

Climate Emergency Declaration

1. The Council of _____ recognises that we are in a state of **climate emergency**.
2. Acknowledges that unless we restore a safe climate urgently, there will be dramatic and negative impacts on our community and around the world. We are already seeing more devastating droughts, bushfires and floods all over the country, deadly air pollution, and a reef on life support.
3. Notes that it is still possible to restore a safe climate and prevent most of the anticipated long-term climate impacts – but only if communities act quickly to restore a safe and healthy planet at the necessary scale and speed.
4. The Council of _____ are committed to a climate emergency response by introducing effective and adequately funded climate policies and programs that will implement climate restoration and resilience solutions.
5. The Council of _____ will direct all available resources to completion of the below actions within 12 months of this declaration.
 - a. Develop a climate emergency plan to guide the implementation of a climate emergency response within the Council.
 - b. Conduct change management processes to educate Council staff about the climate emergency and develop a new approach to Council business to facilitate a climate emergency response.
 - c. Review all existing policies and plans with a view to facilitating a climate emergency response.
 - d. Roll out a public education and support-building campaign in order to provide broad community support for the council to declare a climate emergency and move into climate emergency mode.
 - e. Allocate additional staff resources and appoint a Council Advisory Committee of climate emergency experts.
6. The Council of _____ urges neighbouring local governments, state governments and the Federal Government to join with us by accelerating the adoption of a climate emergency response and developing their own Climate Emergency Plans.

Climate Emergency Policies

Below is a set of suggested policies for councils to implement after declaring a climate emergency.

Climate Emergency mobilisation and leadership

- Engage and partner with other councils and organisations to mobilise State and Federal Governments to declare and act on the climate emergency as soon as possible to meet the goals of this plan
- Build local engagement and support community groups to engage and take action on the Climate Emergency
- Convene a climate emergency conference to bring other councils, levels of government, organisations and the community together to identify strategic action and collaboration
- Undertake an organisational review of all Council programs and policies to ensure alignment with Council's Climate Emergency commitment

Fossil fuel divestment

- Actively invest with fossil-free financial institutions
- Create awareness about divestment and related campaigns
- Urge governments to divest from and phase out extraction and supply of fossil fuels in Australia

Energy efficiency

- Support retrofits to make homes more energy-efficient
- Ensure new Council buildings will be built to a high environmental standard, and existing buildings made energy-efficient
- Ensure a high energy standard for new buildings through the planning process
- Urge government to introduce standards, and planning and finance mechanisms to make buildings energy efficient and increase monitoring to ensure they perform to this standard

Renewable energy

- Urge the state and federal government to set a target for 100% renewable energy for 2025
- Set a target of 100% renewable energy for council operations for 2025
- Commit to a target of net zero emissions for the community by 2040
- Explore a program offering energy efficiency, solar and batteries for households, businesses, schools and community organisations
- Increase the amount of solar panels on Council's own buildings

- Phase out natural gas use from Council buildings and promote switching from gas to electric in the community

Zero emissions transport

- Introduce vehicle emissions standards
- Plan for and investing in infrastructure to enable more people to walk, cycle and use public transport
- Power cars, buses and rail with renewable energy
- Encourage and facilitate the use of electric vehicles, including providing electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Increase the car share network

Consumption and waste minimisation

- Investigate providing food waste collection services, so food waste does not go to landfill
- Give greater prominence to reducing consumption in our environmental engagement strategies and programs
- Help the community to reduce waste through information, education and infrastructure
- Urge government to adopt and enforce the highest levels of resource recovery and expand the product stewardship scheme to more products.

Adaptation and resilience

- Support local food production
- Apply standards through the planning process that equip new buildings to cope better with a changing climate
- Run education programs on retrofitting to adapt to extreme weather and support businesses to become more resilient
- Undertake extreme weather protection works

Engaging the community

- Identify and engage community and project champions, starting with identifying existing community networks or groups
- Hold a community event, inviting community members and advertise widely to encourage participation
- Establish vision and goals for the initiative in consultation with the wider community
- Set up community working groups for each relevant sector
- Create opportunities for regular reporting and feedback at key stages with the wider community