



# Climate Action Plan 2022–2025



**Adelaide.  
Designed for Life.**

**City of Adelaide**

25 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

**P** 08 8208 7203

**W** [cityofadelaide.com.au](http://cityofadelaide.com.au)



## Acknowledgement of Country

City of Adelaide tampendi, ngadlu Kurna yertangga banbabanbalyarnendi (inbarendi). Kurna meyunna yaitya mattanya Womma Tarndanyako. Parnako yailtya, parnuko tappa purruna, parnuko yerta ngadlu tampendi. Yellaka Kurna meyunna itto yailtya, tappa purruna, yerta kuma burro martendi, burro warriappendi, burro tangka martulyaiendi. Kumarta yaitya miyurna iyangka yalaka ngadlu tampinhi.

City of Adelaide acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today. And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

## Introduction

Climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Adelaide, and the world. Adelaide has been bold in its ambition to address the underlying causes, and now is the time to accelerate those actions. The world's best climate science released in 2022 is unequivocal that climate change is underway and that humans must drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts.

Cities have a crucial role to play – both as significant contributors to climate change as well as being home to communities that will have to manage their impacts. The impacts of climate change are being felt in the number of extreme heat days.

We are taking a leadership position in addressing climate change, including through carbon neutral certification of our operations since 2019/20.

To develop this Action Plan, we had hundreds of conversations with community members and experts to determine priorities for action. We also recognise, support and champion their achievements.

We are focused on what we can do now to continue to drive down our carbon footprint and ways we can mitigate climate impacts for our residents and visitors. As a mid-sized urban centre, there is so much opportunity presented by the low carbon future in a future facing, green and electrified city.

Climate change is an issue that affects us all and we can all play our part in its solutions.



## Background

We are committed to leading by example to address the climate challenge and have an ambition to be one of the world's first carbon neutral cities.

The Carbon Neutral Strategy 2015–2025 (the Strategy) was developed to direct actions to reduce the climate impact of City of Adelaide operations and its community, and to use our leadership position to drive wider change.

This Action Plan covers the last three years of the Strategy and outlines the immediate actions to build upon previous successes, develop foundations for the next ten-year strategy, and accelerate climate action within our own operations and the community.

The Action Plan will operate in parallel to the:

- Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021–2026
- Resource Recovery Strategy (Organics Recycling and Waste) 2020–2028
- Water Sensitive City Action Plan 2021–2025
- Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015–2025

The successful Sustainability Incentives Scheme and Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partners programs have been expanded with funding support for educational and catalysing activities.

The Sustainability Incentives Scheme has invested over \$1.5 million to support over 700 community projects since 2015, including nearly 400 solar installations.

The Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partners program has over 200 organisations actively participating in the transition to a low carbon economy, providing services and pursuing business decarbonisation.

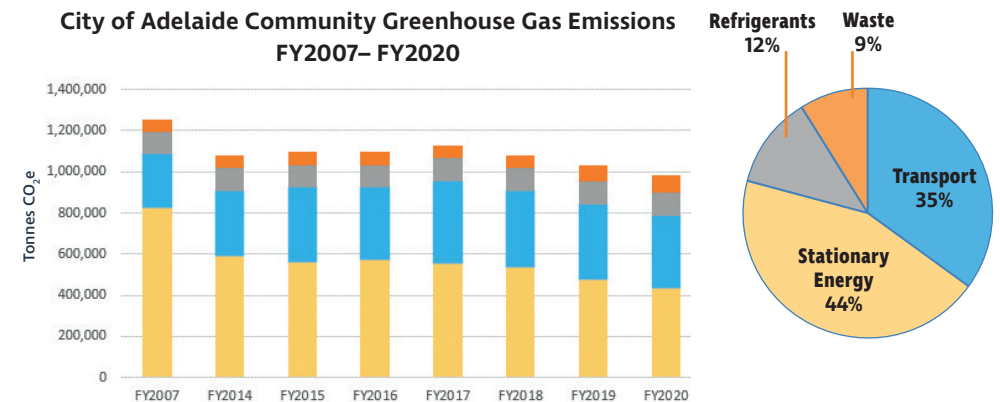
## Climate Risk

In addition to the risks posed by the changing climate, there are also business risks and opportunities created by the global and local response to climate change. For the corporate sector, transition risks refer to a failure to move in step with a decarbonising world. Globally recognised frameworks such as the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) now exist to address transition risk and capture opportunities. In a local government sector, considering climate risk means considering a range of future scenarios that could have impact on assets or infrastructure, including dependency on fossil fuels.

The risk to the City of Adelaide's operations from the changing climate are addressed through a Climate Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021–2026, which reports to the Council Audit and Risk Committee.

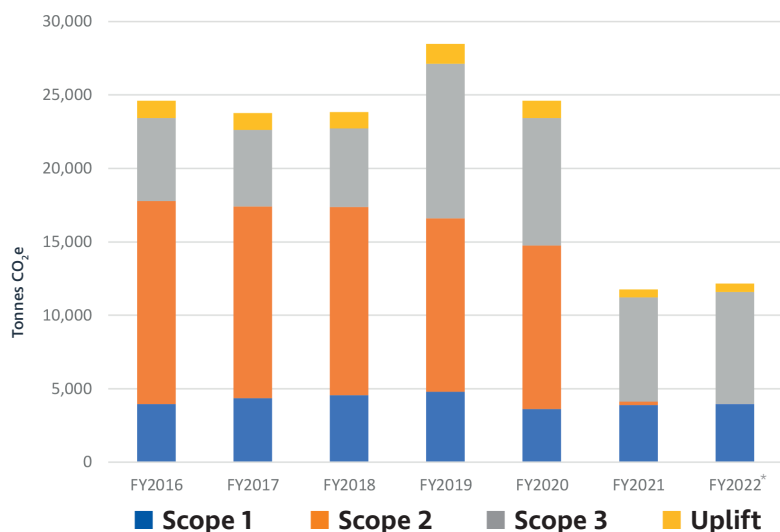
## City of Adelaide's Community Emissions Profile

The City of Adelaide's community emissions have reduced by twenty one percent (21%) between 2007 and 2020.



# City of Adelaide's Corporate Emissions Profile

City of Adelaide Corporate Carbon Emissions  
FY2016– FY2022



\*The City of Adelaide has been Climate Active carbon neutral certified since FY2020. For FY2022, the City of Adelaide purchased and used 12,152 offsets to maintain certification.

## Emissions Scopes

Carbon emission accounting is typically divided into three 'Scopes', or categories of emissions:

- Scope 1 are emissions directly produced from the organisation's activities, such as through vehicle exhaust or using natural gas.
- Scope 2 are indirect emissions from electricity purchased from a grid. The City of Adelaide has removed its Scope 2 emissions by entering a 100% renewable electricity power purchase agreement in 2020.
- Scope 3 are all other indirect emissions that are not directly produced by the organisation but are generated on its behalf through its supply chain, business travel, waste management, etc.
- The City of Adelaide also includes an 'uplift' factor of 5% to conservatively account for negligible emission sources and accounting uncertainties.

## Progress Snapshot

### Within the community

More than 15 MW of solar capacity installed, quadrupled since 2016

65% renewable electricity in the grid

Over 54 public electric vehicle chargers

Over 200 Carbon Neutral Adelaide partners

Over 700 community projects supported by \$1.5 million Council investment from the Sustainability Incentives Scheme

50 small business received free energy efficiency audits in 2021

23 small businesses received over \$81,000 towards efficiency upgrades

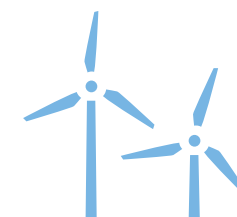
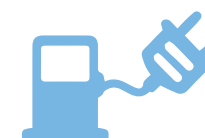
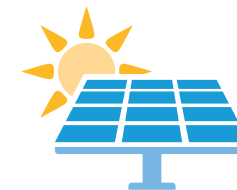
### Within Council

100% renewable electricity contract providing equivalent electricity use of around 3,800 homes

Over half of Council's light passenger vehicles are fully electric and the fleet also includes an electric truck

1.1 MW of solar power providing electricity equivalent to over 300 homes, or 12% of Council building demand

Recognised as a global climate leader through CDP reporting





## What we heard

In 2022 we consulted widely across our communities to understand what climate actions were already being undertaken by businesses and residents and to gather feedback on new ideas.

The community told us they want action on creating an all-electric and resource efficient city; increasing the options for and availability of active and public transport; support for businesses and residents to understand and reduce their climate impact; and greening the city and increasing resilience to the changing climate. These areas have been reflected in our Action Plan.

We had input from over 400 community members in the first phase of consultation through:

- 11 community workshops with 101 participants
- 7 staff workshops with 89 participants
- 182 community contributions to our Your Say Adelaide discussion board
- 44 responses to a community survey

Once the Action Plan was drafted, we conducted a second phase of consultation through community surveys and 60 community members provided feedback and further input.



## An electrified city

The electricity and gas consumed by buildings contributes around 44% of the community's carbon footprint in our local government area and there is significant potential for carbon savings by running all-electric buildings on South Australia's world-leading renewable electricity grid. The State Government has committed to a fully decarbonised grid by 2030 and is likely to beat this deadline. City of Adelaide seeks to make the most of this grid transition through 'electrification', which involves converting all energy sources – whether in buildings or vehicles – to electricity.

A community battery or energy project could help to capitalise on our green grid and support more affordable electricity, grid stability, and equitable sharing of renewable resources. A renewables group-buy for businesses could reduce their price rise exposure, drive new generation commitments and reduce emissions.

For City of Adelaide operations, conversion of the remaining 80% of our street lights to efficient LEDs will reduce electricity use and cost.

## Actions

### Community

- 1.1 Facilitate a mechanism for city businesses to collectively purchase renewable electricity (such as through a power purchase agreement or other platform).
- 1.2 Investigate opportunities to install a community battery or facilitate a community energy project.
- 1.3 Implement a program to support electrification of new and existing commercial buildings within the city.
- 1.4 Support strata corporations to implement low carbon solutions, including shared solar and EV charging opportunities.

### Council

- 1.5 Convert all remaining city streetlights to efficient LED.

# A mobile population

Transport emissions account for around 35% of the City of Adelaide community's carbon footprint. Movement of people to and around the city is essential for economic activity and vibrancy, and the City of Adelaide seeks to realise opportunities for low carbon, safe and equitable options for all.

The best outcome for decarbonisation is to create healthier streets and enable more people to walk/wheel, cycle and scoot, and use public transport.

Increasing the range and uptake of low carbon transport options in the city and implementing the upcoming Integrated Transport Strategy is essential to meeting community expectations. Developing a green transit boulevard and trialling micro-mobility devices in city cycle paths will support more inclusive, safe and healthier modes.

For Adelaide, accelerating the shift to electric vehicles offers an opportunity for both improving local air quality and reducing noise and carbon emissions for global impact. This transition will be supported by the installation of 100 new public electric vehicle chargers and a carbon neutral UPark service to reduce carbon impact while electric vehicle price parity and a second hand market is developing.

## Actions

### Community

- 2.1 Work with the State Government to develop Currie/Grenfell Street as a green transit boulevard that prioritises public and active travel.
- 2.2 Foster the uptake of electric or active micro-mobility devices (e.g. bicycles, scooters and motorised mobility devices) and advocate to the State Government to provide for the safe use of e-scooters on city streets.
- 2.3 Install new bicycle counting loops to determine baselines for bicycle use in the city and inform planning of new infrastructure.
- 2.4 Install an additional 100 public electric vehicle and bicycle chargers between 2022–2025 in collaboration with partners.
- 2.5 Certify UParks as a carbon neutral service to cover customer emissions driving to and from our carparks, while supporting our community's transition to electric vehicles.
- 2.6 Advocate to the State Government for zero emissions public transport and increased incentives to use it.

### Council

- 2.7 Review and update the City of Adelaide car-sharing (i.e. short term rental) policy.
- 2.8 Integrate at least 75% electric vehicles into the City of Adelaide light passenger vehicle fleet by 2025 as cost effective and fit-for-purpose models become available, as a Foundation Partner of the SA Electric Vehicle Fleet Pledge.





## A green and resilient community

Greening in the city helps make streets more comfortable for pedestrians by reducing the 'urban heat island effect', and creates micro-climates so buildings use less energy for cooling, in turn reducing emissions. The opportunity for low carbon green precincts will be investigated to guide urban development and investment decisions and advocacy on sustainable development will be strengthened.

Collaboration on carbon offset pathways with strong local benefits will occur and the voices of our Traditional Owners and the city's youth will be elevated.

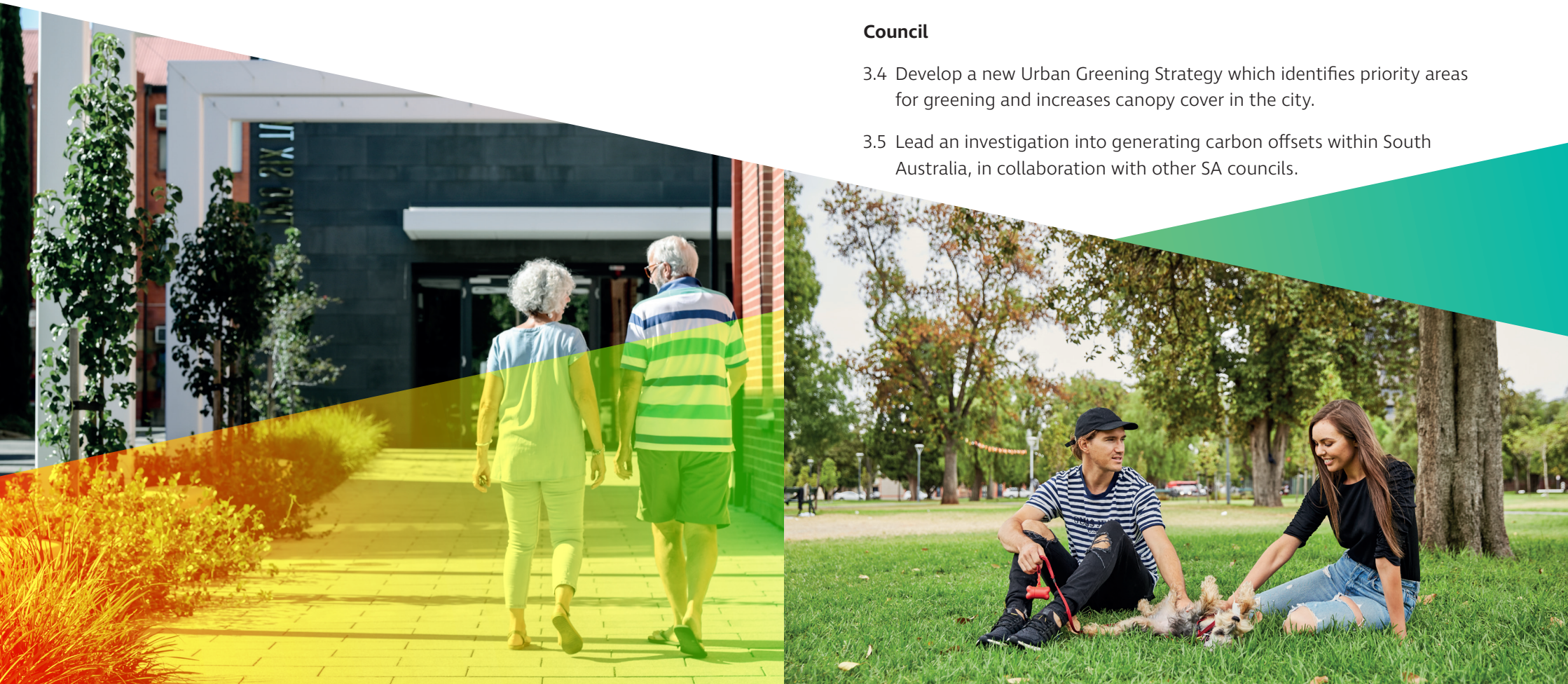
## Actions

### Community

- 3.1 Continue a program of outreach and education with the community and also seek to represent the voices of key community members, such as young people and Traditional Owners.
- 3.2 Investigate low carbon, green precinct options in collaboration with university partners.
- 3.3 Advocate to the State and Federal Governments for higher minimum building energy efficiency standards, sustainable development design, increased disclosure, and to introduce planning mechanisms which encourage rapid reduction of carbon emissions.

### Council

- 3.4 Develop a new Urban Greening Strategy which identifies priority areas for greening and increases canopy cover in the city.
- 3.5 Lead an investigation into generating carbon offsets within South Australia, in collaboration with other SA councils.





# A Leading Council

Our role in leading by doing cannot be underestimated. We aim to inspire others and share what we learn. Our leadership actions include raising the bar on sustainability requirements for property and infrastructure, as well as moving beyond our own operational carbon neutrality and setting science-based targets for our community. We will also identify and showcase opportunities to nurture a green economy, and continually improve our operations to lead by example with low-carbon best practice.

Increasing focus on carbon embodied in the materials of the built environment is vital and we are committed to work on this as part of City of Adelaide asset planning and capital works projects.

## Actions

### Community

- 4.1 Revise the community emissions target, with emission reduction pathways mapped.
- 4.2 Identify key sector growth areas and the unique advantage for the green economy opportunities in the City of Adelaide.

### Council

- 4.3 Any major developments (>\$10 million capital costs) on Council land are all-electric and achieve minimum 5 Star Green Star ratings.
- 4.4 Develop minimum Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements for Council and owned, operated and leased property and infrastructure.
- 4.5 Develop a governance framework for implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- 4.6 Integrate sustainability requirements into project management tools and Council reporting frameworks.
- 4.7 Integrate embodied carbon as a consideration in City of Adelaide asset planning and improve carbon accounting for capital works projects.
- 4.8 Develop and measure performance against sustainable procurement metrics.

