



COMMUNITY
CLIMATE
CONVERSATIONS

ACCELERATING TO NET ZERO COMMUNITY CONVERSATION GUIDE



**OUR CLIMATE IS
CHANGING.**

**IT'S TIME TO COME
TOGETHER AND TALK.**

**WHAT CAN SOUTH
AUSTRALIANS DO?**



Conservation
Council SA

South
Australians
for Climate
Action


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We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations, and recognise them as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia.

Further, we acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal peoples come from their traditional lands and waters, that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance, and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters.



*"The science is in.
It demonstrates climate change.
Humans are impacting our environment and also being affected by
climatic changes.*

*Doing nothing is not an option.
The consequences of living as we are and continuing to impact our
environment as we have been, predict an increasingly bleak
outcome.*

We each have multiple ways that we must contribute.

*Reducing emissions matters because it is the right thing to do for the
planet, for us, for our communities, for all living things, now and for
generations to come."*

WELCOME

Welcome to the biggest conversation on climate change that Australia has ever seen!

Thank you for stepping up. The community conversations you are part of will involve as many people, from as many parts of South Australia, as possible. You will have the opportunity to discuss your hopes and your concerns as we look at the key things we as a State need to do to address climate change and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Reaching our emissions reduction targets is going to need individuals, communities, governments, and industry to pursue lots of different solutions. We need to talk about out how we can work together, and what we need to prioritise. This isn't always an easy thing to talk about, but it is not beyond us to do so with respect and care, and hope for our shared future.

The results of each conversation will be collected and together they will be used to inform South Australia's Net Zero Strategy. The state's plans will work best when based on understanding not only our best options to reduce emissions, but also what South Australian communities are both hoping for and concerned about.

So, it is important that you give as much feedback as possible and that you continue to engage in thinking about what South Australia can do, and making your hopes and expectations known.

Thank you for putting your hand up to join a conversation in your local community. What you say matters, and will form a vital part of our state's climate change action story.

Dr Judith Dwyer AM

Craig Wilkins

South Australians for
Climate Action

Conservation Council of
South Australia

Community Climate Conversation Project Team

Conservation Council SA is the project lead in partnership with South Australians for Climate Action and they have been supported by independent consultancy DemocracyCo.

The outcomes of these conversations are being provided to the SA Government to assist with planning for transitioning South Australia to net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The outcomes will also be provided to nongovernment organisations and industry who are planning for net zero.

The project is sponsored and funded by the Department for Environment and Water.



BACKGROUND

This Guide has been developed to support a statewide conversation by as many South Australians as possible about the key things we need to do to address climate change and achieve net zero greenhouse emissions by 2050.

Reaching our emissions reduction targets is going to need individuals, communities, governments, and industry to pursue lots of different solutions - we all need to be working together.

The development of this Guide has been informed by the Community Climate Panel - 53 independently and randomly selected diverse South Australians, who kick started the conversation about what we need to do. The Panel identified six ideas that we need to talk about and the actions we need to take to deliver on these ideas.

This Guide includes introductory information on climate change and net zero emissions, as well as detail on the ideas that the Community Climate Panel developed.

We look forward to hearing about your priorities and needs as we transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The ideas and possible action from the Panel are provided to prompt and promote conversations noting these are not the only possible options

Now it is your turn to keep this conversation going!

TO THINK ABOUT!

As you read through the guide, keep an eye out for prompts like this to think about before your group conversation.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Conversations are a way for everyone to contribute in a setting that is convenient, comfortable and hopefully enjoyable for them. They offer the opportunity for the broadest possible range of South Australians to have open and honest conversations with each other about the things that matter to their communities.

A Community Conversation is a small group of people, who get together to talk through how we can reduce our emissions. The setting is up to you! The group might be friends, neighbours, colleagues, sport or faith groups, or anyone who wants to come together to talk.

If you are planning to host a conversation, make sure to read the separate Host Kit which will ensure you have a great conversation!



**WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO
TO SECURE A LOW
EMISSIONS FUTURE
TOGETHER?**

INTRODUCTION

From the Community Climate Panel

We are living on a planet that is rapidly warming, in a country that is warming faster than the global average, and in a state that is warming faster than our country's average. Whilst the South Australian community may not be a large contributor to climate warming pollution when you compare us to other countries – on a per capita basis we are one of the top 15 highest emitters in the world.

The escalating impacts of climate change will be felt by all South Australians, but most acutely by those in regional and remote inland areas of South Australia, including our agricultural lands. As a consequence, it is in our best interests to demonstrate leadership and progress in addressing climate change through a rapid and effective shift away from our reliance on burning fossil fuels to power our homes, our businesses and our transport.

At the South Australian industry level, the importance and opportunities of a rapid transition away from fossil fuels is being widely acknowledged and planned for. In order for our state to achieve our net zero goals and demonstrate inspiring leadership and progress in climate action, there is also an important role for the South Australian community to play.

If South Australians can identify and harness the opportunities of cleaner ways of living and doing business, the immediate and ongoing benefits to our State's health, economy, and resilience, will be clear examples for others.

However, for members of our community to carry out this transition in a rapid and effective way, we need our Governments at all levels to understand the barriers and opportunities we face in carrying out this transition and to enact the necessary system changes which will pave the way for a healthier, safer and more prosperous life as residents of South Australia.



HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Our earth is naturally surrounded by an insulating layer of greenhouse gases, which keeps the surface of our planet at a temperature that is supportive to life.

However, human activities have modified this greenhouse gas layer significantly.

Greenhouse gases come mainly from burning fossil fuels (coal, gas, petrol and diesel) and from methane (from cattle, sheep, leakage from coal and gas mines and rotting waste).

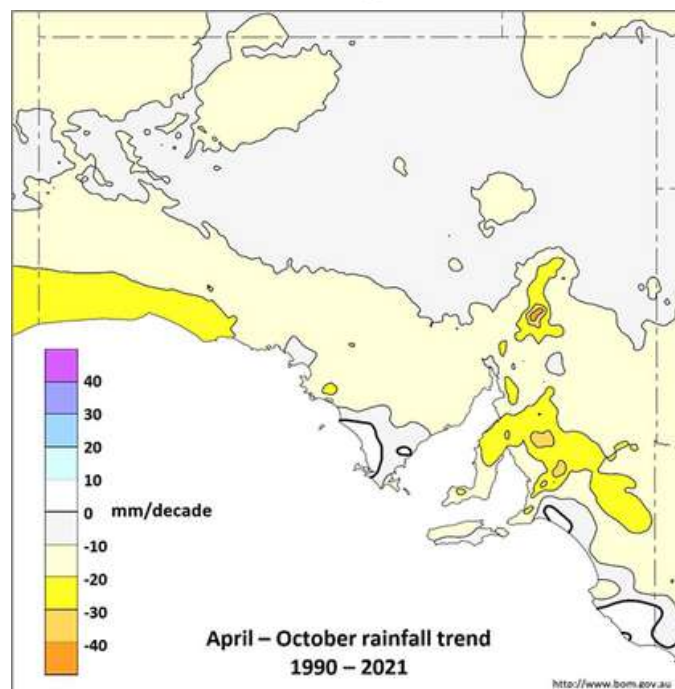
We are currently putting approximately 55 billion tonnes of additional greenhouse gases into the atmosphere (worldwide) every year.

These additional gases amplify the greenhouse effect and cause climate change through global warming.

Want to learn more about how climate change is impacting on South Australia?

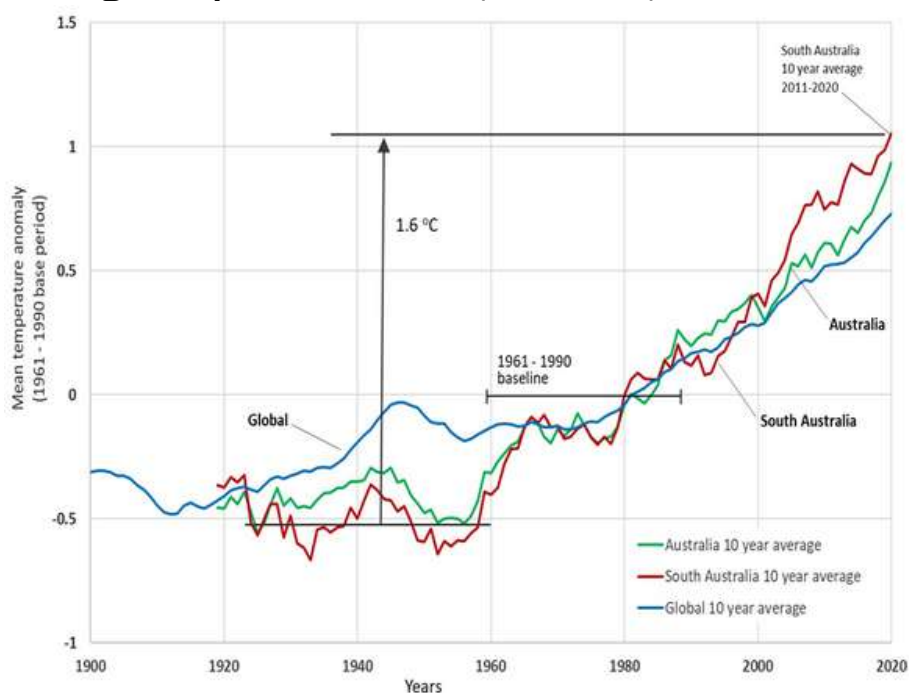
<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/how-climate-change-is-affecting-sa>

Observed Rainfall changes 1990- 2021



Above: This map shows how much the average of April to October rainfall has decreased each decade over the period of 1990-2021.

Average temperature: Global, Australia, South Australia



Left: This graph shows how much the average temperature of South Australia has risen over the past 100 years compared to the rate of warming of Australia and global land areas.

THE EMISSIONS REDUCTION CHALLENGE

What does net zero mean?

Put simply, net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible balanced by actions to remove any remaining emissions including by capturing and storing carbon (such as by planting trees).

The goal of achieving net zero emissions is to limit the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere, which contribute to global warming and climate change.

How big is the task?

South Australia is making good progress towards its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

In the 2021 financial year, South Australia emitted 21.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂-e).

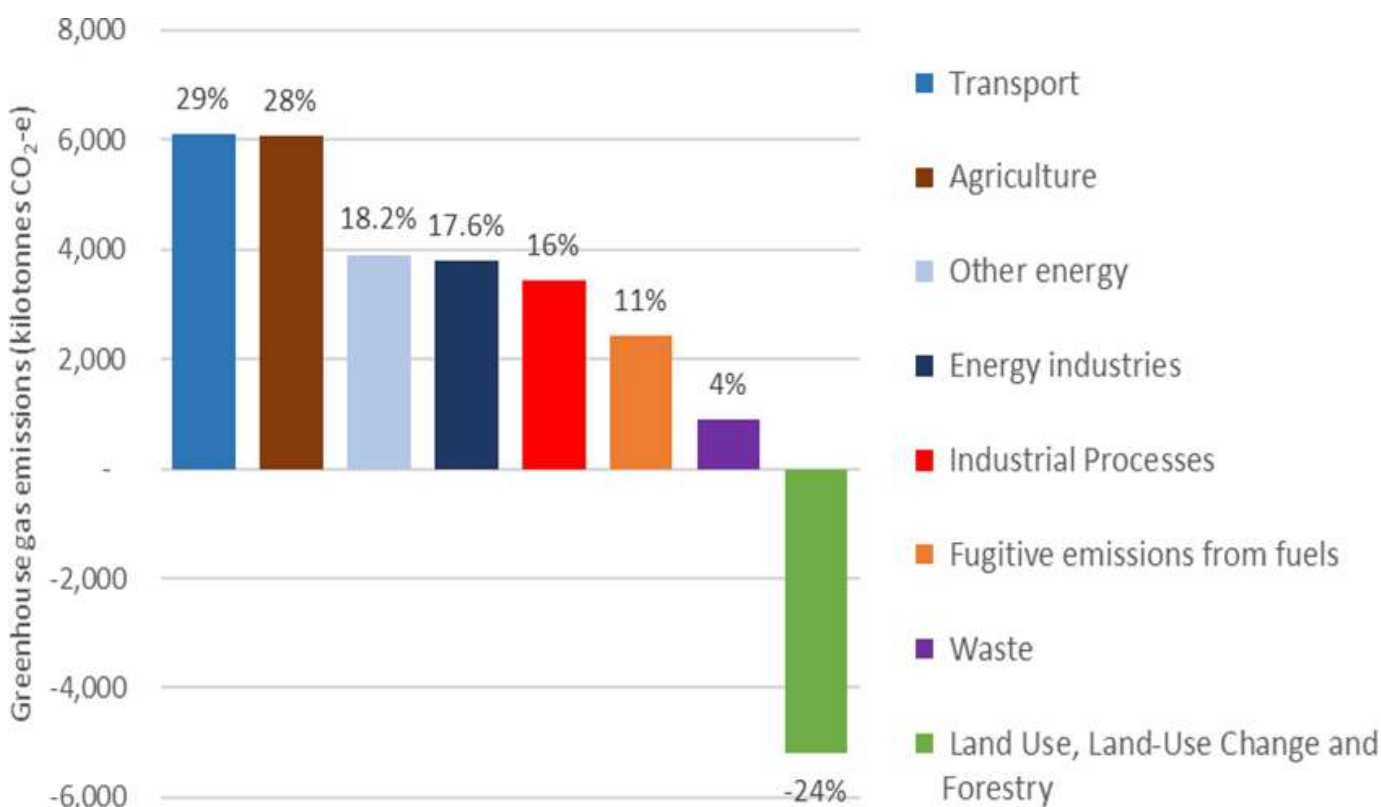
This represents a 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2005 financial year.

Reaching our targeted reduction by 2030 will require us to reduce our carbon emissions by an additional 8%, or about 3 megatonnes.

This is equivalent to removing around 668,000 petrol-powered passenger vehicles!

This is a significant task. To get there, we need to work together; governments, industry, communities and individuals. We need to talk about the opportunities and barriers, so we can plan a pathway forwards.

Illustration 1 - Emissions by Sector



GETTING TO NET ZERO

There are lots of things that we can do to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as a State. The Community Climate Panel heard from a range of experts and then worked together to develop a suite of ideas that they believed would lead to significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Their ideas are a starting point for your conversations. You might have other ideas that are more important, urgent and/or impactful for YOUR community. We would love to hear about them!

The Panel considered the challenge of emissions reduction by looking at what we build, how we move, how we power ourselves, and what we consume. Under these domains, the Panel identified six game changing ideas and suggested actions which will help us realise these opportunities.

"As a society our footprint is too heavy. We have been living beyond our planets current and future capacity to process and survive our impact.

Reaching our emissions reduction targets is going to need individuals, community, governments, and industry to pursue a lot of different solutions."

Community Climate Panel 2023

IDEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY CLIMATE PANEL

HOW WE MOVE

1. Accessible low emission personal transport

- Prioritise active transport uptake by addressing safety and access barriers
- Increase uptake of clean electric vehicles
- Improved connections between active and public transport to enhance the uptake of both options

2. Accessible low emission public transport

- Decrease the cost of using public transport, while increasing funding for transport and transport infrastructure.
- Incentivise public transport use
- Make all types of public transport green hydrogen or electric

WHAT WE BUY

4. Goods and Services Emissions

- Trial regulation of emissions of goods and services produced and supplied
- Encourage organisations to produce low-carbon emission goods and services
- Encourage consumers to purchase low-carbon emission products/services

5. Agriculture Emissions

- Using everything we grow
- Incentivising / supporting farmers and agricultural business to transition to lower carbon practices
- Influence consumer decision making

WHAT WE BUILD

3. Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure

- Improve Legislation and Regulation in the Building and Planning Industries to incorporate the principles of sustainability
- Provide training in net zero energy design, specification and construction within the building industry.
- Raise consumer awareness, understanding and expectations for energy efficiency and sustainability in the built environment

HOW WE POWER OURSELVES

6. Energy emissions

- Build momentum for electrification and degasification
- Give communities more agency over their energy production and use
- Improve “energy literacy”
- Resilience of energy supply and availability

WHAT IMPACT WILL THESE IDEAS HAVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



IDEA 1: ACCESSIBLE, LOW EMISSION PERSONAL TRANSPORT

“We need to fundamentally transform our transport system so everyone can get around our suburbs, cities, and regions, easily, efficiently, and safely.

In order to increase uptake of these innovative solutions to reduce transport emissions, the community needs to identify the barriers and opportunities for uptake and call on decision makers to implement consistent system-level change to improve access to clean green transport options.”

Community Climate Panel, 2023

Emissions relating to transport now make the largest contribution to our State’s emissions at 29%, with cars making up the majority of emissions, contributing 46% to total transport emissions.

To address these issues, we need to transition away from combustion engine vehicles – urgently.

Fortunately, over the last 10 years the range of low emission personal transport options available to South Australians has rapidly expanded, and now includes a wide variety of efficient electric options:

- Electric cars (EVs) of all types and sizes
- Motorbikes, scooters and rickshaws
- Light active transport cargo bikes and, micro mobility (scooters, skates and segways)

These electric green personal transport options add to existing active transport options including walking and cycling.

Sally’s Story

Sally decided to trade in her combustion engine vehicle for a small second-hand electric vehicle.

“The change was important to me. I like driving electric vehicles. They have instant power, and they just feel safer to me. The ongoing running and maintenance costs of the car are also so much lower. The problem was that second hand vehicles can be hard to find. Then I heard about the Good Car Company, that focuses on supporting people to access entry level low emission vehicles – and found a car through them at a reasonable price. I won’t look back! We live on the Fleurieu Peninsula, and we clock up a lot of kilometers, but the car gets me everywhere I need to go”.

The Good Car Company is now offering the opportunity to be part of a community bulk buy to make them easier to access.





IDEA 1: ACCESSIBLE, LOW EMISSION PERSONAL TRANSPORT

What is Active Transport?

Active transport refers to modes of transport that involve physical activity. It includes walking, cycling, scooters and skates (or similar). It is often combined with public transport options to complete a journey.

Improving active, low emission personal transport uptake must be a key focus area for reducing one of our State's largest and still growing sources of emissions; one where every member of our community can participate. The upside is that many come with immediate health, financial and environmental co-benefits.

WHAT CHANGES
COULD YOU MAKE TO
YOUR OWN MODES OF
TRANSPORT?

Andrea's Story

Andrea and her husband live in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. They have always loved riding their bikes, but after becoming parents it became too difficult and unsafe to ride with their kids who were too big to ride in a bike seat, but too young to ride their own bikes far from home. However, after the 2019 bushfires and rising concerns about climate change they decided to swap one of their cars for two electric cargo bikes.

"It turned out that if we replaced our second car with two e-cargo bikes we would not only be saving a huge amount of money on fuel, parking, servicing and registration etc, we would also be saving time especially for peak hour trips, investing in our health, whilst also reducing vehicle air and noise pollution and road congestion in our local area."

Andrea found that there are two significant barriers for those in the suburbs of Adelaide wanting to increase their use of active transport;- the initial upfront cost of a cargo/kid-carrying bike, and road safety. "Governments need to focus their attention on strategies and infrastructure to make active transport more accessible and desirable. By shifting some of the focus away from cars, Governments can help address the road safety, congestion, and cost of living issues which are all growing concerns for Adelaide families.





What the Community Panel suggested

Prioritise active transport uptake by addressing safety and access barriers.

Government Actions

- Improve safety for active transport by lowering speeds on local streets, increasing investment in safer cycling infrastructure, and implementing stronger active transport protection laws.

Individual Actions

- Walk or ride a bike when we can and advocate for active transport.
- Support and respect cyclists when we are driving.
- Encourage workplaces and regular trip destinations to incorporate bike/micro mobility storage and end-of-trip facilities.

Increase uptake of clean electric vehicles.

Government Actions

- Improve incentives for purchasing and running of EV's.
- Support rollout of standardised and extensive EV charging infrastructure, both on public roads and on private properties.
- Implement strict emission and air quality standards and set a date to stop selling fossil fuels

Community/NGO Actions

- Encourage the use of Car sharing services with an EV focus.

Individual Actions

- Where we can – replace our combustion engine vehicles with electric vehicles .
- Design our homes with EV charging capability.
- Encourage governments to provide charging facilities.
- Share information with friends / networks regarding the benefits of EV's

Improved connections between active and public transport.

Government Actions

- Enhance options and remove costs for carrying bikes and other micro mobility options on trams, trains and buses.
- Prioritise active and public transport on roads by removing much of the on-road parking and having dedicated bus/bike lanes. This will provide safer access between, to, and by active and public transit options.

Community/NGO Actions

- Promote active and public transport as the preferred options to travel to events.

Individual Actions

- Raise the importance of improved connections between active and public transport with decision makers to enhance uptake of both.



IDEA 2: ACCESSIBLE LOW EMISSION PUBLIC TRANSPORT

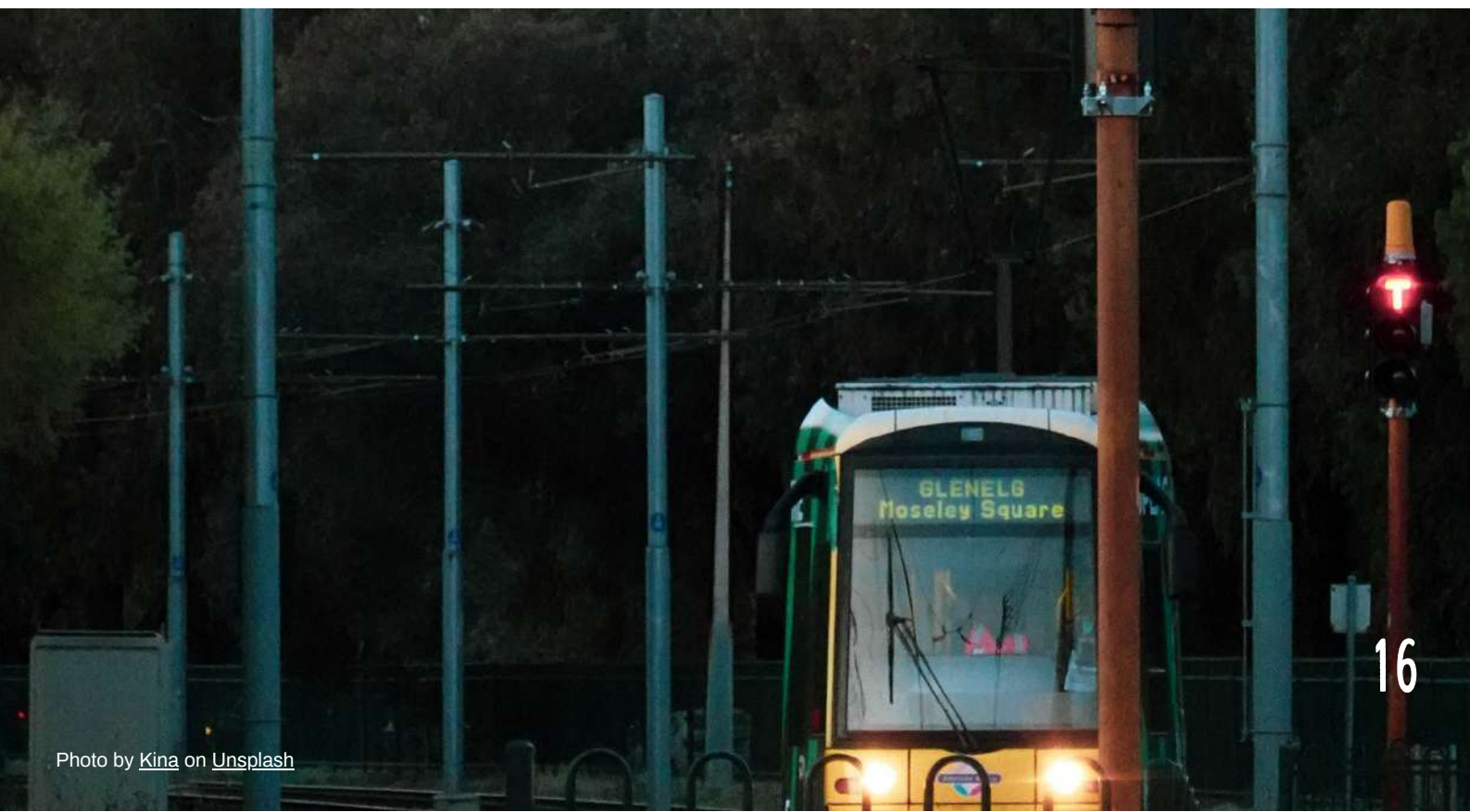
“To get to net zero we need a higher percentage of people using public transport.”

We are stuck on this issue because public transport is not currently accessible, and/or comfortable. Accessibility is challenging to improve due to our low population densities.”
Community Climate Panel, 2023

In addition to moving to electric vehicles and using other personal transport options like walking and cycling, we also need to use low emission public transport more often.

Public transport provides an opportunity for everyone living in Adelaide to reduce our carbon emissions right now – irrespective of whether we can afford an electric vehicle or not. Greater uptake of public transport can reduce the need for car travel and have other benefits in improving air quality and reducing congestion on our roads.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE PUBLIC TRANSPORT?





What the Community Panel suggested

Decrease the cost of using public transport, while increasing funding for public transport and transport infrastructure.

Government Actions

- Improve accessibility, range and frequency of routes and modes of transport (bus, tram, train and park and ride) in metropolitan areas of SA and grow this capability in Regional centres.

Individual Actions

- We need to shift and choose public transport for our travel rather than cars.
- Consider working from home.

Incentivise public transport use.

Government Actions

- Fund incentive schemes which make public transport more attractive.
- Expand collection points for Public Transport and trial some "on call" systems (e.g. Mt Barker Ride on demand)

Community/NGO Actions

- Support each other to feel safe when travelling on public transport

Make all types of public transport green hydrogen or electric.

Government Actions

- Transition – retire old diesel or petrol fleets (buses / cars/ trains).
- Support industry to trial electric vehicles for their fleets.

Individual Actions

- Advocate for electric transport for the benefits it will bring (low carbon, quiet, reduced air pollution)



IDEA 3: SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

“As a community we need to discuss the capacity to achieve net zero in our homes and other buildings. Working towards this directly affects the lives of community, while contributing to emissions reduction across the state, country and globally. Important opportunities to consider within this change are increased comfort, increased health benefits and lifetime affordability.”

Community Climate Panel, 2023

Substantial emissions savings can be gained from reducing emissions both embodied in the construction materials we use and from the energy needed to power our buildings.

Combined with regulatory and financial pressure, consumer pressure could sway the market towards net zero, sustainable and low carbon construction practices.

**SHOULD WE BUILD
DIFFERENTLY?
THINK ABOUT SIZE, ORIENTATION
& BUILDING MATERIALS**

Mike's Story

Firefighter Mike and his family have lived in their 4-bedroom eco friendly house on the Fleurieu Peninsula for 2 years.

“Before we built, we were living in a private rental for many years that was cold in winter and hot in summer despite spending big on heating and cooling– we needed to find an efficient way to be comfortable at home.” Mike said.

Mike has used a range of energy efficiency and emissions reduction construction methods in his new home including – installing solar panels, double glazing on all windows, orientating his house to the north, insulation, polished concrete floors and careful placement of windows to enable air flow.

“The combination of these measures has reduced my energy costs radically.... we hardly use artificial heating or cooling at all. The house stays in the low 20's all year round!”

However, there were cost barriers to achieving this outcome. “We had to build a slightly smaller house to be able to afford the eco options. This compromise made sense when we worked through it - we realised we didn't need such large rooms”.





IDEA 3: SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Community Climate Panel identified the following key opportunities:

Understanding, recognising and valuing quality design for low emissions

Community need to understand the principles and benefits of energy efficient buildings to make informed choices and apply consumer demand, as well as to ensure that they “get what they pay for” when they are buying or building. Industry professionals and trades need to understand so they can help us to create low emissions buildings.

Material selection and transparency of embodied carbon

Embodied carbon is a significant contributor to carbon emissions from buildings.. It is often difficult to gain accurate information on the emissions for different materials. We need to be choosing materials that have low levels of embodied carbon.

Affordability of low emissions building

Building energy efficient buildings can save money in the long term on energy bills but can be more expensive to build initially. These build costs are also offset with a better quality of life – our houses are warmer in winter and cooler in summer with energy efficient design and have better internal air quality if we avoid gas.

Skills and workforce development

The creation of low carbon buildings requires a workforce that is appropriately skilled. We need to be building a workforce of skilled trades and professionals to do the work.

What is Embodied carbon?

Embodied carbon is the amount of carbon that is emitted to manufacture and then transport materials to a building site. The type of material, manufacturing process and distance of transport can all impact on this carbon. Depending on where the materials are manufactured these carbon emissions may occur in South Australia or in another place – but none the less they are important contributors to climate change.





What the Community Panel suggested

Constantly improve legislation and regulation to incorporate the principles of sustainability and net zero emissions.

Government Actions

- Maximise opportunities for net zero energy ready buildings in the development of construction codes and other regulations.

Community/NGO Actions

- Bring planners, designers, building inspectors and engineers together to determine best and most economic ways to present "Green" building to the client.

Individual Actions

- Demand that green building information products be provided by developers, builders and real estate agents - including lifetime emissions and cost consequences of bad design.

Provide extensive training in net zero energy design, specification and construction.

Government Actions

- Provide the forum to ensure the key individuals in building design and execution come together to map the way forward to low emissions and sustainable developments that leads to development of legislation/regulation.

Community/NGO Actions

- Unions and employers demand green building training included in all training, apprenticeship, building license courses etc. and validation of knowledge.

Raise consumer awareness, understanding and expectations for energy efficiency and sustainability in the built environment.

Government Actions

- Introduce and enforce mandatory disclosure at point of sale and lease. Market incentivised to incorporate energy ratings into real estate transactions.

Community/NGO Actions

- Create and market new carbon neutral and net zero products / options for infrastructure and materials.

Individual Actions

- Homeowners value energy rating disclosure as both vendor and purchaser (or tenant) The ability for individuals to recognise the long term cost for the building. So they can make good choices.



WHAT WE BUY

IDEA 4: GOODS AND SERVICES EMISSIONS

"To move towards net zero, it is important for all of us to understand the emissions impact of the goods and services we buy, so that we can choose to buy goods and services with a lower emission impact... There is a need for community wide discussion in order to ascertain what is needed from a consumer and industry perspective to move forward in this area as community trust in current claims from industry is low"
Community Climate Panel, 2023

Everything we purchase contributes to the production of greenhouse gas emissions – the question is how significant is the contribution relative to other options and how can we find out? The ability for consumers to access information on the life cycle of goods and services is challenging and inconvenient and thus there is currently limited action in this space.

Currently we don't have information that allows us to answer these questions. The Community Climate Panel are suggesting that a better way would be to assess carbon impact on some significant carbon producing products and publish that information to help consumers make more informed choices.

In addition to building understanding the Panel also talked about the options of incentivising low emitting and disincentivising high emitting goods and services.

WHAT INFORMATION WOULD YOU NEED TO MAKE A LOW EMISSIONS CHOICE ON THE THINGS YOU BUY?

Hither & Yon's Story

In February 2021 Hither & Yon, owned by the Leask family became the first wine brand in South Australia to be certified Carbon Neutral as an organisation and for product range by the Climate Active program. This program by the Australian Government empowers business and community to take action on climate change.

Hither & Yon's vision is to make better wines with a lighter footprint. They have embarked on a continuous improvement program, from sustainable viticulture, to regenerative agriculture, and now carbon neutral. They are also practicing biodiversity management on their land, re-establishing native corridors, and are well known for new grape variety establishment - all with a view to climate change.





"We know this is an emotive and complex issue - compounding it is practices of agriculture / family ties with land, production systems and ways of working.

It is exciting to see the revolution in farming that is underway and the sustainable ways the industry is developing. We need to see a shift into high gear – with widespread adoption of new knowledge and regenerative practices. "

Community Climate Panel

Agriculture is a significant contributor to our state's emissions – but it also provides great opportunities to positively impact on reducing our emissions.

In South Australia, agriculture contributes around 28% to total net greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of emissions from this sector is from cows and other livestock (63% of agriculture sector emissions). Other sources of emissions include those associated with application of fertilisers, livestock manure management, field burning of agricultural residues and carbon dioxide from the application of urea and lime.

Agriculture also plays an important role in reducing emissions by increasing carbon stored in soils and plants. In this way its important to note that agriculture

can be both a driver for emissions as well as an opportunity for climate action as an emissions sink.

At an industry level we need to see conversations about reductions in sources of emissions such as methane produced via ruminants (seaweed diet for cattle) and emissions from machinery being reduced through technological advances. Change in this sector will require a huge investment of time, energy and resources of farmers - we know that many of the solutions are expensive for producers and the costs to individuals of quality local food is high.

At a community level, we need to better understand the water and carbon cycle, and soil carbon emissions from tillage, land clearing, desertification. We need to address food waste – optimizing solutions for what we grow.

**WHAT CHANGES COULD YOU
MAKE TO HELP REDUCE
EMISSIONS THROUGH OUR
FOOD SYSTEMS?**



What the Community Panel suggested

Optimising production - using everything we grow.

Government Actions

- Assistance in supporting farmers to take 'waste' products and use them – support a circular economy.

Community/NGO Actions

- Find ways to use unwanted produce – e.g. Foodbank model.

Individual Actions

- Be prepared to accept produce that isn't visually perfect like twisted carrots and blemished apples... and encourage others to do the same!
- Compost food waste

Incentivising and supporting farmers and agricultural businesses to transition to lower carbon practices.

Government Actions

- Incentivise and/or support farmers that take action to reduce their carbon footprint by doing things like increasing soil carbon, increasing green coverage, using renewables and reducing their diesel use.

Community/NGO Actions

- Farmer groups (Landcare groups, MLA, AWB and GRDC)- to share information and advice to support change
- Regenerative farming education and training is expanded to support workforce development.

Consumer decision making.

Government Actions

- Establish a system of incentives or penalties to assist in making low carbon products cheaper.

Community/NGO Actions

- Education to consumers on sustainability indices.

Individual Actions

- Choose lower carbon products and diets such as plant-based diets, local produce and less highly processed foods.
- Support locally slaughtered meat products and small-scale abattoirs.



HOW WE POWER OURSELVES

IDEA 6: ENERGY EMISSIONS

“Communities have the opportunity to use their collective bargaining power to maximise the usage of renewable energy, decentralise supply from large corporations, and have a say in where their electricity comes from, and how it is used and shared...”

We also need to keep focussed on the health, safety and financial benefits of moving away from burning gas in the home. ”

Community Climate Panel, 2023

The transition towards 100% renewable energy in South Australia is one of our biggest success stories, reflecting our strong commitment to addressing climate change over the last two decades. On this front we are a world leader. Showing how a transition to clean energy can be achieved. South Australia is forecast to be at 71.9% renewable electricity for the 2022-23 financial year.

The Community Climate Panel identified however that there is room for replacing the use of gas in our homes and buildings with electricity to improve the resilience of our electricity systems and reduce the cost of powering our homes.

The Panel also recognised that although our state’s export of gas is not included in the calculation of our State’s emissions, it still has an impact on the planet.

The Panel looked at microgrids to “mobilise and shift communities, opening the door to other ideas and projects - such as electrification and degasification.”

HOW DO WE HELP TRANSITION OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS TO 100% ELECTRICITY?

Ann's Story

Ann has spent the last 6 years transitioning her 1990s home off of gas. The home had an existing gas cook top and storage water heater. As the appliances broke down, they were replaced with a solar hot water system and an induction cooktop. The cooktop was challenging as Ann needed to find one that would fit in the existing cut out of the stone benchtop.

Ann installed a 6kW rooftop PV system and finally had her gas meter removed. Other steps to improve energy efficiency and comfort have included ceiling fans in the living space and bedrooms, LED lighting throughout, external blinds (east, north and west), and double glazing in the main living space and front windows.





Community Climate Panel Idea for Action - Microgrids

What is a microgrid?

"A microgrid can be thought of as a small subset of the electricity grid that provides energy generation and storage at a local level. They can incorporate renewable energy generation as well as battery energy storage." the Climate Community Panel

The Climate Community Panel identified microgrids as a useful approach for:

- Improving energy security and climate resilience in the event of power failures, bushfires, flooding, war and other extreme scenarios that may threaten community safety or services (e.g Hospitals, schools, aged care etc.).
- Creating new jobs and careers for a 21st century workforce.
- Creating agency by the community- regarding their energy supply and costs.
- Helping shift individuals and communities to be willing to move towards other ideas such as electrification and degasification.

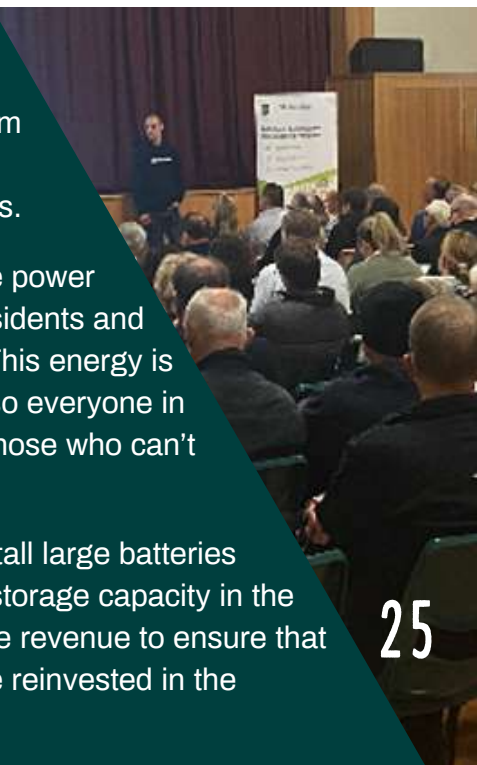
WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU
HAVE AT HOME TO BE MORE
ENERGY EFFICIENT?
WHAT SUPPORT DO YOU
NEED?

Mitcham's Community Solar Farm

In 2021 the City of Mitcham embarked on a community renewables program with partner ShineHub and has seen 760 households sign up (with zero deposit) to solar panels and batteries at discounted rates on bulk-buy terms.

The vision is to transform the Council area into a self-sustaining renewable power hub. A key mechanism of the program is the Virtual Power Plant where residents and businesses can opt-in to share their excess energy for a return payment. This energy is pooled and redistributed through an exclusive Mitcham energy retail plan so everyone in the community can access the benefits of cheap energy, like renters and those who can't accommodate solar.

The next step is to attract businesses to participate in the program and install large batteries across Council facilities to ensure there is adequate solar generation and storage capacity in the community. The scheme will create operating savings for Council, generate revenue to ensure that running the program doesn't cost rate payers and any surplus funds will be reinvested in the community.



OVER TO YOU!

Now that you've read through this guide, you're ready for a Community Climate Conversation! We hope that you have an enjoyable and productive conversation and we can't wait to hear your views!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

If you're not already booked in for a conversation, the links below will help you get involved.

LEAD THE CONVERSATION

Once you've participated, we strongly encourage you to host your own conversation with other groups you are part of. Remember we want to involve as many people as possible.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The feedback from these Community Climate Conversations will be collated together and provided to Government, other interested NGOs and industry.

The more conversations that happen, the better picture we will be able to build on your preferences and needs as we transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions here in SA.

WANT TO HOST YOUR OWN CONVERSATION?

www.democracyco.com.au/our-projects/community-climate-conversations/

WANT MORE INFORMATION OR TO FIND A GROUP?

www.southaustraliansforclimateaction.org/community-climate-conversations

