

Climate Change

Council Policy

1. Purpose

Council recognises that the world is in a state of climate emergency. This is incorporated in Council's vision to be '...South Australia's most sustainable city'. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach with regard to Council's actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation so that responses made by Council to climate change are long-lasting, effective, inclusive, accountable and fiscally responsible.

2. Scope

This policy covers Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation and mitigation activities, actions to adapt to the impacts of sea level rise, and climate risks. It applies to all Council strategic and operational activities and services, including Alwyndor.

Contracted services are excluded due to the nature of existing contracts and inability by Council to exercise direct control. These will be addressed separately via the Procurement Policy. Leased assets are also excluded from this policy at this time.

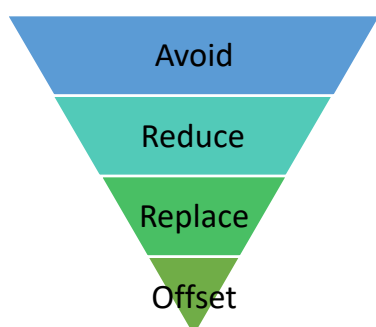
3. Roles and Responsibilities

Council Members	Adoption of the Climate Change Policy. Oversight of the management of our response to climate-related risk.
Audit and Risk Committee	Oversight of climate risks, reviews the risk profile of the organisation, monitors risk exposures and reviews risk management processes.
Senior Leadership Team	Adopt the Climate Change Policy. Champion a climate-related risk awareness culture. Support climate-related risk management across the organisation and within each division, and embed climate-related risk into strategic discussions.
Managers (including Alwyndor)	Implement the policy by being responsible for leading the adoption of change. Drive council's climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions. Ensure teams are aware of and follow climate-related risk management processes, provide oversight of climate-related risks relating to their area and ensure that relevant staff are appropriately trained.
Employees (including Alwyndor)	Support the Climate Change Policy by implementing changes required in their role, identify and undertake relevant training, bring new ideas, and contribute to planning with supervisors. Implement climate-related risk management controls.

Environment and Coast Team	Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintaining and reviewing the Climate Change Policy - supporting compliance and implementation of the Climate Change Policy (with the support of the Governance and People and Culture teams) - contributing to climate-related risk management.
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4. Policy Statement

- 4.1 By recognising that the world is in a climate emergency, Council has accepted a responsibility to lead the community in adapting to a changing climate and finding ways for our community to thrive as our climate changes.
- 4.2 Council's commitment to climate change is based on two key areas of action:
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations by implementing the City of Holdfast Bay Carbon Neutral Plan and meeting the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 for its own operations.
 - Adapting our urban, social and natural environments to become more resilient to climate change.
- 4.3 Actions to mitigate against and adapt to climate change will be pursued through strategy development and action planning aligned with Council's strategic framework.
- 4.4 Council will take an evidence-based approach to adapting to climate change by incorporating consideration of its risks and impacts into Council's strategic and operational activities and services, such as strategy development, action planning, decision-making, resource allocation, scheduling of works, pursuing greening and cooling initiatives, enhancing energy-efficient buildings, flood mitigation efforts and climate-resilient asset management.
- 4.5 Council will undertake ongoing assessment of the physical, transition, legal, social and financial risks associated with climate change. These will be included in the corporate risk register and will be refined and updated over time as more information becomes available.
- 4.6 Council will follow the emissions reduction hierarchy (shown below). This is a best practice approach that entails a series of steps that act as a roadmap to achieve real emissions reduction. The hierarchy focuses on first, avoiding emissions, then focus on reduction, replacement and finally, offsets as a last resort.



- 4.7 Council will continue to implement actions to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, as outlined in its Carbon Neutral Plan.

- 4.8 Monitoring our corporate greenhouse gas emissions is essential to ensure that we are tracking our reduction as we work towards our 2030 carbon neutral target. Therefore, Council will maintain a system to monitor Councils' greenhouse gas emissions and provide annual reports on performance and actions taken to progress towards the 2030 carbon neutral target.
- 4.9 All Council reports will include a section that assesses the climate change impacts and risks within a broader assessment of environmental sustainability of the matter being considered.
- 4.10 Council will provide support and capacity building opportunities to employees, where relevant, to increase awareness about climate change issues and how changes to Council policies, procedures and decision-making will affect their work.
- 4.11 Council will continue to improve its procurement policies, procedures and systems to incorporate emissions reduction through purchase of goods and services.
- 4.12 Council recognises that climate change impacts occur at a regional and global scale and that regional resilience requires working closely with our neighbours. We will partner and work collaboratively with other councils, State and Federal Governments, including continuing to work with its regional partners in the Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership, to:
- Maintain an understanding of climate change, its risks, opportunities and impacts.
 - Develop and share new ways to reduce carbon emissions and improve reporting.
 - Identify climate risks, reduce these where possible, and share hazard information with the community.
 - Improve community resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.
 - To advocate for further action at state and federal levels.
 - To implement regional action through the Regional Climate Action Plan.
- 4.13 Council will provide support and information to the community through education and encouragement of behaviour change that will increase community mitigation and adaptation efforts and build community awareness and resilience to the changes brought about by a changing climate.

5 Definitions

Key term or acronym	Definition
Adaptation	The impacts of climate change are already occurring. Adaptation in this context refers to strategies and actions Council can take to adapt or change to deal with these impacts.
Carbon neutral	Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by balancing the amount of carbon dioxide released by an organisation with an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide that is reduced, sequestered or offset.
Climate risks	Risks associated with climate change can be categorised as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical risks that are related to changing climatic conditions and extreme weather events. These changes can be event-driven (acute) or from longer-term shifts (chronic) in climate patterns. These risks may include, but are not limited to, changes in asset values, disruption of supply chains, loss of assets (including built and natural assets such as trees), loss of productivity (e.g. during heatwaves or storm events),

	<p>increased costs (e.g. increases in electricity to cool buildings during heatwaves), and loss or damage to property (e.g. through bushfire, flood or storm events).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition risks that are related to changes in policy (external and internal policies and legislation), technological innovation (e.g. the development of new technologies), litigation and social adaptation (e.g. changes in demand for services or infrastructure). These risks may include, but are not limited to, increases in the costs of goods and services (e.g. energy or waste and recycling services), changing infrastructure requirements (e.g. increased capacity for stormwater management), the cost of transition (particularly while maintaining the full suite of council services), and the risk of litigation due to a lack of response to climate change.
Greenhouse gas emissions	Refers to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. These gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and some of the fluorinated gases. These gases are emitted through transport, land clearance, and the production and consumption of food, fuels, manufactured goods, materials, roads, utilities, buildings and services.
Mitigation	Addressing the cause of climate change by both reducing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. energy efficiency) and increasing carbon dioxide sequestration (e.g. tree planting).
Carbon offsets	It will be difficult to reduce all emissions within the organisation, however it is possible to invest in renewable energy, sequestration, tree planting and other offset programs to balance out remaining emissions after all emissions reduction activities have taken place.
Resilience	The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, as in the capacity for self-organisation and adapting to stress and change.

6 Administration Use Only

Reference Number:	Document Set ID 5205031
Strategic Alignment:	Our Holdfast 2050+ establishes a vision for the City of Holdfast Bay to be the most sustainable city in South Australia, along with a range of objectives and aspirations that aim to mitigate and build resilience in the face of climate change, including being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
Strategic Risk:	AD01 – Poor or ineffective management of the impacts of climate change. SC05 – Lack of strategic alignment.

Responsible Officer(s):	Team Leader Environment and Coast Manager Engineering General Manager Assets and Delivery
First Issued / Approved:	10/06/25
Minutes Date and Council Resolution Number:	10/06/25, C100625/8075.
Last Reviewed:	
Next Review Date:	10/06/28
Applicable Legislation:	<i>Climate Change Act 2022</i> <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</i> <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>
Related Policies:	Council Risk Management Policy Council Procurement Policy Council Asset Management Policy Council Coastal Vegetation Management Policy
Other Reference Documents:	Environment Strategy 2020 – 2025 Carbon Neutral Plan Asset Management Strategy 2024 Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024 – 2030 SA Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions