

Climate Action Policy

Policy Type: Council Policy

Policy Owner: Chief Sustainability Officer

Policy No. CP-120

Last Review Date: 15 March 2022

Policy Objectives

- To demonstrate the City's leadership on Climate Action including climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- To guide the City of Melville on prioritising Climate Change considerations across the organisation and in the region as an integrated approach and core business activity.
- To prioritise carbon neutral considerations in all aspects of the City's business practices in alignment with the Climate Emergency declaration by the City of Melville.
- To focus on appropriately achieving carbon neutrality targets through a data driven scientific approach and rigorous assessment, ensuring best value outcomes that are sustainable, Carbon Neutral without compromising the level of service provided to the Melville community.
- To promote a proactive approach on greenhouse gas emissions reduction across the City's supply chain.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all services, programs, projects, facilities and strategic and operational factors which the City has control or where the City may exert influence (e.g. community behaviour; advocating to other levels of government).

The policy will influence most of the City's strategies, plans and decisions for work undertaken by the City and by decisions of Council.

Definitions / Abbreviations Used In Policy

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions: *A greenhouse gas is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.*

Marginal Cost of Abatement: *Marginal abatement cost measures the cost of reducing one more unit of pollution.*

Life Cycle Assessment: *Life cycle assessment or LCA is a methodology for assessing aspects and impacts associated with all the stages of the life of a commercial product, process, or service.*

Climate Change Mitigation: *Climate change mitigation consists of actions to limit global warming and its related effects by reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases as well as activities that reduce their concentration in the atmosphere.*



Climate Change Adaptation: *Climate change adaptation is the process of adjusting to current or expected climate change and its effects.*

Carbon Neutral: *Carbon neutrality is a state of net-zero carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions.*

Policy Statement

The City of Melville will provide robust leadership on Sustainability with a stronger focus on Climate Action in accordance with the Council's Climate Emergency declaration made in June 2021, with a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 for the organisation and by 2050 for the geographic region.

The City will:

1. Conduct Life Cycle Assessments for best value sustainable decisions by undertaking holistic sustainability assessments for any project, service or decision, considering associated aspects, impacts and externalities across its lifecycle. Ensuring assessments evaluate sustainability across the spectrum of social, economic, environmental and financial aspects, including potential opportunities and risks with a strong focus on Climate Change aspects and Impacts.
2. Develop and maintain a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory incorporating emissions related to the City's operation and across the geographic region that will be disclosed transparently for community access on the City's website.
3. Prioritising climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, decisions and practices that are economically sustainable across its lifecycle. Establishing appropriate business models and partnerships that demonstrate best value return on green investments by the City to ensure the projects are sustainable on a long term basis considering marginal cost of abatement as key criteria for the prioritisation and implementation of projects.
4. Avoid and Minimise GHG emissions by introducing a strongly weighted criterion to consider Carbon Neutral or lowest carbon options in decision making, project design and procurement undertaken by the City of Melville including appropriate options analysis to select projects or combinations of projects with the best combined values (in terms of life time financial value and GHG emissions).

Service delivery by the City will transition to Carbon Neutral at the earliest possible timeframe, before the targeted date set for 2030, without impacting on the quality of service delivery or customer service standards.

All City assets, infrastructure, facilities and their maintenance will transition to Carbon Neutral or Carbon Negative at the earliest possible timeframe before the targeted date set for 2030. Appropriate business models and partnerships for shared assets will be explored with various stakeholders, including the community, to ensure assets can be sustainably funded and resourced for continuing efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

5. Offset GHG emissions after exhausting options to avoid and minimise emissions by carbon emission reduction projects within the City organisation or geographical region as far as practicable. Such a carbon emission reduction project should take into consideration the functional needs, value and its potential to achieve carbon neutrality combining it as an offset with the low carbon options selected in decision making, project design and procurement undertaken by the City.



The associated offsets created by this local project within the Melville geographic region should be demonstrated beneficial for the local community from economic and environmental perspective across its life cycle. Such projects may include options such as bio-sequestration (plantations, wetlands, protecting vegetation, etc.), renewable energy generation or other technologies as appropriate.

The City will actively seek opportunities to partner, increase local participation and drive a local market mechanism to support local carbon offsets through its operations and in partnership with the community.

6. Establish a stronger monitoring, reporting and verification system by developing a robust monitoring, reporting and verification mechanism for carbon accounting and other sustainability parameters across all activities of the City and the geographical region in accordance with international standards.
7. Support innovation by recognising that an effective response to climate change demands flexibility and a commitment to innovation, behaviour change and new ways of thinking. The City accepts this responsibility and is committed to being innovative, including working in partnership with other groups and organisations to investigate new technologies, business models and best practices in emissions management.
8. Encourage community and stakeholder participation by committing to the continuation of the process of ongoing, purposeful, participatory, inclusive and accessible community partnerships, empowering community to take action on climate change and supporting resilience where possible. The City will encourage and support community led initiatives aiming to work towards carbon neutrality through shared learning and its leadership.
9. Allocate appropriate level of resources that will support the organisation and the community for:
 - (i) Ensuring the outcome of this policy is appropriately achieved,
 - (ii) Striving to be sustainable in delivering our services and activities, and
 - (iii) Achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 or before the target dates if feasible and further excel beyond the target dates as defined for carbon neutrality where possible.

References that may be applicable to this Policy

Legislative Requirements:

Procedures, Process Maps, Work Instructions:

Other Plans, Frameworks, Documents Applicable to Policy:

Delegated Authority No:

ORIGIN/AUTHORITY

Ordinary Meeting of the Council

15 March 2022

Item No.

C22/5896

Reviews