

Regional guide to sustainability around Australia

At the present if people choose to live a sustainable lifestyle there may not be many with similar views in their area, and /or it may be difficult to know where to buy sustainable / environmentally friendly products. It also may be hard to work out when is the best time to visit an area – for example, when there is a sustainable festival, or the local show or other events? And how do you know whether the place will suit you? Many people go to areas only to find that their neighbour or the council are inimical to ecological sustainability – and they have a hard time.

Or equally important, how do you know if you suit an area? (For example: want to do farming? You would do better in a farming area than an area of wilderness or forests where it is important that there is as little clearing as possible (as, otherwise your search for sustainability will involve clearing an area and other unfriendly activities that are not ecologically sustainable. However, fixing up an area that has been overgrazed is helping the environment!))

Moreover, if you are planning a trip around Australia to look for a suitable site that also may need to be planned in advance – but how do you know when the local Sustainable Festival is on in an area? Or the best time to visit an area – or if there is sustainable/environmentally friendly accommodation?

For all of these reasons the Sustainable Lifestyle Support Group is working on producing a **published and on-line guide to what sustainable activities are happening in the various regions around Australia**, including any sustainable living fairs and courses, and what's on where and when.

The information is being collected in four ways. They are:

- 1) each issue of our newsletter *Becoming Sustainable* targets two regions and describes what is happening there, and
- 2) each issue of *Becoming Sustainable* also targets a certain industry, and endeavours to list where the more environmentally friendly/sustainable versions are found throughout Australia. By doing this we are developing a list of where the sustainable versions are found around Australia, so we can tell our readers where the closest firm to their area is found.
- 3) at the same time we are getting information from people (our members, and from the network of environmentalists and environmental groups) about ALL the regions around Australia, while
- 4) at the same time we are compiling a list, from a variety of sources, of where are the environmental shops, the organic butchers and greengrocers, the sustainable festivals, the sustainable house days and other events around Australia. Along with these we are including any other factors, events, or businesses that are more environmentally friendly in each region, and whether there are LETS groups and other organizations. (See the attached form, below)

From this we are gradually compiling a guide to what is happening in the various regions around Australia. It also includes what is NOT happening – as this may give people some ideas for a business in that area.

If you would like to tell us about your region please fill out the attached form and either email it to us at enquiries@sustainablelifestylesupport.org . Or fill it out and post it to us at:

Sustainable Lifestyle Support Group
PO Box 46
Gunning NSW 2581
Australia

The guide is not yet complete – but IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AN AREA, EMAIL US and we can always tell you what we know. Sometimes this may also include whom to contact if you would like to know more about a specific region.

Below is a copy of the **Regional Area Information Form** that we are using to find out what is happening in the various areas around Australia.

Sustainable Lifestyle Support Group

Regional area information form

District / region

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Is there a contact person or anyone interested in acting as one in your area? Yes No

Name & contact details if there is a contact person

Name.....

Contact details: (e.g. phone, or email, or website details, or contact address, etc)

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Is a sustainable festival held in your region? Yes No

If so, what is its name?

Date the festival is held (this year, or annually, if you have an idea (e.g. late October; etc))

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Festival contact name and contact details

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Is there a LETS (or similar) group in your region? Yes No

If so, what is its name?

LETS contact name and contact details

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Are there support systems? (e.g. can you buy organic fruit, vegetables, and meat there?)

And other sustainable / more environmentally friendly products?) **Yes** **No**

Any comments?
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.....

Does your area have specific skills/interests you would like to mention?

(For instance: here are a number of examples:

- Good sustainable, eco-tourism places people can stay at if they are interested in looking around, or having a holiday there
- Large craft community that encourages and provides for tourists and visitors to the area.
- Area is a farming community
- Area is rainforest, and uncleared, so we would prefer people who do not have to clear the area, but have other skills that involve minimal land clearing (e.g. crafts, IT skills, or other home-based industries that require no land clearance).

Now, what about your area?
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(PS don't worry if your region doesn't have much, or there isn't something in your area – this could encourage people with those skills to move to your area.)

Are there other festivals / markets / events of interest in your area?

(e.g. crafts markets, weekly or monthly organic farmers markets, music festivals etc) **Yes** **No**

If so, what is / are the events?
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Any comments?

Anything else you would like to mention?
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