

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

Notes from Stakeholder Workshop: Clare, Wednesday 7th October 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

- Leadership to explore new opportunities in use of samphire etc.
- SA to be the visionary leader in Australia with renewable energy, electric vehicles and low carbon generation.
- Leadership to be prepared to make unpopular decisions.

Something Else:

Engagement, Education, Capacity Building

- Bottom up priority (rather than top down) regarding empowering local communities: \$; people and decisions.
- Better education around systemic factors that influence climate change e.g. lifestyle choices, economic systems.
- Awareness and capacity to change.
- Public awareness education as to effects of Climate Change on future of their local area – plants and animals etc.,
- Community education on Climate Change cause and effects.
- Communicate Science Capacity Building.

Financial Incentives:

- Address front-loaded economics on uptake of electric vehicles.
- Strategic Plantings (Re-vegetation) for our region and help to facilitate projects.
- Sustained financial support to local organisations to carry out mitigation and adaptation on-ground work.
- Incentives e.g. lower rates levies for people who have or are reducing carbon generation.

REDUCE

- Price on carbon.
- Mandating a cap on greenhouse gas intensity per MWh for any new medium-large scale electricity generation assets.
- Make everyone – companies etc., pay for carbon they put into atmosphere.

ADAPT

- Build culture around common principles i.e. reduced energy consumption good for environment, economy and people; Government, community and industry can agree.

INNOVATE

- Support at a local level for innovation/adaptation through sharing knowledge and applied research and building cross-sector partnerships.
- Build pumped hydro energy storage – it is needed if we are to greatly increase solar and wind power in this state. Coastal site using sea water.
- Find out what is already working and build on it.
- SA to build Australia's first Solar Thermal power station with energy storage (at Port Augusta).
- Support innovation of new technologies by government and private enterprise.
- Innovation for farming industry e.g. robotics to big machinery use.
- Solar powered regional/rural towns (self-sufficient and/or income into grid).
- Prompt a 'have a go' culture – encourage innovation and sharing of ideas.

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

- Communication barrier – lead communication.
- Leadership in development technology to commercialisation.
- Algae, salt water. Agave. Sequestration. Bio-diesel.
- Empowering local communities.
- Local Government lead resource – 1,000,000 trees Clare.

Table 2 notes

- Communicate existing successes (actions and stories).
- Keep regional capacity and longevity of knowledge to invest now so we are well placed.
- Communicate (not marketing) but education → should start at school.
- Listening to regional needs and leadership → dual benefit for state and region.
- Leadership is making the unpopular decisions – long term tough decisions made and adhered to.
- A leader in achieving not just image.
- Doing what is right and good.
- State Government to take risks to support pre-commercial projects) technology, don't care who, as long as it gets done.

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

- Some focus – local bio systems – landscape future.
- Local leadership in drivers of adaptation. Focus on further engagement on Regional Adaptation Plan.
- Stakeholder mapping.
- Support for native corridors.
- Need to distil abstract information into a way that can be applied to normal people's everyday lives.
- Local and regional resources ~ \$ and people.
- Locally relevant Climate Change information.

- Education and awareness raising.
- The right structures.
- Disconnect ... between variation weather and Climate Change. Build capacity – land managers/community groups and schools.

Table 2 notes

- Local Government and Local Health planning for climate variability.
- Adaptation up to individuals.
- Need to have common agreed principles – core understanding then you can work out how to achieve it in your local region/area.
- Crop varieties – drought resistant and government support through research for genetically modified crops.
- Government needs to change view on legislation for genetically modified crops.
- Government to provide information then people are informed.
- Need a list of activities to build our resilience. A base and then prioritise.
- People need to change to new circumstances – behaviour change. Need to build capacity to accept in a changing environment.
- Common principles (you don't need to mention Climate Change) for everyone to work from.
- Need local, regional and state priorities.

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

Table 1 notes

- All renewables – biomass and biofuels.
- Community based – micro grid renewables and storage.
- Solar Thermal at Port Augusta. Electric cars.
- Bio carbon sequestration on coast line. Sea level rise, mangroves and sea grass.
- Electric vehicles in regional areas – rechargeable.
- Perception and reliability of electric vehicles in the country.
- Use sugar gum for building instead of pine.

Table 2 notes

- Reinstate railway lines – take trucks off the road.
- Biomass – organised vegetation programs to use as firewood.
- Native vegetation – reform Native Vegetation Act to better promote re-vegetation.
- Household and community waste is a massive opportunity – packaging (e.g. cardboard, plastics) should be locally processed for transport of emissions and job creation.

- Strengthen compliance on new building stock to ensure 6 Star buildings get built.
- Address front loaded economics of building energy efficient properties.
- Street lighting and energy use in shops – need to change to LED.
- Local generation of solar for large businesses and council.
- Sequestrating (trees in landscape) carbon.
- Household – air conditioning should be coupled with solar.
- Increase emphasis on solar – towns or community solar to put into grid and be examples for other communities.
- Funding required for set up costs in local/regional areas (e.g. waste processing), cross-subsidies to support rural communities.

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

Table 1 notes

- Have someone out there to communicate what the innovators are doing and introduce people and build partnerships.
- Build the first solar thermal plant in SA.
- Algae for fuel.
- Encourage innovation – give it a try – not about success or results always. Enable people to fail.
- Collaborative non-commercial approach – share ideas for everyone’s benefit.
- Support mechanism to encourage sharing of ideas without red tape.
- Share innovation to spark ideas – success and failures. Bounce ideas around.
- Funding support for new ideas – take a risk – things may not work.
- Prompt a ‘have a go’ culture.
- Programs to build partnerships between potential suppliers and uses.
- Have a go culture – be allowed to fail.
- State introduce a carbon tax.
- Government led investigative/research/conversations (therefore seen as unbiased) to lead to potential innovation.

Table 2 notes

- Leverage Green Army program.
- Look at diversifying feedstock for buildings i.e. timber species such as sugar gum.
- Farm systems groups. Field days. Grants/Cross Subsidy for technology uptake.
- Allow genetically modified crops.
- Plastic recycling to make diesel.
- Apply technology to broad acre areas to target weeds, soil types etc., drones and robots.
- Leverage programs such as work for the dole in order to revegetate land.
- Local Government re-vegetation – unused Crown Land, road reserves etc.
- Help communities to manage/coordinate projects.

- Government to link NGOs, Green Armies etc. with land managers existing to facilitate tree planting, re-vegetation etc.
- City of Adelaide offsets to create regional opportunity for NGOs, Volunteers, Land Managers i.e. Sugar Gum – revegetation etc.
- Recycling plastics to fuel.

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

Table 1 notes

- Sugar gum for bioenergy – use for building materials; good to burn (firewood).
- Waste?
- Straw an issue in some areas; therefore of sore type; therefore need leaves some suitable for sore quality.
- Plastic convert to fuel (diesel) – been done at micro scale in Japan and Africa.

Table 2 notes

- Electric powered public transport.
- Regulate against energy retailers penalising solar users.
- Supporting the development and commercialisation of new technologies.
- Reduce red tape for developments/start-up companies etc.
- Differential rates for housing with solar PV and electric vehicles.
- A price carbon will make investing in low carbon sources more attractive.

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.