

Climate Change Response Plan

Plain English summary

This plan is written by the City of Onkaparinga. When you see the word 'we', it means City of Onkaparinga.

Kaurna recognition

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners of Australia. They are the first people of this place – living here and looking after the land and rivers and seas. For us, this is the Kaurna people.

Introduction

Climate change means the planet is heating up. The increasing temperatures makes other changes happen such as sea ice shrinking, sea levels rising and our weather becoming more extreme and unpredictable.

Responding to climate change means doing things to try to stop climate change getting worse as well as protecting ourselves from the impacts that happen because of climate change.

We have been responding to climate change for over 20 years and we know the community expects us to continue to do things to protect our environment including our coastline, open spaces and townships. We also need to protect people and keep them safe.

Responding to climate change is the responsibility of governments, business and the community. Everyone has a role to play. This plan is about what council will do.

There are lots of things that we at council can do to respond to climate change but many of the actions needed are not in council's control. In these cases we will:

- Work with others like state government and community organisations to deliver local services and programs.
- Advocate to the state or federal government for changes to policy, practices and funding.



There are lots of organisations in our area that we work with on climate change. Some of these are:

- Green Adelaide
- Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
- Coast Protection Board
- Department for Environment and Water
- Non-government-organisations such as the Red Cross.

We work with other councils in our area as part of the Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership. By working together, we can coordinate our climate change response and increase our impact.



Our Plan

When making our Climate Change Response Plan we thought about:

- what climate scientists say is happening now and is likely to happen in the future
- what the community says they want us to do
- what our risk assessments say are our biggest local climate risks.

The climate of our area is expected to get drier and hotter. Our average maximum and minimum temperatures will increase. We will have less rainfall overall but more occasions of heavy rainfall.



Our plan has 5 goals. Our goals are to have:

1. Climate smart neighbourhoods.

We plan for our local climate when we build and maintain our streets, suburbs and townships. We make places that are safe and great to live in.

2. Climate ready communities.

Our communities understand the risks of climate change. They know what they need to do to be ready for the impacts of climate change.

3. Climate resilient natural areas.

Our natural areas are improving and can cope with the impact of a changing climate.

4. Low carbon transition.

We are reducing council's carbon emissions. The things we do support the community to reduce their carbon emissions too.

5. Climate risk reduction.

We have the information we need to make good decisions about risks from climate change. We share this information with our communities and organisations we work with.



There are lots of things we will do to help us reach our goals. Some of these things are:

- Increase the number of trees in the area by planting 6000 trees each year.
- Advocate to the state government to protect existing trees.
- Support the community to prepare for and respond to emergency events like floods and bushfire.
- Use more recycled materials like plastic and concrete in council projects.
- Reduce the amount of kerbside waste going to landfill.
- Reduce council's carbon emissions by using more renewable energy and electric vehicles.
- Use water more carefully such as redirecting stormwater to help street trees grow.
- Monitor the impacts of climate change on our coastline and make a plan to protect areas at most risk.
- Change all our main road streetlights to LED globes which are more energy efficient.
- Install solar panels on more council-owned buildings.
- Remove more highly flammable weeds from public land in high risk areas to reduce the risk of bushfire.

This Plain English plan is a summary of another plan. It only includes the most important ideas.

If you would like to talk to someone about our Climate Change Response Plan call 8384 0666.