

Climate Action Plan Engagement and Progress

Tuesday, 12 July 2022
Council

Strategic Alignment - Environmental Leadership

Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Adelaide is committed to leading by example in addressing climate change and decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions. A report on progress against the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025* (the Strategy) is provided, for noting. All measures of success for items under Council's direct control have now been achieved, including certified carbon neutrality for Council operations. Further action is needed to incrementally reduce Council operational emissions and drive down community emissions.

Extensive engagement with community, stakeholders and staff was undertaken between February and April 2022 to inform new actions under the remaining time frame of the Strategy, informed by modelling of future emissions trajectories for Adelaide. The engagement feedback and emerging themes were presented and discussed in a workshop of The Committee on 19 April 2022. This report provides the outcomes of the engagement process.

An Action Plan is being drafted drawing on the feedback received and will be submitted for consideration at the August Council meeting. The Action Plan will complement the draft Climate Policy to be considered at the August Council meeting as committed through a CEO Undertaking in relation to the policy framework on 10 May 2022. A revised target setting process is proposed in the next action period to acknowledge the global ambition for net zero emissions before mid-century.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the progress report on the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025* as included in Attachment A to Item 10.7 listed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2022.
 2. Notes the Climate Action Engagement Summary Report provided in Attachment B to Item 10.7 listed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2022.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	<p>Strategic Alignment – Environmental Leadership</p> <p>One of the world's first carbon neutral cities by 2025, where sustainability is core.</p> <p>A transition to low carbon and circular economies.</p> <p>4.3 Educate and support our community to zero waste, water sensitive, energy efficient and adaptive to climate change.</p> <p>4.4 Support our community to transition to a low carbon economy through education, incentives and appropriate infrastructure.</p>
Policy	Council's strategic intent on climate action is set by the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025.
Consultation	Extensive engagement has been completed to inform a new Climate Action Plan and is summarised in Attachment B .
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	The opportunities presented by climate action include global positioning for the city, investment attraction, and resource efficiency through adoption of clean technology. There can also be local liveability benefits including reduced particulate pollution from the shift to electric vehicles.
22/23 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Allocation is provided within the 2022/2023 budget through the Climate Change Action Initiative Fund.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The engagement will inform a new Climate Action Plan for CoA for 2022 – 2025.
22/23 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) is committed to leading by example in addressing climate change and decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions as set by the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025*. This is being achieved by the following:
 - 1.1. All measures of success for items under Council's direct control in the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025* have now been achieved, including certified carbon neutrality for Council operations. Further action is needed to incrementally reduce Council operational emissions and drive down community emissions.
 - 1.2. A progress report on achievements under the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015- 2025* is provided as **Attachment A**.
 - 1.3. The measurement and reporting of carbon emissions from Council operations has been undertaken to the rigour required by the Australian Government Climate Active program and made accessible publicly via the CoA website (Link 1 - [See more](#)).
 - 1.4. The measurement and reporting of carbon emissions for the whole community has been improved and made accessible publicly via the CoA website (Link 2 - [See more](#)).
2. The benefits of action to reduce emissions locally are well established, reducing cost of living pressures for residents, operational cost savings for many businesses, fostering entrepreneurship for a low-carbon economy, and investment attraction for future-facing business.
3. The urgency for climate action is unequivocal. The recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report demonstrates that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet and actions today will shape how people adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks.

Stakeholder Engagement

4. Extensive community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken between February and April 2022 to inform development of a new Climate Action Plan to continue implementation of the Carbon Neutral Strategy. The engagement report is provided in **Attachment B**.
5. A summary of the engagement feedback and emerging themes was presented and discussed at a workshop of The Committee on 19 April 2022.
6. The community and stakeholder engagement consisted of:
 - 6.1. An online Yoursay page that attracted 182 contributors
 - 6.2. 11 community stakeholder and Council committee workshops with 101 participants
 - 6.3. An online survey with 44 responses
 - 6.4. 7 staff workshops with 120 participants.
7. The themes emerging from the engagement were:
 - 7.1. Moving towards an all-electric City of Adelaide
 - 7.2. Resource efficiency opportunities
 - 7.3. Supporting community-led action
 - 7.4. Supporting collaborative action by business
 - 7.5. Mobility and transport around the City of Adelaide
 - 7.6. Greening and reducing the heat island effect.
8. Council Member feedback was received on 19 April 2022 for incorporation into a new Climate Action Plan including:
 - 8.1. Consideration of going 'beyond carbon neutral' toward zero carbon for operational emissions.
 - 8.2. Consideration of major emissions sources from transport, energy and waste.
 - 8.3. Addressing embodied carbon through trials of low carbon materials, and higher building standards.

- 8.4. Consideration of a range of incentives for electric vehicles, including potential for positive discrimination for EVs in parking and other forms.
- 8.5. Consideration of a range of issues related to access and mobility, including public transport, bikeways, walkability, e-scooters.
- 8.6. Support for a group purchase or contract for renewable energy for business (e.g. Power purchase agreement).
- 8.7. Investigation into potential future carbon offset options and pathways.
- 8.8. Actions to support electrification and higher building standards for environmental performance and thermal comfort including through advocacy on changes to the Building Code and Planning and Design Code.
- 8.9. Continued pursuit of low emissions choices in CoA operation including fleet renewals.
- 8.10. Documenting how actions will be measured for their impact.
9. At the Council meeting on 10 May 2022 an undertaking was made that a draft Climate Policy be brought to Council for adoption at the August 2022 meeting.
10. A draft Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 is being prepared based on our knowledge, current program of work, the current position of Council and informed by the engagement feedback and building on the status of implementation of the Carbon Neutral Strategy to date. To allow consideration of the Climate Policy prior to the draft Action Plan both items will be presented at the August Council meeting.

Modelling and Future Targets

11. The city-wide target of carbon neutrality for 2025 has been an important aspiration that spans a diverse range of actions and connects activity across Council.
12. Achievement to date is 21% reduction in community emissions between 2007 and 2021 according to the accounting under the *Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories*. This has occurred concurrently to increases in population and Gross Regional Product, representing a 'decoupling' of carbon emissions from economic growth, a goal of cities worldwide.
13. The main emissions reductions are being driven by increasing renewable electricity in the grid. There are future opportunities in electrification of buildings and transport.
14. The science of climate change has advanced in the intervening years, and the need to make rapid, sustained cuts to carbon emissions world-wide has become more urgent.
15. The Paris Agreement calls for action that limits global warming to well below 2 degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Typically, this requires a halving of direct emissions by 2030 and a pathway to zero by mid-century, however the percentages vary depending on local context.
16. Modelling was commissioned by expert consultants Point Advisory to determine possible trajectories for the city community to 2030 and 2050, to inform continued climate action.
17. Modelling indicates that a "business as usual" trajectory, assuming all the current state, local and national strategies and policies are fully implemented, would see the city community achieve a 41% reduction in emissions by 2025 compared to 2007 levels.
18. A new Action Plan for 2022-2025 will contribute to emissions abatement over and above "business as usual", with consideration of Council's level of influence, however it will not result in a net zero emissions profile over the three years to 2025. Refer to **Attachment A** for additional details.
19. A proposed action for inclusion in the draft Action Plan is to progress alignment of our city-wide ambition with science-based targets as part of future strategy development process, commencing in 2023-24. This process determines direct emissions reductions required by organisations, cities or nations, to meet the Paris Agreement.
20. The recommended focus for 2022-2025 is to continue working on areas of influence on direct emissions, and where Council can accelerate the trend towards zero in line with the current strategy and Council national and international commitments (Link 3 view [here](#)).

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – City of Adelaide operational carbon emissions

Link 2 – City of Adelaide community carbon emissions

Link 3 – City of Adelaide national and international climate commitments

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Progress Report on the *Carbon Neutral Adelaide Strategy 2015-2025*

Attachment B – Climate Action Engagement Summary Report June 2022

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