Environmental and Sustainability Plan

1. Introduction & Objectives

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

This Environmental and Sustainability Plan outlines our commitment to minimising the environmental impact of our Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing operations. It defines strategies for energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable sourcing, and compliance with environmental regulations.

1.2 Sustainability Goals & Targets

- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2030.
- Improve energy efficiency by 20% in manufacturing facilities by 2030.
- Reduce Diesel consumption by 90% by 2026
- Reduce Landfill by 30% by 2030
- Increase the use of renewable energy in operations to 50% by 2030.
- Reduce water consumption by 25% through recycling and conservation methods.

1.3 Regulatory & Policy Framework

This plan aligns with:

- ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems)
- Australia's target of Net Zero by 2050
- Australian Climate Change Act
- SafeWork Australia Regulations

2. Environmental Policy Statement

Custom Bus Group is committed to sustainable business practices in Electric Vehicle Manufacturing. We prioritise energy efficiency, responsible material sourcing, waste reduction, and environmental protection to drive a cleaner and greener future.

3. Environmental Impact Assessment

3.1 Key Environmental Risks & Impacts

- Steel fabrication: High energy consumption, carbon emissions, and waste generation.
- EV manufacturing: Battery production waste, and rare earth mineral usage
- Water usage: Cooling, cleaning, and processing requirements.
- Welding and Cutting: Shielding gasses usage and Fume/ Gas emissions
- Air emissions: GHG emissions from steel fabrication and factory operations.
- Packaging Waste: Single use packaging directed to landfill
- Chemical Waste: By products from painting and powder coating

3.2 Resource Consumption Analysis

- Energy: High electricity demand for welding, Laser cutting, Charging and compressed air
- Water: Cleaning and Painting contribute to contaminated water that is sent to trade waste.
- Raw materials: Steel, aluminium, lithium, and rare earth elements for EV production.
- Gas: Gas consumption through welding and cutting, Argon, Oxygen and Nitrogen

4. Resource Management

4.1 Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

- Install more solar panels and explore renewable energy for factory operations.
- Use energy-efficient welding and machining technologies.
- Improve right first time to avoid costly reworking
- Implement smart factory systems to monitor and optimise energy use.
- Purchase efficient Laser cutting machine to improve right first time and reduce machine uptime.
- Sorting of waste into waste streams for recycling and partnering with suppliers to reduce single use packaging.
- Implement the recycling of solvent waste in order to recycle solvents and preventing using of raw materials.
- Review compressed air optimisation to only make enough compressed air as required

4.2 Water Conservation Strategies

- Review cleaning methods to find water friendly solutions
- Use spray equipment that does not rely on heavy water usage for clean-up.

4.3 Sustainable Procurement

- Prioritise locally sourced steel.
- Work with suppliers recycle batteries giving new life to raw materials
- Partner with suppliers who can reduce single use packaging

5. Waste Management & Pollution Control

5.1 Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

- Steel scrap recycling: Reuse steel cuttings and scrap metal.
- EV battery recycling program: Partner with battery recycling companies.
- Packaging: Recycle packaging and work with suppliers to reduce single use packaging.

5.2 Hazardous Waste Handling

- Proper disposal and recycling of lithium-ion battery waste.
- Safe handling of coolants, lubricants, and industrial solvents.

5.3 Pollution Prevention Measures

- Recycle of Solvent waste to prevent disposal
- Comply with Sydney Water Trade Waste requirements
- Ensure all waste is disposed of in the correct manner

6. Biodiversity & Ecosystem Protection

- Restore green areas near manufacturing sites to offset carbon footprint.
- Reduce land use impact by optimising factory layouts.
- Implement tree-planting initiatives to absorb CO_2 emissions.

7. Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

7.1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction

- Right First-Time initiatives to prevent additional welding and cutting
- Filtration on exhaust air from Spraying and Robot Welding

7.2 Climate Resilience Strategies

- Implement flood and stormwater management systems at manufacturing sites.
- Design factories to withstand extreme weather events.

8. Community & Stakeholder Engagement

- Collaborate with local communities to support clean energy initiatives.
- Offer internships and apprenticeships in sustainable engineering.
- Partner with universities for green technology R&D.

9. Compliance & Legal Requirements

- Adherence to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regulations.
- Compliance with ISO 50001 (Energy Management Systems).
- Sydney Water Trade Waste Agreement
- Regular environmental audits to ensure compliance.

10. Monitoring, Reporting & Continuous Improvement

10.1 Performance Metrics & Reporting

- Annual sustainability report on energy use, waste management, and emissions.
- Quarterly tracking of water and energy consumption.
- Supplier audits to ensure sustainable sourcing.

10.2 Audit & Assessment Schedule

- Conduct quarterly environmental impact assessments.
- Perform GHG emissions audits annually.

10.3 Continuous Improvement Strategies

- Focus on right first time through better design and communication
- Automation of Welding and Steel fabrication.

11. Conclusion & Commitment

At Custom Bus Group, we recognise our role in driving sustainable innovation in Electric vehicle manufacturing and Steel processing. Through responsible practices, advanced technology, and continuous improvement, we are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and building a cleaner, more sustainable future.