

## Climate Change Policy

Classification:	Council Policy
Policy Name:	Climate Change
First Issued / Approved:	14 April 2020 (C12516)
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ECM Tracking No.:	7991310
Responsible Officer:	General Manager Urban and Community
Relevant Legislation:	<p>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 (South Australia)</p> <p>Environment Protection Act 1993 (South Australia)</p> <p>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)</p> <p>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (South Australia)</p> <p>Green Industries SA Act 2004 (South Australia)</p> <p>Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (South Australia)</p> <p>Local Government Act 1999 (South Australia)</p> <p>National Environment Protection Council Act 1994 (Commonwealth)</p> <p>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Commonwealth)</p> <p>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (South Australia)</p>

Related Policies:	Strategic Community Plan Environmental Sustainability Strategy Connected Communities Strategy Open Space Strategy Property Strategy Urban Tree Strategy Streetscape Guide Regional Public Health Plan (Better Living Better Health) Bushfire Hazard Management Policy Kerbside Waste Management Policy Light Fleet Management Policy Open Space Policy Procurement Policy Public Lighting Policy Risk Management Policy Streetscape Policy Urban Tree Management Policy Verge Development Council Policy Volunteers Policy Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy Watercourse Management Policy Asset Management Policy Asset Management Plans
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The City of Burnside recognises that climate change poses a significant risk to natural and built environments, the quality of life of residents and visitors, and the operations of the Council.
- 1.2. The Council recognises the need to build a resilient community and organisation, with climate mitigation and adaptation in decisions and operations.
- 1.3. The purpose of policy is to provide a framework for Council's approach to climate change.

## 2. Strategic Plan Desired Outcomes

- 2.1. Strategic Direction 2 - Our protected and valued environment:
  - 2.1.1. Natural environments and watercourses protected, conserved and enjoyed; and
  - 2.1.2. Sustainable use of natural resources and minimisation of waste to address climate change.
- 2.2. Strategic Direction 3 - Our diverse connected, happy and healthy people:
  - 2.2.1. A safe community that values and supports its people.
- 2.3. Strategic Direction 4 - Our leading inclusive and connected Council:
  - 2.3.1. Delivery of good governance in all Council business;
  - 2.3.2. A financially sound Council that is accountable, responsible and sustainable; and

- 2.3.3. An empowered Council and Administration that is visionary and innovative in meeting community needs.

### 3. Our Approach

- 3.1. Demonstrate leadership in the community and among councils.
- 3.2. Reducing Council's carbon footprint (climate change mitigation).
- 3.3. Responding to a changing climate to foster resilient and sustainable environments, communities and Council organisation (climate change adaptation).
- 3.4. Climate change is an important consideration in Council's:
  - 3.4.1. Decision-making and resource allocation;
  - 3.4.2. Engagement, support and education for local communities;
  - 3.4.3. Cooperative activities with groups, organisations and government bodies; and
  - 3.4.4. Advocacy for local communities, towards locally-relevant communities, organisations and other levels of government.

### 4. Legislative Requirements and Corporate Policy Context

- 4.1. This policy has been developed to underpin ongoing actions in the context of Council's Climate Emergency Declaration on 24 September 2019.
- 4.2. There is no legislative requirement for Council to have a Climate Change Policy. However, this policy will support the State Government's 2019 policy document, 'Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia,' as well as the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 and the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.
- 4.3. This policy is aligned with the sector agreement between State Government and with the Resilient East group of councils, a group which includes the City of Burnside.

### 5. Interpretation

- 5.1. For the purpose of this policy:
    - 5.1.1. "**Climate Change**" is any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
    - 5.1.2. "**Climate change adaptation**" is about responding to changes in the climate (e.g. seeking to reduce or avoid harm to people and natural systems), noting that some actions may provide both climate change mitigation and adaptation.
    - 5.1.3. "**Climate change mitigation**" involves actions that reduce the rate of climate change (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions and removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere), noting that some actions may provide both climate change mitigation and adaptation.
    - 5.1.4. "**Council**" means the City of Burnside.
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- 5.1.5. **“Greenhouse Gasses”** are gasses in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) can be emitted through transport, land clearance, and the production and consumption of food, fuels, manufactured goods, materials, wood, roads, buildings, and services. For simplicity of reporting, GHG emissions are often expressed in terms of the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide or carbon emissions.
- 5.1.6. **“Resilience”** is the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.
- 5.1.7. **“Resilient East”** is a partnership between state and local government organisations in eastern Adelaide. The local government partners are: City of Adelaide, City of Burnside, Campbelltown City Council, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, City of Prospect, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Unley and the Town of Walkerville.
- 5.1.8. **“Risks”** associated with climate change can be categorised as:
- 5.1.8.1. **“Physical risks”** that are related to changing climatic conditions and extreme weather events. These risks may include, but are not limited to, changes in asset values, disruption of supply chains, loss of assets (including built assets and natural assets such as trees), loss of productivity (e.g. during heatwaves or storm events), increased costs (e.g. increases in power needs to cool buildings during heatwaves), and loss or damage to property (e.g. through bushfire, flood or storm events).
- 5.1.8.2. **“Transition risks”** that are related to changes in policy (including external and internal policies), technological innovation (e.g. related to the development of new technologies and the timing of investment), and social adaptation (e.g. changes in demand for services or infrastructure). These risks may include, but are not limited to, increases in the costs of goods and services (e.g. energy or waste and recycling services), changing infrastructure requirements (e.g. increased capacity for energy production and stormwater management), and the cost of transition (particularly while maintaining the full suite of council services).
- 5.1.8.3. **“Liability risks”** that are related to litigation or a lack of response to climate change. These risks may include, but are not limited to, litigation and damage to corporate reputation.

## 6. Policy

- 6.1. The following principles will define Council's approach to addressing climate change:
- 6.1.1. Provision of leadership in the community to mitigate against and adapt to climate change.

- 6.1.2. An evidence-based approach, considering the physical, transition and liability risks associated with climate change will be applied to strategy development, action planning, decision-making, resource allocation, infrastructure development and operations.
- 6.1.3. Actions to mitigate against and adapt to climate change will be pursued through strategy development and action planning in line with our strategic framework.
- 6.1.4. Provision of support to the community through education and encouragement of behaviour change that will increase community mitigation and adaptation efforts and build understanding of, and resilience to, changes in our climate.
- 6.1.5. Advocating and working regionally and collaboratively for further action at state and federal levels to increase the resilience and liveability of our communities.
- 6.1.6. Communication and marketing of actions and opportunities to our community and relevant stakeholders.
- 6.2. To inform strategy development, action planning, decision making, budget allocation and target setting, Council will:
  - 6.2.1. Work with regional partners to maintain an understanding of climate change-related risks and opportunities;
  - 6.2.2. Develop and maintain a system to monitor Council's greenhouse gas emissions and provide an annual report on performance, including details of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures;
  - 6.2.3. As part of the development or review of artefacts within the Council's strategic and policy framework, climate change risk will be considered and assessed; and
  - 6.2.4. In all Council reports, include a section that assesses the climate change risk within a broader environmental impact assessment of the matter being considered.

## **7. Review and Authority**

- 7.1. This Policy will be reviewed every four years in line with Council's Policies and Protocols Framework.

## **8. Availability**

- 8.1. The Policy is available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's website [www.burnside.sa.gov.au](http://www.burnside.sa.gov.au)
- 8.2. The Policy will be available for inspection without charge at the Civic Centre during ordinary business hours and a copy may be purchased at a fee as set annually by Council.

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