



## **Environmental Policy - January 2020**

Pigweed Food Co-operative, trading as Thoughtful Foods, recognises the importance of promoting and maintaining a high standard of environmental care in our operations, to represent our community of environmentally conscious members.

We will reduce adverse impacts from our operations to protect the environment and fulfil our compliance obligations. We aspire to continually improve our environmental performance in ways valued by our members and customers, as well as leading and promoting more responsible consumption of food.

Our environmental policy was developed as a statement of commitment from our board of directors and coordinator collective to reflect the values and ethos of our organisation.

### **Objectives**

This policy will guide us to achieve the following outcomes:

- o Identify, assess and manage environmental risks.
- o Fulfil relevant environmental compliance obligations.
- o Protect the environment by delivering our services and promoting sustainable consumption.
- o Continual improvement in our environmental performance.

### **Policy in detail**

Our commitment to protect the environment encompasses all aspects of our organisation, including supplier selection, the supply and sale of our products, resources for running our shop, as well as packaging and waste generation. Our objectives and commitment to protecting the environment are also further described in our Constitution, the Buying Principles of which are included below as an attachment.

All policies undergo routine review two years after endorsement

We commit to:

- o Promoting responsible supplier selection in order to reduce pollution through transportation and packaging as much as possible
- o Reducing the impact of our discharges to the environment
- o Minimising the environmental impacts of our use of energy, water and other substances by limiting our consumption as much as possible.
- o Responsibly managing waste and minimising waste creation where possible

Under this policy we:

- o Proactively engage and partner with stakeholders, including our members, customers and community, to achieve positive environmental outcomes. We aim to ensure the values of our members are represented in our environmental management decisions
- o Provide a supportive culture by embracing signature behaviours that contribute to sustainable and improved environmental outcomes
- o Require volunteers and contractors to operate in an environmentally responsible manner and provide environmental awareness and training, as appropriate
- o Apply a risk management approach to minimise adverse environmental impacts, while maximising opportunities to enhance member value in a commercially responsible way
- o Make procurement decisions that are sustainable and minimises environmental impact
- o Strive to continually improve our environmental performance
- o Comply with all applicable legal, contractual and internal environmental obligations including those associated with standards, policies and procedures
- o Make transparent decisions, act with integrity, be quality-driven, and communicate our environmental requirements and performance to stakeholders

Endorsed by:

Thoughtful Foods Directors Collective

Director Name: Laksmi Govindasamy Date: 6 January 2020

## Buying principles and objects extract from the Constitution

The objects of the co-operative are:

a) to provide a retail source of wholefoods so that members may have some control over the sources of their food supply;

b) to provide information on and promote the use of

- i) low-cost, ethically-produced wholefoods
- ii) bulk minimally packaged foods
- iii) cruelty-free foods,
- iv) vegetarian foods,
- v) vegan foods,
- vi) organic and biodynamic foods
- vii) chemical free and insecticide free foods
- viii) genetically-modified-free foods;
- ix) local foods
- x) Indigenous foods
- xi) Fairtrade foods
- xii) healthy and nutritious foods
- xiii) farmer direct foods
- xiv) nano free foods
- xv) non irradiated foods
- xvi) gluten free foods
- xvii) heirloom varieties and biodiversely rich foods
- xviii) foods produced by other co-operatives
- xix) socially, environmentally and ethically just and responsible foods

c) to play an active role in reshaping the food system and creating a socially and environmentally just food system as we believe in the principles of food democracy and food sovereignty.

d) to run an ethical, not-for-profit sustainable business;

e) to support waste minimisation and resource efficiency through avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling

f) to support other cooperatives whose objects are similar or related to the objects of the cooperative; and

g) to stimulate community development, foster community spirit and promote sustainable living.