



TOURISM
PORT DOUGLAS
DAINTREE

DOUGLAS SHIRE BUSINESS CHECKLIST FOR SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

"World's leading sustainable destination, sharing inspirational experiences."

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree

"A unique, beautiful and sustainable Shire with a connected and inclusive community, thriving economy and deep commitment to protecting the environment for future generations, while honouring our past."

Douglas Shire Council



PORT DOUGLAS DAINTREE IS THE HOME AND GATEWAY TO TWO NATURAL ICONIC WONDERS OF THE WORLD, THE DAINTREE RAINFOREST AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

We have brought you this Sustainability Checklist to help you understand why as an individual and a business, it is important to maintain sustainable practices.

THE JOURNEY

We have been at this a long time in the region. The bulldozers were literally stopped in their tracks in 1984 when protesters chained themselves to posts, climbed trees due for felling and buried each other in the path of machines during the Daintree Blockade. While the road between Cape Tribulation and Bloomfield ultimately went ahead, the protesters' efforts were not in vain. In 1998, the rainforest of the Wet Tropics of Queensland were inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage Site Listing, preserving it for future generations. From here, the Douglas Shire Council was the first local council to adopt a sustainable tourism strategy in 1998, leading the way for sustainable tourism growth to be at the heart of tourism planning. Signing up as the pilot destination for Ecotourism Australia's ECO Destination Certification was the natural choice in Port Douglas and Daintree's ecotourism journey. Our cultural and natural heritage is protected and must be respected. It is important that you do not disturb, harm or damage any type of cultural or natural artefacts, as not only are they part of the living culture and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, but it is illegal to do so. This includes plants and animals. Please note that the sale, trade, display or gifting of historical and archaeological artefacts is regulated and penalties are enforced. The Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama welcome you to their bubu (country) and ask that you respect, enjoy and help look after their special place.

FAST FACTS

The Daintree Rainforest is older than the Amazon, described as one of the most extraordinary places on Earth.

The Great Barrier is the largest coral reef system in the world and the only living structure in the world that can be seen from space.

The Great Barrier Reef is made up of 2,900 reefs and 900 islands.

Six out of seven of the world's turtle species are found on the Great Barrier Reef.

The ribbon reefs off Port Douglas are the only place in Australia where people can swim with Dwarf Minke Whales.

WE ARE PROUD TO BE LOCATED IN
AN ECO DESTINATION
Certified by Ecotourism Australia



This means that Douglas Shire Council and our local tourism industry see long-term sustainability as key to our destination's longevity and are working hard to ensure that visitors can keep enjoying holidays here for generations to come.

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from the surface. Various types of coral are visible, including branching and table corals. Small fish are scattered throughout the scene.

CERTIFIED ECO DESTINATIONS ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Providing unforgettable ecotourism experiences within the region.
 - Strong sustainable destination management and planning practices.
 - Looking after the natural environment, landscape and its resources.
 - Making real contributions to conservation.
 - Protecting the unique wildlife and endangered species of the region.
 - Responsible environmental management including waste, water, pollution and carbon.
 - Climate change, adaption and minimisation.
 - Cultural heritage conservation, including helping to preserve Australia's Indigenous cultures.
 - Supporting, engaging and empowering the local community.
 - Minimising social impacts from tourism.
 - Supporting and encouraging businesses and the local community in sustainable practices.
 - Creating a business environment where ecotourism thrives.
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- A decorative graphic element consisting of several overlapping, light green, curved lines that form a swirl-like shape in the bottom right corner of the page.



ECOTOURISM AUSTRALIA CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

ECO CERTIFICATION

The ECO Certification Program certifies tourism products (tours, accommodations, attractions) with a primary focus on nature. It assures travellers that certified products are backed by a strong, well managed commitment to sustainable practices and provides high quality nature-based tourism experiences.

The ECO Certification Program is divided into three levels:

- Nature Tourism
- Ecotourism
- Advanced Ecotourism

CLIMATE ACTION CERTIFICATION


Climate Action Certification is designed for all aspects of the tourism industry including: hotels, attractions, tours, transport, restaurants, travel agents, tourism commissions and industry bodies. The program is dedicated to reducing carbon emissions and ensuring travellers that certified products are backed by a commitment to sustainable practices related to addressing climate change.

The Climate Change Certification is divided into three levels:

- Climate Action Business
- Climate Action Innovator
- Climate Action Leader

RESPECTING OUR CULTURE (ROC) CERTIFICATION

The Respecting Our Culture (ROC) program encourages the tourism industry to operate in ways that respect and reinforce Indigenous cultural heritage and the living cultures of Indigenous communities. ROC certified tourism operators are committed to protecting cultural authenticity and integrity, developing sound business practices, environmental protection and acknowledging Indigenous peoples' spiritual connection to the land and water.

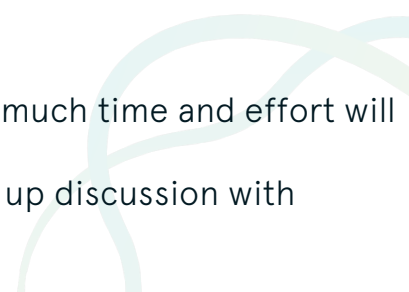




QUICK ECO SCAN

The Quick ECO Scan is an introductory tool made for operators who are considering applying for their ECO Certification. Quick ECO Scan gives tourism businesses an understanding of what's covered within the ECO Certification criteria and provides an estimate of the requirements to achieve the certification.

The Quick ECO Scan is:

- **FREE** - No financial commitment required, meaning you can figure out if ECO Certification is right for you before committing.
 - **QUICK** - The Scan is 30 tick-box questions, meaning you can do it on your lunch break.
 - **EASY** - No documentation or explanation needed.
 - **PERSONALISED** - You'll get a personalised estimate of how much time and effort will be required to achieve certification, including a free follow up discussion with Ecotourism Australia's expert coach.
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LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING WITHIN YOUR BUSINESS

DITCH THE FLICK CAMPAIGN

Reef Clean Ditch the Flick campaign is an initiative to reduce the number of cigarette butts ending up on the Great Barrier Reef. They have re-purposed mint tins into personal butt tins and have distributed them around the region. You can display the messaging at your venue or supply the personal butt tins to customers.

BOOMERANG BAGS


Boomerang Bags is a not-for-profit initiative that is committed to eliminating plastic bags in the community. Boomerang Bags are developed from pre-loved, recycled and reclaimed materials to create conversations about the importance of re-use, caring for the planet, each other and fostering sustainable behaviour.

TREE PLANTING

Tree planting is a revegetation process that restores an ecosystem. It improves wildlife food resources, visitor experiences for tourism and local employment opportunities, whilst reducing slashing and herbicide use and expanding production in local nurseries. Your business can support this initiative through participating in the Daintree Life program, Rainforest Rescue or Eco Shamba Tree Farm.

GBR LEGACY

Great Barrier Reef Legacy is an innovative leader in coral reef research expeditions, education and multi-media engagement. They drive innovative and collaborative marine research, share passion and knowledge to businesses and inspire hope and action through immersing people in adventure and discovery, to secure the long-term survival of the Great Barrier Reef.



JOIN THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES

PLASTIC FREE CAIRNS & DOUGLAS

With support from the Douglas Shire, a free service is available to all food and drink businesses. The Plastic Free Program offers complimentary education about plastic bans, assistance with compliance and tips to save on packaging waste and cost. Receive free support with access to product samples, cost comparisons and packaging guidance within current supply chains and make the switch easy. Join these local businesses:

- Seabeam Restaurant, Port Douglas (Champion)
- The Junction Cafe, Mossman (Champion)
- Nectar, Port Douglas
- Grant St Kitchen, Port Douglas
- Inn Front, Mossman
- Mossman Bakery
- N17 Burger Co, Port Douglas
- Port Douglas Yacht Club
- Croc Espresso Cafe, Daintree Village
- Mossman Community Centre



DITCH SINGLE USE COFFEE CUPS FOREVER

Created and made in Australia, Green Caffein - Swap & Go Coffee Cups is free to both cafe owners to supply and for customers to borrow up to 2 cups for 30 days each,. Then swap dirty for clean (washed in a commercial dishwasher) at any participating cafe in the Douglas Shire. You no longer need to remember a BYO keep cup...it's so easy to grab and go, swap and go or drop and go your cups. Join these local businesses:

- Choo Choos at the Marina, Port Douglas
- Toast Sandwich Bar, Port Douglas
- Whileaway Bookshop & Cafe, Port Douglas
- The Junction Cafe, Mossman
- Temptations Cafe, Mossman



BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLES

With the QLD and nationwide bans on items such as single use plastic straws and cutlery, there has never been a better time to get your own set of reusable items such as reusable straws, takeaway cutlery sets etc. With more bans set to come, this should also include your own reusable coffee cup and bag or sign up to a free cup swap system such as Green Caffein (above).

CASE STUDIES



SAILAWAY PORT DOUGLAS

Sailaway Port Douglas have been running reef and island tours for two decades showcasing the Great Barrier Reef. Their philosophy is all about maintaining the natural environment around them by not using single use plastics, serving local produce to reduce food miles and minimising their carbon footprint by using primarily wind power.



SWEET FARM

Sweet Farm are a 4th generation family-run sugar cane and cocoa farm that sits in between the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. They actively reduce chemical and soil runoff from the property, minimise residual chemicals and reduce their carbon-footprint with tailored tractor engines to ensure sustainable and environmental best practices.



WILDLIFE HABITAT PORT DOUGLAS

The Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas gives visitors the chance to adopt their favourite Australian animals through an initiative called 'Habitat Heroes'. By adopting an animal, you are helping the Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas preserve some of the most endangered and vulnerable species in the world.



MOSSMAN GORGE CENTRE

The Mossman Gorge Centre recognises the unique relationship between the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef ecosystems, and that water quality and conservation practices in the rainforest directly impacts water quality on the reef. They are dedicated to conserving these environmental wonders by using various techniques within the centre.



HOW TO BECOME A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

CCIQ ECOBIZ PROGRAM

CCIQ ecoBiz is a FREE program for small to medium businesses, funded by the Queensland Government.

The program assists organisations in reducing energy and water consumption, waste production and provides advice on how to cut costs through improved resource efficiency in just a few steps:

Participate in a pre-coaching survey - register for the ecoBiz program through the [CCIQ website](#).

Send ecoBiz your bills - the last 12 months of your business's energy water and/or waste invoices.

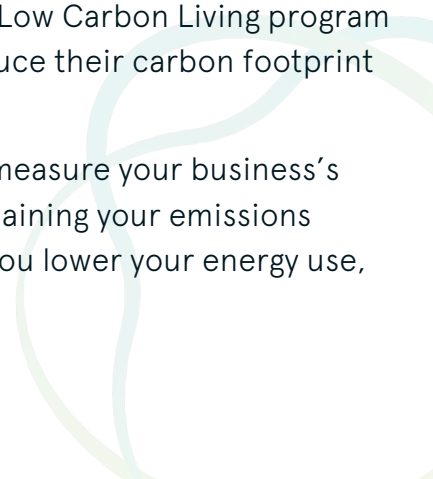
Schedule your coaching session - volunteer 2 hours of your time for a site walk-through of your business with a sustainability expert. You will then receive an assessment of how you use energy, water and general waste.

Make the changes and send ecoBiz your bills again - reduce your waste and energy, conserve water and watch yourself save 13% on energy and water and 22% on waste costs!

LOW CARBON LIVING AUSTRALIA

CCIQ ecoBiz are also partners with Low Carbon Living Australia. The Low Carbon Living program supports businesses, as well as individuals, to take real action to reduce their carbon footprint and mitigate the threat of climate change.

All you have to do to participate is to use their [carbon calculator](#) to measure your business's emission footprint! After that, you will receive a detailed report explaining your emissions including customised recommendations and an action plan to help you lower your energy use, waste use, water use and how to reduce your carbon footprint.






ECOBIZ CASE STUDY

DAINTREE ECOLODGE

Daintree Ecolodge is located within the Daintree Rainforest. It features accommodation consisting of eco-friendly treehouses and a restaurant that employs a suite of sustainability initiatives. Their key initiatives within the CCIQ ecoBiz program are:

- **ENERGY** - To support its commitment to energy efficiency, Daintree Ecolodge is partially powered by 50 solar panels. It is a carbon neutral property with all carbon emissions being compensated through funding native reforestation through Greenfleet.
- **WATER** - Daintree Ecolodge uses a bio-cycle wastewater treatment plant and toxic free cleaning methods (e.g. water systems instead of chemicals) that allow 100% of the water to be recycled and used for irrigation and watering.
- **WASTE** - There is minimal use of single-use plastics and packaging. Daintree Ecolodge uses local produce and recycles all materials where possible. They have an onsite herb and vegetable garden, which supplies Julaymba Restaurant with a constant supply of fresh produce. All organic kitchen waste is either composted or fed to local livestock.

Daintree Ecolodge has been recognised as an ecoBiz Waste Star Partner. They further exemplify sustainability through their partnership with Rainforest Rescue; this assists in reforestation efforts. Daintree Ecolodge donate \$50 to the Morris Family Foundation Reef Keepers Fund for every guest that stays, which helps protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef.





WHAT CAN YOU DO RIGHT NOW?

INSTALL ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING

Replace common T8 fluorescent tubes with the more efficient T5 and use compact fluorescent lights where applicable. Consider installing light sensors to dim the lights in areas with good natural light or create additional zones. Use natural light where possible.

REPLACE EQUIPMENT WITH ENERGY-EFFICIENT MODELS

Make sure your new equipment is based on the latest [Energy Star Rating](#). Using energy-efficient office equipment can reduce energy consumption of individual products by more than half.

USE MORE EFFICIENT AIR-CONDITIONING METHODS

Use natural ventilation, fans and passive design wherever possible. Use variable-speed drives on fans to reduce energy consumption by adjusting the motor speed to continually match the load.

REDUCE, RE-USE OR RECYCLE YOUR BUSINESS WASTE

Why not change to print-on-demand and go paperless? Look at your waste streams and consider how they can be re-used.

REDUCE PLASTIC CONSUMPTION

Replace single-use plastic items and replace with multi purpose alternatives. Use refillable dispensers for toiletries, replace bottled water with dispensers (or clearly label drinkable tap water), implement reusable shopping bags and remove plastic straws.

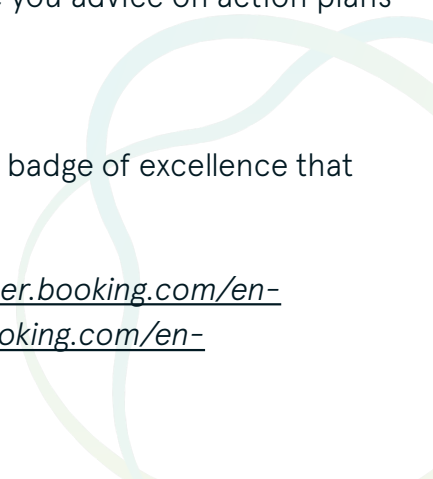
IMPLEMENT AN ECO-EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

Set targets and work out rewards. Programs like [CCIQ ecoBiz](#) will give you advice on action plans and link you to other businesses.

BECOME CERTIFIED

Certification reflects your dedication to sustainability and is a credible badge of excellence that people can trust; it can help you prioritise key improvements.

Information sourced from <https://ecobiz.cciq.com.au/>, <https://partner.booking.com/en-gb/help/guides/reducing-plastic-consumption> and <https://partner.booking.com/en-gb/help/guides/becoming-certified>





TOP 8 TIPS TO KICK START YOUR ECO BUSINESS

DEVELOP A PLAN

Plan to reduce, re-use and recycle by getting everyone in the company involved. Set targets and reward achievements.

REDUCE ENERGY

Turn off computers at the end of the day. Turn off power equipment and lights when not in use. Turn off screensavers and install standby on computer equipment. Install energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs.

SAVE WATER

Fix leaking taps or pipes. Install flow restrictors on taps. Review and adapt cleaning methods to save water.

REDUCE WASTE

Re-use or recycle cardboard, waste paper or packaging. Sell your excess waste to companies that want it. Buy re-manufactured printer cartridges and recycle used cartridges. Use mugs, glasses and cutlery instead of plastic paper or Styrofoam.

ADJUST YOUR AIR-CONDITIONING

Use natural ventilation and fans wherever possible. Close all windows and doors when air-conditioning is on. Switch off heating and cooling after hours. Set air-conditioning between 24 and 28 degrees in summer.

CUT DOWN ON TRANSPORT

Source local goods and services. Use public transport or car-pooling. Form workplace cycling or walking groups. Use phone/video conferencing. Coordinate company dispatch and receipt procedures.

MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS

Track progress against agreed targets. Measure and evaluate results on a regular basis. Modify or expand the program to meet new targets.

CONNECT WITH SUPPLIERS

Find local recycling companies and services. Establish a leaders' forum. Attend environmentally focused business forums and support local initiatives.

Information sourced from <https://ecobiz.cciq.com.au/assets/PDFs/CCIQ-ecoBiz-Fact-sheet-10-workplace-tips.pdf>



HOW YOUR GUESTS CAN BE SUSTAINABLE TRAVELLERS IN PORT DOUGLAS DAINTREE

Let them engage with our community - they are a guest, not a tourist.

Encourage them to support accommodation, tours, experiences, and restaurants that are Ecotourism Australia certified.

Teach them to tread lightly when they visit - enjoy, experience and connect.

Encourage them to participate in beach clean ups, volunteer to plant trees and use Boomerang Bags instead of single-use plastics.

Tell them to be considerate and monitor the use of our resources - particularly water and electricity.

Remind them to turn off lights and air-conditioners when finished and to refrain from using excessive amounts of water.

Help them to be mindful of their surroundings - they are here to enjoy the natural environment and our cultural attractions.

Get them to put all rubbish in bins, use natural sunscreen alternatives when swimming to minimise harm on the Great Barrier Reef and to follow the Ditch the Flick campaign.

Help them choose wisely - to choose a smaller, more fuel-efficient rental vehicle. To shop locally and explore a little more deeply.

JOIN THESE BUSINESSES IN DOUGLAS SHIRE WITH ECOTOURISM AUSTRALIA CERTIFICATION

ABC Dive and Snorkel
Back Country Bliss Adventures
Calypso Reef Cruises
Cape Tribulation Horse Rides
Daintree Discovery Centre
Daintree Ecolodge and Spa
Daintree River Cruise Centre
Daintree Wilderness Lodge
Down Under Tours
Experience Daintree
Eye to Eye Marina Encounters
Hartley's Crocodile Adventures
Hook-A-Barra
Lady Douglas River Cruises
Mossman Gorge Centre
Ocean Safari Cape Tribulation
Poseidon Outer Reef Cruises
Quicksilver Cruises
Sailaway Port Douglas
Sweet Farm Tours
Thala Beach Nature Reserve
Tony's Tropical Tours
Wavelength Reef Cruises
Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas

JOIN THESE BUSINESSES IN DOUGLAS SHIRE WITH THE ECOBIZ PROGRAM

Access Community Housing Company

Daintree Discovery Centre

Daintree Ecolodge and Spa

Daintree River Cruise Centre

Daintree Wilderness Lodge

Far North Training and Consultancy

Far Northern Milling Pty Ltd

Great Barrier Reef Legacy

Hartley's Crocodile Farm

Mossman and District Gymnastic Club

Ocean Safari

Port Douglas Apartments

Renegade Moss

Salsa Bar and Grill

Seabean Tapas Bar and Restaurant

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree

Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas

Information sourced from

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1iVSGWO21FUczl9H8JkzsoZbXIABJYqF&ll=-16.527710206978913%2C145.45970815965356&z=11>



NATIONAL INITIATIVES GUIDE

EARTHCHECK

EarthCheck is the world's leading scientific benchmarking, certification and advisory group for travel and tourism. Since 1987, they have helped businesses, communities and governments to deliver clean, safe, prosperous and healthy destinations for travellers to visit, live, work and play. Product and services include Certification, Training and Strategy.

TRUE CERTIFICATION

TRUE certified spaces are environmentally responsible, more resource efficient and help turn waste into savings and additional income streams. By closing the loop, they cut greenhouse gasses, manage risk, reduce litter and pollution, reinvest resources locally, create jobs and add more value for their company and community.

BOOMERANG ALLIANCE

The Boomerang Alliance Waste Program and Campaign encourages plastic free places, cash for containers, bans on single use plastics.

SUSTAINABLE EVENTS GUIDE

Whether you are planning a small or large-scale event, the Sustainable Events Guide provides steps that you can take to improve sustainability.

PLANET ARK

Planet Ark provide a range of programs designed to help us all make a difference to our natural world through positive environmental actions.

