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Wollongong City Council

# CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

*Working together to  
reduce our emissions*



**wollongong**  
city of innovation

*Edition 3 • November 2020*



**Sustainability:**  
Meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



**Mitigation:**  
Reducing or preventing emissions of greenhouse gases, such as renewable energy sources, energy efficiency programs, reducing waste, reducing transport emissions and carbon capture technologies.

## In this update

Since our last update in July, we have had three important strategic documents on public exhibition, these were:

- **The Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy;**
- **The Climate Change Mitigation Plan; and**
- **The Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Public Land Policy.**

The draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030 Strategy and the Climate Change Mitigation Plan have now been adopted by Council at its meeting on 16 November 2020. The draft EV Charging Stations on Public Land Policy will be going to Council in early December for consideration.

We have been preparing for the rollout of our **Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)** program, with caddies and starter kits being delivered to everyone in the city from mid-November to December. We are also planning for a number of significant upgrades which support emissions reduction, such as **solar panel installations** at our Council car park and the continued **LED sports field lighting upgrades**.

Read on to find out more about these documents, what's the go with FOGO, and some of our current and future emissions reduction projects.

## Adoption of Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy and Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022

On 16 November, Council adopted both the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy and the Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022. This means we can start delivering on actions in both strategic documents, with many already occurring such as the Urban Greening Strategy and ongoing programs such as Bushcare, Rise and Shine and waste education.

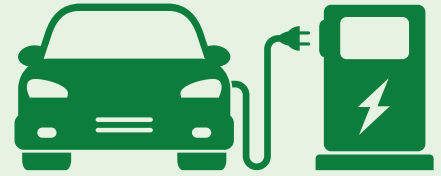
The **Sustainable Wollongong 2030 Strategy** is an overarching, high-level document that brings together all of our environmental and sustainability priorities, goals and targets from a range of other strategies, plans and programs.

Council will lead by example and implement actions to reduce our environmental impact and emissions from Council operations. We are also committed to providing education, support and advice to our community, business and industry to reduce their emissions and environmental impact. We will support the community in achieving sustainability and climate change outcomes.

The **Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022** includes 98 actions for Council to reduce our own emissions and to support the community and businesses to reduce theirs over the next two years. Actions focus on partnerships with government, business, industry and community groups, undertaking required research and pilot projects within our community, and rolling out some key projects to reduce Council's emissions.

## EV Charging Stations on Public Land Policy

The Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Public Land policy has recently finished a 28-day public exhibition period and we are aiming for this to go to Council in early December. This policy provides guidelines to potential providers and Council for the installation, operation and management, maintenance and removal of EV charging infrastructure on public land. The policy helps to address range anxiety caused by a lack of EV charging stations and also supports the uptake of sustainable transport options which will aid the community in reducing emissions in the Wollongong LGA.



## FOGO

After a successful three-month trial in selected suburbs, Council's Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program will be rolled out to the remainder of the city, with caddies and starter kits being delivered to everyone from mid-November to December. Once you receive your caddy and starter kit, you are able to start FOGO-ing. This means that your existing green-lidded bin will now take food and organic waste along with garden waste and will be collected weekly.

The FOGO program will turn organic waste collected from residents into nutrient-rich compost which will be useful for gardening. Organic waste produces methane, which is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide, so by separating this waste from general rubbish, this will stop it from ending up in landfill and will support our work towards reducing emissions. Our landfill site at Whyte's Gully contributes to 85 per cent of the emissions attributed to Council, so this is a big step in reducing the emissions that Council has responsibility over. Please visit the Wollongong Waste website for more information on [wollongongwaste.com.au](http://wollongongwaste.com.au)

## Solar and LEDs to support emissions reduction

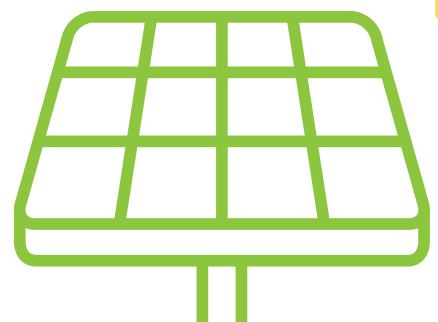
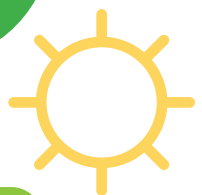
Council is currently planning for the installation of a 219kW solar system with approximately 550 panels on our Stewart Street multi-storey car park, with work expected to begin early 2021. This work supports our effort in reaching our net-zero emissions targets. The energy generated by these panels will be used by Council's 6 Star Green Star-rated Administration Building, and any leftover power generated will be fed back into the grid.

We are also continuing with our LED sports field lighting upgrades which support emissions reduction in the city, with the next site to receive upgrades being Guest Park. This supports Council's ongoing series of improvements to sporting fields across the Wollongong LGA. These upgrades will allow for better access to these highly utilised spaces, providing better lighting so these facilities are fit for purpose and are able to be used for extended amounts of time.



### What can you put in your FOGO kitchen caddy?

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Meat and bones (raw or cooked)
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Eggshells, eggs and dairy products
- Seafood (bones and shells)
- Takeaway food
- Bread, cakes, pasta and rice
- Spoiled food (removed from packaging)
- Flowers and herbs
- Compostable liners



## What's Next?

We are currently reviewing our **Climate Change Adaptation Plan**, which will identify and address the unavoidable impacts of climate change as they occur. Adaptation involves actions such as planning for more frequent and intense natural disasters, changes in water availability and increased pressures on biodiversity. Reviewing and implementing our Climate Change Adaptation Plan will help to reduce and manage the impact of climate change on our assets, promote and plan for our ability to deliver services and support our community to cope with a changing climate.



## What can you do to help?

There are many ways we can all reduce our contribution to climate change, minimise our impact on the environment and live more sustainably. Often these are small changes that are easy to make in our homes, workplaces and communities. Check out our Sustainable Living page on our website for information on areas such as energy, water, food, waste, shopping and transport.



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Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

You can also use the number above for after hours Council-related emergencies.

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