

MAY 2023

The Gap Sustainability Initiative News

VOLUME 1



CREATING A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Gap is a beautiful suburb, with many unique features that we all enjoy. To look after these natural assets is an essential task that we all share. There are already many passionate people working in various groups on sustainability issues such as community planting, community gardening and recycling. The Gap Sustainability Initiative was established to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and collaborate across different organisations to create a more sustainable future.

To make these collective efforts highly visible, we need to work together to achieve policies and regulations that incentivise sustainable practices, encourage innovation and invest in new technologies that reduce our environmental impact. Many people are still not aware of the environmental challenges we face and the impact of everyday actions on the local habitat. Lack of sustainability focus can make it challenging to mobilise people towards sustainable practices.

In March 2022, we brought together key stakeholders in the community to develop a sustainability plan that outlines the goals, strategies, and actions needed to create a successful community movement. We are now working hard to bring this plan to fruition and hope that you will join us as we progress activities to bring our aims into action in the coming months and years.

Newsletter Highlights

Creating a Culture Of Sustainability

A Year in Review: Our Wins and Milestones

Newsletter and Social Media

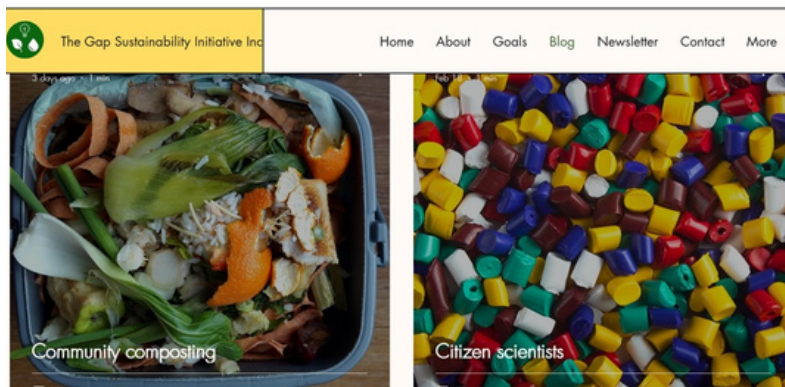
A Message from the President

Our three major projects

2023 seminars and working group meetings

Project progress and looking ahead

Connect with us and receive notifications for upcoming events: subscribe to thegapsustainability@gmail.com



A YEAR IN REVIEW: OUR WINS AND MILESTONES

This year we achieved a number of organisational milestones. We have become a registered not-for-profit organisation, which provides several benefits, including access to grants, tax exemptions, and credibility among our stakeholders.

Gaining more than 50 members was another significant achievement and shows that our organisation is gaining momentum and support from the community. The more members we have, the more we can achieve in terms of raising awareness and implementing sustainable practices.

We passed our first financial audit, another significant achievement, that demonstrates our organisation's commitment to transparency and financial accountability. This success can help to build trust with stakeholders and attract funding and support for our sustainability initiatives.

We are also registered as a charity and are applying for a tax-deductible status. By continuing to build on these achievements, we can support and inspire others to join in our efforts.

OUR NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES:

We issue a monthly email following our meetings that summarises the evening and alert members to next month's meeting agenda.

We produce a quarterly newsletter with sustainability news from the community and our recent progress as a charitable organisation.

We are active in social media with a presence on Facebook promoting upcoming sustainability events. @thegapsustainability

We maintain a website to share information and offer practical tips to incorporate sustainable practices into our lives.
<https://www.thegapsustainability.org/>

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A Message from Craig Ray, the president of TGSi



We are proud of our achievements over the past year. By partnering with existing groups and contacting politicians, we are taking a proactive approach to raising awareness about sustainability issues in our suburb. This is a crucial step towards creating a more sustainable community and inspiring others to join in our efforts.

Collaborating with other groups and organisations has helped us to leverage our combined resources, networks, and expertise to reach a broader audience and achieve our shared sustainability goals. It also helps to build a sense of community and collective responsibility towards sustainability issues.

OUR THREE PROJECTS

The Platypus Project

The Platypus project aims to bring the community together and facilitate a series of actions to rehabilitate and protect our creek ecosystems to the platypus standard with the goal to reintroduce platypus in The Gap by 2032. Here are 6 actions you can do to help:



Energy Independence for the community

Energy independence, renewable generation, and affordability are drivers that underpin the “Community Energy Project” for TGSI. Put simply, our residents want the ability to maximise the benefit of renewable energy and have safe and secure access to it.

In practical terms, this also means that our community is actively working towards net zero emissions and has:

- visibility of its energy consumption and renewable generation ability,
- prioritises investment in renewable energy generation and infrastructure sufficient to meet community energy demands,
- considers future commercial models like creating an ‘energy hub’ which is able to generate financial returns for use by the community to reinvest in sustaining environmental infrastructure.

Enhancing existing capabilities

We aim to enhance the benefit and value of the many existing groups in The Gap that already work towards sustainability actions in The Gap. Another major aim is to achieve good sustainability policies that help government, organisations and businesses to focus on relevant issues. To do so we contribute to activities to generate interest or awareness; share knowledge, experience or tools; change attitudes, behaviours or practices of key stakeholders; and influence policy action.

Examples include creating an online calendar to promote local volunteer-led activities such as bushcare and habitat planting activities; directing people to the monthly Repair Cafe; and many other activities throughout The Gap.

2023 Dates for our seminars and working group meetings

TGSI meets on the third Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30pm at The Gap State High School Library.

Our agenda rotates each month between guest speakers and TGSI working group meetings during which we advance our three projects.

Seminars:
20 June
15 Aug
17 Oct

Working Groups:
16 May
18 July
19 Sept
21 Nov



This photograph shows The Gap from above.

You can see clearly the reservoir, Enoggera Creek winding its way through the suburb, and the surrounding bushland covering the hills. This photo also makes it evident that tree cover within the streets is relatively sparse and could be improved. One of our members is spearheading a kerbside planting project. If your street needs additional tree coverage please contact us via email thegapsustainability@gmail.com.

ACTIVITIES THE GAP RESIDENTS ARE ALREADY ORGANISING

Did you know that besides the many community organisations active in The Gap, many individuals also start their own initiatives and activities to increase this suburb's sustainability? For example, several people have established street libraries, where used books can be traded between neighbours without costs. There are also tool sharing activities, and people sharing excess home grown produce. The walking school bus is another activity that parents use to reduce the reliance of school children on car travel. Many people already compost or use a worm farm, but those who do not have the space can bring their compost to either Yooralla Community Garden or St Mark's Anglican Church. The Gap State High School is also planning a community garden which will soon allow the whole school community to learn from.



CONNECT: Please join us at our seminars, working groups or as a member



CONTRIBUTE: If you want to become a member pls deposit \$5 into our Bank Account Name: The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186 and send us your name, DOB, and address to thegapsustainability@gmail.com for the membership registry. Memberships are valid for the financial year and membership fee will increase to \$20 in July 2023.

Stay informed by following us on Facebook [@thegapsustainability](https://www.facebook.com/thegapsustainability).

Or visit our website: <https://www.thegapsustainability.org>

We gratefully accept donations; and are also raising funds through the Containers for Change Program, our Member ID is C10826699.