

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).



13. Identify opportunities to turn waste to energy.



14. Implement landfill gas methane flaring or capture for electricity generation.



15. Create a revolving green energy fund to finance renewable energy projects and receive \$ savings.

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.



6. Create a revolving green energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects and receive \$ savings.

Sustainable 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.



9. Waste collection fleet conversion to hydrogen fuelled or electric power.

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.



8. Support local community energy groups with their community energy initiatives.