



Climate change action 2021-22

This year Brighton Council delivered a range of climate change initiatives, building on over a decade of work. Actions broadly aligned with key themes in the Brighton Council's Climate Change and Resilience Strategy 2019:

Demonstrating leadership and working with the community

Delivered a new waste service Food Organics Green-waste Organics (FOGO) service in December and Brighton Council took out the Environmental Leadership and Sustainability category at the Tasmanian Local Government Professionals Awards 2022.



Outdoor team delivering over 6000 bins to households, October 2021

A leader in Tasmania, Brighton Council's motion to support electric vehicles through the removal of Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) was endorsed by the Local Government Association of Tasmania. Shortly after, an Australian

Government election was held, and the new Government removed FBT making electric vehicle options in government fleets more affordable.

Brighton Council actively supported the Regional Climate Change Initiative, Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, through:

- In-kind staff time to compile annual community greenhouse gas information for all the 12 southern councils and Launceston City Council.
- Endorsed and promoted the Regional Strategy – Adapting to a Changing Coastline Tasmania report.
- Supported the winning application for the Partnership and Collaboration Award at the Tasmanian Local Government Professionals Awards 2022.

Brighton Council has supported the development of a sustainability network, including community groups such as Sustainable Living Tasmania, Landcare Tasmania, the Material Institute (MONA) in Bridgewater, the Derwent Estuary Program and the Derwent Catchment Project.

Brighton Council continues to employ a part time Climate Change Resilience Officer to ensure appropriate resourcing and capacity building.



Mitigating, reducing emissions and making the transition to a low carbon society

Brighton Council set a zero-emission corporate target by 2040 and an interim target of a 30% reduction by 2030 based on 2021 levels.



15kW addition to Council Offices in 2021 brings total generation capacity to 65kW, October 2021

Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory results for 2021-22 indicate Brighton Council is tracking well ahead of the interim target, reducing emissions by:

- Switching from a standard landfill to one that captures and flares methane gas.
- Reducing organic waste to landfill by 1,300 tonnes a year via FOGO.
- Commissioning three new solar systems, a 15kW addition to Council offices, 30kW Civic Centre system and a 7kW system in partnership with the Old Beach Cricket Club.
- Switching Civic Centre carpark and internal lights to LED options.
- Upgrading heating at the Civic Centre.

Reducing risk and adapting to the climate as it changes

Brighton Council successfully received grant funding from the Australian Government, for the Brighton Derwent Foreshore Coastal Hazards project, to:

- Review climate change impacts and coastal hazards mapping out to 2100;
- Conduct a risk and community values assessment; and
- Provide recommendations on ways to mitigate and reduce climate risk.

The Project focusses on three key sites on the foreshore, including Old Beach, and will run from 2022 to end of 2023.

Brighton Council also incorporated climate change risks into the corporate risk register, improving climate change considerations across decision-making.

Identifying local opportunities

A sustainability program commenced, providing energy, climate change, waste and environmental information at public events such as Winterfest, Spring Food Festival, Bond Place and Vinnies Dining with Friends.

Expanding waste services and recycling options to divert waste away from landfill continues to be a key focus area.

Brighton Council employed a part time Waste Education officer and commenced a waste education program 'wastewise' with the roll-out of FOGO.



The 'wastewise' school sustainability program, provided bibs for kids volunteering to empty FOGO caddies

A series of school classroom activities and presentations were undertaken



with recognition of the schools' efforts with ABC news coverage and giveaways.

Three out of five local primary schools now have Brighton Council funded bins and FOGO service provision.

A public waste booth in Council Offices was provided for recycling a range of items from e-waste, batteries, printer cartridges to globes.



Council Offices waste booth for difficult to recycle items

Brighton Council worked with the Resource Cooperative – South Hobart Tip Shop to go through the June hard waste collection to salvage materials for re-use.

Acting sustainably

Brighton Council has a range of initiatives to reduce the impact on the environment from its own operations.

Brighton Council joined the Global Compact of Mayors for Climate and Energy and Carbon Development Program, in addition to the Australian Climate Council, Cities for Power Protection CPP program. Brighton Council staff were nominated for the CPP award in 2021 for switching to electric outdoor equipment.

For further information see:
www.brighton/community/environment



Council staff chose to switch to equipment with less environmental and health impacts

Brighton Council continued to plant street trees to increase the amenity, shade and biodiversity in the area, planting over 40 trees in partnership with the Material Institute in the Eddington Street area.



Eddington Street trees

As part of the Greening Strategy Brighton Council continues to incorporate nature-based solutions into strategic areas, such as the design phase of the Industrial Estate attractive gateway planting project.

East Derwent Primary School received a Brighton Council grant to plant trees to provide all year round natural shade for children.

Summary strategic action

Brighton Council understands climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Climate change action is incorporated into a range of sustainability measures and embedded in strategic documents, including:

- the Vision 2050 statement – fostering the wellbeing of its population
- a Climate Change Resilience Strategy 2019
- Annual Plan 2022 – investing in sound governance through risk management
- asset management plans – providing future transport, tracks and trails infrastructure, sound community asset management
- provision of waste services – tackling waste reduction and diversion from landfill via kerbside and hard waste collection
- Natural Resource Management – protection of the unique natural and built environment

The Climate Change and Resilience Strategy has four key strategic directions:



1. Provide leadership for effective climate change programs locally;
2. Reduce greenhouse emissions, environmental impacts and become more resource efficient;
3. Adapt and plan for climate change; and
4. Identify opportunities to innovate in research, markets, technologies, institutions and in the way we live to build sustainable and resilient communities.

Local government leadership, sharing knowledge and expertise with local, regional, national communities.

- an overall strategy via the Climate Change and Resilience Strategy – Nov 2019
- ongoing participation in the Regional Climate Change Initiative group, representing climate action across all 12 councils through the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority
- a Cities Power Partnership member (2018-19), joining 150 councils across Australia on climate action

Corporate emissions (and energy) reductions across Council owned assets - vehicle fleet, buildings.

- 2021-22 and 2021-22 annual report summary

Community emissions (and energy) reductions to assist community energy use and emissions and realise cost savings across households, businesses, and community groups.

- completed updated community footprints for Brighton and other councils as in-kind support across the region.

Corporate adaptation increases the capacity to respond and reduce risk exposure to existing and future climate changes.

- an endorsed Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2012)

Community adaptation by providing community information to manage climate change risks

- published climate impacts information in the Climate Change Information for Decision Making paper (2020)

Other opportunities

- participation in the Derwent Estuary Program, Derwent Catchment Project and support for local Landcare Tasmania group
- an ambitious street tree planting plan, the Greening Brighton Strategy 2016-2121

