



Pacific Assist

Inspiring Self-reliance

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Statement 2024

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Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Statement

As outlined in our core principles of self-reliance, Pacific Assist is committed to the common good, meeting our obligations to our neighbours, meeting our personal responsibilities, and compliance with the law. As such, Pacific Assist is committed to acting in environmentally responsible ways. We endeavour to use resources and act in a manner that meets current needs while also considering the needs of future generations.

The Pacific Assist board of directors has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the organisation meets its environmental stewardship and sustainability obligations. It does so by directing and overseeing risk management policies, procedures, and plans (see the Risk Management section located in this document), and by subjecting project plans to a rigid approval process that includes assessment against the principles of sustainability and climate action outlined below.

Pacific Assist personnel apply the following principles of sustainability:

- Balance environmental, financial, and community needs to achieve long term success
- Integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations in decision-making processes
- Promote inter-generational equity (the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations)
- Undertake environmental risk identification, assessment, and management
- Protect environmental assets (water, soil, plants, and, animals, etc.) and give appropriate consideration to the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity in project decision-making
- Facilitate opportunities for communities to assess their practices against sustainability standards and climate change reduction practices
- Manage resources effectively and efficiently
- Utilise science and technology to develop innovative solutions to environmental challenges
- Respond quickly to threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage and degradation
- When practical and economically viable, promote and use clean energy sources
- Work with clients and suppliers to encourage high environmental standards

- Conduct training on the wise use of resources and environmental sustainability
- When practical and economically viable, promote low-carbon transport options
- Undertake efforts to offset unavoidable emissions

Pacific Assist personnel should employ the following sustainability practices:

- Use water and energy efficiently
- Minimize waste
- Repair
- Recycle
- Reuse
- Use non-toxic products (e.g. biodegradable cleaning products and VOC-free paints)
- Where practical and viable utilise travel practices that minimize the environmental impact of travel such as:
 - Walking
 - Biking
 - Carpooling
 - Use of public transport
 - Remote work from home
 - Virtual conferencing
 - Choosing direct flights
 - Flying economy (which has a lower per-passenger emissions rate)
 - Opting for airlines with better fuel efficiency
- Participate in at least one volunteer tree planting project a year in Australia and in at least one other South Pacific Island nation.