to help households to reduce their carbon footprint through an informal, 'kitchen-table' style forum aimed at bringing friends, families and neighbours together to learn.
- Our one-stop-shop website for sustainability information with fact sheets, news and events, a carbon footprint tool, sustainable transport options, the Councils' State of the Environment Reports and much more. See www.ourlivingcoast.com.au



Recycling art

How You Can Get Involved

If you own a **business** you may like to sign up to our Working Smart program to help businesses achieve energy-efficiency and adopt sustainable practices. Participating businesses will be promoted throughout the **Our Living Coast** project.

Adopting more environmentally-friendly transport options is a great way to help our environment. **Our Living Coast** will be implementing a range of transport projects which will seek to promote these options. Check out which ones may suit your needs on our website.

Our Living Coast will also be implementing a number of projects to better protect and promote our region's natural and cultural values. These will include revegetation, weed control, interpretive signage and construction of walkways.

There will also be opportunities for volunteers to become involved. Check www.ourlivingcoast.com.au for ongoing details or to receive a free e-newsletter detailing all our activities.