



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd is committed to facilitating the long-term sustainable enjoyment of the unique alpine environment for all those visiting Thredbo.

Thredbo has a dedicated team working on ways to reduce our impact on the environment through proper waste, energy, water and biodiversity management. This summary details Thredbo's recent accomplishments and current initiatives.

Thredbo is continually working to minimise our environmental impact.

If you have a suggestion on how our performance can be improved please contact the Environmental Services Department at info@thredbo.com.au.

NEW FOR 2020

- A new Closed Loop organics recycling machine has doubled our capacity in food waste recycling, allowing us to increase the number of restaurants, lodges and apartments in Thredbo taking part. Food waste recycling helps reduce the volume of waste being sent to landfill and creates a usable compost product that puts nutrients back into the soil.
- Thredbo Alpine Hotel is working on removing single use plastic products. Phase one has seen the removal of front of house single use plastic items including replacing plastic straws with paper and the introduction of certified compostable and sustainable sugar cane pulp food packaging. Phase two will see plastic free alternatives for back of house products and introducing these sustainable alternatives throughout Thredbo Resort.
- As part of the new Merritts Gondola and Ricochet mountain bike trail developments a detailed rehabilitation plan has been put in place to help stabilise the soil and provide habitats for native animals. Merritts Gondola rehabilitation work has seen our staff plant over 1,700 native trees, shrubs and poa grass with a further 5,500 to be planted post winter.



WASTE MANAGEMENT – Recycling and Reducing Landfill

Kosciuszko Thredbo has worked closely with the community to achieve a commingled recycling rate of 36% in 2019.

- Paper and cardboard recycling, we compact all our used cardboard and paper in a container. By using a compactor, we significantly reduce the number of collections required throughout the year which helps to reduce emissions.
- Thredbo collects used fluorescent bulbs and all battery types for recycling. We have a public collection point in the Thredbo Information Centre.
- Organics Recycling was introduced in 2015 and we currently have over 25 facilities participating around Thredbo resort, consisting of cafes, restaurants and some of the larger lodges. In 2018 we diverted 6,473 kg of organic waste from landfill.
- Used cooking oil is collected and repurposed into biodiesel and stock feed by a local farmer.
- Scrap metal is reused on site or transported to Cooma where it is recycled.
- Biosolids from the Thredbo wastewater treatment plant are used for soil conditioning on a farm located in the local region.
- Bin Your Butts! Thredbo have given out over 12,000 personal ash trays over the last five years. In the last year we handed out 3,000 bins.
- We donate old mobile phones to Phone-cycle who remarket them or if a mobile phone cannot be reused they recycle over 95% of the materials in the phone.
- In 2018 Thredbo owned outlets replaced single use plastic with reusable or bio-degradable alternatives. Plastic bags have been replaced with non-woven drawstring multi-purpose reusable bags, polyester waterproof foldable bags and paper bags.
- Food packaging, plastic cutlery and straws have been replaced by biodegradable and commercially compostable products in all Thredbo food and beverage outlets.
- During winter 2018, Thredbo employees saved over 7,200 disposable cups from landfill by using reusable cups. You can purchase a reusable cup from Thredbo retail stores and Thredbo coffee outlets
- In 2019 150 Ski school uniforms were returned to the manufacturer PURE, for them to reuse and recycle the materials.



ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Kosciuszko Thredbo utilises various strategies to minimise energy use, current initiatives are listed below.

- In 2018 Solar Panels were installed on top of the Thredbo Leisure Centre supplying on average 30% of the centre's annual electricity requirements. In January 2019 they met 100% of the Centre's requirements.
- Thredbo's snowmaking system has been progressively upgraded and automated over the last decade resulting in 40% less energy use per cubic metre of snow.
- The mountain operations ski lift system is another large user of energy. Power factor correction equipment has been installed, increasing energy efficiency.
- A number of level two energy audits were undertaken in resort buildings resulting in significant energy savings as well as suggestions of where to make further improvements that are currently being implemented.
- Water sourced heat pumps are used to pre-heat water in the Thredbo Leisure Centre. Water from the snowmaking pond is used as the heat source, pre-heating the water to reduce the amount of gas required to heat the water to pool temperature.
- Solar powered Street Lights have been installed along Friday Drive in front of the Thredbo Alpine Apartments.
- Since 2009 we have partnered with Greenfleet to offset Carbon emissions from Kosciuszko Thredbo vehicles. Since the start of our partnership over 40,000 trees have been planted, offsetting nearly 10,910 tons of carbon emissions.
- A significant amount of "Grey" fleet emissions were reduced by introducing Skype interviews for prospective employees in 2014
- In 2014 guests were offered the opportunity to offset their trip to the snow through the 'My Thredbo Park Project', and staff in 2015. The Park Project' is a forestry carbon offset program for visitors. Snow lovers can opt-in by purchasing a tree for \$4.00 when buying their lift products. Each tree will help to offset the emissions generated by their journey to Thredbo.
- KT completed installing a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) control system for the Sewage Treatment Plant in 2017. This allows for the automation of several processes at the plant and helping it to run at greater efficiencies. The SCADA system also holds records of all the equipment being controlled allowing for review and planning for improvements.
- Thredbo has a Tesla Electric Vehicle charging station in Resort for guests and staff to use. It is located at the turning circle behind Thredbo Alpine Hotel. If you would like to charge your vehicle, please contact the Hotel on 02 6459 4200.
- In 2018 upgrades to a number of the gas hot water boilers around the resort begun. This will improve the systems efficiency and reduce the overall gas usage.



WATER MANAGEMENT

Kosciuszko Thredbo uses a large amount of water each year for snowmaking purposes, however the majority of this water returns to the Thredbo River each spring when the snow melts.

- A significant reduction in water use has been achieved through the installation of low flow showers, waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and water efficient washing machines. The installation of waterless urinals alone saves approximately half a million litres of water per year.
- In conjunction with local stakeholders Thredbo participates in a Waterwise program, promoting water conservation in the resort. Keeping Thredbo's water consumption in line with 1992 levels, despite large increases in guest numbers.
- Summer watering requirements are reduced by applying mulch to village gardens; this mulch is produced by chipping native green waste.
- Thredbo manages wastewater treatment for the village. After tertiary treatment, water is returned to the Thredbo River.
- Water quality is regularly tested and results are publically available on the Thredbo website.
- Thredbo also works with the University of Canberra Institute for Applied Ecology, who provides us with ongoing monitoring of the physical, chemical and biological conditions of the Thredbo River since 1989. This ongoing monitoring allows us to best manage the impacts the resort has on Thredbo River.



BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

- Kosciuszko Thredbo acts in partnership with the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to protect the native and manage the introduced flora and fauna within the resort.
- Over 6,800 native trees, shrubs, and grasses were planted within Thredbo resort in 2018/2019 summer season by the Environmental Services and Mountain Department, with over 46,000 planted in the last decade.
- Fauna crossings are integrated into any new ski slope and mountain biking trails developed by Thredbo ensuring native species are not impacted by recreational activities.
- 'Elliot' traps are loaned by Thredbo to businesses throughout the resort for the trapping and relocating of native small mammals from village buildings.
- A number of Thredbo staff have been trained in snake relocation to help protect both snakes and guests!



GENERAL

- Kosciuszko Thredbo believes “if you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it”. To help measure our Environmental performance KT has worked to become certified under EarthCheck’s Destination standard. We first gained Silver certification in 2017 and we are continuing to improve the sustainability of our resort with the aim of achieving Gold Certification in 2022.
- Thredbo has a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) to coordinate and evaluate each of our key areas of business activity. Our EMS incorporates Key Performance Areas (KPA)s such as reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Each department is in charge of annually reviewing their progress towards our resort wide sustainability targets.
- Thredbo staff members are encouraged through an incentive called Fresh Tracks to make suggestions of how Thredbo can improve their environmental credentials. Fresh Tracks has already resulted in changes to Thredbo’s weed spraying programme benefiting native flora and fauna.
- In 2018 we created a Sustainability Team to regularly engage with the Thredbo community and Chamber of Commerce to ensure everyone is aware and working towards our shared environmental and sustainability goals.
- Spill Kits have been installed around the resort. Staff that handle hydrocarbons, chemicals or oils at work are being trained to safely clean up in the event of a chemical, oil or hydrocarbon spill, to reduce the risk to staff, guests and the environment.



EDUCATION

- Senior Thredbo managers have received environmental training through the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage “Sustainability Advantage” Program to encourage top down leadership of environmental initiatives.
- All seasonal and permanent staff members employed by Kosciuszko Thredbo undertake yearly environmental awareness training to promote an environmentally friendly culture.
- Signage has been installed throughout the resort to encourage public participation in Thredbo’s environmental efforts.
- All purchasing staff have been made aware of Thredbo’s green procurement program and are encouraged to order environmentally friendly products where feasible.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Kosciuszko Thredbo is currently investigating opportunities in the following areas;

- Cogeneration opportunities throughout the resort.
- Bio-Energy opportunities throughout the resort.
- Energy from waste options.
- Gas efficiency improvements in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

Kosciuszko Thredbo has entered into many formal and informal partnerships to help manage our environmental footprint.



EARTHCHECK

