

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

Notes from Stakeholder Workshop: Burra, Thursday 22nd 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

- Pervasive/urgent government policy and program agenda.
- Logical and consistent approach to addressing climate change including climate change being major consideration in decision making around development etc.
- Work globally on the issue not just in our state, nation e.g. stop vegetation clearance in Asia and South America.
- Know the targets and measure how we are progressing to them.
- Think global - act local – getting all individuals to make small practice changes.

- Recognise that industry/community is already adapting and coming up with solutions.
- Focus on schools/education to influence future behaviour and decision makers.
- Invest in where the real hope for change is – educating children.
- Uniform education within schools from year 5-10 based around climate adaptation.
- Cross sectoral collaboration.
- Put a leadership structure in place that goes beyond government election cycles – Wisdom Council:
 - Government.
 - Business
 - Industry.
 - University.
 - The Church.
- Bipartisan support for an ‘oversight group’ – Finnish wisdom panel.
- Government enabling innovation.
- Innovation – make it a societal ethic that sets SA apart in the world.

REDUCE

- Large scale renewable generation for satellite cities.
- Incentive a transition to a low carbon economy. Whilst avoiding perverse outcomes.
- Phase in energy efficiency audit:
 - New structures – world leading energy efficiency on-site generation immediately.
 - Older building – like old cars off the road – meet standard or high prices.
- Regulate for new development (business or residential) to produce at least a portion of energy needs through on site renewables and make mandate building codes that produce energy efficient buildings.
- Reward good behaviour e.g. 4 in a car can we use bus lane or get priority parking in the city.

ADAPT

- Government enabling different sectors to develop change management plans e.g. we have known for ages that Alinta was on the way out – where was the plan?
- Practical small scale opportunities (household level) to make meaningful impacts (scaleable).
- Recognition that climate change is happening and industry, government and community need to adapt and change way of life.
- Make it relevant to me, today and tomorrow etc.
- Climate change needs to be personalised.
- Build awareness of changes to agricultural production or lifestyle that are not negative and how we can adapt to them.

INNOVATE

- Encourage innovation from the community to generate climate change solutions.
- Tax system – favour low carbon, disincentive to high carbon. Reframe tax system to favour low carbon.
- Develop sustainable energy sources (low carbon markets)/Return on Investment (R.O.I.)
- Identify opportunities.
- Increase research into waste and energy production at the local level.
- Support (government and private sector) for innovative technology/policy solutions.
- Incubators/think tanks for innovation.
- Foster energy related innovative centres at universities.
- Regional/new vegetation costs be spent overseas in developing countries to find alternatives to clearance of jungles etc., for wood.

Something Else:

- Holistic discussion on pros and cons.
- Reward solar system than replace base load.
- Recognise support for the development of geothermal power.
- Individual/point source energy generation e.g. roof top solar and battery.
- Pursue the viability of nuclear generation in SA.
- Develop thorium as an alternative energy source in SA; development of a whole new industry that could be sold globally.
- Take a leap into thorium.
- Move to nuclear generation and wind coal based power stations.

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

- Leadership – high cost due to early adoption.
- Need for cost incentive.
- Potentially may put our state at disadvantage.
- Perverse outcomes.
- Puts producers/exporters at competitive advantage ('potential marketing'). Need supporting information.
- Ability to influence policy at state, regional and internationally.
- Our community would own this if the state is a leader.

Table 2 notes

- Need to lead by example – government.
- Depends on whether it is Government or Industry.
- Incentives useful at the start but need to find a way to normalise behaviour change via the benefits.
- Stop making the problem so colossal – make it relevant to people and their lives.
- Government have a role but it is a whole of society role.

Table 3 notes

- Credence to climate science.
- SA leading way solutions, adaptation, mitigation and preventing.
- Leading in research and development.
- Use state's small size and nimbleness to innovate and lead.
- SA will be affected early and high resilience on agriculture – move early and focus.
- Demonstrate our social responsibility (science, human behaviour).
- SA is a nimble state – change human behaviour.
- Investigate gene technology for food and crop future in variable climate.
- Scenario modelling: best/worst/middle case.
- Awareness of our advanced manufacturing capability and leveraging it.
- Innovate! 😊
- Ensuring we have social and business resilience to adjust.

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 Research & Development in adaptation: Manufacturing; Electricity generation.
- Mitigate major impacts (i.e. clearance in Asia) by investing in new opportunity. Global activity across borders.
- Tool for people to enable them to make changes on their own.
- Conflicting positions confuse everyday Australians - need to resolve this before community can adapt.
- Need to invest in people understanding the problem.
- 'Globe overstocked'. Stop promoting population growth.
- Until the true cost borne by consumer, no one has trigger to change.

Table 2 notes

- Unsustainable population growth.
- Ensure climate change makes sense at a smaller scale – what can I as an individual do? Create meaning.
- Make clear the risk to individuals.
- Messaging of the issue e.g. logos – slip, slop, slap
- Measure and evaluate progress.
- Incentives.
- Buildings: insulation and Star rated based.
- Education in schools.
- Use extension theory to create demand for adaptation.
- Framework – logistics – technical – policy. All make an effective system.
- Relevant information at different scales – individuals, councils etc.
- Partnership – link universities (research) and regional communities from the beginning.
- Help individuals, groups and organisations make sense of CI Δ for their frames of reference.
- Use sociological triggers.
- All developments need to be climate resilient – regulate – compliance.

Table 3 notes

- Move cross sectorial collaboration to focus on regional opportunities e.g. waste energy, logistics network.
- Better understanding of climate change i.e. translate global impacts down to regional/local scale e.g. September hottest month on record.
- Key messages need to incorporate some hope for people i.e. we can do something.
- Messaging around change within sectors that has already happened e.g. change crop type.
- Potential to develop, coordinate harvest time/ logistics changes.
- Opportunity to promote new products or services; alternative fuels; look at fuel sources where there aren't alternatives.
- Cross sectorial planning to take into account climate change.

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

Table 1 notes

- Opportunity for revegetation and put additional \$ value into farming sectors.
- Carrot and stick approach.

- Highly efficient irrigation requires electricity use. Cost pressure verses alternatives (diesel use or inefficient irrigation).
- Select low carbon industries e.g. solar innovative businesses.
- Education programs and increase awareness about factual credible data – destigmatise and remove emotion e.g. nuclear use for SA.
- Government work with high emission producers to find ways to reduce emissions (low hanging fruit – the biggest producers of emissions).
- Not sustainable to continue to mine brown coal. What are the alternatives? e.g. uranium for electricity generation.

Table 2 notes

- Regulate building standards.
- New generation wind turbines.
- Livestock – make sustaining of promoting food – methane.
- Campaign around reducing emissions like water use campaign during drought.
- Include renewable energy targets.
- Include use of renewable energy.
- Improve public transport in Adelaide.
- Get rid of coal and car industries.

Table 3 notes

- Emissions – new buildings have set codes – use of energy.
- Tax system – implement Henry review (higher costs on transport).
- Thorium is the energy – make it happen.
- Go nuclear!
- Opportunities in agriculture, genetics, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) (decrease reliance on synthetic fertilizers).
- Solar glass.
- Point source energy production.
- Capture of carbon in the landscape.

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

Table 1 notes

- Regulate innovators.
- \$2m/year innovation prize for climate change.
- Innovation competitions at different levels e.g. schools and universities.
- Create a reason for innovation.
- Increase science/technology teaching in schools.
- Schools – teach kids to run their own businesses verses work for wages.

- Create a framework within which innovation can flourish e.g. low flows competition.
- Teach innovation in schools.
- Build problem solving skills in schools.
- Crown source solutions – make all data publically available for access by innovators.
- Immigration – set aside places per year for innovative migrants.
- Invest in blue sky research.
- Stop rewarding mediocrity.
- Thinker in residence. Chair of innovators at University of SA.
- Bring about a climate of fear.
- Manipulate something like pricing, policy settings incentives.
- Necessity is the mother of invention.

Table 2 notes

- Fund Research & Development e.g. farming systems to capture carbon.
- Look at marine environment or carbon storage and energy production zone.
- Link innovation to carbon market – price the benefit.
- Link universities/other incubators of ideas (safe space to fail) and link with industry/capital.
- Provide government subsidies/incentives.
- Reward innovation – government lead by example. Seed funding – public partnerships.
- Involve venture capital; support pathways to mainstream new ideas.
- Stop or reduce urban sprawl.
- Bring in existing innovation – International Hub.
- Encourage collaboration across different disciplines. A 'space' to innovate.

Table 3 notes

- Finnish Model: Wisdom Council – safe hands. Business, councils, universities reach beyond government.
- Sustainability is an entry point into global markets.
- Communication – positive messages.
- Innovator – Thorium.
- Uranium.
- Costs be borne direct by consumers.
- Global action e.g. using foreign aid to support no clearance i.e. in Federal policy.
- Natural capital.
- Incorporation of Climate Change into school curriculum.
- Tax back pocket.
- Finnish Model: Potential to have a wisdom council e.g. focus beyond politics.
- Education – government has a role but not trusted.
- Government get out of the way. Ask questions but not give answers.
- Government should be enabling rather than legislating.

- Focus on outcomes rather than prescribing actions.
- Need long term transitional plans as move away from energies.

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

Table 1 notes

- More wave power.
- Biodiesel.
- Expand household solar.
- Local small scale generation and use of renewable energy – domestic scale.
- Restart Geothermal Power trials.
- Ocean as a carbon sink as well as energy generation (algae).
- Increase the price of coal.
- Increase government targets to 75% renewable.

Table 2 notes

- Climate resilient building – mandate white roofs.
- Invest in transport, less travelling. Electricity.
- Utah – store electricity in salt – continuity of supply.
- Funding mechanism into a trust fund and contribution is based on risk of it eventually having to close i.e. General Motors Holden (GMH) versus an industry (nuclear) which is low risk.
- All new developments have to ensure a portion of energy/water needs is sourced on site.

Table 3 notes

- Native vegetation offsets – using to generate carbon.
- Graziers moving from annual pastures to using perennial native pastures.
- Dairy industry set carbon emission targets.
- Decrease power consumption by individuals.
- Pork industry invested in alternative energy sources e.g. biogas.
- Red meat industry looking at decreasing emissions through gut health.
- Opportunity to potentially develop new markets for carbon sensitive products.

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.