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Sustainable Samford

“The Samford Valley is considered by some as one of the few ‘green lungs’ of South East Queensland and its community has always embraced the need to be environmentally friendly.”

8.1 History and background

The Samford Valley is considered by some as one of the few 'green lungs' of South East Queensland and its community has always embraced the need to be environmentally friendly. Many landowners, residents and visitors value Samford as a clean and green community with a distinctive rural feel.

Historically, the presence of farms, dairies and forests, along with the activities of the CSIRO Pasture Research facility, contributed to the sense of sustainability in Samford. The more recent establishment of an environmental research facility by the Queensland University of Technology has provided an added dimension.

The work of bushcare groups, local government, the local branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, schools and other community groups has helped with the integration of social, economic and environmental frameworks.

There have been other contributions in recent years via the Samford Green Street program and the work of the Pine Rivers Climate Action Network, which have facilitated a number of activities within the community. This resulted in the winning of the Premiers Community Climate Smart Award in 2010.

Samford really is a 'green lung' for our region and we need to keep it that way.

Community-based groups and government agencies have carried out a number of activities in recent years aimed at developing a more sustainable Samford Valley.



Samford Green Street was the featured project in the winning of the Premiers Community Climate Smart Award in 2010 by the Pine Rivers Climate Action Network



8.2 Existing activities and framework

8.2.1 Current activities

Community-based groups and government agencies have carried out a number of activities in recent years aimed at developing a more sustainable Samford Valley. These include:

- The Samford Solar Neighbourhood organised the bulk purchase of solar panels by the Samford community, with over 20% of households participating.
- Special forums on climate change have been conducted by the Rotary Club of Samford.
- The Healthy Environment Group advocates for changes to the use of pesticides and other harmful products by government and the community.
- The local branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants holds monthly meetings and twice-yearly free propagation workshops and has been involved in various plantings.
- The Green Kitchen group holds monthly meetings of people interested in preparing food sustainably.
- Sustainable shopping tours have been conducted at the local supermarket to give community members some better insights about sustainable shopping practices.
- Four local schools engaged in household sustainability activity as part of the Samford Valley Green Street Schools Challenge.
- Film nights and forums have been held in the community covering peak oil, water management and food production.
- The Green Street Café undertakes a process for community engagement about sustainability and practical outcomes are emerging.
- Local government activities such as tree plantings, sustainable sporting facilities and streetscaping enhance the sustainability of Samford.
- The Samford Local Growers comprises a group of householders who meet regularly in each other's gardens to share ideas and fruit and vegetables.



Three Samford youngsters doing their best for their school in the Samford Green Street School Challenge, which involved engaged hundreds of households in 'having a go at being sustainable'.



Samford has its own group on the Green Street website and has been instrumental in promoting household sustainability, community group action and business sustainability, including networking the community to help during the Brisbane floods.

- The Samford Sustainable Business Precinct is a partnership between the Samford Chamber of Commerce and the Green Street Team to establish a promotable Green Street Business Precinct in Samford.
- The Samford Tennis Club, Samford Soccer Club and the Moreton Bay Regional Council and State Government adopted sustainability policy and practice in the design and construction of a new tennis centre and football precinct.
- The Samford Green Street web group helps community members and businesses to find out their level of sustainability and become part of a social network. This provides networking opportunities for businesses, the community and special events, and during emergencies such as the Brisbane Flood Relief effort.

8.2.2 Sustainability Hub

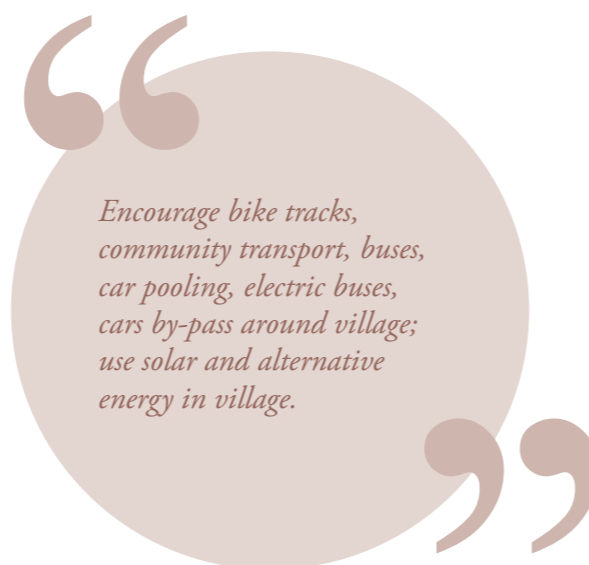
The Sustainability Hub – an idea proposed at one of the Green Street Café events – is a partnership between the Samford Farmer's Hall and Samford Green Street to establish a physical presence for connecting sustainability-oriented groups and developing strategies and ideas. Many of the sustainability-oriented groups in Samford have joined the Hub, which is located at the rear of the Farmers Hall. The Hub is also planning to have a presence at the Samford Commons at Samford Commons.

The objectives of the Hub are to provide:

- space for community workshops relating to sustainable living and working
- a collaborative organisation to facilitate sustainable activity in Samford
- a social space for interested people to meet
- a place for a sustainability fair and a makers/providers market
- a display space for printed materials and office space for participating groups
- meeting space for groups interested in the goals of the Hub
- a public face for sustainability-oriented organisations via signage.



The Samford Sustainable Business Precinct was launched in 2011 as a partnership of the Samford Chamber of Commerce and Samford Green Streets.



Encourage bike tracks, community transport, buses, car pooling, electric buses, cars by-pass around village; use solar and alternative energy in village.

8.3 Community aspirations

8.3.1 Key benefits of sustainability

The key benefits of leading a more sustainable lifestyle include:

- The lowering of carbon emissions will benefit households and businesses and the community and region generally.
- Samford's status as one of the 'green lungs' for the region will be enhanced and the sustainable living and working ethos will attract people and businesses to the district and region.
- People feeling healthy and have a great sense of well-being and sense of providing ethical stewardship for the generations ahead.
- The development of a more sustainable local economy, which benefits the community and attracts and benefits visitors.



Twilight markets are proposed to begin in 2013

Our vision for action

Short to medium term (1–3 years)

- Further develop the Samford Sustainability Hub, including the renovation of the space to provide better access to the facility and its activities.
- Further develop the newly established Sustainable Business Precinct.
- Present learning and development activities for the general community and businesses on household/business sustainability and changing behaviour around sustainability.
- Implement a project to replace the use of plastic bags by Samford businesses.
- Develop an online presence of the newly established Sustainability Hub to enable improved access and information by the community and businesses, including a community radio with online capacity.
- Continue to hold café style events to enable the community to discuss practical sustainability activity.
- Take action to reduce the harmful use of products in households and on properties and public space.
- Engage community and business groups in collaborative activity regarding energy use, water use and waste management.
- Promote and develop the involvement of the wider community in the Samford Green Street project via the Samford Group on the website www.greenstreet.net.au.
- Facilitate the establishment of more businesses in Samford that focus on the sale of sustainable products and services.
- Facilitate Sustainable School Challenges and Sustainable Community Challenges.
- Develop and adopt a set of sustainability principles in consultation with the wider community
- Help establish a sustainability and arts resource centre and an urban food culture project at the Samford Parklands, to be known as the Samford Commons (see Chapters 1 and 5)

Long term (1–10 years)

- Develop and implement a Sustainability Transition Plan in the Valley.
- Establish a School of Sustainability at the Samford Commons Support the implementation of the D'Aguilar Biosphere project.

Everyone's future

Want to get involved or find out more? Visit the website for further resources, links and updated info.

www.samfordfutures.org

