



Hobsons Bay  
CITY COUNCIL

# Climate Change Policy

## 2013







**Under the umbrella of the Council's Environment Strategy, the Council has developed a suite of strategies and plans to address the different aspects of climate change. These include: the climate change adaptation plan, corporate and community greenhouse strategies, a water management plan, a community engagement strategy and a waste and litter management plan.**

## **Policy objective**

The objectives of the Climate Change Policy are to:

- > provide a strategic framework for the Council to manage its climate change vulnerability using a combination of adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- > reduce the environmental impacts and operating costs of all Council operations and minimise fuel consumption while reducing corporate energy use and achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2020;
- > undertake actions to reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions and lead the community towards achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by providing opportunities for public engagement, education and action; and
- > respond to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services and assist the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

## **Background**

Hobsons Bay City Council recognises the overwhelming scientific consensus that human activity is causing climate change. Climate change is a common concern of humankind and responding to climate change is a responsibility shared by all levels of government, industry, communities and the people of Hobsons Bay.

The Council recognises that some changes in the earth's climate are inevitable, despite all mitigation efforts and that early consideration of future adaptation measures is desirable.

Hobsons Bay is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Immediate action is necessary to build Hobsons Bay's capacity to respond to the challenges of climate change, enable a more effective response, and minimise economic and social impacts. Immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support a long-term transition to an environmentally and economically sustainable municipality. There is a need for urgent responses to climate change through coordinated efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and commencing early measures to increase our community's resilience.

This policy has been developed as a response to the projected implications of climate change on Hobsons Bay's social, environment and economic sustainability.

## Policy and principles

It is policy that Hobsons Bay City Council will:

- > apply the precautionary principle in a risk management framework to strategic planning, operational and management decision making when considering the potential implications associated with climate change;
- > achieve corporate zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2020;
- > undertake actions to reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions and lead the community towards achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; and
- > respond to the risks of climate change to Council assets and services and assist the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

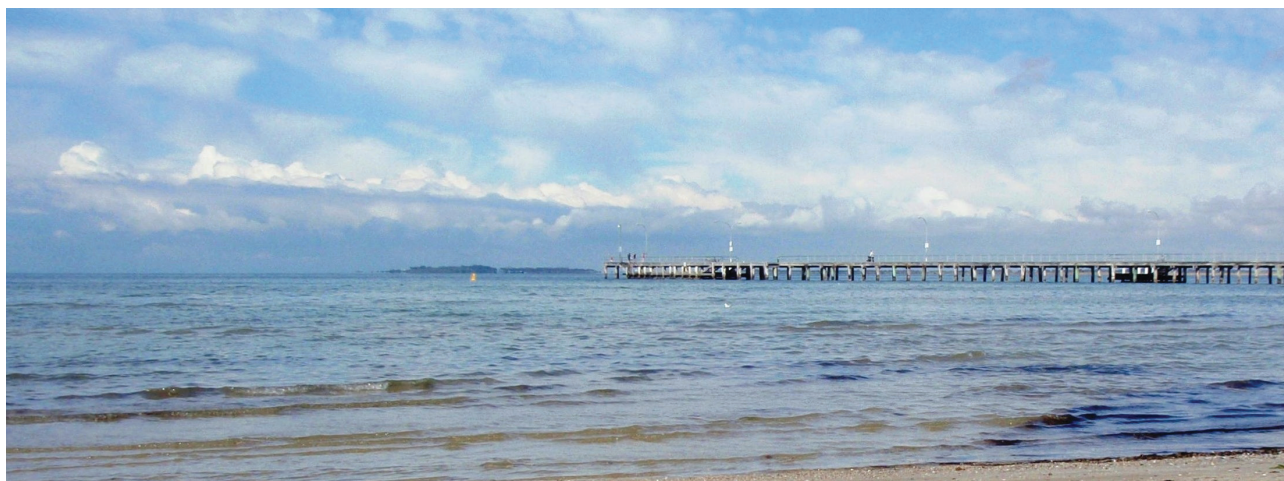
This will be progressed by:

- > implementing those strategies and plans developed under the Procedural Guidelines;
- > undertaking actions and projects within the organisation and with the community that support the policy;
- > embedding relevant processes within existing organisational policies and procedures;
- > developing new organisational procedures and marshalling resources to address climate change mitigation and adaptation gaps;

- > regularly reviewing plans, strategies, policies and benchmarks, where their content may be affected by climate change, to ensure they remain current as the science of climate change develops;
- > ensuring that the Council's actions, decisions and policy response to climate change remains current and reflects the Council's operational capacity, community expectations and changes in climate change scenarios; and
- > pursuing grant and other funding opportunities to further examine and respond to climate change issues as they affect the Council and the community.

## Procedural Guidelines

- > Action and targets will be achieved by implementing the following:
- > Hobsons Bay City Council Environment Plan;
- > Hobsons Bay City Council Corporate Greenhouse Strategy;
- > Community Greenhouse Strategy;
- > Climate Change Adaptation Plan;
- > Community Environmental Engagement Strategy;
- > Integrated Water Management Plan; and
- > Sustainable Design in Council Facilities Strategy.



For further information or to have a copy of this report in an alternative format contact the Council's Sustainability Team

Telephone: (03) 9932 1000

Or email: [sustainability@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

Hobsons Bay City Council: 115 Civic Parade, Altona. PO Box 21, Altona 3018

Telephone: (03) 9932 1000

Fax: (03) 9932 1090

NRS users phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000

Email: [customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

Telephone interpreting service: 131 450

Telephone Interpreting Service 131 450

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خدمة الترجمة الهاتفية 131 450.

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Telefonska služba tumača 131 450.

Greek

Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων 131 450.

Italian

Servizio telefonico interpreti 131 450.

Karen

လီတဲမိ တၢ်ကတိၤကျိးတၢ် တၢ်မၤ 131 450.

Macedonian

Телефонска преведувачка служба 131 450.

Maltese

Servizz ta' Interpretar bit-Telefon 131 450.

Mandarin

电话口译服务131 450。

Polish

Telefoniczna Służba Tłumaczy 131 450.

Vietnamese

Dịch vụ Thông dịch qua Điện thoại 131 450.



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