

# Climate Solutions Policy

## Council Policy

<b>Policy Reference Number</b>	6534541
<b>Responsible Department</b>	Infrastructure Services
<b>Related Policies</b>	Asset Management; Business Continuity; Children and Vulnerable Persons Safety & Wellbeing; Community Plan; Emergency Management; Events; Footpath Development and Maintenance; Playground and Exercise Equipment Development and Maintenance Policy; Procurement; Public and Environmental Health; Risk Management; ARC Campbelltown; Tree Management; Waste Management; Youth
<b>Related Procedures</b>	Environment Plan; Climate Solutions Strategy
<b>Date of Initial Adoption</b>	3 May 2022
<b>Last Reviewed by Council</b>	16 May 2023

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for Council's response to current and future challenges presented by climate change. In particular, it sets out Council's intentions, commitments and management practices to tackle climate change since the formal declaration of a Climate Emergency in November 2019.

### 2. Power to Make the Policy

Council is empowered to make this Policy in accordance with Section 132A of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

### 3. Strategic Plan Link

This Policy has the following links to Council's Strategic Plan 2024:

- Greening our City (Goal 2)
- Planning for our Future (Goal 4)

### 4. Principles

Council believes that it has a responsibility to lead and protect the City to adapt and thrive as the climate changes. This means putting in place strategic mechanisms to:

- Mitigate climate change impacts through the reduction of the City's carbon footprint;
- Prepare the City such that it will be able to adapt to physical and transitional risks that may arise;
- Ensure the responses made by Council are long-lasting, inclusive, fiscally-responsible and have Community support.

## 5. Definitions

Definitions for the purpose of this Policy are:

<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	Adjusting to life in an inevitably changing climate.
<b>Climate Change Mitigation</b>	Preventative actions or measures to reduce GHG emissions.
<b>Climate Solutions</b>	Solutions to climate change.
<b>Climate Resiliency</b>	Capacity to overcome and recover quickly from climate-related challenges.
<b>Carbon Neutrality</b>	Achievement of net-zero GHG emission through emission reduction and offset.
<b>Carbon Footprint</b>	Total amount of GHG generated. Typically used to show the level of climate change impacts from an activity.
<b>Carbon Emissions</b>	Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions are typically referred to as carbon emissions and are a measure of GHG.
<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG)</b>	Gasses that contribute to the absorption of heat in Earth's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> ).

## 6. Policy

### 6.1 Evidence-based Target Setting

Council's approach to setting climate response targets will be evidence-based and tailored to the Campbelltown City Council, with consideration of:

- International, Federal, State and local climate ambitions;
- Physical and transitional climate risks;
- Current carbon emissions to be used as baseline;
- Projected emissions trends; and
- Financial implications of the targets set.

The Climate Solutions Strategy will be the primary document outlining Council's targets to prioritise, resource, and evaluate its climate response. The implementation of the Climate Solutions Strategy will be supported by a separate Climate Action Plan document.

Council reserves the right to review and change targets as required when new evidences arise.

### 6.2 Implementation Practices

The fundamental practices that Council will undertake are as follows:

#### 6.2.1 Emissions Reduction

Council will reduce its emissions by implementing the Climate Solutions Strategy in the following areas:

- Low carbon energy
- Resource efficiency
- Low carbon transport
- Community engagement
- Strong governance and leadership.

### **6.2.2 Policy and Governance Integration**

Council will ensure climate change is a key consideration in the way it operates and the services it provides. This will be reflected in relevant Council policies.

### **6.2.3 Capacity Building**

Council will provide support and capacity building programs to Employees and the Community to increase awareness about climate change issues and encourage a transition towards a more sustainable and climate resilient lifestyle.

### **6.2.4 Partnership**

Council will reaffirm and/or establish partnerships with other government and non-government parties, including the Community and the Resilient East partnership, to collaborate and advocate for further actions to tackle climate change.

## **6.3 Monitoring and Reporting**

Council will monitor and report on both corporate and Community emissions. Council will also report on its climate solutions progress annually. A review of the Council's Climate Solutions Action Plan will also be undertaken every two years.

The following monitoring and reporting will be undertaken for corporate and community emissions in Council's Annual Report:

- Council's emissions and climate solutions progress will be reported annually
- Community emissions will be reported periodically, as information becomes available that will provide significant data for comparison.

## **7. Review & Evaluation**

Within six months of each new Council term, Council will review this policy. Following this initial review, this policy will be reviewed annually by Employees with minor administrative adjustments being approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

## **9. Availability of the Policy**

Copies of this Policy will be available at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and at Council's website [www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au).