

CLIMATE POLICY

Date this document was adopted

non-legislative

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Climate Policy (the Policy) is:

To ensure climate mitigation and adaption is integrated into the City of Adelaide (CoA) business and climate resilience is a part of the city's future.

The policy has been prepared to transition Council operations to absolute zero emissions and assist the community to become climate ready.

It provides the basis to make decisions on climate action and embed consideration of climate mitigation and adaptation across Council business.

STATEMENT

Climate change has far-reaching risks for the environment, economy, communities and CoA's vision to be the most liveable city in the world.

This Policy supports meaningful and immediate climate action to reduce emissions and address the impacts of climate change risk through leadership, coordination and innovation.

1. Proactive action to reduce energy use, grow renewable and low carbon energy sources, and continuous reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to transition Council operations to net zero emissions.
2. Carbon neutral certification demonstrates commitment to reduce Council emissions as far as practicable and purchase credible offsets only to mitigate remaining emissions.
3. Climate change risk governance and management frameworks are essential to understand and manage impacts on Council business, assets, infrastructure and service provision.
4. Adelaide is a city where government, non-government, communities, industry and research institutions coordinate action to mitigate, adapt and respond to climate change and become climate ready.
5. Access to data, public reporting and disclosure of emissions for the community and Council operations builds confidence in the climate-related ambition, performance and leadership of CoA.
6. CoA maintains a Treasury Policy and preferences investment securities and financial institutions which do not invest in the fossil fuel industry.
7. CoA supports the transition to electric vehicles and decarbonisation of the transport system and acknowledges that this requires appropriate electric vehicle, cycling and walking infrastructure, and zero emission public transport.

The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Country where the city of Adelaide is situated, and pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Council will commit to its roles in delivering Climate Policy as follows:

Leader

CoA will set science-based targets in line with international climate science; trial innovative and emerging systems, products and technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation; and showcase leading climate-related initiatives.

Service Provider

CoA will procure and provide services that contribute to reducing community emissions or fund other organisations to deliver relevant services as appropriate.

Regulator

CoA will use regulatory powers where appropriate to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Advocate

CoA will advocate for relevant climate targets, investment and programs to be established at State and Federal level and recognition of the impacts of embodied carbon.

Facilitator

CoA will facilitate community-led climate action by connecting interested parties; raising awareness of climate-related information and initiatives; and incentivising action.

Owner of Assets

CoA will take action to minimise the risks of climate change to Council services, assets, infrastructure, natural resources and biodiversity.

OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Related documents

- *City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024*
- *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025*
- *Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025*
- *Resilient East Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016*
- *Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021 - 2026*
- *Resource Recovery Action Plan (Organics, Recycling and Waste) 2020 – 2028*
- *Water Sensitive City Action Plan 2021 – 2025*
- *Integrated Biodiversity Management Plan 2018 – 2023*
- *Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy*
- *City Plan*
- *Paris Agreement 2015 (The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)*
- *Glasgow Climate Pact (2021)*
- *Kyoto Protocol (2005)*

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*
- *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emission Act 2007*

- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993*

GLOSSARY

Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

carbon neutral: carbon neutral or 'net zero emissions' refers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible, and ensuring the remainder are offset by processes that reduce greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.

carbon neutral certification: recognition that CoA operational emissions have been accounted for, reduced and offset in accordance with the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.

climate adaptation: the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, that seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

climate change: anthropogenic (human-induced) change in the climate, lasting for several decades or longer, including changes in temperature, rainfall or wind patterns.

climate mitigation: the process of avoiding or reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures.

climate ready: the process of understanding how climate change is likely to affect an individual/community/organisation and a region and working out ways to adapt.

decarbonisation: the removal or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions achieved by a transition to renewables and low carbon power sources.

greenhouse gas emissions / emissions: the release of gases into the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat and produce the greenhouse effect, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases.

international climate science: the science related to climate change assessed and released by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

offsets: activities that prevent, reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the atmosphere that have been verified and are sold as units to compensate for emissions made elsewhere.

science-based targets: targets in line with the scale of reductions required to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, above pre-industrial temperatures.

ADMINISTRATIVE

As part of Council's commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

As a new policy, this document will be reviewed in its first 12 months.

Subsequently, this Policy document will be reviewed every 3 years unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in August 2023.

Review history:

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2022/81792	Council	TBA	Creation of new policy as per Council decision 10 May 2022 in relation to the Strategic Policy Framework.

Contact:

For further information contact the Park Lands, Policy and Sustainability Program.

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