

# Community stewardship supporting the Reef 2050 Plan



Community stewardship is an important contributor for delivery on the Reef 2050 Plan to support the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This factsheet outlines some practical ideas for community groups to consider in alignment of planning and activities.

## What is the Reef 2050 Plan?

The Reef 2050 [Long-Term Sustainability Plan](#) (The Reef 2050 Plan) is the Australian and Queensland governments' overarching long-term strategy for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef to support its health and resilience.

The Reef 2050 Plan aims to guide governments, community, industry, science and Traditional Owners on actions they can take to improve the Reef's future by setting goals and objectives to drive and track management efforts.

The Reef 2050 Plan's vision for the Reef in 2050 is that: the Great Barrier Reef is sustained as a living natural and cultural wonder of the world.

## Priority Work Areas for Action:

Reef programs and projects contribute to five key [Work Areas](#) identified in the Reef 2050 Plan. Each of these Work Areas are structured around efforts to address the key threats to the Reef.



Limit the impacts of climate change. See [2023 Climate Change Addendum](#) to the Plan.



Reduce impacts from land-based activities.



Reduce impacts from water-based activities.



Influence the reduction of international sources of impact.



Protect, rehabilitate and restore Reef habitats.

## How does community contribute?

The Plan recognises the important role the Great Barrier Reef plays in community life and that community play an essential role in Reef protection and management.

Active participation and contribution from [community](#) contributes to all five work areas for action identified in the Plan.

The Plan also includes a specific stewardship objective that “people and communities take individual and collective action to maintain Reef resilience”.

## How can community groups use the Plan?



Project activities can be aligned with the Reef 2050 [objectives](#) to ensure efforts are directly contributing to the broader, long-term strategies for the Reef.



By referencing the Reef 2050 Plan, community groups not only communicate the importance and relevance of their projects but also demonstrate their understanding of the issues facing the Reef.



Education and awareness-raising activities can be aligned with the Reef 2050 key [threats](#) to make sure they are mitigating key threats.



The Reef 2050 Plan includes specific [indicators](#) for monitoring. Use these indicators to track your progress. This will show how your efforts are making a difference towards the goals and [objectives](#) and provide feedback at the local level on the effectiveness of various strategies.

## What are some ways to measure Reef stewardship?

The project People and Reef Organisations Tackling Environmental Change Together (PROTECT) is developing monitoring and reporting tools that can be used by organisations that work with the community to protect and rehabilitate the Reef. The project developed a pilot [Reef stewardship monitoring toolkit](#) for groups delivering community-led Reef stewardship to measure stewardship activities aligned to the Reef 2050 Plan [indicators](#) and [objectives](#). This toolkit includes a monitoring plan to measure community Reef stewardship, as well as guidance on data collection methods and tools that can be used.



For more resources check out our [Community Reef Protection Toolkit](#)

*These resources have been developed as part of the People and Reef Organisations Tackling Environmental Change Together PROTECT project. This project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.*