

Cardiff North Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan



Developed by residents of Cardiff North through the Cardiff North Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Supported by Lake Macquarie City Council



Lake Macquarie
City Council



The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

Background

Lake Macquarie City Council is committed to caring for our local environment, and making a fair contribution to a happy, sustainable planet. The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program is a bottom up approach which supports communities to: develop their own neighbourhood sustainability action plan; implement actions that reduce their neighbourhood footprint; and increase their neighbourhood wellbeing.

A Sustainable Neighbourhood Group for Cardiff North

In late 2009, Council met with the Cardiff North Public School P&C to discuss the feasibility of developing a Sustainable Neighbourhood Group in Cardiff North.

With the support of the Cardiff North Public School P&C, on 27 February 2010 Council hosted a Sustainable Neighbourhood workshop for the community to learn about how to create a sustainable neighbourhood.

The workshop was attended by 25 residents. All participants were invited to form a coordinating group to work with Council and residents to develop this Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan. The purpose of the plan is to document priority issues by residents to work together on improving their neighbourhood sustainability.

Methodology

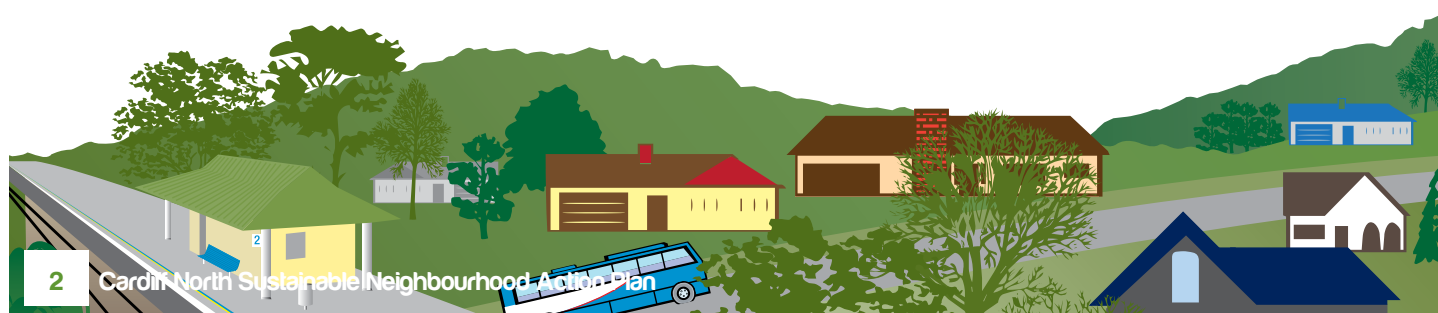
Over a period of 18 months, the Cardiff North Sustainable Neighbourhood Group has worked with neighbours and Council through a variety of engagements to collect information about Cardiff North and what matters to residents

Our engagements included:

November 2009	Cardiff Market Day Display
February 2010	Community workshop – Understanding Cardiff North (25 participants)
May 2010	Community attitudes survey (105 responses)
June 2010	Student workshop at Cardiff North Public School
July 2010	Community workshop – Action Planning (23 participants)
August 2011	Action Planning Workshop

The information collected through these engagements activities have formed the basis of this Cardiff North Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.

This plan belongs to the Cardiff North community and is a living document. It will improve and grow as decided by the Cardiff North community, and in light of changing knowledge and experience. The Cardiff North Sustainable Neighbourhood Group is committed to implementing this plan, and to monitor and review it annually.



Cardiff North - Our Place

Cardiff North is located in the northern part of Lake Macquarie city, NSW, and is the traditional land of the Awabakal people. Cardiff North is predominantly a residential area situated just north of the Cardiff business district.

The Cardiff North Sustainable Neighbourhood area spans two water catchments; which are separated by Reservoir Rd.

The forest, woodland and waterways of Cardiff North support a range of plant and animal species. Some interesting animals sighted in the area include the Pacific Baza, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Australian King Parrot, Bearded Dragon, Dwarf Green Tree Frog, Peron's Tree Frog and the Sugar Glider.

Natural Features:

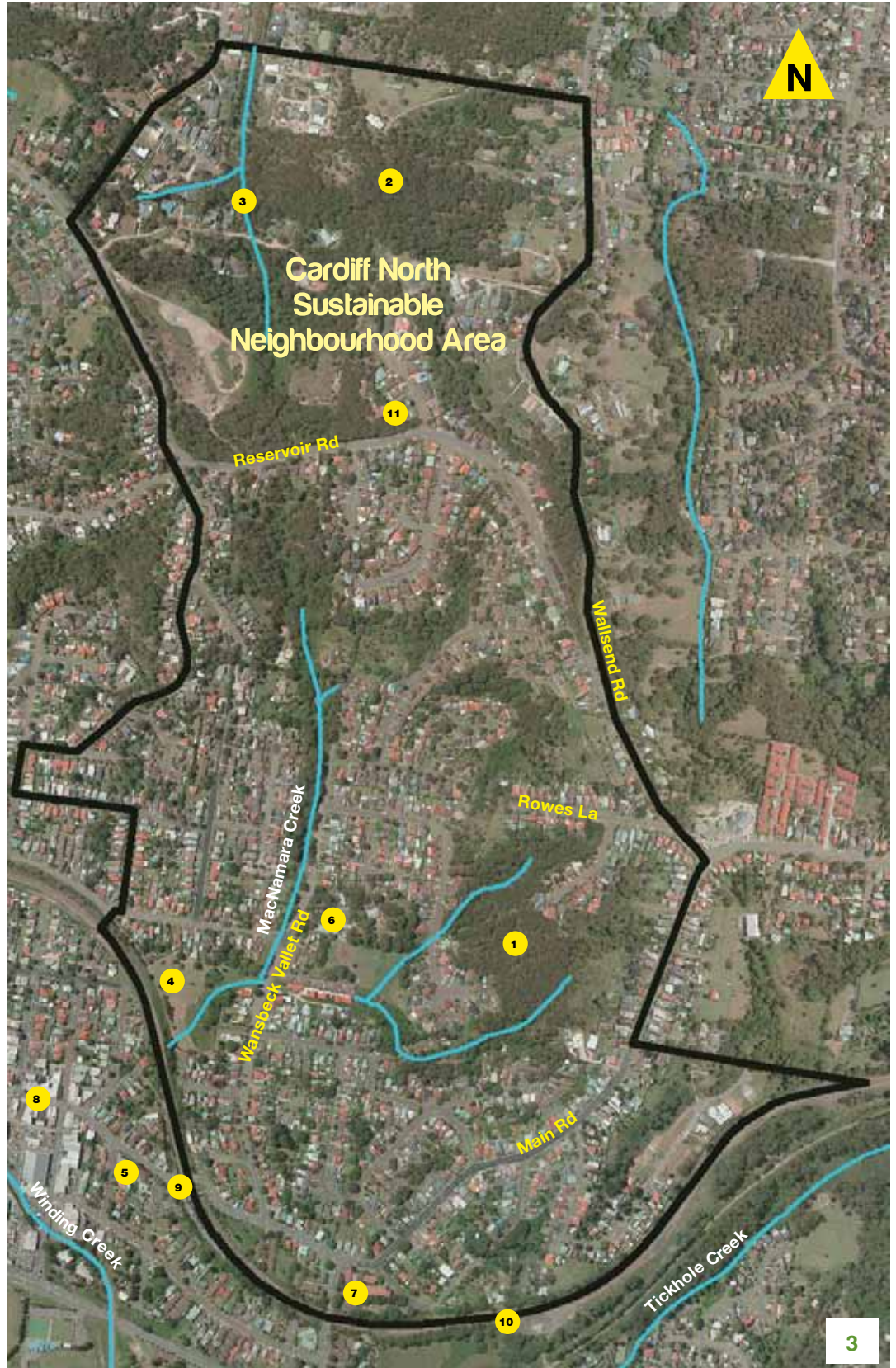
1. Coastal Foothills Spotted Gum
- Ironbark Forest
2. Smooth-barked Apple
Woodland
3. Waterways 

Community Assets:

4. Adelphi Lane Playground
5. Library
6. Cardiff North Public School
7. St Kevins Primary School

Built Features:

8. Cardiff CBD
9. Cardiff Railway Station
10. Railway Line
11. Water Tower



Cardiff North - Our Community

Based on Census data from 2006, our neighbourhood includes approximately 2,965 people in 964 households, with the following characteristics:

- A relatively younger population (median age is 35 in Cardiff North, compared to 40 in Lake Macquarie)
- A high proportion of family households (79% of Cardiff North, compared to 75% of Lake Macquarie)
- A higher proportion of people living alone (27% of Cardiff North residents live in one person household, compared to 23% for Lake Macquarie)
- A high proportion of residents either fully own, or are in the process of owning their house (83% combined) compared to the rest of the city (74%)
- Less people are renting their home (14%) compared with the rest of the city (20%)
- Residents (\$936mth) are paying higher rents than the rest of the city (\$833mth)
- A higher proportion of residents volunteer in Cardiff North (18%) compared to Lake Macquarie and NSW (17%).



Our Attitudes to Sustainability

The Communities Attitudes Survey highlighted that the Cardiff North community is very good at recycling (99%), and most (>70%) have water efficient appliances and fittings; insulation; and energy efficient appliances. Many have native gardens (62%) and vegetable gardens (50%). However, a relatively low number (27%) of respondents 'often' or 'always' catch public transport. From those who don't, the main reason is either that the timetable/route is inadequate, or that they prefer to use the car.

Respondents ranked 'a personal responsibility to do the right thing for the environment' as the most important motivator to improve their environmental behaviour, closely followed by 'saving money'.

The survey results also highlighted some of the issues and actions that are important to Cardiff North residents. The most important issues included biodiversity and catchment management (pest animals and plants in particular; infrastructure (cycleways/footpaths); waste (recycling, reduction, disposal and litter); and water pollution (creeks, stormwater).

Survey responses also indicated some actions that are likely to gain popular support from the Cardiff North community, including:

- Provide information, support and resources to encourage worm farming and composting
- Provide education about GreenPower
- Activities which would be most likely to attract broad public participation include:
- Home audit of backyard, energy, waste, and water use
- Neighbourhood clean-up
- Landcare; and
- Sustainable living workshops.





Green Tree Frog
(Photo courtesy of Rod Ingersoll)



Glider
(Photo courtesy of Rod Ingersoll)

What we value about Cardiff North

1. Our friendly, family oriented community that provides a safe playing environment for our children
2. Our natural environment including bushland, wildlife, birdlife, creeks, and proximity to lake and beaches, and open space.
3. Our lifestyle that combines a peaceful bushland environment, with a valley aspect that allows for great a great outlook/views.
4. The location of our neighbourhood which is close to all amenities/facilities, eg. shops, library, schools, industrial estate, sporting grounds, public transport
5. Our commitment to reducing our ecological footprint.



Our Vision for a Sustainable Cardiff North 2020



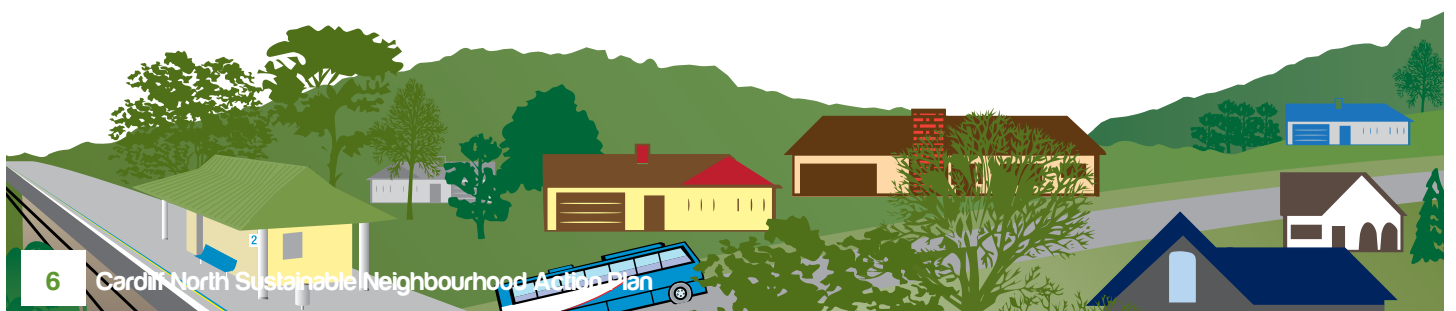
“A neighbourhood that values and enhances our natural environments, minimises our ecological footprint, and provides a friendly, safe and attractive environment”.

We want Cardiff North to be a place where:

- We actively care for and enjoy our bushland areas that support thriving wildlife
- Parks and public facilities are clean and safe places for families to visit
- People are encouraged to leave their cars at home and use pedestrian and cycleways to access goods and services locally.

Achieving the vision

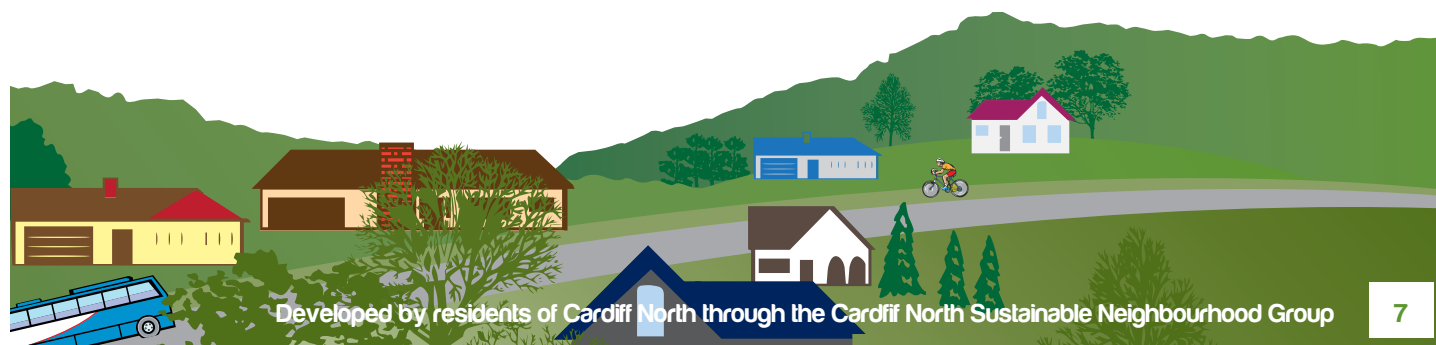
Cardiff North has a range of resources, assets, services and individuals that enable the residents to achieve their vision. The Cardiff business district is a thriving commercial area and is supportive of its residents and as such offers the Cardiff North community access to a variety of goods and services to assist them in implementing this action plan.



Actions towards a Sustainable Cardiff North, 2011-2020

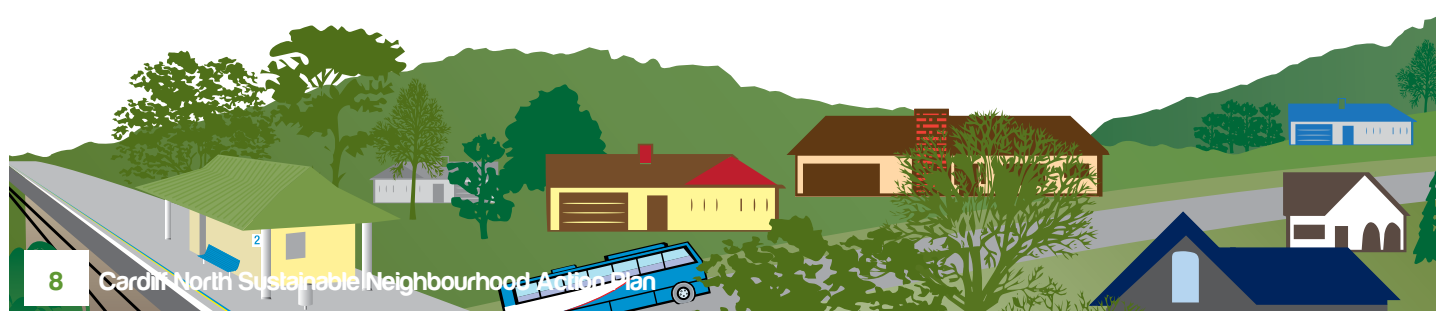
Protecting our Natural Environment

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcome
Objective 1: Maintain and enhance Cardiff North's bushland environment			
1.1	Participate in existing programs and help promote current information available from Council, community groups and other organisations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eg. Council Community Ecosystem Monitoring Program; Landcare; Trees in Newcastle; Australian Native Plant Society; Hunter Bird Observers; Waterwatch. 	Council; Landcare Resource Centre; wide range of local, regional, state and national organisations.	We are well connected to a broad network of programs and organisations to understand, maintain and enhance the biodiversity and our natural environments.
1.2	Conduct regular educational activities, field trips and workshops such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed/native plant identification, local wildlife identification, catchment management and water quality, creating backyard habitats, informal bushland walks. 	Local residents with experience/expertise, Landcare Resource Centre.	We are well informed and understand issues and behaviours around catchment management, biodiversity, and ecosystem function.
1.3	Participate in the planning process to maintain bushland areas.	Council, Council LEP, Area Plan.	A community actively involved in the local area planning process.
Objective 2: Manage and control weeds			
2.1	Conduct a weed identification workshop.	Landcare Resource Centre, Council.	Ability to identify common weeds and know how to remove them.
2.2	Create pamphlet on the most common weeds in the neighbourhood	Landcare Resource Centre, Council.	Ability to identify common weeds and know how to remove them.
2.3	Conduct community workshop to raise awareness about the impact of pesticides.	Landcare Resource Office, Council.	Understanding of the impacts of pesticides on environment & human health.
2.4	Work with Rail Corporation to improve the health of the rail corridor in Cardiff. Eg Woodford Station in Blue Mountains.	Council.	Reduction of green waste dumped in bushland areas.
2.5	Lobby Council to provide 'green waste bins' for the disposal of household green waste.	Council.	Reduction of green waste dumped in bushland areas.
Objective 3: Encourage participation in Landcare, bush regeneration and catchment management activities			
3.1	Recruit and reform a Cardiff North Landcare Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and priorities Landcare sites Develop strategies for rehabilitation Conduct regular working bees 	Landcare Resource Centre, local primary and secondary schools, Council.	<p>We actively protect and enhance local bushland, by leading and participating in regular Landcare activities.</p> <p>Bushland areas in Cardiff North support thriving wildlife and provide essential ecosystem services.</p>



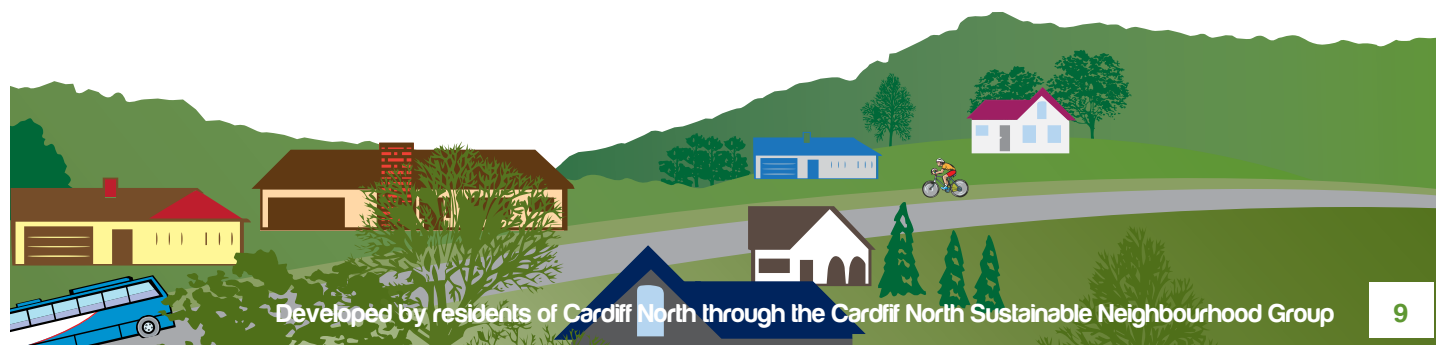
Protecting our Natural Environment continued

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcome
Objective 4: Manage and control pest animals eg. Indian Myna Birds, domestic cats			
4.1	Conduct community education program about Indian Myna Birds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what Indian Mynas look like behaviour what people can do to deter them 	Council, other community groups	Increased awareness of the impacts of Indian Myna Birds and actions individuals can do to control them.
4.2	Conduct community education program about responsible pet ownership eg. Cats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide reward or incentive for responsible pet ownership Half price desexing for cats 	Council, State government, RSPCA	Increased awareness about responsible pet ownership.
4.3	Provide residents with easy access to information about pest animals	Council, State Government, Catchment Management Authority	Increased awareness about the impacts of pest animals on our natural environment
4.4	Undertake research into best practice management for the control of pest animals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options to control numbers of Indian Myna Birds Investigate putting possum homes in trees for problem possums 	NPWS, Universities, Council	We are well informed about the latest research in the management of pest animals
4.5	Plant more native trees to encourage native birds	Trees in Newcastle, Local nurseries, Landcare Resource Centre	Increased number and diversity of native birds.
Objective 5: Improve the health of waterways			
5.1	Conduct community education program about the importance of waterways. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of dumping on creek health Water quality – impact of residential runoff on waterways and lake Importance of keeping gutters clean/clear Role of native vegetation on creek banks 	Council, local primary and secondary schools	We are well informed and understand issues and behaviours to improve and protect our local waterways.
5.2	Report any building/development sites to Council that are not using on-site erosion controls as required by their DA or as required to prevent water pollution.	Council for information on erosion controls required.	We are actively protecting our waterways from pollution.
5.3	Local schools to participate in Waterwatch program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep residents informed of results (web/ newsletter) Undertake drain stencilling in the neighbourhood 	Council, Catchment Management Authority	We are informed about the health of our waterways.



Sustainable Living

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcome
Objective 1: Reduce and re-use waste, particularly food and garden waste			
1.1	Establish a shared community green waste collection area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify suitable location for green waste storage Use mulcher so people can take mulch back to their garden Street mulch (bulk hire) 	Teralba Worm Farm, Permaculture Hunter, Local businesses, Council	Greater diversion of green waste from landfill
1.2	Encourage and support community to adopt alternate options such as composting, worm farms and chooks at home to reuse food and garden waste	Council	Greater diversion of green waste from landfill.
1.3	Raise awareness about how to become a 'low waste shopper' and decrease the purchase of over packaged food	Council	Decreased household consumption of commercial products
1.4	Conduct 'low waste day' at Cardiff (like Earth Hour). Including schools, retailers and community	Local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Local schools	Cardiff North residents and businesses more informed about how to reduce waste from going to landfill
1.5	Encourage and support residents of Cardiff North to establish household vegetable and herb gardens	Permaculture Hunter, Council	Healthier residents
Objective 2: Minimising climate change			
2.1	Encourage residents to take up GreenPower <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information from state government on current service provision options, Encourage uptake of utilities offering the option to buy renewable energy. 	Council, NSW Government Grants/rebates, and energy providers	Increased uptake of GreenPower
2.2	Report any building/development sites to Council that are not using on-site erosion controls as required by their DA or as required to prevent water pollution.	Home audit services	Lower energy bills
2.3	Local schools to participate in Waterwatch program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep residents informed of results (web/newsletter) Undertake drain stencilling in the neighbourhood 	State government rebates, Council	Increased uptake of solar energy



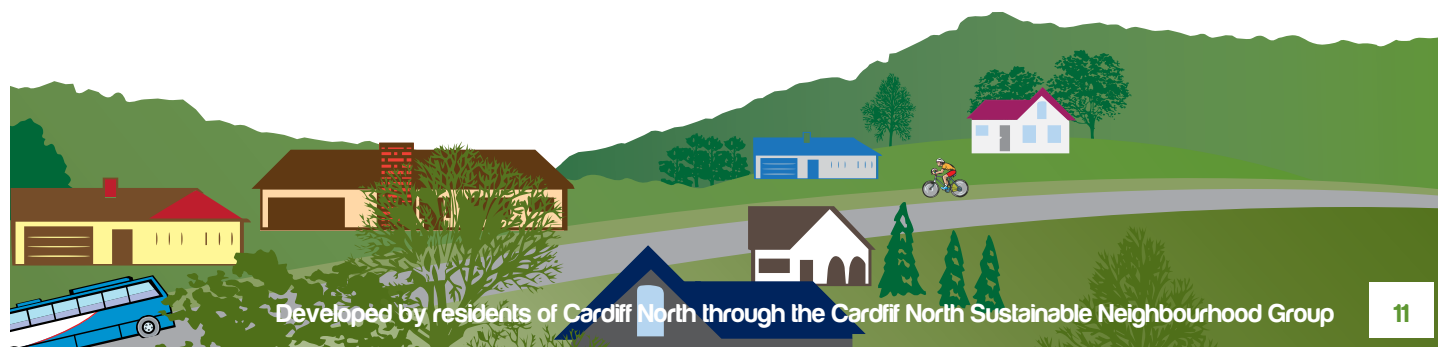
Community Wellbeing

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcome
Objective 1: Improve family oriented facilities			
1.1	Lobby Council or seek sponsorship to improve playgrounds/amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First prioritise parks/playgrounds in area that need upgrading 	Local businesses, Council	Improved access to public recreation facilities
1.2	Improve signage at Adelphi Lane playground as park is hidden from road	Council	Improved access to public recreation facilities
1.3	Investigate if school playgrounds are available for public use outside of school hours	Department of Education and Training	Improved access to recreation facilities
1.4	Approach Cardiff Woolworths regarding promises made to restore a 'meeting place' that was lost as a result of the construction of the Woolworths complex	Woolworths, Chamber of Commerce	Increased access to open space in business district to enable social interaction
1.5	Investigate the possibility of constructing a community garden in the open space area adjacent to railway line	Rail Corp, Council, Other community gardens	Cardiff North residents have access to community land to grow local food.
Objective 2: Prevent graffiti and improve the appearance of the neighbourhood			
2.1	Increase activities for youth – skateboarding/BMX workshops	Council, Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Committee, local schools	Youth are actively involved in the community
2.2	Reduce graffiti incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the creation of a 'Street Art Wall' Enforcement of penalties – fines Introduce deterrents at 'hot spots' - lighting, cameras 	Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Committee, Council, local high schools, local police	Clean and tidy street appearance
2.3	Participate in Tidy Towns competition	Keep Australia Beautiful	Pride in the appearance of our neighbourhood
2.4	Participate in Clean Up Australia Day	Clean Up Australia, Council	Residents of Cardiff North are actively improving the appearance of their neighbourhood



Sustainable Transport

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcome
Objective 1: Encourage a pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhood			
1.1	Create new and encourage the use of existing cycleways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Council to identify potential locations for cycleways • Investigate option of creating a cycleway adjacent to the stormwater channel or railway corridor at Cardiff • Link to cycleways around the lake 	Council	Increased cycling activity
1.2	Lobby Council to improve footpath network to create links to bus stops, train station and Cardiff town centre	Council	Increased pedestrian activity
1.3	Lobby Council to upgrade bus stops to include shelters and lighting	Council	Increased use of public transport
1.4	Lobby Council to create more parking spaces at train station	Council	Increased use of public transport
1.5	Lobby CityRail to install bike lockers at Cardiff railway station	City Rail	Increased use of public transport
1.6	Inform residents of where there are existing transport links/cycleways	Council	Increased use of public transport and cycleways
1.7	Establish carpooling opportunities through neighbourhood networks	Local schools, businesses including workplaces and service groups	Decreased use of motor vehicles
1.8	Promote the benefits of using public transport ie. promote convenience of train travel, need to plan travel in advance	Council, CityRail, local bus providers	Increased use of public transport
1.9	Lobby shopping centres to provide courtesy bus eg. Cardiff & Glendale	Chamber of Commerce, local businesses	Decreased use of motor vehicles





Get involved

Be a part of something positive. Find out about our current projects and activities, and how you can be a part of this fantastic initiative.

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