

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

Notes from Stakeholder Workshop: Mount Gambier, Tuesday 13th 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

Policy/Legislation

- Building standards to decrease heating/cooling emissions.
- Ensure Adelaide based policy doesn't have significant negative impacts on regional areas. E.g. no cars in city – how do regional people get around when they visit? Proximity principles for waste food.
- Land use planning for change e.g. intensification of agriculture, abandonment of some land (coast, agriculture). Identify areas for migration of species (e.g. biodiversity).

- Embed strategies into plans across all agencies/departments.
- Regional application will mean greater ownership and uptake by communities.
- Scale setting policy/strategies that enable smaller players to participate.
- Favourable policy to encourage carbon planting using existing under-utilised land i.e. drainable network easements.
- Introduction of more energy efficient building standards and infrastructure.
- Managing resources within sustainable limits in consideration of climate change projections (e.g. water, environmental assets).
- Better guidelines/designs for open spaces in cities and towns.
- Wider union – no perfunctory outcomes. Cross government policy, all levels.

Communication/Education Strategy

- Case study promotion to whole community.
- Develop messaging that can be tailored for different audiences. There are many different views but we don't want to dismiss people that are 'climate change' sceptics.
- Education – continuous education of community, industry and individuals.
- Communication strategy to get messages out:
 - Climate change adaptation needed.
 - Government can help with information and funds.
 - Government is setting example.
 - SA is a world leader.

REDUCE

- Emission reduction incentives.
- Transport – travel miles.
- Subsidise (for a time) uptake of emission reducing (or capturing) technologies, so that uptake is faster.
- First priority – regional. No fracking of either coal seam or
 - Tight gas in prime agricultural areas;
 - Adjacent to urban development and
 - Legislation changed to give total protection to all reserves (Coastal, Forests, Roadsides) not just National Parks.
- No gas fields involving fracking chemicals in South East.

ADAPT

- Recognition of importance of relocation for renewables.
- Adapting to reduced resources.
- Pricing of water to encourage effective and efficient use of water.
- Government support (\$) for Research and Development to adapt.
- Real long term resources/team to keep it all happening. It can't be an extra thing that 'someone' has to take on.
- Renewable energy for everyone.
- Water for recharge.
- Water effective management of the resource. Adapting new methods.

INNOVATE

- Support and innovation and local resilience for food and water.
- Invest in Research & Development innovation.
- Biodiversity – how it can offset carbon.
- Funding and investment in science to make better decisions based on facts.
- Government incentives to build environmentally efficient housing (buildings) and to renovate existing structures.
- Funding for research into innovative ideas for reduced emissions.
- Subsidise trials of new technologies and advertise them.
- Government has a role to facilitate:
 - Independent Research & Development.
 - Business collaboration.
 - Address market failure.
- Battery backed power generation and/or other Clean Energy Innovations.
- Lots of charge points for electric vehicles and re-open electric railways.
- Showcase existing business cases to spark collaboration and more innovation ‘let’s get positive’.
- More education in schools.
- Transport improved systems.

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

- Setting national standards. Leading by example.
- SA Government needs policy to support (not force) implementation.
- We are great planners. We need to implement.
- Clear policy direction ~ mature policy.
- Provide opportunities for investment etc.
- Government has not ruled out fracking for shale gas – this sends very conflicting message when they are wanting to discuss low carbon generation.
- See results (of adaptation) earlier.
- We will be leaving our children with a better environment.
- We will be providing motivation for the rest of the nation.
- Economic/employment opportunity.

Table 2 notes

- Potential to earn billions with solar.

- Opportunities for interaction with latest world development – business opportunities.
- Paradigm shift in consciousness required for changing political policies. Leadership.
- Embedded in government policy at State level.
- Celebrating our resources - water also protects.
- Government to adopt new technologies to set example and promote the fact.
- Makes sense as driest state in driest continent.
- Policy embedded in plans and documents.

Table 3 notes

- Leadership on what not to adopt – don't allow development in small areas e.g. S.L.R.
- Taking action even without all of the information.
- Consistent commitment.
- It is about courageousness – the right decision ‘Walk the Talk’. Stick with it.
- Influence Federal Government.
- Partnerships are already happening e.g. more industry research and adaptation.
- Facilitating individual action rather than hindering (Planning Laws etc.)
- Responsibility to contribute towards a low carbon future.
- Source of pride. Support ‘Clean Green’ image ~ especially for agriculture, produce etc.
- Acting on science rather than political and popular attitudes.

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

- How do you balance local community contributions and issues with State Government direction e.g. push to export products and commodities?
- Coastal impacts of sea level rise and erosion – impact on existing infrastructure e.g. monitoring of ground water well.
- Main issues: ground water (better use, use less, get more, more efficiencies). Reduce evaporation e.g. bury pipes ~ reduce flood irrigation. Change methodologies and use.
- More opportunities – open mind to new businesses and methods ~ ‘Out of the Box’ thinking – irrigation and industry.
- Artificial recharge of aquifer.
- State Government focus its efforts on social equity (e.g. quality of life for all not just those that can support).
- Ground water; weir operation are being challenged; need innovation to manage the tension between retention of water and local farm management.
- Potential for aquifer recharge. Artificial recharge.
- Regenerative agriculture to retain soil erosion and increase drought resilience.
- Transition Towns ~ facilitating and funding initiatives.

- Participate in regional Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) and Regional Assessment Planning (RAP) process.
- Local Government to support local solutions.
- Policies to support innovation.
- Support local businesses supplying essentials. (Rather than high end niche partisan only).
- Sea water intrusion in sea level rise – declining water table increases; lose environmental sites and wetlands.
- Innovative methods to minimise salt water intrusion into ground water.

Table 2 notes

- Understanding the impact of projected rainfall on water resources (e.g. ground water and impacts on agriculture/environment).
- Whole of landscape planning and prioritising land use around water resources and environment.
- Water allocation planning to take account of climate change.
- Manage wetlands. Corridors for flora and fauna evolution to allow organisms to adapt to new or changed habitats.
- Adaptation – new crops. Moderating (?). Increased population pressures = demands on natural environment.
- Water allocation reviews.
- Unions – adaptability = approached re: education to jobs in a changing climate.
- Building resilience to climate change: adaptation water aquifers ~ reduced beyond recharge.
- Weirs.
- Innovative land use.
- Education for property.
- Better land management.
- Support: Local food systems; Local renewable energy systems; Battery storage to support local solar communities.
- Alternative crops with failing rainfall.
- Intensive agriculture and stewardship incentives for land owners to manage carbon sinks (e.g. wetlands/native vegetation) to offset.
- New industries = new jobs.
- Acknowledge that South East has decreasing rainfall.
- Opportunities – alternative crops and land use.
- Get rid of blue gums.
- More investment in Research & Development for agriculture in changing climate.
- Community acknowledgement and acceptance of climate change impacts.
- Planned and managed retreat – coastal areas e.g. sea level rise, but also agriculture.
- Keeping water in the landscape.
- Planned population growth including migration to the region.
- Government can support communities to adapt e.g. \$ to implement regional adaptation plans.

Table 3 notes

- Ensure that the facts are known and understood without political influence.
- Facilitation role for pulling issues together.
- Build the messaging around the 'economic value'.
- Ensure economic analysis is used to support the case for climate change initiatives i.e. fully cost the waste/impact side of coal/nuclear.
- Communicate achievements to maintain interest, motivation etc.
- SA Government needs to counteract negative impact of bad Federal Government marketing (Tony Abbot didn't believe in climate change).
- Government needs to target individuals/groups that can be early innovators.
- Good strategic plans are the basis for sensible prioritising.
- Consistent message.
- Means of maintaining momentum.
- Regional Assessment Plans (RAPs) are cross sector and need a 'push' to implement.
- Need to market the opportunities e.g. short, sharp Government ads on TV.
- Cross promotion of benefits e.g. shelter belts for land management and production benefits and carbon plantings.
- Look at changing livestock from beef to pork or chicken which give you more kg meat/kg – grain.
- Ecological services not mentioned. Bio-char. Support wetland conservation restoration as carbon sinks.
- SA to market its achievements e.g. 2nd to Denmark in wind generation.
- Need to communicate to individuals what's on offer and where to go.
- Agreed agenda.
- Make it easier for smaller players to participate.

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

Table 1 notes

- Decentralisation of Government Departments/Officials.
- Facilitating behaviour change, voluntary, simplicity, performance design...
- Provide development approval systems while encouraging wind turbines.
- Facilitate work at home.
- Encourage the use of Biers.
- Reduce emissions while avoiding perverse outcomes from regulation that ... options for community resilience (wood burning emissions for cooking and heating).
- Public transport (efficient and comfortable).
- Climate (environmentally) designed housing ~ building regulations required.
- More wind farms.

- Recognise the sequestration of carbon in our plantation forests and products.
- Transport – trains, B doubles etc., high production vehicles.

Table 2 notes

- Alternatives to fossil fuels for energy requirements.
- Redesigning open spaces: more trees; green roofs and light colours.
- Offsets: SE Drainage Board land holding; massive corridors along drainage (upper and lower SE) e.g. 100 metre wide revegetation.
- All government buildings to have solar panels.
- Revegetate government corridors.
- Hydrogen cars.
- Building standards – double, triple glazed windows; insulation standards.
- Carbon (offset) plantings.
- No carbon sequestration of carbon dioxide.
- Make 7 Star insulation compulsory.
- More/all solar panels on roofs. Australian standards need legislative changes to upgrade standards.
- Drive less cars.
- Floor installation.
- Develop (reinstate) rail network to reduce trucking (cause road damage – death tolls).
- Packaging.
- Incentives to build more responsible houses (e.g. banks, financial).
- Improving building standards; double glazed windows; increase minimum insulation standards.
- Efficient wood heating.
- Increase vehicle emission standards and compliance.
- Stop fossil fuel dependant agricultural industries e.g. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) patents in production.
- Insulate buildings to high standard to reduce energy use.
- Land use: Grazing land – alternatives needed re methane emissions. Banks – loans need supporting tourism.
- Waste water – reed or similar filtration re: sewerage.
- Decentralise some state departments to regions.
- Greening of cities to reduce heating.
- Energy efficient buildings.

Table 3 notes

- Local food supply systems. Less meat and dairy in diets (promote changes in diet).
- Change of livestock type – beef to pork. Bio gas.
- Adelaide to use construction material from sustainable forestry.
- Intense aquaculture based on plant based feed to replace animal agriculture.

- Consider impacts of metro policy on regional areas e.g. Local/proximity principles for waste.
- Reinstate train to Adelaide (from South East). Reduce track smarter logistic.
- Adelaide to buy green food and try to use 100% renewables.
- Need to be very aware of impacts of policy on economy – social and community.
- Reduce food miles.
- Building standards to drive reduction in emissions.
- Research & Development to support less methane production in cattle and sheep.
- Bio fuels e.g. algae farms to produce fuels.
- Individual homes to take up wind generation (eolic rooftop systems). Promote the systems and communicate the RET rebate for this.
- Promote and use geothermal energy for heating homes.
- Community transport e.g. part of your salary goes to 'bus' that picks you up at home and returns you.
- Review/educate re domestic heating Gas verses electric – wood! Would link into building guidelines.
- Diversity renewables. (Wind/solar/wave and geothermal). Battery storage.
- Co-location of industry – share heat/electricity requirements.

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

Table 1 notes

- SA Government to facilitate 'think tanks'.
- Bio gas applications. Bio carbon investment in agriculture.
- Intensive aquaculture using insects/plant based diets = reduction in emission from stock based agriculture.
- SA Government to support (\$) new companies to advertise or have a demonstration site.
- Banks and investors – support alternative energy innovations.
- Start-up funding from Government for new ideas.
- Government incentive to students for innovative ideas for reduction of emissions.
- Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation on school curriculum. Also carbon footprint concept.
- Facilitating take up of ideas and/or linking ideas with investors.

Table 2 notes

- Facilitating networks for systems resilience thinking.
- Promote/encourage university input/participation in low carbon energy efficiency innovation.
- Create the space to innovate, create catalysts i.e. time and Thinkers in Residence.
- Pilot new and developing technology.
- Set high targets.

- \$ for bio energy.
- Create the space to innovate in business.
- Feed aquaculture fish with pellets containing insects as protein.
- Catalysts for change – e.g. relocation of infrastructure and potentially whole communities.
- Capitalise and build on existing reputation.
- Supporting Research & Development and uptake of new technology.

Table 3 notes

- By being open to what other countries have done – early adopter of overseas technologies.
- Investment in Research & Development especially applied Research & Development in regions.
- Work together – common problems – networking clusters.
- Be open – even to third world solutions.
- Breakdown divide between scientists and users of technology e.g. Research & Development working with practitioners. Government to facilitate links.
- Optimise and apply the full portfolio of advanced technologies as they become commercially available.
- Education – get more children to do science, technology, engineering and maths.
- Networking – bring businesses together to support them develop solutions together.
- Need funds into science (don't cut CSIRO budgets). CSIRO, universities – free education.
- Showcase existing industries, companies to spark ideas for others.
- Micro financing of innovative businesses.
- Develop an innovative, entrepreneurial culture. Government to provide infrastructure – buildings to collocate etc.
- Micro financing innovation in small businesses.

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

Table 1 notes

- Need innovative technologies to capture smaller scale emissions e.g. waste dumps and industries?
- Mount Gambier rubbish tip – capture methane.
- Community action for sustainability (education).
- Use of efficient power generation with less fuel and maximum power generated.
- Battery disposal/mobile phone locations for disposal or recycling being accessible to regions.
- Some industries have no plans to generate energy.
- Links to accreditation – tourism.
- No gas fields in South East.

- Manage tourism waste – holiday shack mindset!
- Waste in holiday houses.

Table 2 notes

- Benefits of Low Carbon Investment:
 - Reduction of carbon dioxide and methane etc., will reduce Climate Change.
 - Industries geared to Low Carbon Investment will benefit in mid to long term
- Tesla battery storage at good \$ to store renewable energy.
- Bio gas, bio fuels, home scale wind power generation.
- Corta Holt Harvey (White Avenue florist in Mt Gambier) is using cellulose for Medium-density fibreboard (MDF) - uses a waste product (cellulose) with reduced emissions.
- Methane generation from livestock through: changing species; genetics and changing feed.
- Increase building efficiency including retrofitting.
- Bring back CSIRO. Cooperation Research Centre.

Table 3 notes

- Wood as renewable (firewood too – how do you know if it has come from a sustainable source?)
- Governments subsidies for bio energy to stimulate interest and first of a kind.
- Algae potential.
- Local Myora Piggery looking at bio gas.
- Primary production a huge opportunity e.g. bio gas very small still, all dairies in Germany generating their own power. Need government subsidies etc.
- Communicate achievements of SA and value proposition for regions.
- More promotion of Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) or a state system to encourage emission reduction.
- Planning laws go against community action. Rocket stoves for all.
- No long term planning
- Need cash. Kimberley Clark – big industrial user, but still couldn't make commercial case so won't use gas.
- Make biofuels on a smaller scale that is usable in small populations.

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.