



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

Adopted: *(Current date)*

TRIM *(Number)*



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

DIRECTORATE: Infrastructure & Environment

BUSINESS UNIT: City Environment

1. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council's commitment to managing climate change through emissions reduction actions across Council's operations and our community.

The Policy aligns with State and regional climate change policy as well as Council's net zero emission reduction pathways outlined in the *Sustainable Resilient Liverpool Strategy* and the *Liverpool Climate Action Plan*.

The objectives of this Policy are to:

1. Outline net-zero carbon emission targets from Council's operations.
2. Provide effective and strong leadership to the Liverpool community in responding to climate change and building a sustainable city.
3. Assist our community to reach the NSW government aspirational target of net-zero emissions.

2. POLICY COMMITMENT STATEMENTS

Council developed the *Sustainable Resilient Liverpool Strategy* in 2020 and the *Liverpool Climate Action Plan* in 2022, identifying key strategic directions for emission reduction pathways for Council operations and the community. The commitments in this Policy are aligned with these documents.

Council is committed to the following principles.

Commitment Principle 1

Achieve net-zero carbon emissions from Council's operations by 2050.

To reduce its emissions, Council will aim to:

- ensure that all functions and activities of Council consider climate change across the organisation's operations;
- increase energy efficiency and reduce operating consumption costs across Council operations;
- reduce corporate energy use;
- minimise fuel consumption and transition to an electric fleet; and
- source energy from low carbon emission sources.

Commitment Principle 2

Provide effective and strong leadership to the Liverpool community in responding to climate change and building a sustainable city.

This will be achieved by:

- ensuring all new Council infrastructure and buildings deliver best practice low carbon, low urban heat, climate resilience, water and energy efficient outcomes;
- climate resilient water supply and conservation by minimising potable water use in our operations; and
- reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use, transport, resource consumption and waste management.

Commitment Principle 3

Assist our community to reach the NSW government aspirational target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

To support the community achieve this target, Council will:

- deliver programs and services that support community and business transition to net zero emissions;
- develop community infrastructure and programs that provide for safe, efficient, affordable and low-carbon mobility;
- utilise Council assets and activities as enablers for broader community emission reductions;
- utilise land-use planning instruments to reduce urban heat, potable water use, and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- incorporate best practice urban heat resilience and green infrastructure, including increased canopy cover, street vegetation and urban heat refuges.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

These commitments are a shared responsibility across many sections of Council, as outlined in the *Liverpool Climate Action Plan*. They involve working collaboratively with external stakeholders including government departments, regional organisations, industry and the community.

4. RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Local Government Act 1993

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979

5. RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURE REFERENCES

- NSW government *Net Zero Plan Stage 1, 2020-2030*.
- *A Metropolis of Three Cities - The Greater Sydney Regional Plan*
- *Western City District Plan*
- *Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) - Connected Liverpool 2040 Sustainable Resilient Liverpool*
- *Liverpool Climate Action Plan*
- *NSW Electricity Strategy*
- *NSW Climate Change Policy Framework*
- *Future Transport Strategy 2056*

6. DEFINITIONS

Climate change – any change in the climate over time, due to either natural variability or human activities.

Emissions - The release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) – refers to emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride, a hydrofluorocarbon gas, a perfluorocarbon gas or any other gas prescribed by legislation for the purposes of this definition.

Net-zero emissions: Also known as ‘carbon neutrality’ or ‘climate neutrality’. Occurs when the level of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere from human activities equals the level ‘removed’ from the atmosphere.

Resilience – climate resilience refers to organisations, community, individuals increasing and building capacity to cope with climate change, to recover from the effects of climatic changes and to adapt to climate change using a combination of sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures.

AUTHORISED BY

Council Resolution

EFFECTIVE FROM

This date is the date the policy is adopted by Council resolution.

REVIEW DATE

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

VERSIONS

The current and previous version of the policy should be set out in the following table.

Version	Amended by	Changes made	Date	TRIM Number

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH

In this section please identify all the groups consulted with in the preparation of the policy such as members of Council staff, management, Councillor’s, community members, other government departments etc. You should consult with the Governance Coordinator before the policy is considered by the Chief Executive Officer or the elected Council.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Liverpool Climate Action Plan*