

# Regrowth Festival Environmental Policy

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The Regrowth Festival is an annual music, environment, arts and youth culture event. The festival is run by the incorporated not for profit organization REGEN. Each year thousands of trees are planted at the festival site by patrons to help restore areas of degraded land, this is a central focus of the event and coupled with educational workshops forms the basis of the mission of REGEN to raise environmental awareness amongst youth culture.

REGEN recognises that running the Regrowth Festival has a direct impact (both positive and negative) on the environment. We believe that we have a responsibility to care for and protect the environment in which we operate and are committed to enhancing it through our operations wherever possible, and minimising any negative impact. We are fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of our activities, and will encourage our partners and members of the wider community to join us in this effort.

REGEN is very passionate about running a sustainable event and providing a framework for how the greater community can reduce their environmental footprint. We have endeavoured to cover all areas in our commitment to sustainable practices, as set out below:

- **Power:** The Regrowth Festival is powered through a combination of solar power and sustainable biodiesel. Energy saving LED lighting is used as a priority. Music is programmed to enable sound systems and generators to be turned off for periods throughout the festival.
- **Waste Management:** Avoiding rubbish going to landfill is an extremely high priority and all plastics, metal paper and glass are recycled. All food waste is composted on site with the compost later used for the revegetation area. An extensive team of volunteers are in place to collect and sort waste, as well as educate patrons. All caterers onsite are required to use bio-degradable and/or reusable food utensils and containers. 100% composting toilets are used with composted waste again used on site.

- **Transport:** Bus services are provided from the two closest cities of Sydney and Canberra, ticket prices are discounted with bus tickets. Patrons are encouraged to buy the carbon offset option with their ticket which offsets their travel emissions to and from the festival. The large tree planting revegetation project on the festival site also significantly contributes to CO2 absorption. Car pooling is strongly encouraged and facilitated through online social media pages, forums and 3<sup>rd</sup> party car pooling websites.
- **Water Management:** Free drinking water is supplied and patrons encouraged to bring re-usable containers. A trenching system is set in place to facilitate storm water drainage and prevent flooding. Market stall holders must use biodegradable detergents and all grey water runoff is channeled to appropriate areas or re-used where possible. Toilets are dry composting. Male and Female urinals are provided and are best positioned to prevent any contamination of water courses as stipulated by a soil scientist analysis of the site.
- **Fair Trade:** REGEN works with all suppliers and caterers to use fair trade/organic/free range products where possible. Environmentally friendly ethical and organic traders are given priority. Local suppliers are also given priority.
- **Community Education:** Environmental charities and awareness raising groups are encouraged to provide information stalls at the festival and are assisted with infrastructure where possible. Environmental education workshops are conducted throughout the weekend on a wide range of topics. Patrons are encouraged to participate in the tree planting activities and learn about the restoration of the degraded land that is taking place at the festival site. Environmental documentaries are screened at the festival followed by discussion. Informative signage is located throughout the festival.
- **Wildlife and Land Protection:** REGEN has undertaken a site survey and compiled a statement of environmental effects to ensure there are no threatened species or sensitive wildlife areas. Music and camping is positioned to ensure minimal impact on biodiversity. Patrons are instructed to look out for wildlife on roads when entering and exiting the site. The local wildlife rescue group (WIRES) is liaised with to assist any animals injured by traffic. The local landcare group is consulted with and assists with the restoration of degraded land on the festival site through revegetation, which enhances biodiversity and remediates erosion and salinity issues. The festival site is thoroughly cleaned and monitored post festival to ensure no contamination. A portion of ticket revenue is donated to local environment groups.

- **Office and Event Management:** All printing of promotional material is done on recycled paper using vegetable based inks. Paper printing is kept to a minimum. All offices run on green energy and implement strict recycling policies on paper, printer cartridges and IT equipment. Décor and other building materials are sourced from recycled/re-used sources. Sustainable products such as bamboo are used where possible.
- **Noise and Noise Pollution:** A noise abatement strategy and management plan has been developed and implemented. An acoustic report has also been undertaken. Decibel readings are taken throughout the festival to monitor noise levels both within the festival site and in the surrounding areas. Noise barriers are created around music stages to prevent sound spillage, mono directional sound systems are also used. Earplugs are provided for all patrons and staff. A quiet family camping area is set aside as well as quiet chill-out spaces within the festival. Music is scheduled to incorporate breaks to reduce stress on local wildlife and local communities and also to save energy and increase the efficiency of energy use at the event.