

Climate and Environment Policy

Council Policy



Policy Name	Climate and Environment Policy		
Type	Council Policy		
Owner	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance		
Decision Number	22351	Approval Date	27/09/2022
Records Number	D2022/012011	Next Review Date	27/09/2023

1 Purpose

Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC) acknowledges the great value we and our community have in our unique local environment. Additionally, ASTC acknowledges the risks and impacts that Climate Change poses to our environment and quality of life. In doing so, this policy commits ASTC to fulfilling, and exceeding where possible, our statutory climate and environmental responsibilities.

This policy intends to:

- Provide an evidence-based policy position on climate change and the environment.
- Enshrine active responses to climate change and environmental degradation in our community.
- Guide all operations and employees of the business throughout all undertakings.
- Guide ASTC's organisational strategy and planning over the short, medium and long-term.

This policy replaces the Climate Action Plan 2018-2021.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Climate Change	A change in global or regional climate patterns attributed to anthropogenically increased levels of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions.
Greenhouse Gas (emissions)	Gases within the atmosphere from both natural and anthropogenic sources which absorb and emit radiation, causing the Greenhouse Effect.
Resource Recovery	Using waste products as an input material to create valuable outputs (products). The reduction of waste by reuse.
Circular Economy	An economic system which aims to eliminate waste by the continual use of resources.
Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)	A set of principles which guide development to achieve both social and environmental goals.

3 Policy Statement

Alice Springs Town Council commits to leading climate-active, environmentally friendly practices through its operations and in its role as leaders in the community. To do so, ASTC will:

1. Comply with and where possible exceed the requirements of relevant legislation, regulation, policy and standards
2. Ensure all staff and contractors are aware and able to fulfil their responsibilities as per the environment and climate policy and policy implementation plan
3. Enhance operational fuel, energy and water efficiencies and reduce overall fuel, grid energy and water consumption
4. Release timely, accurate and transparent environmental reporting
5. Reduce urban heat conditions
6. Improve ecosystem health by protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural environment
7. Use an evidence-based approach to environmental management and climate action
8. Improve waste diversion, resource recovery and recycling rates, using a circular economy approach
9. Engage in partnerships between Council and Traditional Owners, the community, organisations and other levels of government
10. Work together with Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Council's to better manage the regions waste using the Regional Waste Management Facility

Alice Springs Town Council also endeavours to ensure sustainability is embedded within the organisation. To do so, ASTC will:

1. Seek sustainable solutions during the procurement process
2. Minimise Council-derived waste streams
3. Reduce fleet emissions by investing in green-fleet options
4. Commit to increasing our delivery of Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) goals
5. Reduce overall organisational emissions by investing in renewable energy

4 Responsibilities

1. *The organisation is responsible for incorporating this policy into all operations*
2. *The organisation is responsible for ensuring actions undertaken are consistent with this policy*
3. *Annual reporting and evaluations will be the responsibility of Directors, for their respective directorate*

Support will be available through Technical Services.

5 Related Documents

Climate and Environment outcomes will be embedded as part of everyday operations within Council's strategic and operational plans. These include but are not limited to the:

- *Alice Springs Climate and Environment implementation plan*
- *ASTC Sustainability and Liveability 2030*
- *ASTC Municipal plan*

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- *Verge Development Guidelines*

6 Version History

Version	Date	Action/Description of changes made	By
1.0	27/09/23	Approved by Council	Nathan Blight

7 Communication and Training

Will this policy be communicated through internal communications?	Y
Where will this policy be available?	Alice Springs Town Council website
Will training needs arise from this policy? If yes, who will be responsible.	Yes, where applicable People and Culture and Technical Services will be responsible for providing training to staff.