



Wollongong City Council

# CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

*Working together to  
reduce our emissions*



**wollongong**  
city of innovation

December 2022 • Edition 7

# Climate Change Mitigation Plan

Council is currently reviewing the Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022 - as a part of this work, we're interested in learning what our community are already doing to reduce their emissions and how Council can provide support to community members in their efforts to further reduce emissions.

From now until 15 December 2022, community members will be able to share their thoughts by completing the Climate Change survey and participating in one of our engagement events.

It's all part of Wollongong City Council's goal to support our community to reduce their emissions and contribute to making Wollongong a climate friendly city. We know that we need our community's full support to make this vision a reality, and we are seeking community feedback on a range of topics such as:

- Identifying the priority actions from a list of emission reduction options
- Understanding what our community may already be doing to reduce their impact on climate change

- Recognising the challenges we face in reducing emissions
- Identifying how Council can best support our community to make changes.

Have lots of ideas you'd like to share? You can get involved by completing the online survey on the Our Wollongong website or by attending a community event. Head over to Council's Facebook page or our website to see times and locations of pop-up discussion stalls.

Feedback collected through the online survey and in-person community events will be used to draft the Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2027.

Ride, walk  
or catch public  
transport  
to work

Avoid  
single-use plastics  
by bringing your own  
reusable coffee cup,  
cutlery, water  
bottle and bags.

Climate Change  
Mitigation Plan  
Take the  
survey  
[click here](#)



# FOGO Update

**FOGO—Food Organics and Garden Organics—provides residents with the opportunity to put food scraps in their green-lidded bins. Diverting food waste from going to landfill reduces the amount of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The FOGO kerbside collection service was provided to residents almost two years ago and has been embraced by the community.**

The project continues to expand as large apartment buildings, new homes and residents moving to the area receive their FOGO starter kits. So far, more than 97 per cent of eligible households in the Wollongong Local Government Area have a FOGO kerbside collection service! That's a total of 87,846 households who have received a FOGO caddy starter kit and caddy liners in the past 24 months.

Over this period, we've collected over 66,000 tonnes of FOGO waste and diverted this away from landfill. This includes close to 9,000 tonnes of food waste which is equal in volume to nearly thirteen Olympic-sized swimming pools.

A recent community survey provided some valuable feedback from the community on their FOGO use which will assist in improving all aspects



of the project including our education programs so that we can continue to improve and grow the number of residents using their FOGO service.

If you need more, look for liners displaying the AS 4736 code and seedling logo, which can be bought at most supermarkets. See Wollongong Waste's Compostable Liner Guide for details.

If fruit flies are a problem, you can make a simple trap using vinegar and dish soap. Download our Fruit Fly Trap Guide to get started.

Eat more locally produced food





# Urban Greening Update

## Community Tree Planting Grows our Urban Forest

We all have a role to play in creating a healthy environment, and one easy way everyone can help is through tree planting!

We've been connecting with the community to highlight the importance of trees and grow canopy cover in our urban areas as part of Council's broader commitment to Urban Greening. So far this year we've worked with the community to plant three Tiny Forests in Wollongong and supported Poem Forest – a nature poetry prize encouraging connection to nature and tree planting.

Thanks to the help of local students and volunteers, more local native species grown by the Wollongong Botanic Garden's Greenplan Nursery have gone into the ground and will provide much needed canopy cover, carbon capture and biodiversity into the future.

Our latest Tiny Forest planted by Dapto High School students and Council is located in the middle of suburbia on a vacant block of land near Dapto High School on the corner of Cleveland Road and Western Avenue in Dapto.

With over 75% of land in Wollongong being private property, we're also calling on the community to plant more trees in their own backyards wherever they can.

Find out more at [wollongong.nsw.gov.au/greening](http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/greening)



Get involved  
**Bushcare**  
click here



## Tree Management Policy

Council has also reviewed the Tree Management Policy and planning controls for tree management. What's new in the Policy:

- Permits are required for removal of trees larger than 5 metres (or wider than 30cm at their base) on private land
- Tree removals on private land will be compensated by either a Greenplan credit or payment into an urban greening fund for a tree to be planted on public land to grow our urban canopy
- A self-service option to allow limited pruning of trees
- A view assessment procedure will assess and document the impact to residents of proposed tree planting and the broader community benefit of increasing shade across our parks and streetscapes.

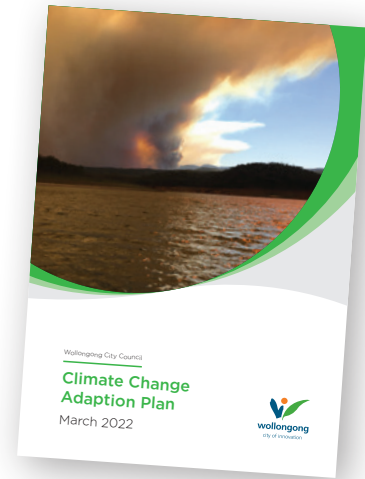
Visit [our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/tree-management-policy-and-dcp-chapter-review](http://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/tree-management-policy-and-dcp-chapter-review) to see the draft policy, customer guide and draft DCP Chapters.

Get involved  
**Dunecare**  
click here



# Climate Change Adaptation

Council has started to implement the Climate Change Adaptation Plan after it was endorsed in March 2022. We are now considering climate risks in our planning of new developments such as the future Helensburgh Community Centre. Work continues on flood risk management and a review of our Bushfire Risk is due to commence soon. Council has begun to establish trial plantings of native tree species suited to predicted future climate for suitability and use in streets and parks. We are also looking to develop an Urban Heat Strategy to see what can be done to reduce the risk of extreme heat on our community.



# Power Purchase Agreement

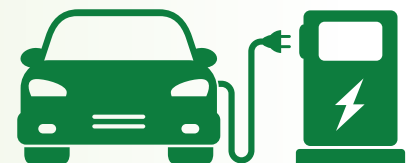
The city's 18,218 streetlights and 17 largest Council facilities will soon operate on 100% renewable energy thanks to a contract signed last week with Red Energy. The switch, to start on 1 January 2023, will save up to 11,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year. It follows a group tender with seven NSW councils—including Wingecarribee, Camden and Penrith—that was coordinated by Procurement Australia.

The power purchasing agreement will initially see 85% of Council's consumption replaced with renewable electricity at a fixed, competitive price for the next 10 years. Additional sites will be added as their meters are upgraded. Our electricity will be generated at the 430-hectare Metz Solar Farm in Armidale.



# Electric Vehicle Update

We are currently reviewing the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations on Public Land Policy, which was originally adopted by Council back in 2020. The review is looking at how we can help to provide more EV charging stations in Wollongong to support an increase in the uptake of EVs. This will help to reduce range anxiety for EV users, and also aid in the reduction of transport-related emissions, supporting the achievement of our net zero emissions target of 2050 for the City of Wollongong. Keep an eye out for the public exhibition of the updated Policy in the new year on Our Wollongong, where you can provide your feedback.



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