



This is an EnviroDevelopment

What does that mean for the environment and you?



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DEVELOPMENT™





What is EnviroDevelopment?

EnviroDevelopment is a scientifically based assessment scheme that independently reviews development projects and awards certification to those that achieve outstanding performance across six sustainability elements – Ecosystem, Waste, Energy, Materials, Water and Community.

EnviroDevelopment projects have met stringent standards set by an expert panel including experienced ecologists, town planners, engineers, architects, lawyers, economists and developers. The Technical Standards are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they continue to recognise sustainability achievements above government requirements and in light of new technologies and industry standards.

What Living in an EnviroDevelopment Means

By purchasing a home within an EnviroDevelopment you know that you are living in a community with minimal impact on the environment, one that encourages safe, healthy and active lifestyles and results in lower household energy and water costs.

The following symbols represent the individual elements of EnviroDevelopment.



Certified EnviroDevelopments will display their EnviroDevelopment certification using one of the logos below, reflecting the icons which they have been certified in.



Development certified in all six elements of sustainability.



Development certified in four elements of sustainability (here ecosystems, waste, energy and community).

This booklet provides a guide to each element of EnviroDevelopment. To determine which EnviroDevelopment leaves are relevant to the development you're in, check the EnviroDevelopment certified logo displayed by the development.

If the development you're in displays the **energy** icon, it has gone over and above government energy efficiency requirements and demonstrated a further 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to minimum compliance. This may be through a combination of thoughtful design of homes and lots, the installation of energy efficient appliances and fixtures, and the provision of renewable energy like solar panels.

What benefits can living in an EnviroDevelopment offer?

Living in an EnviroDevelopment with the Energy element, you can expect:

- Reductions on power bills of around 20% compared to a home meeting minimum regulatory requirements.
- More comfortable indoor environments with a reduced need for air-conditioners or heaters. This means cooler homes in summer, warmer homes in winter and opportunities for plenty of fresh air.
- Greater well being and liveability through good solar access and optimal positioning and design.
- The potential to qualify for 'green home loans' offered by some financial institutions.
- Improved marketability of your home.

What can you do to contribute?

You can achieve even greater savings by adopting new habits in your home.

- Hot water heating accounts for around 25% of household electricity use – try doing your laundry with cold water.
- Help to reduce energy demand at peak times by delaying running your dishwasher, washing machine or clothes dryer until late in the evening or early in the morning.
- Appliances on standby account for up to 10% of your electricity bill – turn appliances off at the wall when not in use.
- Set your air conditioner to 24°C. Increasing the temperature of your air conditioner by just 1°C can reduce your electricity use for cooling by up to 15%.
- Running a second fridge can add huge costs to your electricity bill. If you have a second fridge, run it only when needed, such as for celebrations and special events.
- When possible, use an outside drying area / clothesline instead of an electric clothes dryer.



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WATER



If the development you're in displays the **water** icon, it has incorporated ways to reduce the use of drinking water (potable) by at least 20% compared to minimum regulatory compliance. Different developments will achieve this in different ways, which may include using stormwater for irrigation, providing rainwater tanks or improving water efficiency.

What benefits can living in an EnviroDevelopment offer?

By living in an EnviroDevelopment with the Water element, you may be able to:

- Achieve savings of around 20% of your water bill compared to the same behaviours in a standard home.
- Access opportunities to learn about ways to further reduce your water consumption.
- Access rebates for rainwater tanks and appliances.
- Qualify for 'green home loans' offered by some financial institutions.
- Improve the marketability of your property.
- Water your garden from a non-potable supply, meaning you may not be subject to water restrictions.

What can you do to contribute?

The habits you adopt and appliances you install in your new home can also lead to savings on your water bills. These include:

- Selecting appliances that have a high star rating for water efficiency.
- Installing low flow shower heads and taps.
- Planting drought tolerant plants for landscaping to avoid the need for watering.
- If your garden does require watering, water in the late afternoon or evening to minimise the loss of water through evaporation.
- If using a dishwasher, wait until you have a full load before running it and don't rinse dishes before loading, simply scrape and the machine will do the rest.
- Having shorter showers, which also saves energy.
- Repairing leaky taps early.



WASTE

If the development you're in displays the **waste** icon, it has used resources more efficiently and reduced the volume of waste sent to landfill. During the construction of your home and the broader development the developers made extensive efforts to avoid the generation of waste, and at least 60% of unavoidable waste was recycled or reused.

What benefits can living in an EnviroDevelopment offer?

Within an EnviroDevelopment with the Waste element, you can expect:

- Reduced costs of building by using materials wisely and minimising the costs of waste disposal.
- Facilities that make it easy to recycle.
- A green waste disposal service, opportunities to compost or an onsite recycling centre for construction and landscaping materials.
- Access to information on how to reduce your own waste.
- The satisfaction of knowing that you have helped reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

What can you do to contribute?

Your own household behaviours can help to further reduce waste. This includes:

- Following the simple steps: reduce, reuse, recycle
- Planning your weekly meals before grocery shopping to avoid food waste, and choosing grocery items with less packaging.
- Buying high quality, long lasting products to save you money in the long term as well as reduce environmental impacts.
- Considering whether each item can be recycled or reused.
- Using available recycling, composting and green waste collection services and facilities.





ECOSYSTEMS



If a development displays the **ecosystems** icon, it has made efforts to protect and enhance existing native ecosystems and rehabilitate degraded sites. This includes measures to encourage a range of plant and animal species within the development, improve water quality, and to design the development to integrate with the natural landscape. While the government plays a role in requiring developers to protect the natural environment, developments that have achieved the Ecosystems element have gone beyond these requirements to provide more positive ecosystems outcomes.

What benefits can living in an EnviroDevelopment offer?

In an EnviroDevelopment with the Ecosystem element, you can expect:

- Extensive green spaces for conservation and recreation.
- Landscaping in public areas that is tolerant to local conditions – meaning public areas and streetscapes that can look good year round.
- Opportunities to observe native animals.
- Locally native plants throughout your streets and parks.
- Opportunities to interact with nature, providing benefits to your wellbeing.
- Local waterways with good water quality that support a range of plant and animal species.
- Reduced air, noise and light pollution.
- Improved marketability of your home.

What can you do to contribute?

The maintenance of your own property can also contribute to protecting and enhancing local ecosystems:

- Landscape your property using native plant species.
- Minimise the application of fertilizers or pesticides.
- Consider planting trees and bushes that provide habitat and food sources for native animals.
- Maintain your garden and lawn by removing environmental weeds.

Your local council may be able to provide information on the best type of landscaping for your local environment.



COMMUNITY

If the development you're in displays the **community** icon, it has made extensive efforts toward creating safe, vibrant and cohesive communities. This can include engaging the local community in the design of the development, providing active or public transport opportunities, ensuring all homes have good indoor environmental quality and designing the community to encourage interaction between all community members.

What benefits can living in an EnviroDevelopment offer?

Developments that have achieved the Community element are often characterised by:

- Neighbourhoods that are safe, interesting and pleasant to spend time in.
- Neighbourhood design and facilities that encourage active and healthy lifestyles.
- Homes that have good indoor air quality and avoid noise issues between dwellings.
- Walkways that are safe and comfortable for all residents to walk between homes, recreation areas and local services, allowing for active lifestyles and avoiding time spent commuting in traffic.
- Neighbourhood design, facilities and programs to make it easier to connect with your neighbours and local community.
- Housing and local facilities that are accessible to a diverse range of people.
- Maintenance of cultural heritage and opportunities to appreciate cultural heritage.
- Access to local shops, recreation areas and public transport options.
- Comfortable and accessible buildings and facilities.

What can you do to contribute?

- Where local facilities, community groups and services are provided, make the most of them - preference your local shops rather than major centres.
- Involve yourself in community events.
- Consider active transport options such as walking or cycling to your local shops or facilities to improve your own health and well being, as well as the health of your environment.





MATERIALS



If the development you're in displays the **materials** icon 20% of the materials used in the development are recycled, reused or renewable materials, or are materials that produce fewer carbon emissions over their total lifecycle. There are currently no government requirements to use environmentally responsible materials and these developments have gone beyond standard practice to do so. These developments may also use low emissions materials in homes and common areas to ensure a healthy indoor environment.

What benefits can living in an EnviroDevelopment offer?

By living in an EnviroDevelopment with the Materials element, you can:

- Feel satisfied that the materials used in your community minimise the use of non-renewable resources and minimise the environmental impacts associated with their production.
- Experience health benefits compared to a standard home through reduced toxic surfaces or gases, and reduced allergens.
- Reduce the need for ongoing maintenance, saving money and time (in cases where durable materials are used).
- Reduce construction costs by reusing materials or purchasing recycled materials at a lower cost.
- Feel satisfied that the development of your new home has supported the local economy by giving preference to local materials suppliers.

What can you do to contribute?

You can continue to reduce the environmental impact of the materials you consume in a number of ways:

- Talk to your builder about using recycled, re-used, renewable, sustainably manufactured or non-toxic materials in your new home.
- If buying new furniture and appliances for your new home, choose products made from recycled materials, or materials from renewable sources, such as sustainably harvested timber.
- In your regular shopping, avoid purchasing products with excess packaging.

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For more information,
visit: www.envirodevelopment.com.au
or email info@envirodevelopment.com.au

Head Office

GPO Box 2279, Brisbane Q 4001
Telephone 07 3229 1589 Facsimile 07 3229 7857

