CITY OF ONKAPARINGA
CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN 2022–2027

Our community has told us loud and clear that taking action on climate change is a priority to them, and the science tells us that strong action to reduce emissions is needed this decade. Local governments are on the front line of dealing with climate change impacts, which means we need to prepare for extreme events and consider how the design of our public spaces can build resilience in a hotter, drier and more volatile climate.

Climate change is a shared responsibility between all levels of government, business, and the community. Our role as a local government will be guided by our capacity to influence the outcome and the decisions being made.

But how to take action? Our community sees climate action as reducing emissions and use of fossil fuels, switching to renewable energy, tree planting, greening, more open spaces, recycling and waste management, and improved development regulations.

Our Climate Change Response Plan 2022–2027 outlines how we'll build on our strong track-record of practical, on-ground action to drive lasting change across five key goals that capture how we can respond to climate change impact.

This snapshot shares some of the key actions we'll take to achieve the goals, helping our city to prepare for and adapt to our changing world. The City of Onkaparinga is a fantastic place to live, work and visit and we're committed to playing our part to ensure this continues into the future.

GOAL 1: CLIMATE SMART NEIGHBOURHOODS	GOAL 2: CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES	GOAL 3: CLIMATE RESILIENT NATURAL AREAS	GOAL 4: LOW CARBON TRANSITION	GOAL 5: CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION
Grow our urban forest to green the city and sequester carbon by planting 6,000 trees a year, and advocating for greater protection of existing trees.	Support community groups to reduce emissions in council-leased buildings by providing $5000 grants for energy efficiency and solar.	Deliver a Coastal Adaptation Plan that guides decision making and action, and responds to the priority issues identified in the 2021 Coastal Adaptation Study.	Implement the Towards Zero Roadmap, including an energy upgrade of the Noarlunga Aquatic Centre, purchase of 100 per cent renewable energy, changeover of remaining lights to LED, and the electrification of the fleet.	Expand our bushfire preparedness and resilience project in high-risk areas using new mapping and mowing tools to eradicate highly flammable invasive species and to build community capacity. These efforts have been boosted by a $3.57m grant from the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.
Cool the city and support our greening programs with a climate-independent water supply.	Support the community to prepare for and respond to emergency events, and to reduce risk, through community led initiatives and programs delivered in partnership with Red Cross.	Develop an Ecological Restoration Program that will identify opportunities to increase biodiversity linkages across the landscape and establish our strategic priorities for the next 10 years.		Assess the risk and vulnerability of council assets to climate change with Resilient South councils, the CSIRO and key industry stakeholders.
Build climate resilience into our civil works and open space planning by increasing shade, vegetation cover, habitat, permeability, irrigated spaces, and heat-reflective materials.		Seek external funding for stage two of the Urban Creek Recovery Project to rehabilitate waterways in Serpentine Creek, Panalatinga Creek and Christie Creek.	Investigate a private embedded network to share power between co-located facilities.	
Advocate for climate-resilient design in developments at Aldinga, Hackham, and Sellicks Beach.	Strengthen the community's skills in low-carbon living, repairing, and growing food through our community gardens, Sustainable Onkaparinga workshops and events, waste education program, and food security initiatives.	Develop a spatial decision–making tool with community conservation groups to prioritise our rural roadside weed control and revegetation works.	Support the circular economy by developing indicators to guide our work, expanding the use of recycled materials in council projects, and increasing the diversion of kerbside waste from landfill.	Update our stormwater capacity and flood-risk data including updated climate change scenarios and development projections.

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The full Climate Change Response Plan 2022-27 can be accessed at www.onkaparingacity.com/council/publications

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