

## CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

<b>Policy Type:</b>	Council
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	City Development
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Coordinator Environmental Projects & Strategy
<b>Related Policies and Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Policy</li> <li>• Risk Management Policy</li> <li>• Procurement Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Community Plan Link</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Living               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.3 Our Community meets the needs of all generations</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Environmental Stewardship               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2 Excellence in waste management is achieved through avoidance, re-use and diversion</li> <li>2.3 The energy efficiency of the City is increased and our carbon footprint reduced</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. 2.5 The City's resilience to climate change is increased</li> </ol>
<b>Date Adopted</b>	27 June 2022
<b>Last review date</b>	30/05/2023
<b>Next review date</b>	November 2023
<b>Reference/Version Number</b>	C0791/22: Version 2
<b>ECM Doc set I.D.</b>	8484695

### 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. The City of Unley acknowledges that climate change possesses a serious risk to the people of Unley and the Council has committed to be carbon neutral for its operations by December 2030.
- 1.2. The Council incorporates climate mitigation and adaptation principles in its decision making to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for both present and future generations as reflected in the Community Plan 2033.

### 2. SCOPE

- 2.1. Provide an overarching policy framework, which defines the proactive roles of the City of Unley in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising the impacts of climate change for both present and future generations.
- 2.2. Recognise the critical role local governments play with other government bodies, or other organisations, as well as local businesses and residents to advance the transition to a low carbon economy.

### 3. POLICY PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this Policy are:

- To build greater resilience in the operations of the Council to the anticipated impacts of climate change;
- To transition Council decision making to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimise waste and pollution, and maximise the recycling of products and materials to achieve a desired circular economy;
- To record and track ongoing patterns of Council’s annual carbon emission footprint;
- To work with other levels of government and key stakeholders to advance strategic climate change partnerships, programs and advocacy; and
- To promote greater resident and business awareness of the causes and effects of climate change, and actions individuals can take to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

<b>Adaptation</b>	The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects.
<b>Carbon Neutral</b>	A term used for when an organisation has accounted for and then reduced and/or offset its emissions footprint.
<b>Circular Economy</b>	A circular economy reduces material use, redesigns materials to be less resource intensive, and recaptures “waste” as a resource to manufacture new materials and products.  <i>(<a href="https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/what-circular-economy">https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/what-circular-economy</a>)</i>
<b>Corporate emissions</b>	Refers to Council internal or operational emissions.
<b>Community emissions</b>	Refers to emissions from the broader community across the whole of the City of Unley Local Government Area.
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>	Atmospheric gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which trap and hold heat in the atmosphere, leading to global warming and climate change.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Human intervention to avoid and reduce the resources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.
<b>Resilience</b>	The ability to anticipate and prepare for the threats, risks and opportunities related to climate change.
<b>Resilient East</b>	A partnership between State and Local Government in eastern Adelaide to improve the resilience of communities, assets and infrastructure, local economies and natural environments so we can cope with the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

## 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council recognises the importance of strong leadership to inform our strategic and operational decision-making to address climate change. Within Council, this Policy will be administered and overseen by leaders such as:

- Elected Members;
- Council staff;
- Consultants, contractors and volunteers

## 6. POLICY STATEMENT

Policy statements have been divided into four key directions to reflect the range of goals that Council is committed to.

### 6.1. Adaptation & Mitigation

- 6.1.1. Undertake assessment of climate change risks in the planning and reporting of all strategic Council projects / developments.
- 6.1.2. Adapt Council operations to build greater resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.
- 6.1.3. Minimise production of waste and pollution, and maximise ability to reuse, repair or remanufacture items in the procurement of goods and services, as well as the development of design specifications for Council projects and operations.

### 6.2. Monitoring & Reporting

- 6.2.1. Achieve carbon neutral target for Council's Corporate Emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3), from December 2030, including the use of accredited carbon offsets.
- 6.2.2. Target an annual reduction in carbon emissions through a consistent, informed and risk-based approach to strategic and operational decision making.
- 6.2.3. Publish an annual inventory of Council's corporate emissions and actions undertaken to assess progress towards the carbon neutral target.

### 6.3. Partnerships

- 6.3.1. Work collaboratively with other councils, State and Federal Governments and associations in advancing public policy to reach shared climate change mitigation goals.
- 6.3.2. Work collaboratively with other councils, State and Federal Governments and associations to support the advancement of a low carbon economy.
- 6.3.3. Continue to participate in the Resilient East Regional Climate Partnership to improve community resilience to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

### 6.4. Community Education

- 6.4.1. Raise community awareness to risks, hazards and opportunities associated with climate change.
- 6.4.2. Encourage individual behaviour change to increase community mitigation and adaptation efforts to reduce the impact of changes in our climate.

## 7. POLICY DELEGATIONS

Not applicable

## 8. LEGISLATION

- *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 (South Australia)*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993 (South Australia)*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*
- *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Commonwealth)*
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (South Australia)*

## 9. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

The Policy is available for viewing, downloading and printing free of charge from the Council's website [www.unley.sa.gov.au](http://www.unley.sa.gov.au)

A printed copy may be purchased for a fee as determined annually by Council at:

The Civic Centre,

181 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061.

## 10. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Ref/Version No.	Comment
27/06/22	V1	Creation of Policy
27/02/23	V2	Amended Carbon Neutral Target Date to December 2030. Council Resolution No. C0968/23