

CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

TRAILBLAZING CITIES: LEADING THE SWITCH TO A RENEWABLE FUTURE

CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

Information for councils

CLIMATE COUNCIL

climatecouncil.org.au

Cities Power Partnership

cpp@climatecouncil.org.au
citiespowerpartnership.org.au

© 2020 Climate Council



Australia's largest network of cities and towns tackling climate change

Contents

1**Executive Summary****2****The Climate Council****3****The Challenge****3****Local Champions****5****A Snapshot of the
Cities Power Partnership****6****How the Cities Power
Partnership works****6****Become a Partner****7****Power Up****7****Power On****8****What Does Success Look Like?****9****Frequently Asked Questions****10****Appendix A****13****Appendix B****15****References**

Executive Summary

Australia is on the frontline of climate change and its impacts.

We continue to swelter through record breaking heat, lengthening bushfire seasons, worsening coastal flooding and supercharged storms. Meanwhile, the national energy debate is reaching fever pitch, with renewable energy lambasted by our nation's political and industry leaders as unreliable and unaffordable, whilst "clean coal" technology and gas expansion is being promoted as Australia's future energy solution. As climate impacts worsen and government action stagnates, the window of opportunity to limit the warming of the planet is rapidly closing.

Throughout all of these challenges, local heroes have quietly been getting on with the job. Cities and towns across Australia are surging ahead with emissions reduction plans, switching to cleaner energy and building greener, efficient and more resilient communities. The Cities Power Partnership (CPP) elevates and accelerates this action across the country. We know that transforming the way cities use and generate energy alone has the potential to deliver 70% of the total emissions reductions needed to stay on track for the 2 degrees limit set under the Paris Agreement.

The program engages with towns and cities, via local councils, throughout Australia and incentivises councils to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency, improve transport and engage in advocacy. Members are also given access to a national knowledge hub and a project assesment and tracking tool. They are buddied with other cities to knowledge share, visited by domestic and international experts, connected with community energy groups and celebrated at events with other local leaders. We also showcase the incredible achievements of cities in national, local and social media to millions and share their successes with our community of over 200,000 members and supporters.

"Cities and towns across Australia are surging ahead with emissions reduction plans"



\$102m

**worth of
media.**

448m

**cumulative
audience.**

112

reports.

The Climate Council

The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate communications organisation. To date the Climate Council has produced 112 reports on climate impacts and solutions and was the number one organisation communicating on climate change nationally in 2018.

The Climate Council brings a unique set of skills that enable us to build and deliver the Cities Power Partnership program and ensure that it differs from existing programs for local councils. The Climate Council has significant media reach, generating nearly \$102 million worth of media, reaching a cumulative audience of 448 million. This media reach is a key incentive for cities to join the program as well as working to strengthen public support across the country for climate action at the local level.

In addition, the Climate Council hosts a wealth of leading experts in climate impacts and renewable energy solutions whose technical knowledge is key to helping local councils to implement emissions reduction measures.

The Climate Council also uses its national status and the credibility of its Climate Councillors to connect councils across the country with community energy groups and local organisations who can help councils to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy measures quickly and effectively, as well as assist with accessing funding and incentives for councils to act.

The Challenge

Global heat records have been broken again, with the past four years being the hottest years on record. In Australia, 2018 was the third hottest year on record, and nine of the ten hottest years on record have occurred since 2005. Australians continue to swelter through record breaking heat, lengthening bushfire seasons, worsening coastal flooding and supercharged storms.

The emission of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, are driving these dramatic changes of the climate system and need to be drastically reduced. However, the window of opportunity to limit the warming of the planet and its catastrophic impacts is rapidly closing and governments are struggling to meet this challenge at the pace required.

Local Champions

In the face of these challenges local champions have emerged.

Around the world and across Australia, towns and cities of all shapes and sizes are getting on with the job. They are surging ahead with emissions reduction plans, switching to cleaner energy and building greener, efficient and more resilient communities. From booming urban centres to small rural townships, local governments and groups of determined residents have been energy and climate trailblazers in many ways. Towns and cities can shape how land is used, investments are made and millions of dollars worth of renewable energy is rolled out. They can influence how new homes and businesses are built, determine the ways in which hundreds of thousands of residents will travel each day and band together to lobby for much needed state and federal policy change. Transforming the way cities use and generate energy alone has the potential to deliver 70% of the total emissions reductions needed to stay on track for the 2 degrees limit set under the Paris Agreement (IEA 2016).

"Local governments and groups of determined residents have been energy and climate trailblazers in many ways."

4 Cities Power Partnership



100

**Member
councils &
growing.**

300+

**Towns
and cities
represented.**

12m

**Australians
represented.**

A Snapshot of the Cities Power Partnership

The Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) seeks to celebrate and accelerate the emission reduction and clean energy successes of Australian towns and cities to date. We are calling on Mayors, Councilors and communities to take the next step towards a sustainable, non-polluting energy future by joining the CPP.

The CPP launched mid 2017, along with a Climate Council cities report authored by some of Australia's leading experts, a brand new CPP website and a media campaign featuring the 35 trailblazing councils who joined the partnership in round 1.

A round 2 launch in January 2018 saw us grow to 70 members, representing 8 million Australians and making us the largest climate action program for local government in the country. Round 3 launched in late 2018 and brought the CPP up to 100 local government areas. We now represent over 125 local governments and more than 300 towns and cities and rural shires across all Australian states and territories. See Appendix C for member list.

The CPP launch broke Climate Council media coverage records

The CPP media launch was held at the Mt Majura Solar Farm in the ACT and featured Climate Councilor Professor Tim Flannery, Climate Council CEO Amanda McKenzie, ACT Environment Minister Shane Rattenbury MLC and Lane Crockett, Head of Renewable Infrastructure, Impact Investment Group.

A record breaking coverage of 8 front pages, 250+ broadcast media items and 210+ print & online items. Each of the attending Mayors and Councilors and council communications teams received a comprehensive media kit including:

- > Tailored media hits report,
 - > Certificate ceremony photos with Professor Tim Flannery,
 - > Mayoral test drive photos of the CPP branded Tesla electric cars, >
- Individual interviews to camera explaining reasons for joining the Cities Power Partnership and what Council hopes to achieve,
- > Drone footage of the Mt Majura solar farm tour,
 - > Parliament house media stop video footage

Participating councils who join the partnership have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the partnership pledge ranging from renewable energy, efficiency, transport and advocacy (see Appendix A for full pledge list and Appendix B for pledge examples).

Future applications

Please contact us at cpp@climatecouncil.org.au to find out how your council can join the program

How the Cities Power Partnership Works



Become a Partner

Act:

Councils sign up to be a Partner.

Knowledge:

Partners get exclusive access to the extensive online knowledge hub, webinars and Azility reporting tool.

Connect:

Each Partner is connected with other local councils to knowledge share throughout the year.

Profile:

Partners are profiled in national and local media, online and to our 200,000 members and supporters.

2

Power Up

Act:

Partners have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the partnership pledges ranging from renewable energy, efficiency, transport and advocacy. They must identify a point of contact within council who will liaise with the Climate Council and work to implement their actions. Pledges are submitted by each partner and profiled online.

Knowledge:

Partners will have ongoing access to the knowledge hub, reporting tool, webinars with domestic and international experts as well as communications and advocacy training where required.

Connect:

Partners are connected with councils across state borders to deepen knowledge sharing across joint project areas of interest. Councils can also be connected with their local community energy group and relevant local organisations who can help with implementation of emission reduction actions. Councils who are already leading will play an important knowledge sharing role with other partners.

Incentives:

Partners will be assisted with applications for project funding, third party grants and renewable energy incentives as they become available.

Profile:

Partners and their local success stories will be profiled in the media by our dedicated CPP team Media Advisors working with Council communications teams. Climate Councillors will travel to a range of communities across Australia to engage in community events and talk to councils.

3

Power On

Act:

Partners report on progress against key actions in a 6 monthly survey, following the submission of their 5 pledge items.

Knowledge:

Partners access local and international knowledge and inspiration at through our knowledge hub and various roundtables.

Connect:

Partners are brought together to celebrate the high achieving towns and cities at our national Summit and networking events throughout the year.

Profile:

Success stories are continually celebrated in the media. The CPP annual awards, recognise & celebrate best practice project outcomes, collaborations and individual contributions. Climate Councillors travel to a range of Australian communities, as more towns and cities become Partners and lead the switch to non-polluting energy across the country.

What Does Success Look Like?

By the end of 2019, the Cities Power Partnership generated more than 5000 media items and at 128 members and growing, is now the largest climate action program for local government in the country.

The Partners are supported to implement their pledge items through webinars with topic experts, access to shared project data via the knowledge hub and networking with their peers.



Frequently Asked Questions

When did the Cities Power Partnership launch?

It launched in July 2017. This launch included the launch of the CPP website, the Local Government Action research report, a media and stakeholder launch which showcased the 35 towns and cities who had already pledged and a national media campaign.

A round 2 launch was held in January 2018 to welcome a further 30 councils joining in the latter half of 2018, bringing the total to 100 councils in every state and territory.

Can the broader community nominate their town or city to be part of the Cities Power Partnership?

Yes. Nominations can easily be made through the website at citiespowerpartnership.org.au/nominate/. Tell us why you think your council or any other would be a good fit and if you have recommended points of contact within councils, either staff or elected representatives, we're all ears.

How do community energy organisations get involved?

We are actively reaching out to community energy organisations across the country to get involved. The Cities Power Partnership wants to profile and connect community energy groups with councils involved in the partnership. There is an action pledge under "Work Together and Influence" for councils to strive to "support community energy groups with their community energy initiatives". This connection is vital to help councils achieve success as community energy groups and the community more broadly can provide on the ground support, including workshops and modelling, to help councils achieve their energy and sustainability commitments.

What if a town or city is already leading in renewable energy and sustainability, what does their city get out of joining the partnership?

Cities leading the way play an essential role in the partnership. They share their knowledge with other cities, their successes are celebrated to an audience of millions to inspire others and they will have access to resources and incentives to help them to continue to lead.

Many trailblazing cities who are already leading will have some of their existing initiatives counted towards their partnership pledges.

Appendix

Appendix A: The Partnership Action Pledges

Participating councils who join the partnership will have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the options below.

Renewable Energy



1. Develop supportive planning laws to encourage residents and industry to adopt renewable energy.



2. Use council resources to support the uptake of renewable energy



3. Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings.



4. Support community facilities to access renewable energy through incentives, support or grants.



5. Power council operations by renewable energy, and set targets to increase the level of renewable power for council operations over time.



6. Provide incentives and/or remove barriers to encourage local businesses to take up solar power and battery storage.



7. Support local community renewable energy projects, and encourage investment in community energy.

Energy Efficiency

- | | |
|---|---|
|  <p>8. Opening up unused council managed land for renewable energy.</p> |  <p>1. Set minimum energy efficiency benchmarks for all planning applications.</p> |
|  <p>9. Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at a low cost.</p> |  <p>2. Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.</p> |
|  <p>10. Set minimum renewable energy benchmarks for new developments.</p> |  <p>3. Roll out energy efficient lighting across the municipality.</p> |
|  <p>11. Electrify public transport systems and fleet vehicles and power these by 100% renewable energy.</p> |  <p>4. Provide incentives for energy efficient developments and upgrades to existing buildings.</p> |
|  <p>12. Lobby electricity providers and state government to address barriers to local renewable energy uptake.</p> |  <p>5. Incentivise use of energy efficient heating and cooling technologies.</p> |
|  <p>13. Identify opportunities to turn organic waste into electricity.</p> |  <p>6. Create a green revolving energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects</p> |
|  <p>14. Implement landfill gas methane flaring or capture for electricity generation.</p> | |
|  <p>15. Create a revolving green energy fund to finance renewable energy projects.</p> | |

12 Cities Power Partnership

Sustainable Transport

1.  Ensure Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles.
2.  Provide fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.
3.  Encourage sustainable transport use such as public transport, walking and cycling through council transport planning and design.
4.  Ensure that new developments are designed to maximize public and active transport use, and support electric vehicle uptake.
5.  Support cycling through provision of adequate cycle lanes, bike parking and end-of-ride facilities.
6.  Reduce or remove minimum car parking requirements for new housing and commercial developments where suitable public transport alternatives exist.
7.  Lobby state and federal governments to increase sustainable transport options
8.  Create disincentives for driving high emitting vehicles.
9.  Convert council waste collection fleet to hydrogen or electric power.

Work Together and Influence

1.  Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets.
2.  Lobby state and federal government to address barriers to the take up of renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or sustainable transport.
3.  Set up meetings and attend events to work with other cities on tackling climate change.
4.  Develop education and behaviour-change programs to support local residents and businesses to tackle climate change through clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.
5.  Lobby for state and federal support for a just transition away from coal-driven industry for local workers and the community.
6.  Develop procurement policy to ensure that the practices of contractors and financiers align with council's renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport goals.
7.  Support the local community to develop capacity and skills to tackle climate change.
8.  Support local community energy groups with their community energy initiatives.
9.  Achieve 100% divestment from fossil fuel aligned investments at the earliest possible date.

Appendix

Appendix B: Pledge Examples

Renewable energy

Action	Examples	Link
Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings	Bathurst Council installed solar systems across nine council buildings	https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/environment/energy-sustainability/solar-power-on-council-buildings.html
Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at a low cost.	The Melbourne Renewable Energy Project involves bringing together a number of large energy users to collectively tender for renewable energy.	https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/business/sustainable-business/mrep/Pages/melbourne-renewable-energy-project.aspx

Energy efficiency

Action	Examples	Link
Roll out energy efficient lighting across the municipality.	Wingecarribee Shire Council – participation in Lighting the Way Streetlighting upgrade	http://media.wsc.nsw.gov.au/council-and-endeavour-energy-roll-out-street-light-upgrade/
Create a green revolving energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects	Penrith City Council Sustainability Revolving fund has supported 42 projects to the value of more than \$1.5 million. Combined these projects result in savings of almost \$600,000 each year, along with abatement of more than 3,100 tonnes of CO ₂ e.	https://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Waste-and-Environment/Sustainability-Revolving-Fund-Guidelines/

Sources: IEA 2016; IRENA 2016

14 Cities Power Partnership

Sustainable transport

Action	Examples	Link
Ensure Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles.	Charge Together initiative	https://www.chargetogether.com/about-the-program
Provide fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.	Regional 3 Council Program Waverley, Woollahra & Randwick Councils	http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/top_link_pages/news_and_media/council_news/news/a_nsw_first_for_electric_vehicle_owners

Work together and influence

Action	Examples	Link
Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets.	Darebin has set a target of zero net carbon emissions across Darebin by 2020 and released the first ever Climate Emergency Plan.	https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/environment/energy-sustainability/solar-power-on-council-buildings.html
Support the local community to develop capacity and skills to tackle climate change	Hepburn Shire and ZNet Hepburn Shire created the 10 year Community Transition Plan	https://z-net.org.au/hepburn/

References

- Alinta Energy (2014) Port Augusta Solar Thermal Generation Feasibility Study Stage 1 – Pre-feasibility Study Options Study Report. Accessed at <https://alintaenergy.com.au/Alinta/media/Documents/2263503A-POW-RPT-001-RevD-Options-Study-Report.pdf>
- Bathurst Regional Council (2016) Solar Power on Council Buildings. Accessed at <https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/environment/energy-sustainability/solar-power-on-council-buildings.html>
- City of Adelaide (2014) Tindo – The World’s First Solar Electric Bus. Accessed at http://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/assets/acc/Environment/energy/docs/tindo_fact_sheet.pdf
- City of Adelaide (2017) Sustainability Incentives Scheme. Accessed at <http://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/your-council/funding/sustainable-city-incentives-scheme/>
- City of Greater Geelong (2016) Sustainable Council Buildings. Accessed at <http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/environment/article/item/8ce78d636c74b86.aspx>
- City of Moonee Valley (2017) Solar Bulk Buy. Accessed at <http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/for-residents/environment-programs/my-home/solar-bulk-buy.aspx>
- Cockburn (2017) Renewable Energy in Cockburn. Accessed at http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Council_Services/Environment/Renewable_Energy/
- Energy Matters (2014) Solar Saver Program. Accessed at <http://www.energymatters.com.au/images/news/2014/solar-saver-bulkbuy.pdf>
- Farming the Sun (2017) Solar Farm Business Model. Accessed at <http://farmingthesun.net/lismore/business-model/>
- IEA (2016) Energy Technology Perspectives 2016. Towards Sustainable Urban Energy Systems. Accessed at https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/EnergyTechnologyPerspectives2016_ExecutiveSummary_EnglishVersion.pdf
- Inner West Council – Leichhardt (2016) Council Solar Panels. Accessed at <http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Environment--Sustainability/Projects-and-Programs/Council-Solar-Panels>
- IPWEA (2016) Case study: North Sydney Council electric bike fleet. Accessed at <http://www.ipwea.org/victoria/communities/communityblogs/blogviewer?BlogKey=ad5a330e-17df-4eec-a55b-a4a7b25c98ac>
- IRENA (2016) Renewable Energy in Cities. Accessed at http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_Renewable_Energy_in_Cities_2016.pdf
- Jay Weatherill (2016) ZEN Energy to install \$1m battery storage on Government-owned buildings. Accessed at <http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/index.php/tom-koutsantonis-news-releases/896-zen-energy-to-install-1m-battery-storage-on-government-owned-buildings>
- KMH Environmental (2014) Project: Bathurst Regional Council Energy Audits. Accessed at <http://www.kmh.com.au/projects/bathurst-energy-audits/>
- Moreland City Council (2017) Electric vehicles. Accessed at <http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/parking-roads/transport/electric-vehicles/>
- Wangaratta Chronicle (2016) \$40M farm a goer. Accessed at <http://wangarattachronicle.com.au/2016/11/23/40m-farm-a-goer/>



Cities Power Partnership

cpp@climatecouncil.org.au
citiespowerpartnership.org.au

© 2020 Climate Council