

# Climate Action Plan 2022-2025

Strategic Alignment - Environmental Leadership

Public

Tuesday, 2 May 2023

**City Planning, Development  
and Business Affairs  
Committee**

**Program Contact:**

Sarah Gilmour, Associate  
Director Park Lands, Policy &  
Sustainability

**Approving Officer:**

Iliia Houridis, Director City  
Shaping

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 to Council for decision.

The draft Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 completes the remaining years of the [Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025](#) and builds on the successes of the Carbon Neutral Adelaide Action Plan 2016 – 2021.

The Plan is the result of two rounds of community engagement in 2022, including stakeholder workshops. Five actions were identified as priorities for implementation in 2022/2023 and eight actions have been identified as further priorities for 2023/24.

One of the priority actions for 2023/24 is to revise emission targets and develop a roadmap for their achievement. Targets will be included in the forthcoming Climate Policy, which will be timed with the corporate review of the Policy Framework.

Planning will commence in 2023/2024 to revise the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025. Once the next Strategy is determined, a new Climate Action Plan will be developed that includes a roadmap of actions to achieve the targets to be set in the Climate Policy.

---

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 9 May 2023 for consideration

THAT THE CITY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL:

That Council:

1. Endorses the Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 as provided in Attachment A to Item 5.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 2 May 2023.
  2. Notes the following priority actions from the Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 to commence in 2023/2024:
    - 2.1. Implementation of a program to support electrification of new and existing commercial buildings within the city.
    - 2.2. Install an additional 100 public electric vehicle and bicycle chargers between 2022–2025 in collaboration with partners.
    - 2.3. Investigate opportunities to install a community battery or facilitate a community energy project.
    - 2.4. Investigate low carbon, green precinct options in collaboration with university partners.
    - 2.5. Revise the community emissions target with emission reduction pathways mapped.
    - 2.6. Integrate at least 75% electric vehicles into the City of Adelaide light passenger vehicle fleet by 2025 as cost effective and fit-for-purpose models become available, as a Foundation Partner of the SA Electric Vehicle Fleet Pledge.
    - 2.7. Convert all remaining city streetlights to efficient LED.
  3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the Climate Action Plan 2022- 2025 as part of the graphic design process that do not substantively change the intent.
-

## 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. A climate ready organisation and community.</p>
Policy	Adoption of a Climate Action Plan aligns to existing Council commitments on climate related matters.
Consultation	The draft Climate Action Plan was informed by engagement undertaken in February and March 2022. Consultation was undertaken between 31 October and 11 December 2022, in combination with a draft Climate Policy.
Resource	Climate action is budgeted through Council’s Climate Change Action Initiative Fund with comprises a proportion (1%) of Council rates. Increased ambition may require additional resourcing.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	An endorsed Climate Action Plan assists Council to achieve climate active certification.
Opportunities	The opportunities presented by climate action include global positioning for the city, investment attraction, and resource efficiency through adoption of clean technology. Emissions reduction addresses particulate pollution contributing to improved air quality outcomes.
22/23 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Budget allocation for implementation in 2023/2024 is proposed through the Climate Change Action Initiative Fund and other projects.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The draft Climate Action Plan covers 2022 – 2025, the last three years of the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025. The focus of the draft Climate Action Plan is the 2023/2024 financial year with directions for the 2024/2025 financial year pending alignment with Council’s new Strategic Plan (in development) and Climate Policy (in development).
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	Certain climate change initiatives may apply for Federal Government funding. For example, the investigation into a community battery could potentially seek funding from the \$200 million Federal Community Batteries for Household Solar program.

# DISCUSSION

## Background

1. This report presents the proposed Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 (Attachment A) for endorsement.
2. The Climate Action Plan has been developed over the last 14 months through community, stakeholder, and Council engagement. Previous presentations and reports to Council include:
  - 2.1. Workshop on [19 April 2022](#) on the proposed draft Climate Action Plan themes drawn from community engagement.
  - 2.2. Report on [12 July 2022](#) on climate action progress and community engagement findings.
  - 2.3. Report on [9 August 2022](#) providing the draft Climate Action Plan which was approved by Council for community consultation.
  - 2.4. Workshop on [4 April 2023](#) on community consultation feedback on the draft Climate Action Plan.
3. The City of Adelaide (CoA) is committed to leading by example in addressing climate change and decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions as set out by its [Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025](#).
4. The draft Climate Action Plan 2022 – 2025 completes the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015 – 2025.
5. It follows joint implementation of the [Carbon Neutral Adelaide Action Plan 2016 – 2021](#) in partnership with the State Government and a [final report](#) on that Plan.
6. An index of background climate change information, commitments and achievements has informed the development of the Climate Action Plan and is provided at Link 1 view [here](#).
7. Key achievements to date:
  - 7.1. City of Adelaide became carbon neutral in financial year 2020 for corporate emissions and was recently externally certified for the third year.
  - 7.2. 100% renewable electricity power purchase agreement (PPA) commenced in 2020, reducing Council's absolute emissions by 52%.
  - 7.3. 1.1 MW of solar power installed on Council buildings providing electricity equivalent to over 300 homes, or 12% of Council demand.
  - 7.4. 24% of Council fleet are low emission (electric or hybrid) vehicles.
  - 7.5. Over 700 community projects supported by \$1.5 million Council investment from the Sustainability Incentives Scheme since 2015.
  - 7.6. Community emissions reduced 21% from 2007 – 2020, mostly due to the state-wide decarbonisation of the electricity grid.

## Climate Actions 2022/2023

8. At its meeting on [9 August 2022](#), Council noted the following actions to commence implementation in 2022/2023 while the draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 was finalised. Updates on the following actions are included in Link 2 view [here](#) and summarised below.
  - 8.1. Consultation has commenced to gauge interest from city businesses to collectively purchase renewable electricity (e.g. through a power purchase agreement or other platform).
  - 8.2. A feasibility study to certify UPark as a carbon neutral service has been completed and identifies approximately 18,000 tonnes of carbon emissions would need to be offset annually.
  - 8.3. Additional greening is being delivered in 2022/2023 through the allocation of \$1 million of greening and work has commenced to develop a new Urban Greening Strategy and implement.
  - 8.4. City of Adelaide is leading a project for 30 local government areas to investigate opportunities for local government to generate carbon offsets within South Australia.
  - 8.5. An investigation has commenced to identify key sector growth areas and the unique advantage for the green economy opportunities in the City of Adelaide and will inform Council's approach to economic policy.

## Climate Actions 2023/2024

9. The following actions contained in the draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 are proposed as priorities for implementation in 2023/2024:

- 9.1. Implement a program to support electrification of new and existing commercial buildings within the city.
- 9.2. Install an additional 100 public electric vehicle and bicycle chargers between 2022–2025 in collaboration with partners.
- 9.3. Investigate opportunities to install a community battery or facilitate a community energy project.
- 9.4. Investigate low carbon, green precinct options in collaboration with university partners.
- 9.5. Revise the community emissions target with emission reduction pathways mapped.
- 9.6. Integrate at least 75% electric vehicles into the City of Adelaide light passenger vehicle fleet by 2025 as cost effective and fit-for-purpose models become available, as a Foundation Partner of the SA Electric Vehicle Fleet Pledge.
- 9.7. Convert all remaining city streetlights to efficient LED.

#### **Consultation on draft Climate Action Plan 2022 - 2025**

10. Community engagement on the Climate Action Plan has been undertaken in two phases as described below.
11. Phase 1 was undertaken in February and March 2022 and involved extensive community and key stakeholder engagement to inform the development of the draft Climate Action Plan. This was presented to Council on [19 April 2022](#) and [12 July 2022](#).
12. Phase 2 was undertaken from 31 October to 11 December 2022 and involved concurrent release of the draft Climate Action Plan and Climate Policy for consultation, building on the wide variety of commentary and ideas provided from Phase 1.
  - 12.1. The draft Action Plan was a six-page document, that presented 29 actions under four themes: 1. An Electrified City, 2. A Mobile Population, 3. A Green and Resilient Community, and 4. A Leading Council. Sixty participants in the consultation completed a survey, and of these respondents 40 provided at least one written comment.
  - 12.2. General feedback on the draft Action Plan included calls for stronger ambition and targets, metrics for achievement, a pathway to net zero emissions, and for City of Adelaide to remain a leader in climate action.
  - 12.3. A minority of feedback raised concern that climate science is not legitimate, or a hoax.
  - 12.4. A detailed Engagement Report is included as Link 3 view [here](#).
13. A presentation on the engagement approach was provided to the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee on [4 April 2023](#).
  - 13.1. Committee feedback included a request to see more of the background research and data that informs climate decision-making, greater differentiation between actions to address Council and community emissions, acknowledging the limitations of Council impact on community emissions, and that climate change considerations should be integrated throughout all Council business.
  - 13.2. Target setting was discussed in detail, and the need for new targets to include costings of actions required to achieve them. New targets will be presented with the forthcoming Climate Policy and be developed using international best practice through the Science Based Targets Initiative.

#### **Amendments to draft Climate Action Plan 2022 - 2025**

14. The draft Climate Action Plan has been amended post engagement activities to:
  - 14.1. Provide additional context in the introductory sections, including narrative about climate risk and governance, complementary Council strategies, Council incentive and grant opportunities, carbon offsets (quantum and approach), rapid changes to the SA electricity grid, and existing programs such as the [Carbon Neutral Partners program](#).
  - 14.2. Simplify terminology and define key terms, such as carbon offsets, scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
  - 14.3. Include more information about Council and community emissions, including research and data that has informed decision making.
  - 14.4. Quantify achievements to date, include more Council achievements.
  - 14.5. Commit to incorporated climate action throughout Council business.
  - 14.6. Differentiate between actions that reduce Council's own emissions and actions that support mitigation of community emissions.

- 14.7. Update specific actions, such as clarifying the scope and timing of the transport actions, and support for active transport
- 14.8. Indicate that the next climate change strategy will include mapped community emission reduction pathways to net zero.

### **Next Steps**

15. The next steps include:
  - 15.1. Pending Council decision, the draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 will be finalised and publicly released.
  - 15.2. In 2023/2024:
    - 15.2.1. Further work will be undertaken on the draft Climate Policy (with a focus on targets) to align with the corporate review of the Policy Framework.
    - 15.2.2. Planning will commence for review of the City of Adelaide Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015-2025.
  - 15.3. By 2025 a future roadmap will be developed to achieve targets in Council's Climate Policy and respond to an updated Strategy.

---

## DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Link 1** – Index of City of Adelaide Background Climate Information and Commitments

**Link 2** – Update on Priority Climate Actions 2022/2023

**Link 3** – Climate Engagement Report 2022

---

## ATTACHMENTS

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