

What should be included in South Australia's new Climate Change Strategy?

Notes from Stakeholder Workshop: Mount Barker, Wednesday 30th September 2015

Objective of workshop

To seek input from industry, government and the community in the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Neutral Adelaide action plan.

Desired outcomes

- Increased stakeholder awareness of the objectives and process for developing the new Climate Change Strategy
- Stakeholder input/views provided regarding what should be included in the strategy, including input on innovative solutions for climate action, state-wide priorities for action in relation to adaptation, an industry-led low carbon transition and government leadership

Workshop principles

- Accessible for participation by stakeholders with varying levels of skill, knowledge and expertise
 - Conversation based workshops which promote 2-way dialogue between all stakeholders
 - Whilst conversation based, workshops include clear prioritizing of issues/topics raised
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What should be included in the new SA Climate Change Strategy?

Small group conversations enabled participants to talk about what they felt was important to be included in the strategy. Participants were guided through a series of questions and the notes were made by each small group and are included in section 2.

As a result of these small group conversations, participants were asked to write down their top three individual priorities that they would like to see included in South Australia's Climate Change Strategy.

1. Priorities for inclusion in South Australia's Climate Change strategy

LEAD

- That true governments become governance of the people and for the people where the "6 Capitals" economic model by Jane White is adopted where not just the profit of a company for its shareholders is legally bound but corporations are encouraged to follow United Nations guidelines.
- Developing a shared vision for tackling climate change of State, Local Government at Community level.
- Maximise renewable energy generation.
- Empowering communities to lead action at local levels – building/exhibiting demand for effective solutions from all levels of Government – creating the mandate.
- Delegate and coordinate Climate Change Adaptation decision making across all levels of stakeholders – State, Regional, Local and Community.

- Support for local/regional solutions to local and regional issues.
- Truly embedding Climate Change action across community and their elected representatives.
- Education/Exemplars ~ sharing/promoting/buy-in/agency/action that demonstrate positive action/implementation (big or small).
- Cohesion – interconnectedness and integration.
- Change Planning Development and Building Codes.
- State Government needs to lead by doing itself, not just policy formation. i.e. State Government buildings, schools etc., all demonstration projects; electric/hybrid cars.
- Legislation to mandate truly sustainable housing; low energy ~ air conditioning as emergency (or not needed); buildings designed for site (not vice versa); scrap “Star-rating System” used by government re energy rating. The Architects Institute say its not effective.

Values

- Acknowledge and deal with the social aspects of Climate Change management (not just technical).

REDUCE

- Address unnecessary consumption for endless growth on a finite planet. Help support alternative networks for swap, exchange, repair, alternative advertising and mediate.
- Better public transport to lower vehicle use.
- Biodiversity as a priority not an afterthought.
- Valuing the ecosystems we are part of.
- Energy efficiency: Green energy; building codes; energy efficient rental housing at affordable cost.
- Minimise all forms of waste and pollution.

ADAPT

- Local biodiversity for carbon sequestration as an interim measure. Carbon farming support. Release data on successes.
- Water: Water Sensitive Urban Design; Green corridors; recycling water; storm water capture; reclaiming/restoring waterways to health.
- Transport ~ green transport (electric, bio fuel); local transport hubs.

INNOVATE

- Transition (as in Transition Towns and the Transition Movement – it needs support from government).
- Creative, innovative think tank each year – based on values.
- Innovation Hub for information on ideas, what is being achieved and a place for everyone to access in the one place.
- Working partnership between energy companies, State and Local governments, research institutes and others to research, plan, design and implements an energy ‘network’ system for renewables.

- Use funding sources in different ways to leverage climate change action i.e. shift % of funding to innovation.
- To have a community hub based around a community garden and location for 'sustainable' ideas – linked to schools, education, industry and local businesses and supported financially.
- Localised, low carbon power generation.
- Leading by example with innovative initiatives e.g. vehicle charging stations.

Something Else

- Re localisation ~ with funding from the top to support bottom up strategies and initiatives.
- As a matter of urgency address loss of carbon sequestration in oceans (SA), ocean acidification and warming. Change of species dominance and behaviour.
- Small Start-ups and local community groups should be funded to support local action and implementation. Achieve at a local level.
- Permaculture – a cultural shift. Holistic, integrated solutions involving systems ecology and fundamentally informed by ethics (people care, earth care, fair share) above economics.
- Supporting local economy which is integrated into the broader economy.
- A combination of mutually supporting, resilient local and global trade in sustainability.
- A steady State economy.
- Ensure local jobs, local food production, less food miles. Correct labelling to show source and grower.

2. Notes from Small Group Conversations

2.1 LEAD: What does it mean to you for South Australia to be a leader in taking action to respond to climate change?

Table 1 notes

- Government supporting local production (policy, financial and information).
- Strengthening bottom-up, grass roots style engagement.
- Whole of government integration.
- Taking integrative holistic systems based approach which addresses the causes, ethics and values creating climate change rather than a narrow symptoms focus on low carbon economy.
- Leadership to share appropriate decision making.
- Education and information dissemination. Constructive methodologies.
- Greater support for the digital economy.
- Leadership to ensure bipartisan approach to climate change.
- Government financial support for community based organisations.
- Support local food producers instead of monopoly market chains.
- Leadership – lack of integration of all sectors not segregation – real challenge. All responsible for leadership.
- Challenge is to come together for all groups and provide directions.
- Supporting further utilisation of digital technology such as spatial data.

Table 2 notes

- Create the frameworks to allow levels of Government and Community to be effective in key areas in an integrated fashion.
- Local Council leadership and collaboration.
- Real co-operation with Local Government in policy and planning to build respect.
- Change Planning and Building Codes to regulate and promote low carbon economy to filter through to Government's own purchasing/procurement policy.
- State Government needs to broaden Star Energy System for housing and insist on truly sustainable housing (e.g. to maintain biodiversity in our cities and avoid large areas of hard surfaces).
- Incorporate climate change into all government decision making.
- Energy efficiency in all homes. Port Augusta Solar Farm.
- Decision making – lead by example.
- Re-define Governance. Values and true representation of all not just corporations.
- Not being scared to do unpopular things.
- Educate youth re sustainable low energy housing and buildings.
- Genuine inclusion of all parties in decisions – Council/State/Federal.
- Energy efficiency; retro fitting and use regulation to reform.
- Funding for local community groups to support ideas – small start-ups, perhaps mentored concept.

- “6 Capitals” as a bottom line. Values – ability to cross between Industry and Community.
- Essential for government to lead. Population – major issue not panacea.
- Policies clearly demonstrated in actions.
- Leadership in education, youth, schools. Capacity Building.
- How we measure what we achieve – multi approach.
- State Government needs to lead with partnerships and community groups like schools not just big business.
- Big change needed for Building Codes and Planning System.
- Policy incentives and regulation need to reinforce/encourage effective action in the market and community.

2.2 ADAPT: How can government, communities, businesses and individuals work together to prioritize and fund activities that build our resilience to climate change?

Table 1 notes

- Information – planning for climate, temperature to plan for health management, workforce management and asset management.
- Mapping resources such as food, water, utilities for communities.
- Optimise governance arrangements for adaptation.
- Greater organisation of information and data, especially information that already exists.
- Information ‘products’ to explain the impacts on people’s lives and the costs ~ basis for discussion of priorities and funding.
- Look at strengths for SA’s economy, agriculture, Renewable Energy and water management.
- Phase adaptation taking into account vested self-interest. It is a social issue: what change can people cope with at any time.
- Factor in Climate Change in development plans.

Table 2 notes

- Education for resilience needed.
- Water sensitive urban design. Collaboration across councils, governments and businesses.
- Support community initiatives. Community gardens in each council area – hub for education, food etc.
- Social business/enterprise – raise money.
- Need planting and verge gardens.
- Reducing Urban Heat Islands: landscaping; street trees; green corridors; parking and green infrastructure planning.
- Government values ‘6 Capitals’ need to be adopted.
- Bottom line not budget money. Playgrounds need biodiversity not plastic.
- Biodiversity Vs Economic Viability e.g. plastic artificial turf vs normal. Challenge to achieve environmental outcomes.

- Manage population – we do not have to continually grow.
- Ensure policies/strategies/actions in corporate adaptation for Climate Change.
- Clear vision shared between State, Local Government, Developers and Community to develop resilience.
- Improve/increase quality of green infrastructure.
- Negotiate delegation of relevant decision making to appropriate level of stakeholder.
- Reduce cost shifting between government sectors.
- Strengthen the coordination of activities across different partners.

2.3 REDUCE: What are the opportunities for South Australia to substantially reduce our emissions?

Table 1 notes

- More renewable energy.
- Look at having more electric vehicles and charging stations.
- Public transport – higher density lining; local transport hub.
- Reduce private transport usage.
- Industrial relations changes for different workplace functionality i.e. digital.
- Buildings and energy efficiency.
- Need for better public transport into CBD from Regional Areas.
- Higher targets for residential and commercial solar uptake.
- Biodiversity – green infrastructure.

Table 2 notes

- Use of Corena model for community projects.
- Solar, solar thermal and geo thermal.
- Reduce packaging; reduce food miles and improve public transport.
- Reduce emissions and public transport improvement.
- Reduce and phase out plastic – find replacement.
- Connect with universities and schools to promote innovation.
- Local growing, local consumption.
- Reduce packaging especially plastic.
- Continue to increase proportion of renewable energy generation.
- Transition to all electric vehicles in the CBD.
- Increase tree canopy and green space around towns.

2.4 INNOVATE: How can South Australia be the innovator in climate change action?

Table 1 notes

- Use existing resources in universities to undertake innovative projects in local government.
- Fund universities to invest in more innovation. Accepting risk.
- Support for start-up companies.
- Collaboration with universities.

- Social enterprise – innovation for profits to go back to the community. Green Bank, Bangladesh microfinance.
- Innovate – not just business but need to think about social innovation.
- Change process, thinking for initiatives to be funded for Climate Change at local area.
- Recycle, reuse and reduce.
- Funding a specific role in local councils to facilitate local transition. Roles should be externally funded, integrated and networked.
- Universities funded to enable pursuit of innovation unbiased reporting.
- Localise renewable power generation using innovative technology.
- Encourage local/community initiatives in innovation. The Climate Change version of 'Landcare'. Communities taking a lead.
- Encourage private 'green' initiatives.

Table 2 notes

- Innovation in education e.g. 'Stuff Story' video in schools.
- Partnerships between Industry/businesses with community ideas for Climate Change.
- Innovative Hub Council. School incentive for innovative ideas on Climate Change for local and broader community.
- Innovation and creating, especially artistic community.
- Incentives for car-pooling and reducing rubbish doing audits.
- Increase support for environmental sectors.
- Innovation – information/ideas hub.
- Broaden the scope of the personal wellbeing agenda driven by Government.
- Learn from and adapt others' experiences and actions.
- Education for reduced consumption.
- State Government needs better links with research sectors especially universities.
- Wellbeing is not improved by over consumption.
- State Government needs to lead by example i.e. State buildings, school sites etc.
- Appropriate costing for environmental inputs into products i.e. water for coca cola.
- Valuing community above self.
- More support for long-term research and development.
- Central web based site for innovative ideas in place. Where others can access this information.
- Facilitate and promote 'Blue Sky' Research and Development.
- Facilitate replacement of older polluting technologies and products with evolving cleaner and green technologies and products. Financial incentives/levy could support change.

2.5 LOW CARBON GENERATION: What plans or commitments does industry and community have with respect to low carbon generation?

Table 1 notes

- Permeable surface; funding permaculture initiatives.

- Look at carbon storage – sequestration opportunities.
- Green roofs, green walls, solar roads and solar bikeways.
- Port Augusta – renewable energy hub.
- Bio fuel opportunities for SA.
- Look at localising electricity/energy networks.
- Swales to replace footpaths. Consider natural burials – reduce cremation and use of wooden coffins.

Table 2 notes

- Low carbon generation – maximise renewable generation.
- Crowd funding models for small scale solar, micro grids.
- Solar PV on roads.
- Link low carbon ideas to capital from local ideas.
- “6 Capitals” ~ value environment economically. Value culture.

The content contained in the workshop outcomes summary does not reflect the position, policies or views of the Government of South Australia. We have made every effort to record comments as accurately as possible. However any inappropriate comments have been removed.