



Media Release

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Brighton Council sets Emissions Reduction and Net Zero Targets

Brighton Council has set itself a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040, with a 30 per cent reduction on 2021 emissions by 2030.

Mayor Leigh Gray said the new targets were agreed to by councillors at Tuesday night's Council meeting.

"The message came through loud and clear in the 700 responses we received to our 2050 Vision process that our community wants strong action and leadership on climate change," Mayor Gray said.

"Brighton will lead on this. We will demonstrate that moving to a low carbon economy is possible, is the right thing to do, brings benefits and offers opportunities.

"Local government can and must play a major role in lowering our emissions and decarbonising our economy."

Mayor Gray said Brighton Council was already taking action on climate change and its initiatives to date had saved money and provided a good financial return.

"Over 13 significant emission reduction measures have been implemented from 2011 to 2021, including our Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste service," Mayor Gray said.

"We have also delivered a bulk changeover of more than 1000 streetlights to more efficient LED lighting, installed 95kW rooftop solar systems on Council buildings, and added two hybrid electric vehicles to Council's vehicle fleet."

Mayor Gray said the Council had identified significant energy savings, particularly through rooftop solar investments, that reduce corporate exposure to expensive electricity rates and price hikes and provide bill savings over 25-year periods.

"Investing in energy and waste measures that have high returns on investment and make significant emission reductions will be a key strategy to achieve further greenhouse gas emission reductions," he said.

Mayor Gray said reducing waste to landfill remained one of the biggest challenges, representing 97% of greenhouse gas emissions from Council's services.

"We will continue to take action on reducing waste to landfill including by supporting our community to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible.

"We have agreed targets to ensure we continue the progress we have already made.



“Hopefully our ambitions will increase even more before we get to 2030, and this recent decision is an important step in the right direction.”

Mayor Gray said the Council’s Climate Change and Resilience Strategy identified the Brighton Council region as a beneficiary of the transition to a low carbon economy.

“Not least through opportunities in the Brighton Hub for new industries and employers in the circular economy, renewables and hydrogen,” he said.

“We welcome the State Government’s increasing actions on climate change and look forward to working with all levels of government on a range of climate responses.”

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Media contact: Brighton Council Mayor Leigh Gray: 0488 390 115