

# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN 2022



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Council acknowledges the Wallumedegal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of all land and water of the Hunters Hill local government area.

Council pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends this respect to all Aboriginal peoples living or visiting the Hunters Hill local government area.

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hunter's Hill Council acknowledges that every community has a role to play in reducing the impact of climate change and we commit to working towards adapting our existing policies and practices to address more efficient use of resources.

Hunter's Hill Council's Sustainability Action Plan, 2020 has been prepared as a twelve month framework for council operations and the community, to lower the Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The Sustainability Action Plan 2020 has been prepared in response to Council's declaration of February 2020 and has been prepared to align with the Hunters Hill 2028 Community Strategic Plan (CSP 2028).

## 2. CONTEXT

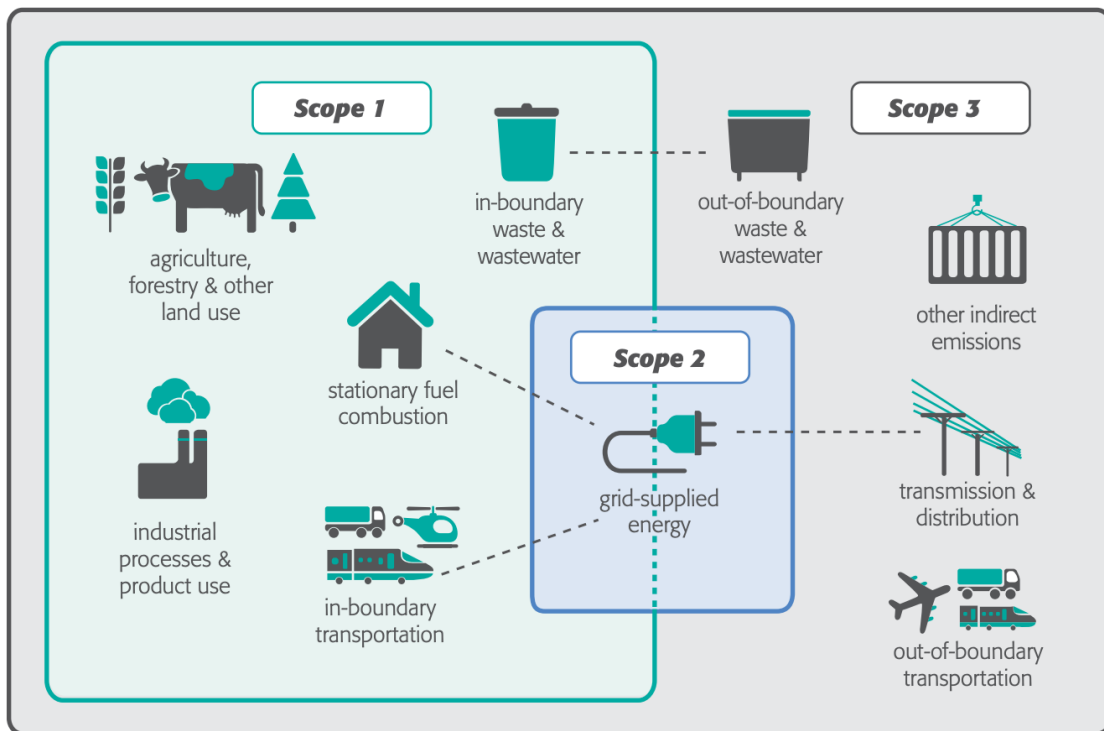
- **Local Government**  
100+ Councils have declared a climate emergency  
1 in 5 Councils have a Zero emissions or 100% Renewable Energy Target  
Resilient Sydney - A Strategy for City Resilience 2018 Plan developed under the 100 Resilient Cities Program
- **State Government**  
Net zero emissions by 2050 under the NSW Government Climate Change Policy Framework (2016) and aligned under the 2050 Greater Sydney Regional Plan by the Greater Sydney Commission
- **Federal Government**  
Australia's current Renewable Energy Target (RET) of 33,000 GWh by 2020 has been achieved  
Under the Paris Climate Agreement, Australia's GreenHouse Gas emissions target of 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030
- **Global**  
Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 197 countries ratified the Paris Climate Accord in 2016 committing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels"

# 3. SCOPE

## HUNTERS HILL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

When considering the boundary of emissions, it is important to distinguish emission sectors according to where they occur and to apply standards that are transparent, easily reportable and replicable.

For these reasons, it is generally accepted that Councils use the scopes framework used in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol – the international standard in quantifying and managing GHG emissions (see table below).



Sources and Boundaries of City Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from the [Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories](#).

**Scope 1 (direct):** GHG emissions from sources located within the council area boundary

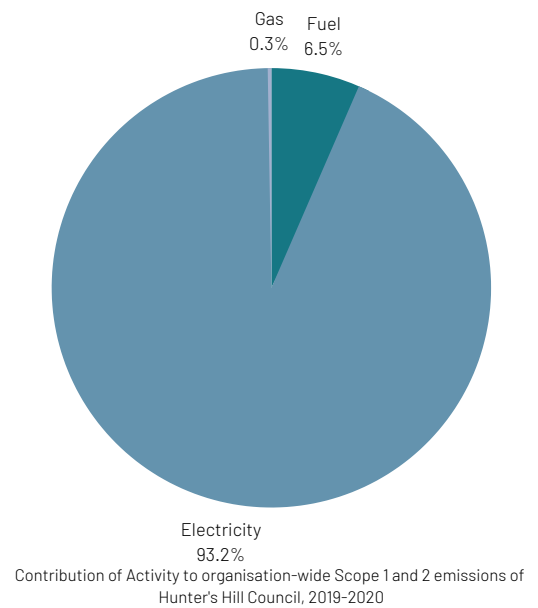
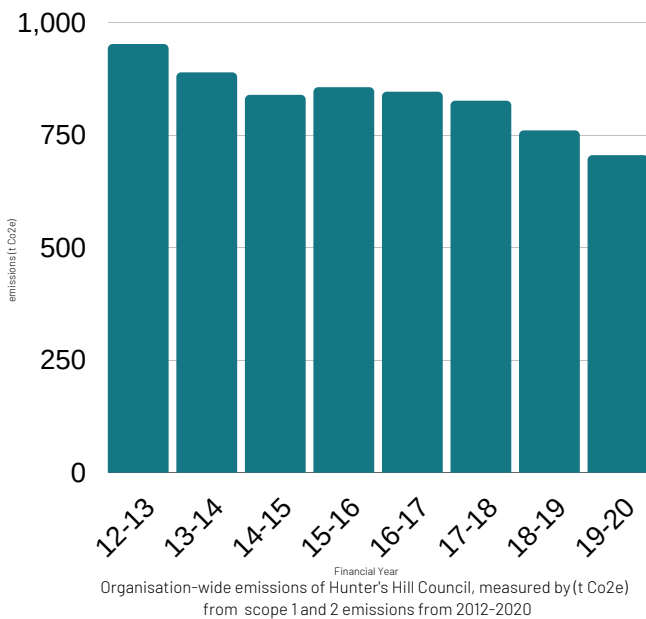
**Scope 2 (indirect):** GHG emissions occurring as a consequence of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the council area boundary

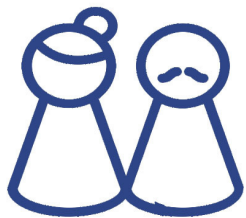
**Scope 3 (indirect):** All other GHG emission that occur outside the city boundary as a result of activities taking place within the council area boundary

# 4. WHERE ARE WE NOW

- Resilient Sydney member and supporter of the Resilient A strategy for city resilience (2018)
- Climate Emergency declared, February 2020
- Pilot Partner of UNSW and NSW Circular program, 2019
- Partners in the Northern Sydney Regional Waste Strategy 2017 - 2021

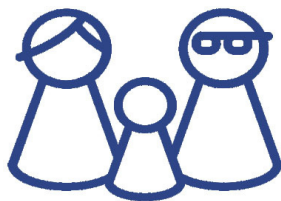
Hunter's Hill Council's organisation-wide Greenhouse Gas emissions have already seen a 15% reduction in the 2019-2020 period based on the since the 2016-2017 period. This is due to a number of factors including energy efficiency improvements and organisational changes. The impact of Covid-19 on emissions for the 2020-2021 period will be predicted to show a further (temporary) reduction of approximately 10% in emissions.





14,909

Population  
ABS Estimate 2018



2,350

Families



5,262

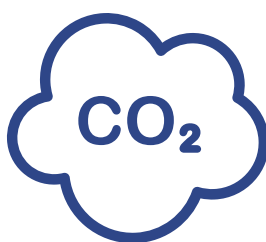
Houses

For the entire Hunter's Hill LGA (2016-2017) - Resilient Sydney



0.2%

Contribution to the entire  
emissions of Greater Sydney



105.11K

tonnes of CO2e created



68.8%

emissions from electricity



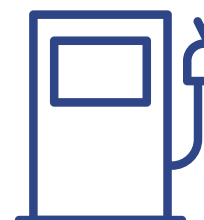
13.5%

emissions from waste



9.9%

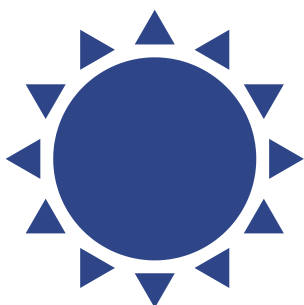
emissions from transport



7.9%

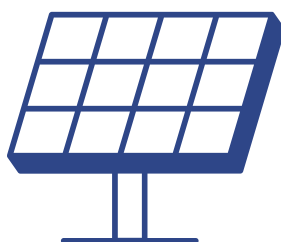
emissions from gas

The Clean Energy Council reports



24%

Electricity generation now  
comes from renewable  
sources



18%

NSW homes have  
rooftop solar



6%

Contribution of Hunter's Hill's  
operations to the emissions  
for the entire LGA in 2016-17



# 5. CORE TARGETS AND GOALS

Hunter's Hill Council has conducted a thorough review of the sustainability of its operations and service delivery. The following considerations have been taken into account:

- The emissions profile of the organisation
- The community's expectations and feedback through both the Sustainability Working Party and the Community Strategic Plan (CSP 2028).
- Emissions profile of the community
- The financial impacts of business as usual operations
- Budget allocations and available grants for this financial year and beyond.
- Other local government responses to the Climate Emergency.
- The state, federal and global responses to climate change.

Based on these items it is feasible to consider targets which consider emissions reductions and commitment to renewable energy for the organisation and/or community. At this time it's proposed that a reasonable target for Hunters Hill Council to commit to a Renewable Energy Target (RET) of 100% by 30 June 2030 across the organisation as effective emissions reduction pathway with minimal operational and financial impacts to council.

A pathway towards the first year of adoption of this target this is outlined in the Action Plan for 2020 and focusses on 6 core goals:

- 1.Improving Energy Efficiency
- 2.Switching to Renewable Energy
- 3.Supporting Low Emissions Transport
- 4.Driving the Circular Economy and Waste Minimisation
- 5.Growing Adaptation and Resilience
- 6.Engaging the Community

Adopting of a 100% RET by 2030 is not expected to, in itself, present any significant financial implications. The potential range of actions under scenarios listed in the action plan which may have financial implications are to be considered independently and dependent upon feasibility as explored on a case by case basis as is Council policy for any procurement decision, new project or investment proposed. For currently unfunded projects, Council will develop business cases requiring approval. The business case will consider the overall impact and benefits including any Greenhouse Gas emissions (from Scope 1-3 emissions based on the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories) from the project and comparing this to a business as usual approach. For projects where there is payback period, Council will aim for no more than a 7 year payback period.

**100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030**



## 6. ACTIONS

|   | CORE GOAL                     | PROPOSED ACTION   | BUSINESS CASE PREPARED | BUDGET ALLOCATED | DELIVERY TIMEFRAME |
|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Improving Energy Efficiency   | 1.1 LED upgrades to street lighting across LGA  | ✓                      | ✓                | December 2020      |
|   |                               | 1.2 Energy Efficiency upgrades to Town Hall Building  | ✓                      | ✓                | February 2021      |
| 2 | Switching to Renewable Energy | 2.1 Join Cities Power Partnerships  | ✓                      | ✓                | November 2020      |
|   |                               | 2.2 Provide information on community power purchasing & microgrid opportunities             | n/a                    | n/a              | June 2021          |
|   |                               | 2.3 Evaluate a transition to GreenPower for utilities and Solar for Council owned buildings | By January 2021        | n/a              | June 2021          |
|   |                               | 2.4 Evaluate Solar my Schools program membership  | By March 2021          |                  | September 2021     |

## 6. ACTIONS

|   | CORE GOAL   | PROPOSED ACTION  | BUSINESS CASE | BUDGET ALLOCATED | UPDATE | DELIVERY TIMEFRAME |
|---|---|--|---------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 3 | Supporting Low Emissions Transport                  | 3.1 Evaluate opportunities for EV vehicles vehicle to 2 x pool cars and 2 x ranger vehicles  | ✓             | ✓                |        | September 2021     |
|   |   | 3.2 Evaluate opportunities for EV charging stations and car share service spaces in villages                                       | N/A           |                  | N/A    | June 2021          |
| 4 | Driving the Circular Economy and Waste Minimisation | 4.1 Research the efficacy of processing textiles and problem waste items in a Circular Economy Pilot                               | ✓             |                  | ✓      | December 2021      |
|   |   | 4.2 Explore opportunities for a Return and Earn Reverse Vending Machine in the LGA   | ✓             |                  | ✓      | March 2021         |
|   |   | 4.3 Review the communication strategy for promoting waste diversion activities in the LGA (including the CRC, Bower and the Yarn). | n/a           |                  | n/a    | September 2021     |

## 6. ACTIONS

|   | CORE GOAL   | PROPOSED ACTION  | BUSINESS CASE PREPARED | BUDGET ALLOCATED | DELIVERY TIMEFRAME |
|---|---|--|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 4 | Driving the Circular Economy and Waste Minimisation | 4.4 Evaluate the impact of an incentivised smaller landfill bins for residents who would like to participate in a trial. | By March 2021          |                  | June 2021          |
|   |   | 4.5 Embed sustainable procurement by reviewing Council's procurement policies  | ✓                      | n/a              | April 2021         |
|   |   | 4.6 Conduct a trial into Food Organics (FO) with commercial businesses in the LGA  | ✓                      | ✓                | December 2021      |
|   |   | 4.7 Explore opportunities for a Community Swap and Share Space   | By June 2021           |                  | December 2021      |
|   |   | 4.8 Evaluate waste avoidance support initiatives for commercial businesses in the LGA                                    | ✓                      | ✓                | June 2021          |

## 6. ACTIONS

|   | CORE GOAL                                   | PROPOSED ACTION  | BUSINESS CASE PREPARED | BUDGET ALLOCATED | DELIVERY TIMEFRAME |
|---|---|--|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | Growing Community Adaptation and Resilience | 5.1 Update the Hunter's Hill Climate Change Risk Assessment  | n/a                    | n/a              | June 2021          |
|   |   | 5.2 Develop policies for community and verge gardens to enable a process for the consideration of additional sites   | By March 2021          | n/a              | By June 2021       |
|   |   | 5.3 Work with the community to maintain and enhance street trees and other green infrastructure to cool the local environment and reduce the urban heat island effect. | ✓                      | ✓                | June 2021          |
|   |   | 5.4 Consider initiatives which encourage and support water conservation for council and community usage on public and private land.                                    | n/a                    | n/a              | June 2021          |

# 6. ACTIONS

|   | CORE GOAL              | PROPOSED ACTION   | BUSINESS CASE PREPARED | BUDGET ALLOCATED | DELIVERY TIMEFRAME |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 6 | Engaging the Community | 6.1 Host the 2021 Youth Summit pitching sustainability projects from secondary students | n/a                    | ✓                | June 2021          |
|   |                        | 6.2 Promote the Sustainability Action Plan  | n/a                    | n/a              | From December 2020 |

## 6. EVALUATION

This Action Plan will be reviewed in September every year to ensure it continues to reflect the progress to the Core Emissions Reductions Targets and Goals of Hunter's Hill Council.

**Measurement and evaluation processes are to include:**

- Progress against the Action Plan
- Emissions Reduction measures
- Progress towards the Renewable Energy Target
- Community participation

This plan sets out a range of actions and associated time frames to deliver on the objectives identified in this strategy. The plan is designed to be a living document that is reviewed and adjusted annually to take into account new ideas, technologies and opportunities for development and delivery to our community.

Items listed in these plans will be monitored and reported on to the General Manager on a quarterly basis. Many of the actions will also form part of our integrated planning and reporting processes, which are reported on a quarterly basis to both Councillors and our community. The Strategy will also be monitored in line with our community satisfaction survey and improved index score results of the performance measure of informing our community.

# UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a global strategy agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly and form a blueprint to create a sustainable future for everyone. Among 17 interconnected goals for including 9 directly relevant to sustainability





## **DISCLAIMER**

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