

Sustainability Case Studies



Tamborine Mountain Distillery, Scenic Rim

Finalist of the "THE BIGGEST CARBONLOSER, Scenic Rim"

a competition that engaged tourism operators in a fun way to bring about long term household carbon reduction.

www.tamborinemountaindistillery.com

Tamborine Mountain Distillery is a boutique family owned and operated business where various fruits, grains and herbs sourced from the local region are used in the manufacturing of our unique liqueurs, vodka, schnapps and eaux de vie. Being a family business, both our home and business are on the same property and our carbon footprint is measured not only by the business as a whole but by the individuals in the family around the home. Having lived on Tamborine Mountain for nearly 18 years we've seen the mountain grow and develop into the active and busy little community it is today. There is a great pride throughout the community that comes with living in the natural rainforest.

1. Major initiatives

Lights – only on when absolutely necessary. It has always been a natural instinct to turn lights off when not being used but now we stop and think twice before turning it on in the first place. Do we actually need it? We've carried out a light inventory and are in the process of putting energy efficient lights in place/disconnecting unnecessary lights.

Extra clothing/jog up and down the stairs/a good cuppa: are all much better than turning on the heater in the cold wintery months.

Recycling – items have always been recycled but now we are specifically choosing items based on their packaging.

Transport – All family and staff live onsite or within 10 minutes drive. On a personal scale, I recently purchased a trailer for my pushbike so I'm able to do small grocery shops without the car, this also comes in handy for small trips to the bank and post office which happens daily. These small miles can quickly add up.

Composting – Local farmers supply their second grade fruit to us for our manufacturing process. This saves on waste for the farmers. The 'leftovers' from the distillation process are easily composted along with the household compost. With 3.5 acres of land there is always need for good composted soil.

Meals – We eat meat once a week and have found several friends who have fantastic vege patches which we've greatly benefited from!

2. Key outcomes

Being a part of the biggest carbon loser challenge has been valuable in validating the environmentally friendly initiatives already in place and alerting us of some simple new methods to minimise our carbon footprint. Being aware of these simple initiatives is extremely vital in a community such as ours as the native environment we live in is precious and must be preserved. By working together we can make a huge difference.

3. Major challenges

The biggest hurdle for us is probably the simplest and most obvious, to remember to practice these steps. The simplest and most basic actions required for minimising our carbon footprint can easily be forgotten when running a busy family business and 'bad habits' may form. Teamwork and regular communication overcome this obstacle.

4. Advice to operators

Communicate and work as a team! The whole world needs to work together to minimise our carbon footprint and this starts with communication. Tourists to our region can clearly see what a beautiful and special place it is so we must remind them that it is precious and that every little bit helps. Together we can help to lose the carbon weight and keep it off for good!

5. Next steps

Technology is always changing. Constant research provides us with more and more efficient ways to minimise our carbon footprint. It's important to keep updated with technologies newest research and make sure our business' are implementing the new strategies based on this research. 'We can replace the light bulbs now but in the future need to make sure we're replacing them with the latest and greatest for the environment.'

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