

Environmental sustainability and recycling

Ecological Sustainable Development

The vision for the Kelvin Grove Urban Village is a vibrant, new urban environment that meets the lifestyle needs of the community, but does not compromise the environment for future generations. This vision is based on the principles and practices of Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) which aims to balance the environmental, social and economic issues to ensure the Urban Village is sustainable. The goal is to provide:

- a high quality of lifestyle
- economic benefits for Queensland, and
- a 'green' way of living to benefit the community now and in the future.

This will be achieved by careful planning and meticulous design, construction, technology and management.

Environmental aspects of planning

The Master Plan for the Kelvin Grove Urban Village is based on the fundamental ESD principles of:

- building on the natural attributes of the area, including significant stands of native trees and 'green' areas
- reducing the reliance on car travel through a walkable and accessible urban environment – allowing people to walk to key areas, all within 10 minutes
- minimising the use of fossil fuel, which reduces air pollution, and
- decreasing energy demands, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing low-energy solutions that meet the needs of residents.

Keeping it green

The stands of native tallowwood and grey gum trees have been preserved, and complemented by the planting of advanced trees around the site. The landscape master plan has created areas of green, with open spaces for visitors and locals.

Recycling

Recycling is a major focus for the Village. This began in the early stages of the project when most of the existing site materials were recycled. Community organisations benefited when a number of the army huts were donated for re-use off-site. In addition, close to 100% of timber materials were recycled or restored for re-use or were re-milled into flooring, decking, building materials, park benches and other timber products. More than 750 tonnes of removed concrete was re-used for road base and other infrastructure. Aluminium, steel items, metal fixtures, fencing and lighting were also recycled with some products donated to community groups.

Latest developments in building design

The Design Guidelines for all developments within the Village require high standards of building design and a strong commitment to Ecological Sustainable Development. This includes efficient ventilation, energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, indoor environmental quality and the delivery of sustainable practices. To achieve this, the Village:

- has a recycling program for households and businesses
- incorporates a low-energy strategy which uses, where possible, natural daylight, warmth in winter and natural ventilation
- includes energy-efficient appliances and efficient water heating, and
- encourages the use of solar power.

Social sustainability

To ensure a vibrant and supportive social environment for residents and the local community, the Kelvin Grove Urban Village incorporates:

- active public spaces for recreation, sport and theatrical displays
- a range of community facilities including a university campus, theatre, exhibition space, small businesses and a health and recreation centre, and
- various retail facilities, including shops, restaurants and cafes.

Economic initiatives

A range of economic initiatives ensures the future viability of the Kelvin Grove Urban Village and contributes towards sustainability. These include:

- a mix of housing densities, ownership patterns, price and building types suited to different income levels, lifestyles, cultures and age groups. This ensures the Village appeals to a broad cross-section of people and results in a vibrant and diverse community, and
- the QUT Creative Enterprise Precinct, providing incubator facilities and support for new businesses, working beside academics, with facilities to generate new jobs and industry.