

THE ROCKS MARKETS

SUSTAINABLE & ETHICAL
PRACTICE HANDBOOK





OUR VISION

Our vision for The Rocks Markets is to be **Sydney's most iconic and sustainable market**, famous for its Artisan, Traders and experience. We are passionate about protecting the environment and supporting ethical business practices. Our aim is to operate in the most sustainable, socially inclusive way possible.

With the introduction of these guidelines, will reduce our waste and carbon offset and improve the social and economic wellbeing of the communities we serve.

Our Traders are our key partners in contributing to the goal of minimising our impact on the environment while ensuring The Rocks Markets are authentic, ethical and socially inclusive. To do this, we need our Traders to engage in sustainable and ethical practices within their businesses.



OUR COMMITMENT

The Rocks Markets is committed to the continual improvement of its environmental, ethical and socially-inclusive performance, including complying with all relevant legislation. By continuing to identify and manage environmental and social impacts, The Rocks Markets will maintain industry leadership, deliver value to the community, set new standards and help ensure longevity.

The Rocks Markets defines environmental and social impacts as both the direct impacts it has on the environment and community through natural resource use, waste generation, inclusive policies, community giving / contribution and authentic product offering. It is also defined via indirect impacts that occur through its supply chain and partnerships.

OUR FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REDUCTION TARGET AREAS

1

Reducing carbon footprint

Reducing carbon emissions by hosting a market with Traders who predominantly make and/or produce their products within Australia and have a focus on including sustainability into their production.

Providing a variety of vegetarian and vegan options to reduce emissions on meat and dairy products.

2

Plastic-free

We are committed to a plastic free market. Traders are required to use compostable packaging and use sustainable materials with no single-use plastic allowed.

3

Waste

We will be working closely with our cleaning and waste contractors to implement waste reduction policies and initiatives.

4

Sustainable production

We will provide an opportunity for Traders who use sustainable and ethical production methods including:

- Australian-made products so the designing, making and/or the manufacturing of these products needs to be conducted in Australia
- Material selection of the products produced
- Packaging
- Products that are not mass-produced
- Not allowing culturally appropriated products or practice



OBJECTIVES OF THIS HANDBOOK

- Minimise our ecological footprint
- Promote sustainable production and consumption
- Reduce waste and the environmental impact of the Markets
- Reduce the environmental impacts of products purchased
- Reduce energy and water consumption and increase the quantity of waste re-used and recycled resources
- Maximise opportunities for waste management and recycling
- Offset emissions that can't be reduced by developing an offset plan and policy
- Increase environmental awareness, help educate the communities we serve on environmental impact reduction and help drive behaviour change among our audiences
- To demonstrate innovation and leadership enabling continual improvement, accountability and transparency and good governance
- Achieve long-term economic and social security for The Rocks Markets

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

Travel & Transport

We provide:

- Information and incentives including transport route planners on The Rocks website for people to walk, ride or take public transport to The Rocks Markets.
- Dog facilities to encourage people to walk to The Rocks Markets with their dogs

Food & Beverage

We provide:

- Free refillable water stations
- Vegetarian / vegan options as part of our food offering to reduce emissions
- Food vendors that use Fair Trade, local, seasonal, carbon neutral or other sustainable food options to reduce food miles, food waste and energy emissions
- Recycling and organic waste collection bins

We have a strict no single-use plastic or extensive packaging for our products.

Water Management

The Rocks Markets and our traders work to ensure all chemicals and oils are responsibly removed and disposed of responsibly

Energy and Emissions

- Market operations and traders must use energy-efficient equipment and switch off appliances when not in use
- Traders and markets operations must choose energy-efficient appliances when purchasing or leasing electrical equipment and appliances

Product Use

The Rocks Markets will champion:

- Traders and products that utilise recyclable materials, or that are recyclable / reusable
- Locally-made produce
- Products with environmental, ethical or social certifications
- Products that avoid excessive packaging

Waste Management

The Rocks Markets will provide:

- Clearly-labelled bins and waste stations in easy to access locations to encourage correct waste disposal
- Waste segregation bins and streams (including organic waste)
- Traders must use bioplastic or compostable items
- Opportunities for community partnerships for repurposing items

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We see community engagement as a responsibility to our traders as well as our wider community.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The Rocks Markets operates on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and we pay our respect to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future.

In November 2020, Place Management NSW launched its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to drive continued engagement with First Nations communities, to continue celebrating, recognising and acknowledging Australia's First Nations culture, histories and people. RAPs are accredited and monitored by [Reconciliation Australia](#).

View our [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).



Diversity & Inclusion

In 2020 The Rocks launched a First Nations and Indigenous culture grant to support First Nations businesses and creatives through a partnership with the Blak Markets.

In March 2023, The Rocks Markets will launch a program designed to support, teach and nurture First Nations businesses through The Rocks Markets. In addition Indigenous product/artwork/designs from Traders who are not the actual First Nations artist or producer themselves, will need to be signed up to the Indigenous Art Code.

Emerging Makers Program

For the first time, The Rocks Markets is providing a dedicated program to help promote and support small start-up businesses. This will ensure a future pipeline of brilliant traders for The Rocks Markets longer-term and ensure that diversity and inclusion is at the heart of the Markets' makeup. This program will be released in March 2023.

Community Partners

The Rocks Markets is also invested in providing not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to have space within the Markets to raise awareness of what they do. We work closely with these organisations to provide much-needed community facilities to enhance their experience.

ETHICS

As part of our Sustainable & Ethical Practices Guideline, we will not act for nor do business with:

- Any company or business which fails to uphold basic human rights within its sphere of influence
- Any company or business that has a poor record of employee relations in the areas of health and safety, labour practices, employee benefits or employment equity
- Any company or organisation with irresponsible marketing practices
- We will showcase traders, companies, and organisations that:
 - Support fair trade, humane working conditions, and international standards of human rights
 - Prioritise sustainability in all its practices including sustainable growing, farming, production, materials/packaging and ethical manufacturing methods