



STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2014-2015



The SOE Report is an annual environmental report card prepared by Council. This is an opportunity to align the work of many local organisations and individuals, and to present the impact of our activities on environmental goals and targets in Armidale Dumaresq Community Strategic Plan 2013-2028.



soe

The Armidale Dumaresq State of the Environment (SOE) report 2014/15 has been prepared in accordance with reporting requirements of the Local Government Act 1993. It has a new format in line with the nsw integrated planning and reporting framework implemented by Armidale Dumaresq Council in 2014/15.

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[COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

← These are hyperlinks - just click or touch

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2011-2026 sets the desired future for the community and Council's operations for the next 15 years. Currently, environmental goals and targets in the CSP relate to energy efficiency, local food, transport, wood smoke, biodiversity, and climate change. These goals and targets can be reviewed, and the SOE Report supports a review with an annual account of achievements and challenges.

It is intended that the SOE Report is highly valued by people living and working in Armidale to find out about environmental issues and projects. The barometer shows the progress we are making, working together to protect our local environment.

[YOU CAN ADD YOUR PROJECT TO NEXT YEAR'S SOE](#)

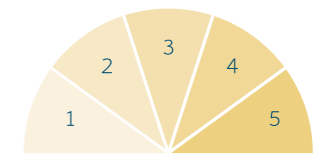
[FOLLOW PROJECTS AND PROGRESS](#)

USING THIS REPORT

There is a page for each environmental goal and target in the CSP. Graphs and the barometer indicate progress.

Actions show how you can get involved in helping to reach the target.

- [For general information](#)
- [For information about local projects](#)
- [Further reading](#)



Reading the target barometer
1-2 below • 3 on target • 4-5 above

engage with us →

Environmental goals, projects and outcomes

Environmental Goals in the Armidale Dumaresq Community Strategic Plan 2011-2026

- Improve energy efficiency throughout the area and reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions at least consistent with State and Federal Government targets (ie. 1.2% pa);
- To increase consumption of local produce (ie. from within LGA and Northern NSW region) by 5% annually, base year 2011/12;
- To reduce wood smoke pollution in Armidale urban area in order to meet national fine particle (PM 2.5) air quality standards by 2020;
- Reduce the impact of noxious weeds and feral animals;
- Implement recommendations of Climate Change Local Adaptation Pathways Program;
- Develop Climate Change Mitigation Strategy;
- For Council to be recognised as a carbon responsible organisation.



Throughout the community people are working on air quality, local food, biodiversity, energy efficiency and waste management.

communication

OUR GOALS:

1. Increase the visibility of local projects that align with the environmental goals in the Community Strategic Plan;
2. Increase participation at local environmental events e.g. SLA workshops, Landcare working bees.

LIFESTYLE 2350

Lifestyle 2350 is a hub for local organisations to use to promote environmental projects. Do you want to contribute to a sustainable Armidale, now and into the future? Throughout the community, people are working on air quality, local food, biodiversity, energy efficiency and waste management. If you care about any of these things, Lifestyle 2350 can tell you what's happening and how to get involved. We want to hear what you are doing – at school, at work and in the community.

LIFESTYLE2350.COM

[FB/LIFESTYLE2350](https://www.facebook.com/LIFESTYLE2350)

[YOUTUBE CHANNEL: LIFESTYLE 2350](https://www.youtube.com/channel/LIFESTYLE2350)

Council's Property Manager and Caretakers are committed to reducing energy and waste. Energy use in the Civic Administration Building has reduced by 30% in the last three years.



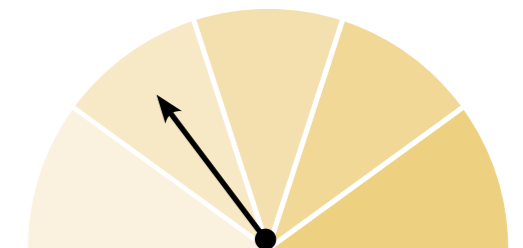
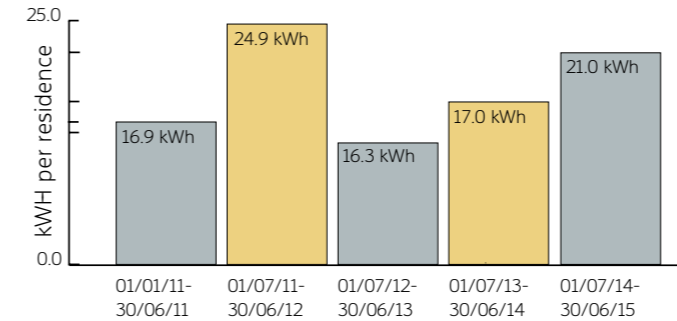
energy

OUR GOAL: Improve energy efficiency throughout the area and reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions at least consistent with State/Federal targets (1.2% per annum).

HOUSEHOLD ENERGY USE IN POSTCODE 2350

Average daily energy use per residence

Data source: Essential Energy



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Borrow a Save Power Kit from the Civic Administration Building (CAB) or the Library to discover where energy is used at home and ways you can cut power.

📄 [DOWNLOAD COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABLE HOME CHECKLIST](#)

📄 [SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDERS: HOME SAVING TIPS](#)

📄 [SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS: ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM](#)



Sustainable Living Armidale is part of the global Transition Towns movement.

climate change

OUR GOALS:

1. Progress actions in the Armidale Dumaresq Climate Change Adaptation Plan to respond to climate change risks and opportunities;
2. Increase community awareness about Climate Change and strengthen the community's capacity to respond;
3. Demonstrate an annual improvement in reduced carbon footprint of Council's operations.

This year, staff and managers at Council have progressed all of the short-term (extreme risk) actions in Armidale Dumaresq's climate change adaptation plan. Risks include flooding, bushfire and drought and these risks have the potential to impact infrastructure, community services and the environment.

Council monitors the energy use of its buildings, facilities and general operations. The latest data shows that in 2 years to 30 June 2015 council reduced energy use across all of its sites and facilities by 11%, with savings estimated at \$36,000. Conversely, energy use in the Civic Administration Building (CAB) has gone up by 1.0% and the extra cost is estimated at \$1,150 (data source: Accuvio).

WHAT YOU CAN DO

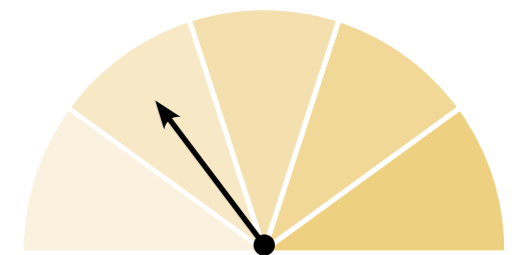
➤ Attend a monthly forum at Sustainable Living Armidale.

➤ PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

➤ NSW GOVERNMENT: CLIMATE CHANGE

➤ SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS: ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM

➤ SUSTAINABLE LIVING ARMIDALE

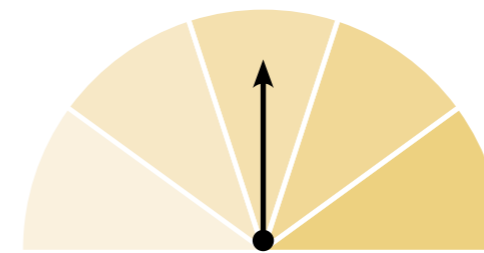


Armidale Local Food (ALF) organises the annual Home Grown Garden Tour, to demonstrate how local gardeners have gone about achieving a degree of self-sufficiency in food from their own backyards.

food

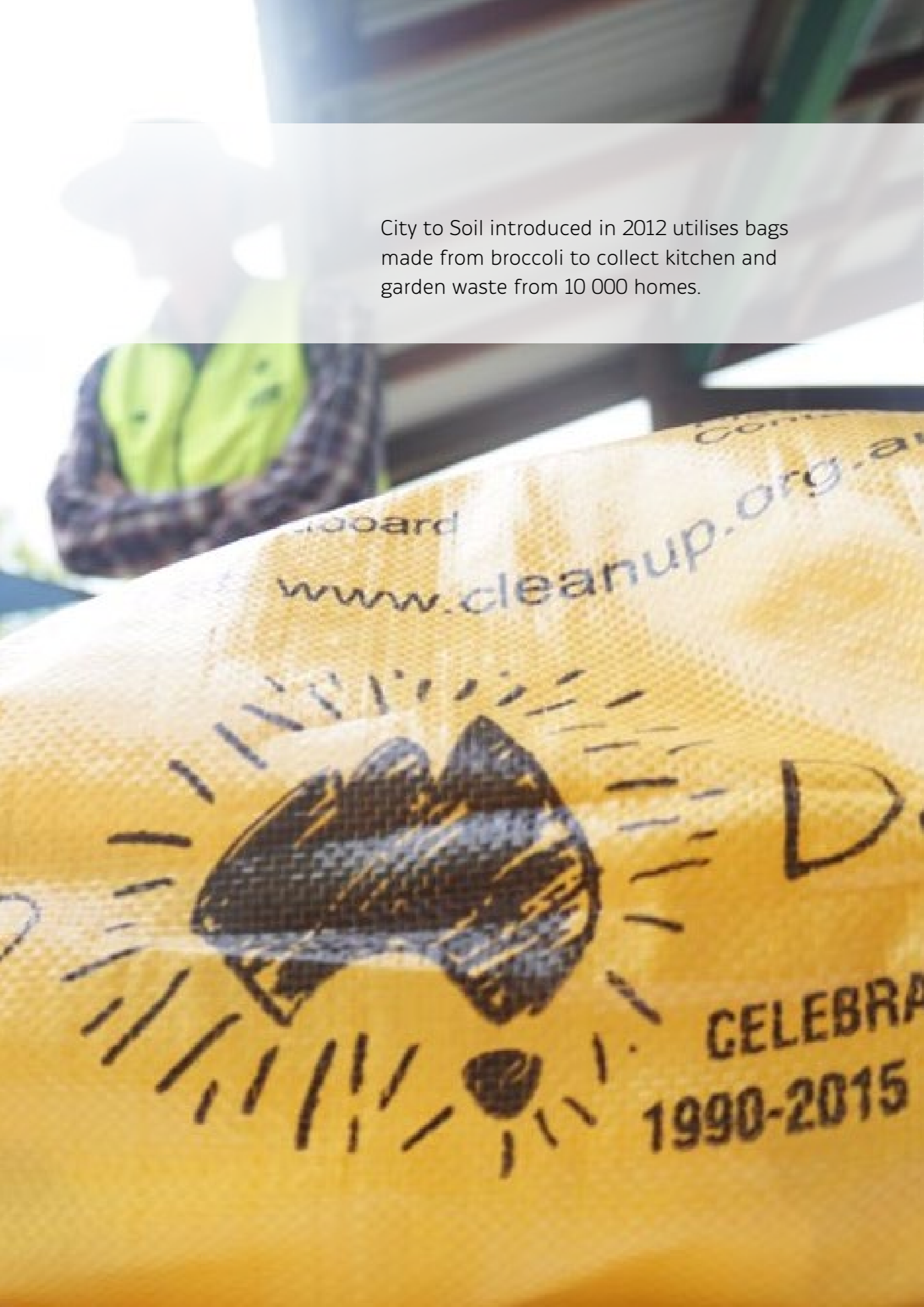
OUR GOAL: To increase consumption and production of local produce (ie. from within LGA and Northern NSW region) by 5% annually, base year 2012/13.

Council's Environmental Sustainability Committee is looking for opportunities to partner with neighbouring councils and regions and with other organisations such as UNE and Regional Development Australia to develop projects to promote local food consumption and production.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Contact council if you have an idea for a project.
- Choose locally grown produce when you shop.
- Ask your favourite retailer to stock local produce.



City to Soil introduced in 2012 utilises bags made from broccoli to collect kitchen and garden waste from 10 000 homes.

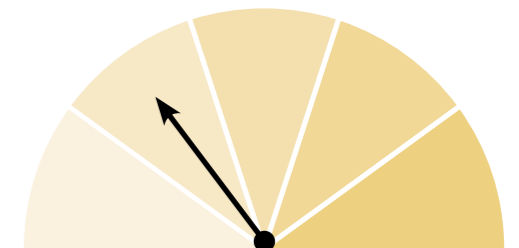
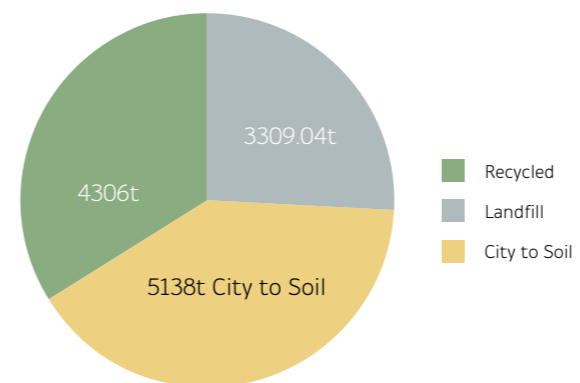
waste

OUR GOAL: As a whole community, currently we are diverting 59.15% of kerbside collection from landfill. Council's target for this year is 63%.*

Council's waste collection services include domestic and commercial waste collection, mobile units for recycling at public events, and collection points around the CBD for fluorescent lighting and sharps collection.

City to Soil introduced in 2012 utilises bags made from broccoli to collect kitchen and garden waste from 10 000 homes. High quality compost made by Council is sold back to local growers. This is a local 'closed-loop' recycling system we can all be proud of.

Kerbside waste



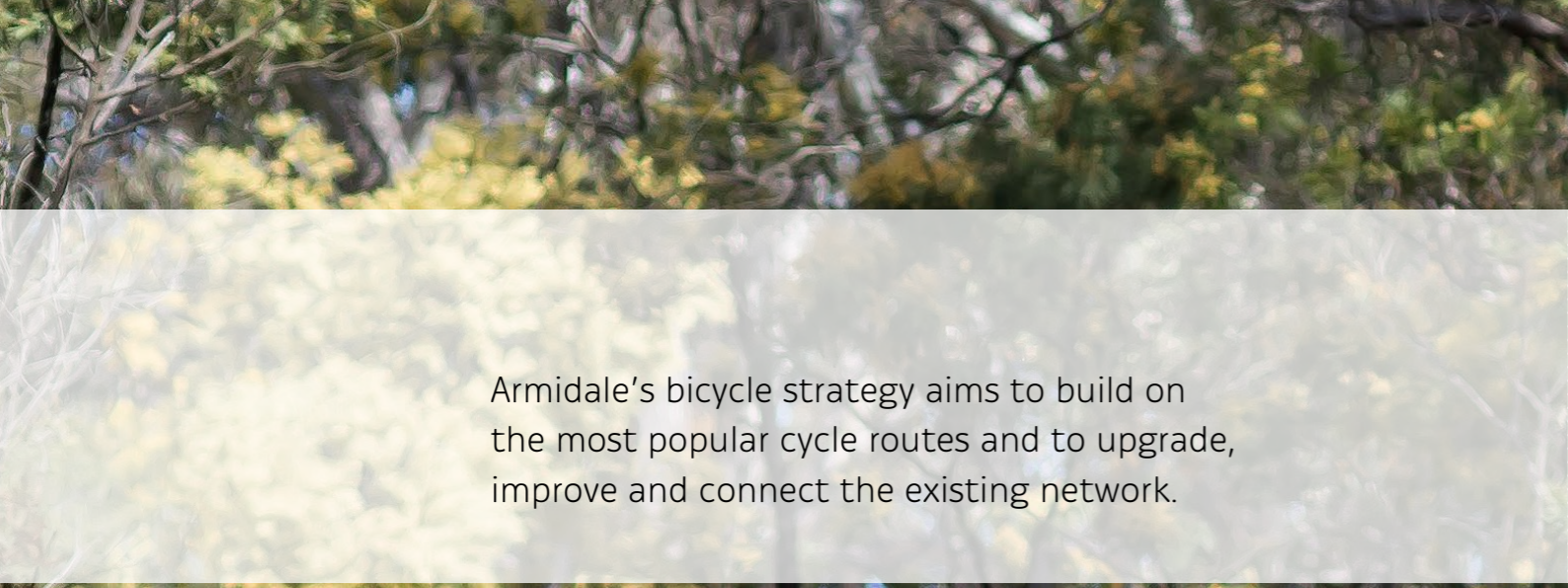
WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Drop into Council and pick up a recycling guide.
- Contact Council on 6770 3600 about setting up commercial waste collection at your business.

[LEARN WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED IN ARMIDALE](#)

[WASTE SERVICES IN ARMIDALE](#)

*This is a very high target. As a community we are striving to reach this target.



Armidale's bicycle strategy aims to build on the most popular cycle routes and to upgrade, improve and connect the existing network.

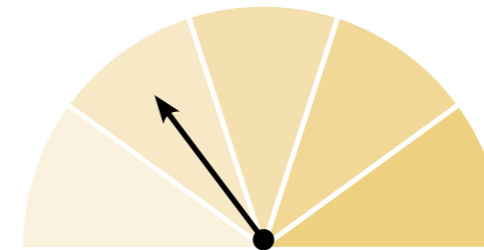


transport

OUR GOAL: To expand the cycleway network by 10-15% by 2020, from a base year of 2012/13.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Familiarise yourself with existing cycleways in Armidale.
- Jump on your bike for recreation.
- Regularly walk or cycle to work instead of getting in the car.
- Join in SLA's annual Pedal to the Piney.



📍 CYCLEWAYS IN ARMIDALE



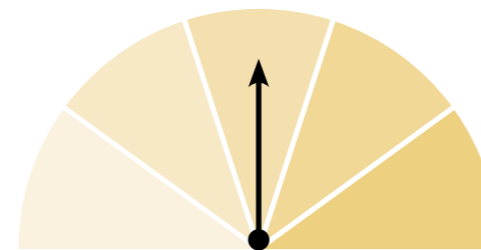
During 2014-15 392 hours of work resulted in approximately 3000 trees and shrubs planted by volunteers from a broad cross section of the Armidale community.

biodiversity

OUR GOALS:

1. Assist with increasing the extent of native vegetation by 200ha by 2017 (2ha in urban areas);
2. Assist with improving the condition of 500ha of native vegetation by 2017 (20ha in urban areas).

The Biodiversity Super-group has come together to work on biodiversity projects, advocacy, and funding applications. The Super-group is made up of 32 scientists, bureaucrats and community activists from organisations like UNE, Landcare, Armidale Tree Group, NSW Office of Environment and Conservation, Local Land Services and Armidale and Uralla councils. The aim of the Super-group is to coordinate on-the-ground actions and longer-term planning to coordinate regeneration in Armidale and across the region.



ACTIONS TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND LANDCARE

ARMIDALE TREE GROUP

ARMIDALE URBAN RIVERCARE GROUP

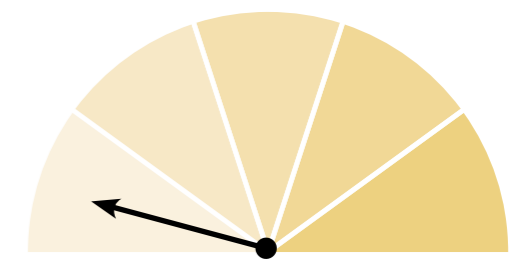
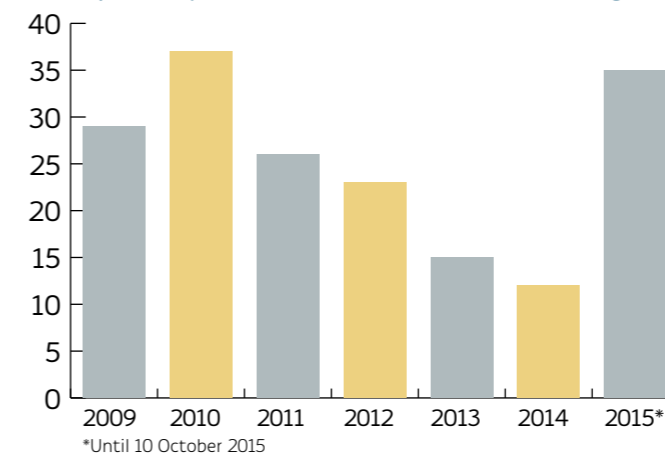
Despite our best efforts, we are still exceeding the NEPM too many times each year.

woodsmoke

OUR GOAL: To reduce wood smoke pollution in Armidale's urban area in order to meet National fine particle (PM2.5) air quality standards by 2020.

This year we monitored pollution using one DustTrack on the rooftop of the Civic Administration Building on Rusden Street, and we held our DustTrack in reserve. This was to ensure there were no days when data was not collected due to the DustTrack not working. The result is a big spike in the number of days when we exceeded the NEPM (national standard for ambient air quality).

Days when pollution concentration exceeds NEPM guidelines



ACTIONS TO REDUCE WOODSMOKE

- Consider replacing your wood heater with an alternate form of heating.
- If you have a wood heater, make sure it does not produce excessive smoke.
- Contact Council for a FREE education kit.
- Contact Council if you see a smoky chimney.

What did you think of the SOE?

Was it interesting?

How can we improve it next year?

[👉 HAVE YOUR SAY - ONLINE SURVEY](#)