

# DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2022 - 2025

## Introduction

Climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Adelaide, and the world. Adelaide has been bold in its ambition to address the underlying causes, and now is the time to accelerate those actions. The world's best climate science released in 2022 is unequivocal that climate change is underway and that humans must drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts.

Cities have a crucial role to play – both as significant contributors to climate change as well as being home to communities that will have to manage its impacts. The impacts of climate change are being felt in the number of extreme heat days.

We are taking a leadership position in addressing climate change, including through carbon neutral certification of our operations since 2019/20.

To develop this Action Plan, we had hundreds of conversations with community members and experts to determine priorities for action. We also recognise, support and champion their achievements.

We are focused on what we can do now to continue to drive down our carbon footprint and ways we can mitigate climate impacts for our residents and visitors. As a mid-sized urban centre, there is so much opportunity presented by the low carbon future in a future facing, cool, green and electrified city.

Climate change is an issue that affects us all and we can all play our part in its solutions.

## Background

We are committed to leading by example to address the climate challenge and have an ambition to be one of the world's first carbon neutral cities.

The *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025* (the Strategy) was developed to direct actions to reduce the climate impact of City of Adelaide operations and its community, and to use our leadership position to drive wider change.

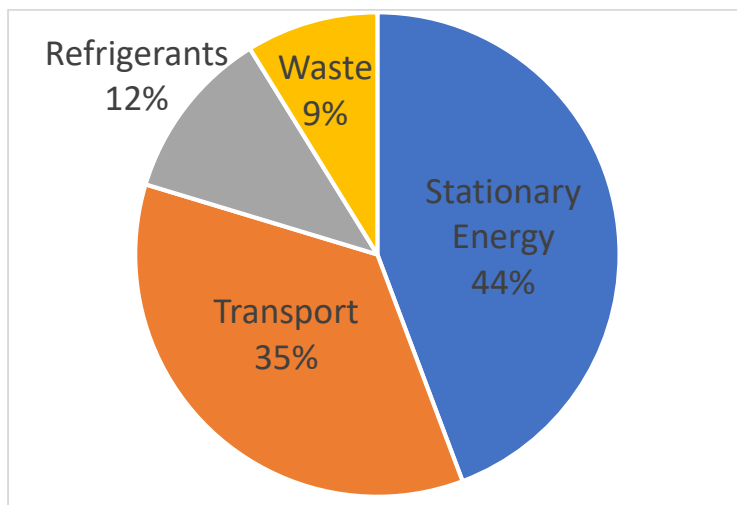
This Action Plan covers the last three years of the Strategy and outlines the immediate actions to build upon previous successes, develop foundations for the next ten-year strategy, and accelerate climate action within our own operations and the community.

The Action Plan will operate in parallel to the:

- Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021 - 2026
- Resource Recovery Strategy (Organics Recycling and Waste) 2020 – 2028
- Water Sensitive City Action Plan 2021-2025
- Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025
- Cycling Infrastructure Strategic Action Plan (under development)
- Walking Strategy (under development)

The successful Sustainability Incentives Scheme and Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partners programs have been expanded with funding support for educational and catalysing activities.

# City of Adelaide's Community Emissions Profile 2020



## 21%

From FY2007- FY2020



City of Adelaide community emissions are calculated in accordance with the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories, launched in 2014, by C40, the World Resources Institute and ICLEI.

## What We Heard

In early 2022 we consulted widely across our communities to understand what climate actions were already being undertaken by businesses and residents and to gather feedback on new ideas.

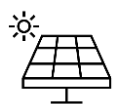
The community told us they want action on creating an all-electric and resource efficient city; increasing the options for and availability of active and public transport; support for businesses and residents to understand and reduce their climate impact; and greening the city and increasing resilience to the changing climate. These areas have been reflected in our Action Plan.

We had input from over 300 community members through:

- 11 community workshops with 101 participants
- 7 staff workshops with 89 participants
- 182 community contributions to our Your Say Adelaide discussion board
- 44 responses to a community survey

## Progress Snapshot 2022

### Within the community



More than 15 MW of solar capacity



grid

65% renewable electricity in the

### Within council



100% renewable electricity contract



24% of Council fleet are low emissions vehicles



Over 42 public electric vehicle  
chargers



Over 660 projects funded by \$1.4  
million investment from the Sustainability  
Incentives Scheme



Over 200 Carbon Neutral Adelaide  
partners

## An Electrified City

The electricity and gas consumed by buildings contributes around 44% of City of Adelaide community's carbon footprint and there is significant potential for carbon savings by running all-electric buildings on South Australia's world-leading renewable electricity grid. A community battery could help to capitalise on our green grid and support more affordable electricity, grid stability, and equitable sharing of renewable resources.

A renewables group-buy for businesses could reduce price rise exposure and drive new generation commitments as well as reduce emissions. While conversion of the remaining 80% of our streetlights to efficient LEDs will reduce City of Adelaide electricity use and cost. Increasing focus on carbon embodied in the materials of the built environment is vital and we are committed to work on this as part of City of Adelaide asset planning and capital works projects.

### Headline actions

- 1.1 Facilitate a mechanism for city businesses to collectively purchase renewable electricity (such as through a power purchase agreement or other platform).**
- 1.2 Investigate opportunities to install a community battery to support renewable electricity supported by Federal Powering Australia Plan.**
- 1.3 Convert all remaining city streetlights to efficient LED supported by City Deal funding and SAPN transition.**
- 1.4 Implement a program to support electrification of new and existing commercial buildings within the city.
- 1.5 Support strata corporations to implement low carbon solutions, including shared solar and EV charging opportunities.
- 1.6 Integrate embodied carbon as a consideration in City of Adelaide asset planning and improve carbon accounting for capital works projects.

## A Mobile Population

Transport emissions account for around 35% of the City of Adelaide community's carbon footprint. Movement of people to and around the city is essential for economic activity and vibrancy, and seeks to realise opportunities for low carbon, safe and equitable options for all. For Adelaide, accelerating the shift to electric vehicles offers an opportunity for both improving local air quality, noise and reducing carbon emissions for global impact. This transition will be supported by installation of 100 new public electric vehicle chargers and a carbon neutral UPark service to reduce carbon impact while electric vehicle price parity and a second hand market is developing.

It is recognised that increasing the range and uptake of low carbon transport options in the city and implementing the upcoming Cycling Infrastructure and Walking strategies is essential to meeting community expectations. Developing a green transit boulevard and

trailing micro-mobility devices in city cycle paths will support more inclusive and alternative transport modes.

### Headline actions

- 2.1 Work with the State Government to develop Currie/Grenfell Street as a green transit boulevard that prioritises public and active travel.**
- 2.2 Foster the uptake of electric or active micro-mobility devices and advocate to the State Government to provide for their safe use on city streets.**
- 2.3 Install an additional 100 public EV chargers between 2022-2025 in collaboration with partners.**
- 2.4 Implement Cycling Infrastructure and Walking Strategies.
- 2.5 Certify UParks as a carbon neutral service.
- 2.6 Review and update the City of Adelaide car-sharing policy.
- 2.7 Integrate at least 50% electric vehicles into the City of Adelaide light vehicle fleet as cost effective and fit-for-purpose models become available, as a Foundation Partner of the SA Electric Vehicle Fleet Pledge.
- 2.8 Advocate to the State Government for zero emissions public transport and increased incentives to use it.

## A Green and Resilient Community

This theme supports cooling and greening our city, as well our community's appetite to be the change they want to see in the world.

Greening in the city helps make the streets more comfortable for people by reducing the "urban heat island effect", and creates micro-climates so buildings use less energy for cooling, in turn reducing emissions. To achieve this greening will be driven by a new strategy in future years while \$1 million is already committed for greening in 2022/23. The opportunity for low carbon green precincts will be investigated to guide urban development and investment decisions while advocacy on sustainable development will be strengthened.

Collaboration on carbon offset pathways with strong local benefits will occur and the voices of our Traditional Owners and the city's youth will be elevated.

### Headline actions

- 3.1 Develop a new Urban Greening Strategy which identifies priority areas for greening and increases canopy cover in the city.**
- 3.2 Implement \$1 million of greening in 2022/23 and continue greening projects in line with the Urban Greening Strategy in future years.**
- 3.3 Investigate carbon offset pathways for Council and community emissions, in collaboration with other SA councils.**
- 3.4 Establish ongoing climate engagement with Traditional Owners to exchange knowledge and inform City of Adelaide climate action.
- 3.5 Engage with City of Adelaide youth to support action and a voice on climate.
- 3.6 Investigate low carbon, green precinct options.
- 3.7 Advocate to the State and Federal Governments for higher minimum building energy efficiency standards, sustainable development design, increased disclosure, and to introduce planning mechanisms which encourage rapid reduction of carbon emissions.

## A Leading Council

Our role in leading by doing cannot be underestimated. We aim to inspire others and share what we learn. Our leadership actions include raising the bar on sustainability requirements for property and infrastructure, as well as moving beyond our own operational carbon neutrality and setting science-based targets for our community. We will also identify and showcase opportunities to nurture a green economy, and continually improve our operations to lead by example with low-carbon best practice.

### Headline actions

- 4.1 **Any major developments (>\$10 million capital costs) on Council land are all-electric and achieve minimum 5 Star Green Star ratings.**
- 4.2 **Develop Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policy for City of Adelaide procurement and owned, operated and leased property and infrastructure.**
- 4.3 Revise community emissions target to reflect the international ambition for a pathway to net zero emissions, and the science-based targets concept.
- 4.4 Identify key sector growth areas and the unique advantage for the green economy opportunities in the City of Adelaide.
- 4.5 Obtain carbon neutral product certification for the City of Adelaide nursery mulch.
- 4.6 Develop a governance framework for implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- 4.7 Integrate sustainability requirements into project management tools and Council reporting frameworks.
- 4.8 Develop and measure performance against sustainable procurement metrics.