CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

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Information for councils

CLIMATE COUNCIL

CLIMATECOUNCIL.ORG.AU

Cities Power Partnership

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citiespowerpartnership.org.au (website launching July 2017)

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A National Program for 2017

Contents

1
Executive Summary

2
The Climate Council

3
The Challenge

3
Local Champions

5
A Snapshot of the
Cities Power Partnership

6
The Three Phases of the Cities Power Partnership

6
Become a Power Partner

7
Power Up

7
Power On

8
What Does Success Look Like?

9
Frequently Asked Questions

10
Appendix

14
Appendix

18
References

Executive Summary

Australia is on the frontline of climate change and its impacts.

We continue to swelter through record breaking heat, lengthening bushfire seasons, worsening coastal flooding and supercharged storms. Meanwhile, the national energy debate is reaching fever pitch, with renewable energy lambasted by our nation's political and industry leaders as unreliable and unaffordable, whilst "clean coal" technology and gas expansion is being promoted as Australia's future energy solution. As climate impacts worsen and government action stagnates, the window of opportunity to limit the warming of the planet is rapidly closing.

Throughout all of these challenges, local heroes have quietly been getting on with the job. Cities and towns across Australia are surging ahead with emissions reduction plans, switching to cleaner energy and building greener, efficient and more resilient communities. The Cities Power Partnership (CPP) will elevate and accelerate this action across the country. We know that transforming the way cities use and generate energy alone has the potential to deliver 70% of the total emissions reductions needed to stay on track for the 2 degrees limit set under the Paris Agreement.

The CPP will engage with towns and cities, via local councils, throughout Australia and incentivise councils to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency, improve transport and engage in advocacy. Members of the partnership will also be given access to a national knowledge hub, buddied with cities to knowledge share, visited by domestic and international experts, connected with community energy groups and celebrated at events with other local leaders. We'll also showcase the incredible achievements of cities in national, local and social media to millions and share their successes with our community of over 200,000 members and supporters.

"Cities and towns across Australia are surging ahead with emissions reduction plans"

The Climate Council

$72m

worth of media.

313m

cumulative audience.

76

reports.

The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate communications organisation. To date the Climate Council has produced 76 reports on climate impacts and solutions and was the number one organisation communicating on climate change nationally in 2016.

The Climate Council brings a unique set of skills that enable us to build and deliver the Cities Power Partnership program and ensure that it differs from existing programs for local councils. The Climate Council has significant media reach, generating nearly $72 million worth of media, reaching a cumulative audience of 313 million. This media reach will be key as an incentive for cities to join the program as well as working to strengthen public support across the country for climate action at the local level.

In addition, the Climate Council hosts a wealth of leading experts in climate impacts and renewable energy solutions whose technical knowledge will be key to helping local councils to implement emissions reduction measures. The Climate Council will also use its national status and the credibility of its Climate Councillors to connect councils across the country with community energy groups and local organisations who can help councils to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy measures quickly and effectively, as well as getting sponsors on board who can provide incentives for councils to act.

The Challenge

Global heat records have been broken again, with 2016 declared the hottest for a third consecutive year. Australians continues to swelter through record breaking heat, lengthening bushfire seasons, worsening coastal flooding and supercharged storms.

The emission of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, are driving these dramatic changes of the climate system and need to be drastically reduced. However, the window of opportunity to limit the warming of the planet and its catastrophic impacts is rapidly closing and governments are struggling to meet this challenge at the pace required.

Local Champions

In the face of these challenges local champions have emerged.

Around the world and across Australia, towns and cities of all shapes and sizes are getting on with the job. They are surging ahead with emissions reduction plans, switching to cleaner energy and building greener, efficient and more resilient communities. From booming urban centres to small rural townships, local governments and groups of determined residents have been energy and climate trailblazers in many ways. Towns and cities can shape how land is used, investments are made and millions of dollars worth of renewable energy is rolled out. They can influence how new homes and businesses are built, determine the ways in which hundreds of thousands of residents will travel each day and band together to lobby for much needed state and federal policy change. Transforming the way cities use and generate energy alone has the potential to deliver 70% of the total emissions reductions needed to stay on track for the 2 degrees limit set under the Paris Agreement (IEA 2016).

"Local governments and groups of determined residents have been energy and climate trailblazers in many ways."

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5
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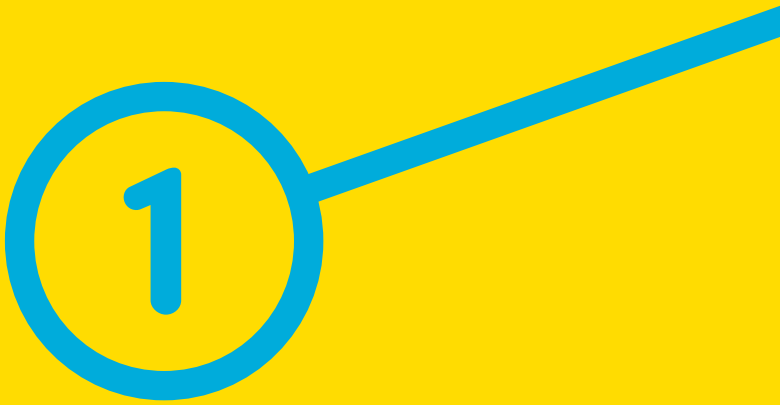
Lectrum

A Snapshot of the Cities Power Partnership

The Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) seeks to celebrate and accelerate the emission reduction and clean energy successes of Australian towns and cities to date. We are calling on Mayors, councillors and communities to take the next step towards a sustainable, non-polluting energy future by joining the CPP. The CPP with launch mid 2017, along with a Climate Council cities report authored by some of Australia's leading experts, a brand new CPP website and a media campaign featuring trailblazing councils who have joined the partnership. The first year of the program will run from mid 2017-mid 2018.

Participating councils who join the partnership will have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the partnership pledge ranging from renewable energy, efficiency, transport and advocacy *(see Appendix A for full pledge and Appendix B for pledge examples)*. Councils will receive access to a national knowledge hub to assist with the implementation of emissions reductions projects and will be buddied with other participating councils to knowledge share. Participants in the partnership will also have exclusive access to domestic and international experts, community energy groups, events with other local leaders and potentially exclusive access to small grants and renewable energy incentives as they become available. The clean energy successes of councils and their communities will be showcased in print and online media across Australia. These positive stories will also be shared through our social media platforms to millions of people and celebrated by our community of over 200,000 members and supporters.

The Three Phases of the Cities Power Partnership



Become a Power Partner

Act:
Councils sign up to be a Power Partner.

Knowledge:
Partners get exclusive access to the extensive online knowledge hub.

Connect:
Each partner is buddied with two other local councils to knowledge share throughout the year.

Profile:
Power partners are profiled in national and local media, online and to our 200,000 members and supporters.

2

Power Up

Act:
Partners have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the partnership pledge ranging from renewable energy, efficiency, transport and advocacy. They must identify a point of contact within council who will liaise with the Climate Council and work to implement their actions. Pledges are submitted by each partner and profiled online.

Knowledge:
Partners will have ongoing access to the knowledge hub, webinars with domestic and international experts as well as communications and advocacy training where required.

Connect:
Power Partners can be connected with their local community energy group and relevant local organisations who can be contracted to help council begin or improve implementation of emission reduction actions. Councils who are already leading will play an important knowledge sharing role with other partners and will be profiled in the media to inspire others.

Incentives:
Cities who join the partnership early may have access to exclusive grants and renewable energy incentives as they become available.

Profile:
Power partners and their local success stories will continue to be profiled in the media. Climate Councillors will travel to a range of communities across Australia to engage in community events and talk to councils.

3

Power On

Act:
Partners report on progress against key actions in a 6 monthly survey.

Knowledge:
Partners access local and international knowledge and inspiration at the 2018 Power Partners Summit.

Connect:
Partners will be brought together to celebrate the high achieving towns and cities at the Power Partners Summit.

Profile:
Success stories will continually be celebrated in the media, Climate Councillors continue to travel to a range of Australian communities, more towns and cities become Power Partners and lead the switch to non-polluting energy across the country.

What Does Success Look Like?

From mid 2017 to mid 2018, at least 50 councils will pledge to become Power Partners. Each council who becomes a power partner will identify 5 key actions from the Power Partner Pledge, ranging from renewable energy to transport, which they'll report on every 6 months via the Climate Council's online survey.

From mid 2017 to 2018 national public opinion will continually increase in support of the statement "I consider my council to be a leader on emissions reduction".

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Cities Power Partnership launching?

It's launching in July 2017. The launch will include the launch of the CPP website, a media and stakeholder launch which showcases towns and cities who have already pledged and a national media campaign.

Can the broader community nominate their town or city to be part of the Cities Power Partnership?

Yes. When the Cities Power Partnership website launches nominations can easily be made through the website. In the meantime if the general public want to recommend a town or city for the Cities Power Partnership they are invited to email the Climate Council telling us the name of the city and why they think it's a good fit.

How do community energy organisations get involved?

We are actively reaching out to community energy organisations across the country to get involved. The Cites Power Partnership wants to profile and connect community energy groups with councils involved in the partnership. This connection is vital to help councils achieve success as community energy groups and the community more broadly can provide on the ground support, including workshops and modelling, to help councils achieve their energy and sustainability commitments.

What if a town or city is already leading in renewable energy and sustainability, what does their city get out of joining the partnership ?

Cities leading the way play an essential role in the partnership. They will share their knowledge with other cities, their successes will be celebrated to an audience of millions to inspire others and they will have access to resources and incentives to help them to continue to lead.

Many trailblazing cities who are already leading will have some of their existing initiatives counted towards their power partnership pledge.

Appendix

Appendix A: The Partnership Action Pledge

Participating councils who join the partnership will have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the options below.

Renewable Energy

1. Use strategic and statutory planning processes to promote renewable energy – both at the residential, commercial and larger scale.

2. Provide council resources to educate and support the uptake of renewable energy, such as by hiring an internal renewable energy support officer or establishing an independent body (such as the Moreland and Yarra Energy Foundations).

3. Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings for example childcare facilities, libraries, street lighting, recreation centres, sporting grounds, and council offices.

4. Support community facilities accessing renewable energy through incentives, support or grants.

5. Power council operations by renewables, directly (with solar PV or wind), or by purchasing Greenpower (from electricity retailers). Set targets to increase the level of renewable power for council operations over time.

6. Encourage local businesses and residents to take up solar PV, battery storage and solar hot water heating. This can be done through providing incentives (such as solar bulk buy schemes or flexible payment options) or streamlining approval processes (such as removing planning and heritage barriers to solar PV).

7. Support community energy projects (with location and planning support) so that residents (such as renters) can band together and invest in community renewable energy projects.

8. Opening up unused council managed land for renewable energy, for example land fills, and road reserves.

9. Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at a low cost.

10. Set minimum renewable energy benchmarks for new developments, for example Denman Prospect, ACT requires every new house to install a minimum solar PV system.

11. Electrify public transport systems (for example buses operated by council) and fleet vehicles and power these by 100% renewable energy.

12. Lobby electricity providers and state government to address barriers to renewable energy take up at the local level (whether these be planning, technical, economic or policy related).

Energy Efficiency

1. Set minimum energy efficiency benchmarks for all planning applications.

2. Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.

3. Public lighting can use a large proportion of a city's energy budget – roll out energy efficient lighting (particularly street lighting) across the municipality.

4. Provide incentives (for example rate reductions) for best practice developments such as streamlined planning processes, and support for retrofitting energy efficiency measures for existing buildings.

5. Incentivise the deployment of energy efficient heating and cooling technologies.

Transport

1. Ensure Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles.

2. Provide fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.

3. Encourage sustainable transport use (public transport, walking and cycling) through Council transport planning and design. Substantial savings in transport energy use can be achieved by designing more compact cities with access to high quality public and active transport services and facilities.

4. Ensure that new developments are designed to maximize public and active transport use, and are designed to support electric vehicle uptake.

5. Providing for adequate cycle lanes (both space and connectivity) in road design and supporting cyclists through providing parking, and end-of-ride facilities (covered, secure bike storage, showers, bicycle maintenance and incentives).

6. Reduce or remove minimum car parking requirements for new housing and commercial developments where suitable public transport alternatives exist.

7. Lobby state and federal governments for improvements to planning legislation to promote sustainable transport options, and increased investment in and provision of public transport services.

8. Consider disincentives for driving high emitting vehicles such as congestion pricing, or a tiered payment system for residential car parking permits where high emitting vehicles pay more.

Work Together and Influence

1. Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets and sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectations for local residents and businesses.

2. Lobby state and federal government to address barriers to the take up of renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or sustainable transport, and to support increased ambition. For example working to lobby on the Smart Energy Communities policy.

3. Set up meetings and attend events, such as the Community Energy Congress or the Cities Power Partnership Summit, where like-minded cities can address common concerns and learn from others' experience.

4. Implement an education and behavior change program to influence the behavior of council officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.

5. For communities reliant on a local coal industry, local government can support the transition away from fossil fuels, by lobbying for state and federal support for a just transition for workers, families and the community and encouraging local economic development and opportunities based on a low carbon economy.

6. Ensure that the practices of local government contractors and financing such as banking, insurance and super are aligned with council goals relating to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport. Set appropriate criteria for council procurement.

7. Promote knowledge sharing and strengthen the local community's capacity and skills in renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.

Sources: IEA 2016; IRENA 2016

Appendix

Appendix B: Pledge Examples

Examples: renewable energy action

Action		Examples	Link
Promote renewable energy - both at the residential, commercial and larger scale	Use land use planning measures to encourage uptake, such as streamlining approvals processes and removing barriers.	Moreland City Council, Victoria has a planning guide to protecting existing solar panels from overshadowing.	http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/globalassets/areas/strategic-planning/solar-panels---advisory-note-as-endorsed-by-council-13-july-2016.pdf
	Set minimum renewable energy benchmarks for new developments.	Denman Prospect in the ACT requires every new house to install a minimum sized solar system. City of Nedlands, WA requires a minimum of 1.5kW onsite solar or wind for all new homes and renovations.	http://www.actewagl.com.au/About-us/Media-centre-and-reports/2015/10/09/Denman-Prospect.aspx http://reneweconomy.com.au/new-build-houses-must-install-solar-wind-in-wa-suburb-27550/
	Hire an internal renewable energy support officer or establish an independent body tasked with promoting renewable energy.	Examples include: Moreland Energy Foundation, Victoria. Yarra Energy Foundation, Victoria.	http://www.mefl.com.au/ http://www.yef.org.au/
	Encourage local businesses, community facilities and residents to take up renewable energy by providing incentives (such as grants, solar bulk buy schemes or flexible payment options).	Adelaide City Council in SA has a Sustainability Incentives Scheme for local residents.	http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/your-council/funding/sustainable-city-incentives-scheme/

Action		Examples	Link
Power council operations by renewable energy	Set targets to increase the level of renewable power for council operations and the broader community over time.	Australian Capital Territory set a goal for 100% renewable energy by 2020 delivered by a series of reverse auctions for renewable energy.	https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/act-report
	Power operations directly by renewable energy (with solar PV or wind).	Sunshine Coast Council in QLD developed the Valdora solar farm to power council operations. Cockburn in WA is using geothermal heating for its sporting complex.	https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/Planning-and-Projects/Major-Regional-Projects/Sunshine-Coast-Solar-Farm http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Council_Services/Environment/Renewable_Energy/
	Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings for example childcare facilities, libraries, street lighting, recreation centres, sporting grounds, and council offices.	Bathurst in NSW installed solar systems across nine council buildings. Leichardt Council in NSW installed solar systems on 17 council buildings. Solar and battery storage installed on government buildings in Adelaide.	https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/environment/energy-sustainability/solar-power-on-council-buildings.html http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Environment---Sustainability/Projects-and-Programs/Council-Solar-Panels http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/index.php/tom-koutsantonis-news-releases/896-zen-energy-to-install-1m-battery-storage-on-government-owned-buildings
	Opening up unused council managed land for renewable energy.	Cambelltown in SA supporting a community owned solar project utilising the rooftops of local government buildings.	http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/cos

Examples: renewable energy action

Action		Examples	Link
Collective tendering	Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at a low cost.	The Melbourne Renewable Energy Project involves bringing together a number of large energy users to collectively tender for renewable energy.	http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/business/sustainable-business/Pages/melbourne-renewable-energy-project.aspx
Powering electric vehicles with renewable energy	Electrify transport systems such as council buses and fleet vehicles and power these by 100% renewable energy.	Adelaide, SA solar-powered "Tindo" bus. Moreland City Council in Victoria is integrating electric cars into council's fleet	http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/assets/acc/Environment/energy/docs/tindo_fact_sheet.pdf http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/parking-roads/transport/electric-vehicles/
Lobby to address barriers	Lobby electricity providers and state government to address barriers to renewable energy take up at the local level (whether these be planning, technical, economic or policy related).	Victorian councils called for planning protection to prevent solar panels from overshadowing.	http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/east/calls-for-statewide-protection-of-solar-panels-from-overshadowing-from-multi-sto-rey-development/news-story/4f28125a5d0db4dc22c7200aed4e8736

Examples: energy efficiency actions

Action		Examples	Link
Promote energy efficiency - both at the residential, commercial and larger scale	Hire an internal energy efficiency support officer or establish an independent body.	Examples include: Moreland Energy Foundation, Victoria. Yarra Energy Foundation, Victoria.	http://www.mefl.com.au/ http://www.yef.org.au/
	Encourage local businesses, community facilities and residents to take up energy efficiency measures by providing incentives (such as grants, solar bulk buy schemes or flexible payment options).	Adelaide City Council in SA has a Sustainability Incentives Scheme for local residents.	http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/your-council/funding/sustain-able-city-incentives-scheme/
Energy efficiency in council operations	Adopt best practice energy efficiency in council buildings.	City of Gosnell's community facility incorporated environmentally sustainable design. City of Wollongong updated an ageing building to achieve a 5 Star Green Star rating.	http://new.gbca.org.au/showcase/projects/mills-park-community-facility/ http://new.gbca.org.au/showcase/projects/wollongong-city-council-administration-building/

Action		Examples	Link
	Public lighting can use a large proportion of a city's energy budget - roll out energy efficient lighting (particularly street lighting) across the municipality.	Victor Harbour, SA Hybrid (wind and solar) street lighting with battery storage, and potential to power gophers, solar bollards.	https://www.victor.sa.gov.au/solar

Examples: sustainable transport actions

Action		Examples	Link
Promote sustainable transport options in the community	Provide fast-charging infrastructure (powered by 100% renewable energy) throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.	City of Moreland has installed a network of public electric car charging stations.	http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/parking-roads/transport/electric-vehicles/
Promote sustainable transport options within council	Ensure Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles (powered by renewable energy).	Manningham's Climate 2020 action plan targets 100% of fleet cars to be green electric vehicles by 2020.	http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/climate-and-energy
	Provide fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.	Cockburn, WA 100% solar powered electric vehicle charging stations.	www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/council_services/environment/renewable_energy/
	Provide for adequate cycle lanes (both space and connectivity) in road design and supporting cyclists through providing parking, and end-of-ride facilities (covered, secure bike storage, showers, bicycle maintenance and incentives).	Melbourne City Council has a detailed bicycle plan outlining a number of actions to increase cycling's mode share.	http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/city-of-melbourne-bicycle-plan-2016-2020.pdf

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