What should be included in South Australia's new Climate Change Strategy?
Notes from Stakeholder Workshop: Port Augusta, Wednesday 16 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

OVERARCHING
- More than talk – agree together and do together.

LEAD
- Ensure implementation is properly resourced – people, time and money.
- Communities being responsibly informed/educated about Climate Change in a way that compels them to want to change behaviour.
- Be game ~ LEAD.
- Promote and further develop SA's change from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

- Leadership.
- Bi partisan government participation in Climate Change action plan.

REDUCE

- Specific support for solar with storage generation facility to be built in SA to fill the gap left by closure of NPS/PPS (Alinta's coal fired power stations). This will be a long term process i.e. needs small single plant built first then later further plants. Probably a 15 year process.
- Promote/support initiatives like Sundrop Farms.
- More efficient transport (car pooling, public transport) less cars on the road.
- Support renewable energy projects like DP energy 300M/O PV/wind project.
- Low carbon energy capable of consistent base line power supply.
- Government to work with communities and industry to pave the way for changes and initiatives for better energy efficient industries.
- Establish large-scale solar power stations e.g. repower Port Augusta.
- Low carbon emission.
- Reduction in emissions from old fossil fuel generation.
- Incentives for carbon reduction/renewal: policy; planning and regulation.

ADAPT

- Solar thermal storage power for Port Augusta.
- Grow industries and give existing industries the support to adapt to low carbon environment and appropriate off sets for industries that have no alternatives.
- Low energy transport in urban areas whilst supporting regional transport needs (off set).

INNOVATE

- Innovation ~ need Research and Development in this state to create an economic outcome to support policy direction.
- Encourage electric vehicles and renewable recharge stations to replace fossil fuel vehicles.
- In regions, bring together 'thinkers in residence' who are innovative and think outside the square. Develop/market this group as leaders in ideas and promotion for climate change. They'll need to be from a more ground level rather than higher strategic level.
- Research on innovative ideas.
- Utilisation of efficient and innovative technology.
- Government funding for innovative ideas on low carbon economy to be brought to fruition. Similar to TIRF.
- Grant/support for reducing carbon footprint/emissions for business.
- State Government can play a role in the active commercialisation of new science adaptation innovations.
- Policy change to allow innovation.

Something Else

- Multi focussed approach to electric vehicle uptake (e.g. behaviour, infrastructure, transport incentive).
- Continuity of programs to encourage investment/buy-in to reduce carbon.
- Low carbon emission program. Specific program for investment into small or remote communities. It will need 100% funding not partner funding.
- Large scale solar project which is cost competitive with wind.
- Solar thermal power station for clean air, clean environment, employment and health for our community.

Education/Knowledge

- Champions.
- School curriculum changing/adapting to educate the next generation.
- Future clean low carbon emission for our future generation.
- Leadership ~ more education of climate change issue to communities/the public/individuals i.e. (public events, forums, school education).

Government/Standards

- No possible danger of contamination to air and land quality (long term).
- No possible danger to underground water tables (long term).
- Better utilisation of resources in regional regions. "Equality".
- Ensure any standards are also regionally specific/recognise difference.
- Reassess energy efficient building code and offer financial incentives for new building technologies so that the market dictates building materials that are more energy efficient.

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

- Important to state ($) – opportunity to sell what we develop to National/International players.
- Balanced and pragmatic.
- Connections and learning from other jurisdictions global views.
- Important but needs to be couched in a broader agenda.
- Collaborative leadership ~ whole and regional.
- Regionally important e.g. repower Port Augusta.
- Reputation benefits.
- Providing clear understandable pathways (i.e. understandable actions) that lead to a low carbon economy.

- Listen to “off the walls” ideas.
- Leading with opportunities for the state.
- Industry leadership ~ lead from industry good/governance outcomes i.e. apply risk management decision making.
- Being in tune with environmental conditions.
- Be obvious about it ~ tell our SA story.
- We actually implement and resource actions.
- Be attuned to what’s needed in regions.
- We should be up front and working towards Climate Change. Government should lead but involve community, business, city and rural.
- Opportunity to lead technology.
- Leadership in promoting science knowledge in the community.

Table 2 notes

- Leadership must be demonstrated in context to impact on society, economy etc.
- Balance between innovation and stagnation.
- Balanced perspectives – “trade-offs”?
- Taking risks – considering the necessity of short term pain.
- Ground up policy development = sustained balanced change (need education).
- Leadership should be practicable not just theoretical.
- Proud that SA is a leader. Wind farms are an advancement.
- Behavioural change – community participation is required.
- Continuity of leadership and long term commitment = tripartide.

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

- More information to provide to regional and rural SA to access with information.
- Vulnerable people will need to have opportunities to learn about and adapt. Aboriginal communities may experience most extremes.
- Bring together key people from each sector to prioritise and develop models to prioritise and fund those activities.
- Funding equality in regions. Easier for larger urban centre to undertake a project than regional.
- Opportunities to educate/provide information on adaptation to livestock/property management with increasing temperature.
- Elevate what adaptation is.
- People are living the extremes but still don’t believe it is what Climate Change is ~ communicate stories better.
- Be positive. Employment opportunity. Communication.

- Identify regional opportunities that government can support to grow communities ability to adapt.
- Integration of risks.
- Model potential changes that can inform opportunities for adapting land use and planning.
- Government fund to support business and community leaders to promote Adaptation Strategies.
- Have a competitive process to assess funding proposals i.e. grants from fund.

Table 2 notes

- What does this mean for 'me'? Making the behavioural changes relevant. Normalising new behaviours.
- Involve communities in the solutions after the science is known and everybody learns about it.
- Partner activities to previously identified threats.
- Use science and decision timelines to help prioritising.
- Acknowledge primary adaptation, secondary adaptation ~ transformation i.e. the context.
- Identify threats before we can prioritise.
- Resource ~ implementation of adaptation planning. Assist maintenance of momentum.
- Re-prioritise existing through an adaptation lens.
- Regionally specific investment- prioritise by region.
- Support the framework that enables the discussion across the regions. Support a program of implementation across all regions.
- Slip Slap slop. 10x10 Pirie. Square by Safety Whyalla. Behavioural change programs.
- Recognise unique issues to regionally specific issues, risks and threats.
- Fund my idea. Needs to be a vehicle or something to mobilise (invest) in people.
- Focus on opportunities in adaptations actions.
- Use the education system to communicate – start at school level.
- Balanced approach to activities and understanding priorities.
- Changing perception of what climate change is and the opportunities related.
- 10x10 Swear by Safety – whole of community behavioural change.
- Uniquely SA actors/normally people in adverts/programs.
- More balanced and broader perspectives into prioritisation and funding decisions.

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

Table 1 notes

- Energy efficiency standards.
- Fit for purpose (regional/city) standards.
- Turn off ~ reduce city building lights.
- Motor efficiency performance standards.
- Reduce unwanted animals emitting and consuming plants to avoid emissions ~ goats, horses, donkeys and camels.
- Encourage 'action at work' days. Reduce emissions, use less power.
- Ensure energy security but don't overstate the 'base load' issue innovative.
- Cow farting issue, agriculture innovation.
- Look to construct renewable energy with storage facilities similar to ACT 'Next Generation with Solar' EO1. Have a plan to introduce additional capacity over a period of time.
- Paperless business and industry.
- It would mean that our sector could focus on the sustainable management of the landscape and improve their business rather than focussing on adapting to the climate.
- Research and Development.
- Low emission transport ~ oil and gas sector.
- Low carbon energy production that can supply base load.
- Smarter power saving technologies.
- Renewable technology.
- Industry on board.
- Regional transportation options or off sets.
- Emission target reduction.
- Obtain information from other countries for benchmark innovative ideas.
- Utilise other countries' technology or resources.

Table 2 notes

- Reduce reliance and spending on roads – invest in public transport systems.
- Better building standards.
- Further subsidise household solar energy – many people want it but cannot afford set up costs.
- Three throng 'attack' 1) Reduce waste 2) Change focuses (wind v coal) 3) Store carbon- forests and crops.
- Small local nuclear generation (contained).
- Revisit geo thermal plant at Innamincka – infrastructure already in place.
- Further conversion from fossil fuels to solar and wind energy.
- Development of solar 'recharge stations' to support electric vehicles.

- Better building technology – the current code is rubbish.
- Pastoral land for carbon sequestration plantings potential.
- Re-introduce a genuine carbon market – economically/trade driven.
- Port Augusta power hub – low carbon energy; renewables; bio; nuclear.
- Energy efficiency design buildings ~ industry, transport.
- Off sets; sequestration; soil/ocean; flaring methane.
- Electric vehicle grid – Kangaroo Island to Barossa – Adelaide.
- Fuel to cars being electric. Wind. Transport emissions.
- Carbon price.
- Concentrated solar thermal.
- Government subsidies for solar or innovation in science.
- Solar, thermal self-storage power station at Port Augusta.
- Replace diesel generators with solar/generators coupled with new battery storage technology ~ especially regional.
- Land values – highest value for carbon vs grazing e.g. pastoral land.

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

Table 1 notes

- Supplement feeding – develop and innovate to reduce livestock emissions.
- More support for commercialisation of new methods/innovation.
- Research on agricultural pasture/supplement practices to reduce methane.
- Government could partner with industry to promote innovation.
- Create an industry where we have an export product e.g. food supplements for agriculture (for other countries with an appetite).
- Government can delve into different communities – knowledge banks and think tanks. Do at a community level bottom up.
- Use local government events, notices, contacts, communication channels to engage the community.
- What can we make to export ideas/products to other countries with an appetite.
- Innovative ~ private and public, transmission and infrastructure.
- Aggressively promote how SA has replaced fossil fuels with renewable types of energy. (Let us tell you how to do it!)
- Energy efficiency – competition – school level.
- SA government hold an annual competition for businesses creating new climate change (carbon negative) innovations/industry. Finalists would be promoted.
- Regional governance machinery.
- With less Research & Development funding from Federal Government, work smarter with scarce funds working with main protagonists (entrepreneurs, researchers and industry).
- Foster enabling technologies and expertise e.g. wireless internet to support renewable energy.
- Promote our carbon-neutral (or approaching it) status when selling our produce to the world.

- Innovate – use technology communications to develop networks in community discussion.
- Industry focussed/orientated research (universities).
- Provide tax incentives to people who utilise renewable energy or non-fossil fuel vehicles.
- Tax concessions to industries/companies promoting/creating renewable energy.

Table 2 notes

- Be first – government offer reward/grant.
- Regulating flexibility for innovation projects, big and small.
- Support Research and Development and education.
- Implement specific policy that provides long term certainty for industries that are wanting to work in low carbon industries.
- Expansion within government e.g. SARDI for someone to streamline processes help to start up new things.
- Provide international scholarships to students to study innovative solutions to Climate Change and job after to follow-up ~ Singapore model.
- Ability for business to use PV panels even when renting. Potential for sharing house roof space i.e. like wind farms.
- Solar electric car changing stations.

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

Table 1 notes

- Solar lights on signage, bus stops and civic power needs road crossings.
- Repower Port Augusta alliance is continuing to lobby government/industry to build concentrating solar thermal power station with storage.
- Renewable energy industries (manufacturers and developers) are very keen to construct more renewable energy in SA (and Australia generally).
- Energy utilities provide information energy efficiency.
- Active investment opportunities rather than passive investment.
- I would like to see government policy for all of the State, not just the populous areas.
- Whyalla ~ reticulated water on golf club.
- Planting more trees, greening communities.
- Composting re-use of green waste.
- RI – treat sewerage system.
- Industry initiatives:
    - Awareness.
    - Energy part of the assessment for Capital projects.
    - Numerous upgrade projects reducing emissions and energy requests.
- Allow change.

- Recycle. Soap = low chemical.
- 10c cans and bottles.
- Regulatory flexibility for sustainable and practical solar i.e. enviro cycle with composting toilets – water re-use in households.
- No plastic bags.
- Responsible land/chemical management.

Table 2 notes

- Energy efficient buildings – look at the building code and how energy efficiency is calculated.
- Follow Canberra's lead and only buy 100% renewable energy for government and local government.
- Providing incentives for electric vehicle purchase and infrastructure to support their use (e.g. solar "recharge stations" for electric vehicles or wind).
- Restrict size of houses but this all relates to values and these would be very difficult to change.
