

# Draft Climate Action Plan

Tuesday, 9 August 2022

Council

Strategic Alignment – Environmental Leadership

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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. The *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025* remains current and a new Action Plan has been drafted for decision to release for community and stakeholder consultation. Should Council decide to release the draft Action Plan for consultation, this consultation will occur during the caretaker period prior to the election of the incoming Council. A decision about adopting the Action Plan will be made by the incoming Council post the local government election in November 2022.

The draft Action Plan reflects the feedback received during extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken between February and April 2022 presented to The Committee on 19 April 2022 and noted at the Council meeting on 12 July 2022 (Item 10.7).

It is proposed the draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 is released for community consultation concurrently to the draft Climate Policy (to be considered as Item 10.13 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held 9 August 2022).

The draft Action Plan is organised under four themes and includes 28 actions. It includes actions in areas of influence for CoA to address carbon emissions created by the community and business, as well as those directly emitted by our organisational operations. The community emissions 'footprint' is approximately 100 times larger than the Council operational footprint.

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## RECOMMENDATION

### THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves for public consultation the draft *Climate Action Plan 2022-2025* as included in Attachment A to Item 10.15 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 9 August 2022.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the draft *Climate Action Plan 2022-2025* as part of the graphic design process that do not substantively change the intent.
3. Notes the following actions from the draft *Climate Action Plan 2022-2025* will commence in 2022/2023:
  - 3.1. Facilitate a mechanism for city businesses to collectively purchase renewable electricity (eg through a power purchase agreement or other platform).
  - 3.2. Certify UPark as a carbon neutral service to deliver a unique and environmentally conscious offer for customers.
  - 3.3. Develop a new Urban Greening Strategy and implement \$1 million of greening.
  - 3.4. Investigate carbon offset pathways for Council and community emissions, in collaboration with other South Australian councils.
  - 3.5. Identify key sector growth areas and the unique advantage for the green economy opportunities in the City of Adelaide.

## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	<p><b>Strategic Alignment – Environmental Leadership</b></p> <p>One of the world’s first carbon neutral cities by 2025, where sustainability is core. 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	The draft <i>Climate Action Plan 2022-2025</i> is consistent with existing strategic direction provided by the <i>Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025</i> .
Consultation	Extensive engagement has informed development of the draft <i>Climate Action Plan 2022-2025</i> .
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, resource efficiency through adoption of clean technology and health benefits such as reduced particulate pollution.
22/23 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The draft Climate Action Plan documents activities 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.
2. Council's strategic intent is set by the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025*.
3. All measures of success for items under Council's direct control have now been achieved, including certified carbon neutrality for Council operations, however further action is needed to incrementally reduce Council operation emissions and drive down community emissions.
4. A progress report on achievements under the *Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015- 2025* was noted at the Council meeting on 12 July 2022, including a summary of modelling of possible emissions trajectories to 2050.
5. The report on the extensive engagement with community and stakeholder towards actions that support emissions reductions for the city was noted at the Council meeting of 12 July 2022 following a workshop of The Committee on 19 April 2022.
6. A draft Climate Policy is presented for consideration as a separate item at this meeting which has informed the draft Action Plan.

## Current Situation

7. Under a business-as-usual trajectory, the CoA community emissions will decline, however modelling undertaken for CoA by Point Advisory predicts only a 44% decrease by 2030 and 68% decrease by 2050 (against a 2015/16 baseline).
8. A range of responses are required for accelerated abatement of carbon emissions, in line with the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the world to progress to a 50% reduction by 2030 to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century.
9. In the city context, the technologies and approaches are readily available for a more rapid progress.
10. While CoA does not have direct control over many greenhouse gas emissions generated in the city, it has wide areas of influence.
11. The actions in the draft Action Plan account for the modelled emissions trajectories, community and stakeholder input, accelerated climate action and benefits to our city and communities in transitioning to a low carbon economy.

## The Action Plan

12. The draft *Climate Action Plan 2022-2025* is provided as **Attachment A**. The draft Action Plan is a short summary document to be graphically designed prior to release for community consultation and will be supported by additional explanatory content and videos on the CoA website.
13. Should Council decide to release the draft Action Plan for consultation, this consultation will occur during the caretaker period prior to the election of the incoming Council. A decision about adopting the Action Plan will be made by the incoming Council post the local government election in November 2022.
14. An explanation of how Council Member feedback has been incorporated in the draft Climate Action Plan is provided at Link 1 view [here](#).
15. The supporting content on the CoA website will include an explanation of the greenhouse gas emissions modelling and what we heard during community and stakeholder engagement [Link 2 view [here](#)].
16. The draft Action Plan consists of 28 actions across 4 themes as described below.
17. Actions from the draft Action Plan listed in Recommendation 3 have allocated funding and resources for 2022/2023 and can commence immediately.

## Theme 1: An Electrified City

18. The electricity and gas consumed by buildings contributes around 44% of CoA community's carbon footprint. This theme acknowledges this impact, and the potential for significant carbon savings by running all-electric buildings on South Australia's world-leading renewable electricity grid.
19. This theme also captures the opportunities within the built environment for more affordable electricity, grid stability, and equitable sharing of renewable resources.
20. CoA will commence work to investigate collective purchase of renewable electricity by business.

21. We will continue to support the uptake of energy efficiency and electrification in privately-owned buildings and improve the energy use of Council assets.
22. The draft plan provides a focus on reducing the carbon embodied in the materials of the built environment, starting with CoA asset planning and capital works projects.

### **Theme 2: A Mobile Population**

23. Transport emissions account for around 35% of the CoA community's carbon footprint.
24. This theme reflects that 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.
25. For Adelaide, accelerating the shift to electric vehicles offers an opportunity for both improving local air quality and reducing carbon emissions.
26. The draft plan supports an increase in the range of transport options to address congestion and liveability, including walking, cycling and micro-mobility, through investment, community engagement, and contribution to State Government policy.

### **Theme 3: A Green and Resilient Community**

27. This theme recognises the need for cooling and greening of our city, and strong community feedback for action on greening.
28. Greening in the city and streets makes the urban environment more comfortable by reducing the "urban heat island effect", and supports buildings to use less energy for cooling.
29. One million dollars has been allocated in 2022/2023 to increase tree canopy and continue to green our city.
30. This theme is supported by:
  - 30.1. Council's *Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026* to manage its corporate climate risks and build resilience to future climate change into services, assets and governance.
  - 30.2. Membership and participation in Resilient East, a partnership of 8 Councils and State Government, that delivers climate change adaptation planning and coordinates activities for community resilience.
31. This theme also seeks to support community action and engagement with Native Title holders and youth.

### **Theme 4: A Leading Council**

32. CoA leadership actions in the draft Action Plan include increased focus on sustainability requirements for new buildings on Council land and transition to a green economy.
33. The draft Action Plan includes a revision of the community emissions target to reflect science-based targets and align CoA with the global requirements for reducing carbon emissions to keep global warming under 2 degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

### **Next Steps**

34. Pending Council approval, implementation of the actions from the draft *Climate Action Plan 2022-2025* can commence in 2022/2023.
35. If the recommendations are approved:
  - 35.1. The draft Action Plan will be released for community and stakeholder consultation concurrently with the draft Climate Policy.
  - 35.2. Following community and stakeholder consultation, any refinements to the Action Plan will be presented to Council for decision.
  - 35.3. An internal governance process will be set up to monitor and report on implementation of the actions.

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## **DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Link 1** – Summary of how Council Member feedback has been incorporated in the draft Climate Action Plan

**Link 2** – Supporting content to be included on the CoA website

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# ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A – *Draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2025***

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