

Sustainable Communities 2023-24

Case study: Kingston District Council and Community



Sustainable Communities is all about telling a community's story, getting people together to help their local towns, schools, and businesses, and fostering pride in achievements. It celebrates our connection to nature and each other.

Sharing initiatives is the focus of the Sustainable Community awards, supporting positive ripple effects to more areas of Australia and beyond.

During 2023-24 we saw multiple community projects that showed the linkage between caring for the environment and caring for human health, which is a key component of this case study.

Kingston South East is located on South Australia's south-eastern coastline on the shores of Lacedepe Bay, around 300 kilometres from Adelaide's CBD. The area is characterised by its prime agricultural land and accessible underground water and is has a thriving rural economy. Commercial fishing and tourism are major industries in the area, supported by forestry and viticulture.

Kingston has a residential population of around 2,380, with a growing percentage of over 50's, many of whom have contributed to the town's initiatives.

Their submission included initiatives in all eight categories and showed extensive community engagement, long-term planning, a commitment to local circular economies, education, and sustainable practices. Projects included:

- The Kingston SE RV Park which was expanded to support self-sufficient travellers and those affected by natural disasters.
- Small Steps group who are committed to reducing 'single use' by creating upcycled produce, shopping, and pet bags.
- Sustainability Program with like-minded groups and individuals delivering sustainability initiatives.
- Community and Wellbeing Participation Initiative in support of bushfire affected community members. Improved internal strength through connection and support.



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- Public Art Framework to highlight history and culture through themes of maritime history, regional biodiversity, Kingston people and Aboriginal heritage.
- Community School working in collaboration with the community on recycling initiatives including a local seed library to support food security.
- Coastal Adaptation Strategy to future-proof the coastline and infrastructure.
- Waste and recycling with school students managing 10c CDL collections and Council reusing materials in operations.



The judge commented on the great community connectivity and willingness to try new things, getting hands dirty in projects for the area's future.

There is multi-generational learning and broad skill sharing, built upon with great consultation and collaboration. Many initiatives are long-term and supported by the Strategic Plan.



Congratulations to the Kingston community for achieving such a diversity of successful projects.

If you'd like to learn more about Kingston SE's initiatives, you can contact them directly: ceo@kingstond.sa.gov.au 0408 809 712.