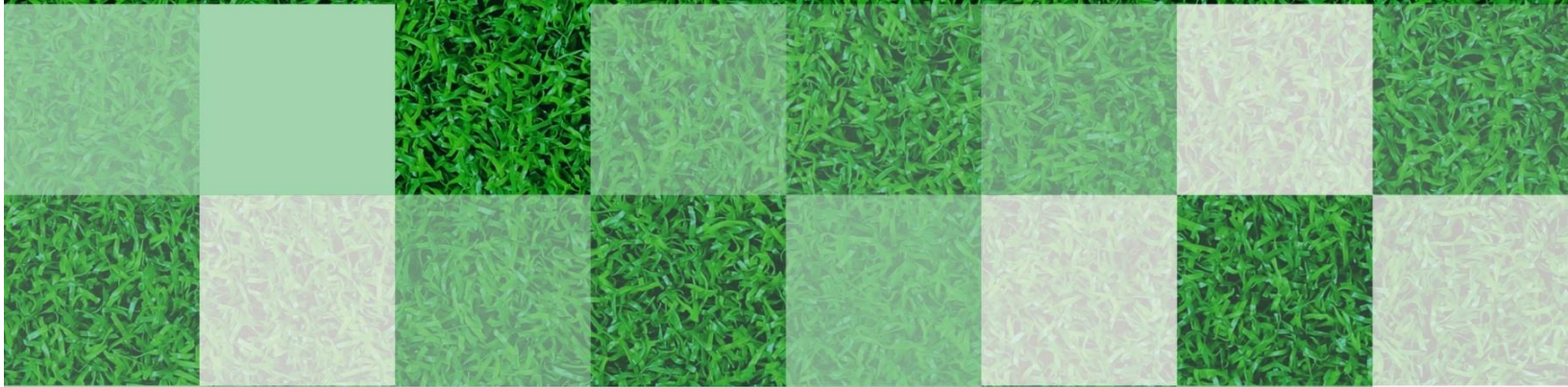
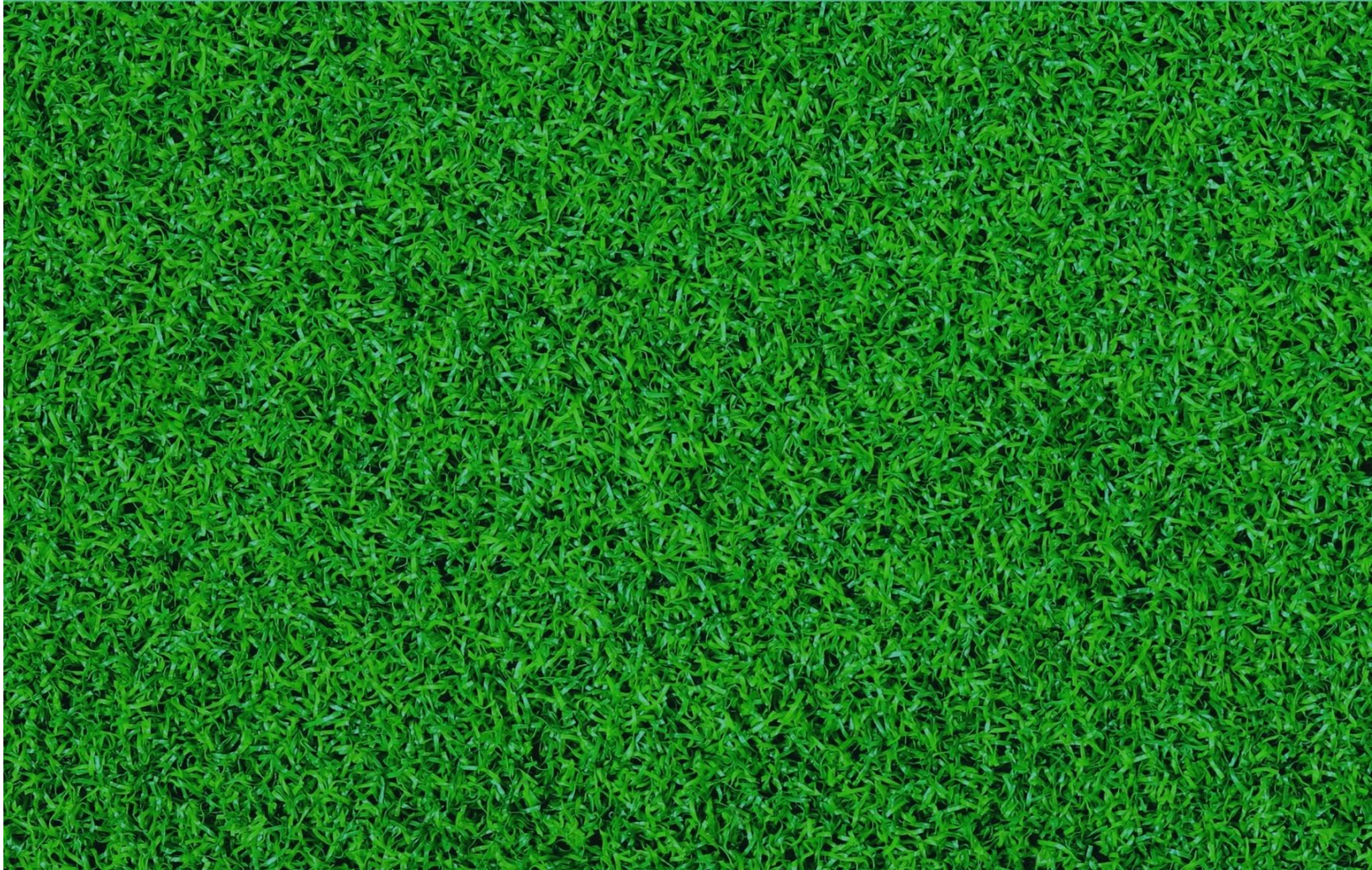




SALGRSN

SYNTHETIC SPORTS SURFACES SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Stakeholder acknowledgement

We acknowledge and thank the South Australian Government Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing for providing the funding that has made this synthetic turf project possible. We also recognise Craig Hobart - City of Onkaparinga for leading the project on behalf of the Local Government Recreation and Sport Network, and extend our appreciation to our project steering committee Colin Donnelly - City of Port Adelaide Enfield, Bryce Norton - Town of Gawler, Travis Beard - City of Mitcham, Emily Moskwa - City of Campbelltown and David Nash and Sarah Horgan from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing for their contribution and support.



Synthetic Sports Surfaces Sustainability Policy 2025

SALGRSN

Council Policy

SYNTHETIC SPORTS SURFACES – SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

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1. Commitment to Sustainability

[Council Name] is committed to delivering community sport and active recreation infrastructure in a sustainable, strategic and future-focused manner. This policy affirms Council's role in supporting inclusive, high-performing and environmentally responsible recreation options using synthetic surface technologies.

The strategy is grounded in the **4Ps Framework**:

- **People** – Supporting community access and participation
- **Planet** – Minimising environmental impact
- **Prosperity** – Ensuring long-term economic value
- **Performance** – Delivering fit-for-purpose, durable infrastructure

Through this lens, synthetic surfaces are recognised not as a replacement for natural turf, but as a complementary and strategic tool to meet growing demands on open space, especially in **South Australia's densifying urban areas**.

2. Policy Alignment

This policy aligns with Council's broader strategic documents and the work of the **South Australian Local Government Recreation & Sport Network (SALGRSN)**. It also reflects state and national environmental leadership.

Aligned Documents May Include:

- **People:** Community Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Sport & Recreation Participation Plan
- **Planet:** Environmental Sustainability Strategy, Urban Greening Framework, Open Space Plan
- **Prosperity:** Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy
- **Performance:** Sports Facility Strategy, Infrastructure Investment Framework

This policy also integrates SALGRSN's *Synthetic Surfaces Guide & Toolbox* as a foundation for good practice.

3. Policy Principles

3.1 People (Community) Lens

Synthetic surfaces shall only be deployed where clear evidence demonstrates that:

- Participation will increase across priority groups (youth, CALD, women, etc.)
- The sport has no natural grass equivalent (e.g., hockey, athletics, futsal, netball hardcourts)
- Natural turf cannot meet usage intensity or availability requirements

Health, equity and safety outcomes must be prioritised. Community consultation and user engagement are essential in early planning stages.

3.2 Planet (Environmental) Lens

Council will adopt a parkland-wide ecological approach, ensuring synthetic surface installation:

- Minimises heat island effect through cool infills, tree canopy and light-coloured materials
- Includes microplastic migration controls and complies with SA TR CEN 17519:2021
- Prioritises recyclable and low-carbon components
- Avoids virgin rubber infill
- Incorporates closed-loop drainage and supports precinct water-sensitive urban design (WSUD)

Synthetic infrastructure must demonstrate alignment with **South Australia's Waste Strategy** and climate resilience targets.

3.3 Prosperity (Economic) Lens

All projects will be assessed using a **Whole-of-Life Cost Model**, considering:

- Initial capital cost
- Maintenance and energy
- Replacement (30-year cycle)
- Hours of community use achievable over lifecycle

A dedicated sinking fund is to be established for renewal and replacement.

3.4 Performance (Fit for Purpose) Lens

Surfaces must be:

- Built to Australian community standards, exceeding entry-level international benchmarks
- Designed to meet South Australia's UV, heat, and durability needs
- Configured for multiple-use where appropriate (e.g., sports overlays, school-shared use)
- Supported by a documented **maintenance program** to preserve safety and lifespan

4. Decision-Making Process

Council will apply the SALGRSN-endorsed **Decision-Making Guide** to all projects, incorporating:

- Community needs analysis
- Surface suitability assessment
- Environmental and economic modelling
- Health and equity impact analysis

Use of SALGRSN's **Self-Assessment Questionnaire** from the Synthetic Surfaces Toolbox is mandatory prior to project approval.

5. Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed biennially, or earlier if required by:

- Legislative or environmental regulation changes

- Updates to national or SALGRSN guidance
 - Post-implementation review findings
-

6. Document Control

- **Council Name:** [Insert]
 - **Author:** [Insert Name & Role]
 - **Scope:** Sport, Recreation, Parks, Urban Development, Environment
 - **Relevant Departments:** Open Space Planning, Sport & Recreation, Asset Management, Environment, Procurement
 - **Approved By:** [Insert]
 - **Approval Date:** [Insert]
 - **Version:** 1.01 (Draft)
 - **Review Date:** [Insert]
 - **Policy Reference:** [Insert Code if applicable]
-

This policy template has been developed in alignment with SALGRSN and reflects best practice in sustainable open space and sports surface planning in South Australia.

