



PARRAMATTA CITY COUNCIL

Climate Action Plan 2006-2011 Principles and Policy Directives



Background:

Parramatta City Council is a participant in the Cities for Climate Change Program. Having successfully completed a five year plan developed in 1999, and based on the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' five key milestones, Council resolved to develop a new plan, under CCP Plus, which involves a review of community emission reduction goals, and seeks to identify key areas for improvement.

Objective:

The Climate Change Plan and its policy directives will guide climate change management actions for the period from 2006 to 2011 in the Parramatta Local Government Area. The directives will aid to define the role of various Council departments in facilitating reductions in community greenhouse gas emissions. Further, they will aid Council in outlining the role of partnerships with the community in achieving emission reductions, and meeting climate change adaptation requirements.

Scope:

These directives apply to the implementation of the Parramatta Climate Change Action Plan, which applies to the way in which Council's departments work with the local community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the Parramatta community as a whole between 2006 and 2011.

Relationship to Legislation:

While Councils are not required legislatively to prepare Climate Action Plans the Plan supports Council's responsibilities under the *Local Government Act* to manage and protect the environment and contributes to the NSW State Government *Greenhouse Action Plan* and the Federal commitment to the *Kyoto Protocol*.

Related Strategies, Plans or Policies:

These policy directives are the guiding force behind the [Climate Action Plan 2006 – 2011](#) (D00534169), and should be read in conjunction with this plan.

Authorisation:

Council Meeting 18 December 2006, Minute #8890.

Review:

Parramatta City Council's Climate Action Plan and its Policy directives are scheduled for review in 2011

Version:

2006 - 2011

Owner:

The City Strategy Unit is Responsible for these Policy Directives and the associated Climate Action Plan.

Policy Number:

Policy #290

Climate Action Principles

Climate Action Principle 1: Council believes that we are all, individually and collectively, responsible for managing climate change. We must recognise that we are all responsible for the total greenhouse gas emissions in the LGA.

In adopting this position, Council recognises that there are some barriers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to understand what both Council and the community have direct control over, what we can influence, and what remains a concern.

Climate Action Principle 2: Council believes that, in order to adequately prevent and respond to climate change impacts, a fundamental shift in policy towards more renewable energy is required at all levels of government.

In adopting this position, Council recognises it can only play a limited role in achieving this change and thus the priority will be on developing partnerships and advocating for change, at the state and federal level, towards greater investment in renewable sources of energy.

Climate Action Principle 3: Council believes that reducing reliance on non-renewable fossil fuels is essential to ensuring sustainable energy provision and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In adopting this position, Council recognises that energy will be consumed. To manage this, we will provide education opportunities and incentives to improve community understanding of climate change issues and practical ways to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Action Principle 4: Council believes that it is important to recognise the direct and indirect impacts of climate change and to prepare for and adapt to these changes.

In adopting this position, Council recognises that the local impacts of climate change may be difficult to predict with any certainty. Therefore, a precautionary approach will be adopted to reduce the negative effects on our community wherever possible.

Climate Action Principle 5: Council will work towards achieving the NSW state government target for greenhouse gas reduction. That is, a 60% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2050.

In adopting this position, Council recognises that we can only play a small role in achieving this target. We will develop partnerships to support change in the community towards proactive climate action.