



CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

Information for councils



Cities Power Partnership

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Australia's largest network of cities and towns leading the way to a vibrant, zero emissions future

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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, our national leaders continue to tout the unreliable and polluting fossil fuel industry as Australia's future. 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) elevates and accelerates 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 engages with towns and cities, via local councils, throughout

Australia and incentivises councils to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency, improve transport and engage in advocacy.

Members are also given access to a national knowledge hub and a project assesment and tracking tool. They can connect with cities across the country to knowledge share, access hundreds of resources and are and celebrated at events with other local leaders. We also showcase the incredible achievements of cities in national, local and social media to millions and share their successes with our online community of over 500,000 supporters.

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

80- 90m

**cumulative
audience per
quarter.**

128

reports.

The Climate Council

The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate communications organisation. To date the Climate Council has produced 128 reports on climate impacts and solutions and is the number one organisation communicating on climate change nationally.

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 impact, reaching a potential 80-90 million people every quarter. This media reach is a key 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 is key to helping local councils to implement emissions reduction measures.

The Climate Council also uses 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 assist with accessing funding and incentives for councils to act.

The Challenge

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 changes 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."



A Snapshot of the Cities Power Partnership

145+

Member councils & growing.

750+

Climate and energy pledges.

12m+

Australians represented.

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, Councilors and communities to capitalise on the opportunities of a clean economy by joining the CPP.

The CPP launched 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 the 35 trailblazing councils who joined the partnership in round 1.

By early 2019, membership jumped up to 100 local governments, making us the largest climate action program for local government in the country. In 2021, over 145 councils are members and we represent over half of the Australian population.

The CPP launch broke Climate Council media coverage records

The CPP media launch was held at the Mt Majura Solar Farm in the ACT and featured Climate Councilor Professor Tim Flannery, Climate Council CEO Amanda McKenzie, ACT Environment Minister Shane Rattenbury MLC and Lane Crockett, Head of Renewable Infrastructure, Impact Investment Group.

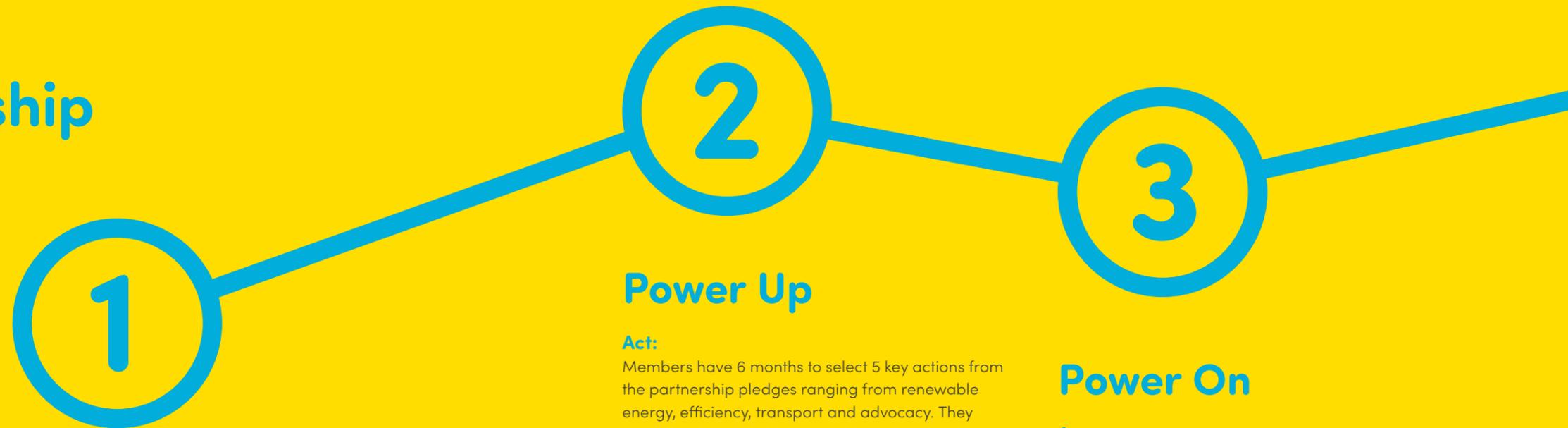
A record breaking coverage of 8 front pages, 250+ broadcast media items and 210+ print & online items.

Participating councils who join the partnership 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 list and Appendix B for pledge examples).

Future applications

Please contact us at cpp@climatecouncil.org.au to find out how your council can join the program

How the Cities Power Partnership Works



1 Become a member

Act:

Councils sign up to be a member

Knowledge:

Members get exclusive access to the extensive online knowledge hub, webinars and a free reporting tool.

Connect:

Each member can connect with other local councils across the country to knowledge share.

Profile:

Members are profiled in national and local media and to our online community of over 500,000 supporters.

2

2 Power Up

Act:

Members have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the partnership pledges 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 member and profiled online.

Knowledge:

Members will have ongoing access to the knowledge hub, reporting tool, webinars with domestic and international experts as well as communications and advocacy training where required.

Connect:

At the heart of the Cities Power Partnership is connection and sharing between participants. From nation-wide events to our online forum, councils have ample opportunity to connect and work together. Councils who are already leading will play an important knowledge sharing role with other members.

Profile:

Members and their local success stories will be profiled in the media by our dedicated CPP team Media Advisors working with Council communications teams. Climate Councillors will travel to a range of communities across Australia to engage in community events and talk to councils.

3

3 Power On

Act:

Members report on progress against key actions in a mandatory annual survey, following the submission of their 5 pledge items.

Knowledge:

Members access local and international knowledge and inspiration at various Roundtables.

Connect:

Members are brought together to celebrate the high achieving towns and cities at the Cities Power Partnership National Summit and annual awards ceremony.

Profile:

Success stories are continually celebrated in the media. The CPP annual awards, recognise & celebrate best practice project outcomes, collaborations and individual contributions. Climate Councillors travel to a range of Australian communities, as more towns and cities become members and lead the switch to non-polluting energy across the country.

What Does Success Look Like?

By 2025, 50% of all councils in Australia have joined the Cities Power Partnership and strong climate action becomes business as usual for councils across Australia.



Frequently Asked Questions

When did the Cities Power Partnership launch?

It launched in July 2017. This launch included the launch of the CPP website, the Local Government Action research report, a media and stakeholder launch which showcased the 35 towns and cities who had 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. Nominations can easily be made through the website at citiespowerpartnership.org.au/nominate/. This will allow you to email your council directly, informing them about the program.

How do community energy organisations get involved?

We are actively reaching out to community energy organisations across the country to get involved. The Cities Power Partnership wants to profile and connect community energy groups with councils involved in the partnership. There is an action pledge under "Work Together and Influence" for councils to strive to "support community energy groups with their community energy initiatives". 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 share their knowledge with other cities, their successes are 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 Pledges

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

Renewable Energy

1.  Develop supportive planning laws to encourage residents and industry to adopt renewable energy.
2.  Use council resources to support the uptake of renewable energy
3.  Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings.
4.  Support community facilities to access renewable energy through incentives, support or grants.
5.  Power council operations by renewable energy, and set targets to increase the level of renewable power for council operations over time.
6.  Provide incentives and/or remove barriers to encourage local businesses to take up solar power and battery storage.
7.  Support local community renewable energy projects, and encourage investment in community energy.

8.  Opening up unused council managed land for renewable energy.
9.  Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at a low cost.
10.  Set minimum renewable energy benchmarks for new developments.
11.  Electrify public transport systems and fleet vehicles and power these by 100% renewable energy.
12.  Lobby electricity providers and state government to address barriers to local renewable energy uptake.
13.  Identify opportunities to turn organic waste into electricity.
14.  Implement landfill gas methane flaring or capture for electricity generation.
15.  Create a revolving green energy fund to finance renewable energy projects.

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.  Roll out energy efficient lighting across the municipality.
4.  Provide incentives for energy efficient developments and upgrades to existing buildings.
5.  Incentivise use of energy efficient heating and cooling technologies.
6.  Create a green revolving energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects

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 such as public transport, walking and cycling through council transport planning and design.
4.  Ensure that new developments are designed to maximize public and active transport use, and support electric vehicle uptake.
5.  Support cycling through provision of adequate cycle lanes, bike parking and end-of-ride facilities.
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 to increase sustainable transport options
8.  Create disincentives for driving high emitting vehicles.
9.  Convert council waste collection fleet to hydrogen or electric power.

Work Together and Influence

1.  Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets.
2.  Lobby state and federal government to address barriers to the take up of renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or sustainable transport.
3.  Set up meetings and attend events to work with other cities on tackling climate change.
4.  Develop education and behaviour-change programs to support local residents and businesses to tackle climate change through clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.
5.  Lobby for state and federal support for a just transition away from coal-driven industry for local workers and the community.
6.  Develop procurement policy to ensure that the practices of contractors and financiers align with council's renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport goals.
7.  Support the local community to develop capacity and skills to tackle climate change.
8.  Support local community energy groups with their community energy initiatives.
9.  Achieve 100% divestment from fossil fuel aligned investments at the earliest possible date.

Appendix

Appendix B: Pledge Examples

Renewable energy

Action	Examples	Link
Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings	Bathurst Council installed solar systems across nine council buildings	https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/environment/energy-sustainability/solar-power-on-council-buildings.html
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.	https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/business/sustainable-business/mrep/Pages/melbourne-renewable-energy-project.aspx

Energy efficiency

Action	Examples	Link
Roll out energy efficient lighting across the municipality.	Wingecarribee Shire Council - participation in Lighting the Way Streetlighting upgrade	http://media.wsc.nsw.gov.au/council-and-endeavour-energy-roll-out-street-light-upgrade/
Create a green revolving energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects	Penrith City Council Sustainability Revolving fund has supported 42 projects to the value of more than \$1.5 million. Combined these projects result in savings of almost \$600,000 each year, along with abatement of more than 3,100 tonnes of CO2e.	https://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Waste-and-Environment/Sustainability-Revolving-Fund-Guidelines/

Sustainable transport

Action	Examples	Link
Ensure Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles.	Charge Together initiative	https://www.chargetogether.com/about-the-program
Provide fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.	Regional 3 Council Program Waverley, Woollahra & Randwick Councils	http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/top_link_pages/news_and_media/council_news/news/a_nsw_first_for_electric_vehicle_owners

Work together and influence

Action	Examples	Link
Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets.	Darebin has set a target of zero net carbon emissions across Darebin by 2020 and released the first ever Climate Emergency Plan.	https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/environment/energy-sustainability/solar-power-on-council-buildings.html
Support the local community to develop capacity and skills to tackle climate change	Hepburn Shire and ZNet Hepburn Shire created the 10 year Community Transition Plan	https://z-net.org.au/hepburn/

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