

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL - ANDY MCNEILL ROOM

PRESENT

Mayor Damien Ryan
 Councillor Marli Banks
 Councillor Eli Melky (Chairperson)
 Councillor Catherine Satour
 Mr Rod Cramer - Rural Area Association
 Mr John Gaynor - Dept. Environment Natural Resources (arrived at 4:56pm)
 Mr David Koch - Community Member
 Dr Judith Lovell - Community Member
 Mr Tierneigh Parnell - Youth Member
 Mr Alex Read - Arid Lands Environment Centre
 Mr Peter Somerville - Dept. Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
 Dr Kate Stevens - Land for Wildlife

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Robert Jennings - Chief Executive Officer
 Mr Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
 Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Acting Director Technical Services
 Ms Charlotte Klempin - Environment Officer

13 th Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee Attendance List 2018/2019					
	6 Aug 19	7 Oct 19	3 Feb 20	6 Apr 20	1 Jun 20
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓		
Deputy Mayor Paterson	✓				
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓				
Councillor Marli Banks	✓	A	✓		
Councillor Eli Melky		✓	✓		
Councillor Catherine Satour		✓	✓		
Rod Cramer	✓	A	✓		
John Gaynor	✓	✓	✓		
Kate Stevens	✓	A	✓		
David Koch	✓	A	✓		
Judith Lovell	✓	A	✓		
Martin O'Neill	A	✓	A		
Peter Somerville	✓	A	✓		
Tierneigh Parnell	✓	✓	✓		
Alex Read	✓	✓	✓		

✓ Attended

✓ proxy Proxy attended in place of committee member

A Apology received

-- No attendance and no apology recorded

Not a member of the Committee at this time

The meeting opened at 4:30pm

1. APOLOGIES

Mr Martin O'Neill - PowerWater
Mr Oliver Eclipse - Manager Regional Waste Management Facility
Ms Stephanie Dominguez - Executive Assistant (completed minutes via audio)

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 7 October 2019

RESOLVED:

That the minutes from the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 7 October 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Councillor Satour

Seconded: Alex Read

CARRIED

4.1.1 Community Garden - Business Case - Mayor Ryan

Mayor Ryan requested an update on the Action in regard to the Community Garden Business Case. The Chief Executive Officer advised he met with Bruce Simmons from the Community Garden and as a result Officers had taken action on some recommendations from Bruce and therefore this item had been resolved.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Soil erosion and mitigation concepts - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised that a couple of meetings had taken place, and the potential magnitude of the project had been exposed as a result. The Director advised that Terms of Reference for the Soil Erosion group were being determined, and Council would provide further updates at a future meeting.

5.2 Total Emissions Baseline for RWMF - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised that he hoped to provide the total emissions baseline figures at the next meeting.

5.3 Kerbside Recycling Reserves - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised that Council had put aside \$100,000 in reserves for Kerbside Recycling.

5.4 Proposal to align the EAC to ASTC Strategic Plan - Alex Read

Alex Read reported on a proposal to align the functions of the Environment Advisory Committee (EAC) to Council's Strategic Plan to provide positive and substantial progress on the environmental commitments of Council.

Alex Read referred to Objective 3 from the *Alice Springs Town Council 2018-2021 Strategic Plan* and proposed to amend the EAC Charter to clarify the purpose of this Committee and proposed that the EAC develop more in depth indicators against Council's objectives.

Alex enquired if the Strategic Plan had a reporting mechanism. The Chief Executive Officer responded, advising that yes Council did have a reporting mechanism which included Council's Annual Report and Officers were in the process of revising the Strategic Plan to determine if better reporting measures could be implemented such as quarterly or half yearly reporting. A report in regard to this will be presented to Council for consideration.

The Chief Executive Officer outlined the relationship between Council, the Advisory Committees and Officers and suggested a potential way forward was for Council to identify specific items for the Committee to provide advice on.

Councillor Banks enquired if the Charter for this Committee had been reviewed. The Director Technical Services advised that it was included in the over-arching review of all Committee Charter and Terms of Reference documents that was currently being undertaken by the Manager Governance.

John Gaynor entered the room at 4:56pm

Rod Cramer enquired if the EAC would be involved in the process of reviewing this Committee's Charter. The Chair advised it was expected that the Charter would be returned to this Committee for feedback, this process aligning with historical practice.

The Committee was provided a copy of the Environment Advisory Committee - Charter (Endorsed 25 February 2019, Resolution No: 20208) in the papers for this meeting.

The Chair suggested the agenda Item '*Updates from the Chair*' be returned as an agenda item for items to be reported back to this Committee from Council.

Action:

'Updates from the Chair' to be included as a regular item on the Environment Advisory Committee Agenda.

Action:

Alex Read to meet with the Chief Executive Officer and Director Technical Services in regard to the proposal of aligning the Environment Advisory Committee to the ASTC Strategic Plan.

6. DEPUTATION

Nil

7. LAND

**7.1 Department Environment Natural Resources (DENR) Report
Mr John Gaynor, Regional Director Southern Region**

Lhere Mparntwe - Todd and Charles Rivers Management Strategy

John Gaynor reported as part of the Lhere Mparntwe - Todd and Charles Rivers Management Strategy the department had outsourced the development of a fire management strategy to Arid Edge. He reported progress was going well, and Arid Edge would be looking to meet with individual stakeholders including Alice Springs Town Council in the coming months. The aim would be to establish a standard operating procedure for management of fires in the river, and guidelines on how fire prevention can occur around the bases of trees, particularly in regard to sacred sites.

John reported the Implementation Advisory Group met for the first time in December 2019, and will meet again in February and then quarterly. He noted the primary role of this group was to:

- develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to be able to assess progress against the Management Strategy,

- to receive updates and provide advice to agencies on work that is being completed in the river, and
- to provide advice to Government about where the priorities should be in regard to the care and protection of the river.

Todd River Basin

John Gaynor reported recent rains would have provided only a minor recharge to the Todd River Basin and noted the bores that the Alice Springs Golf Club accesses were particularly low. He reported at a meeting of the Todd River Basin Working Group, discussion surrounded issues that the Golf Club is currently experiencing, and what options they have to improve their water efficiency and exploring the option of access to other bore sites.

John noted that 53ml of rainfall was recorded at Wigley's Waterhole and 28ml was received in town. The impact of this rainfall on the Todd River Basin can be assessed in the coming weeks. He noted the May 2019 river flow resulted in a 15cm recharge for the Todd River Basin.

Mayor Ryan enquired where the rainfall gauge for the Wigley's and Town rainfall figures were obtained from. John responded advising that there were gauges located at Bond Springs, Wigley's Waterhole and in town near Anzac Oval. John noted the figures were recorded for rainfall received between night of the 29 January and when the rain stopped on the 2 February 2020.

Councillor Banks enquired what strategies Council and this Committee can adopt to plan for dry periods and to minimize water usage. John responded, advising the Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee will be reconvened in the coming months to review data for the water control district and establish sustainable yield. He noted the Town Basin Water Availability Group worked to identify ways that water that is currently being extracted out of the basin can be used and ways to maximize the lifespan of the town basin during extended dry spells.

John enquired if the sand mining work that had been done near Taffy Pick crossing was undertaken in regard to flow. The Director Technical Services responded advising Council had an AAPA certificate to clean out the area to avoid debris getting trapped. He noted this location, north of Wills Terrace and north of Schwartz crescent had been cleared.

Tierneigh Parnell enquired which level of Government controlled restrictions on private water usage in the Territory and at what level would these be imposed. John responded, advising that Power & Water were responsible for demand management and would advise the Northern Territory Government if water restrictions were necessary and when.

The Committee noted the deputation from Adam Davis from Power & Water held in November 2018 and discussed current circumstances that may warrant an update from Power & Water. Judith Lovell requested an update on this presentation.

The Committee request an update from Martin O'Neill at the next Committee meeting.

Action:

- Executive Assistant Technical Services to distribute the November 2018 Power and Water presentation to Committee Members.
- Council to request an update to this presentation from Martin O'Neill.

7.2 Community Garden

Alex Read noted there was nothing significant to report for this meeting.

7.3 Feral Animals – Environment Officer

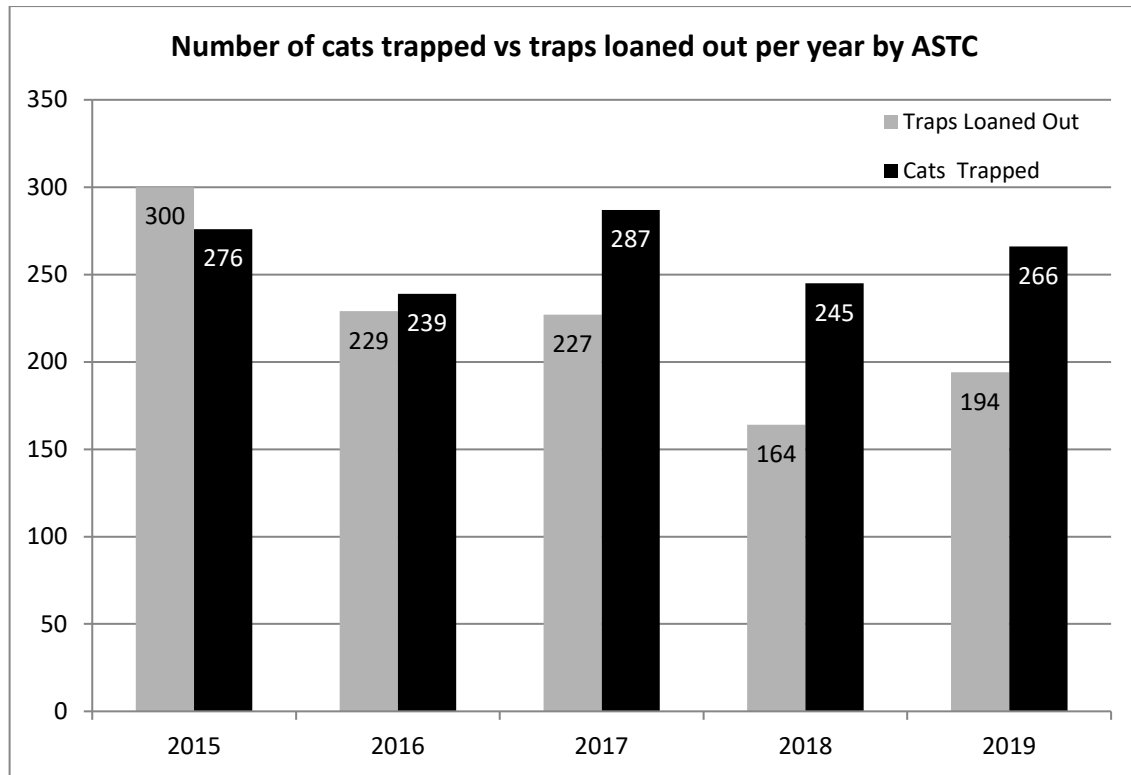


Figure 1. Number of cats trapped and traps loaned out per year by the Alice Springs Town Council.

Kate Stevens noted that one Land for Wildlife member had trapped 12 cats over the course of three months.

8. TRANSPORT

Nil

9. ENERGY

9.1 Solar

Energy use from ASALC, Civic Centre, Depot, Library and RWMF

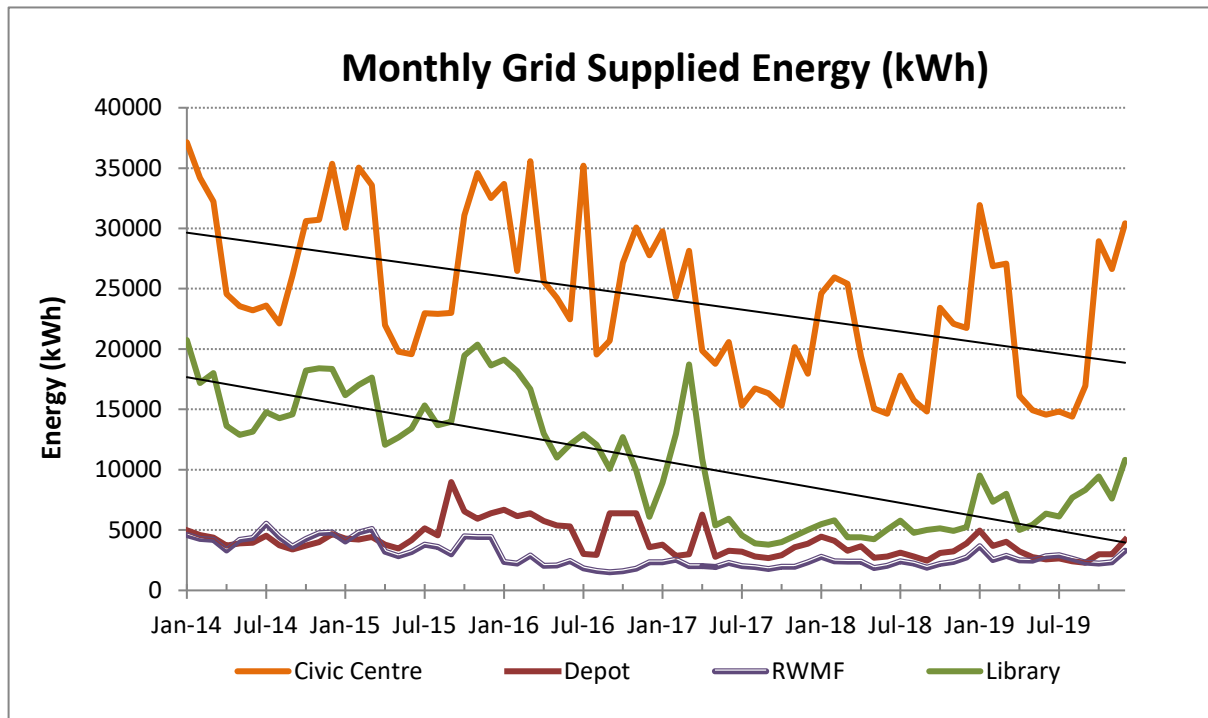


Figure 4. Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for the Civic Centre, Depot, Library and RWMF

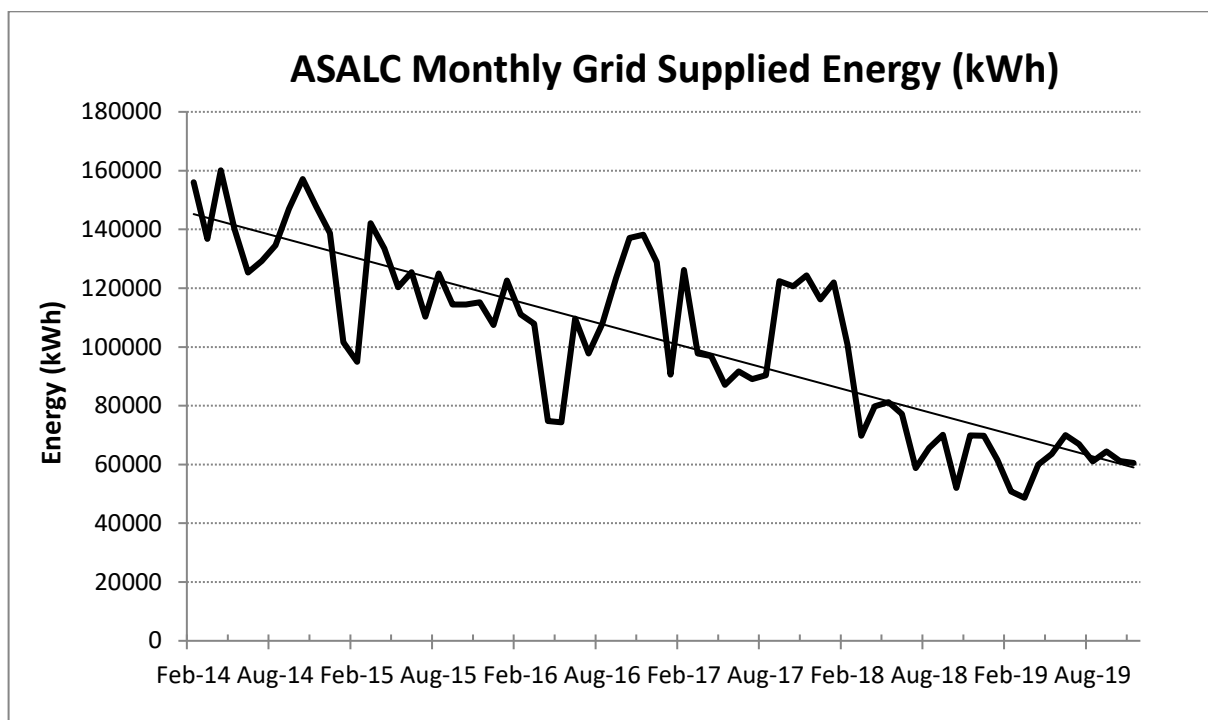


Figure 5. Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for the ASALC. Note drop in energy use indicate pool closure.

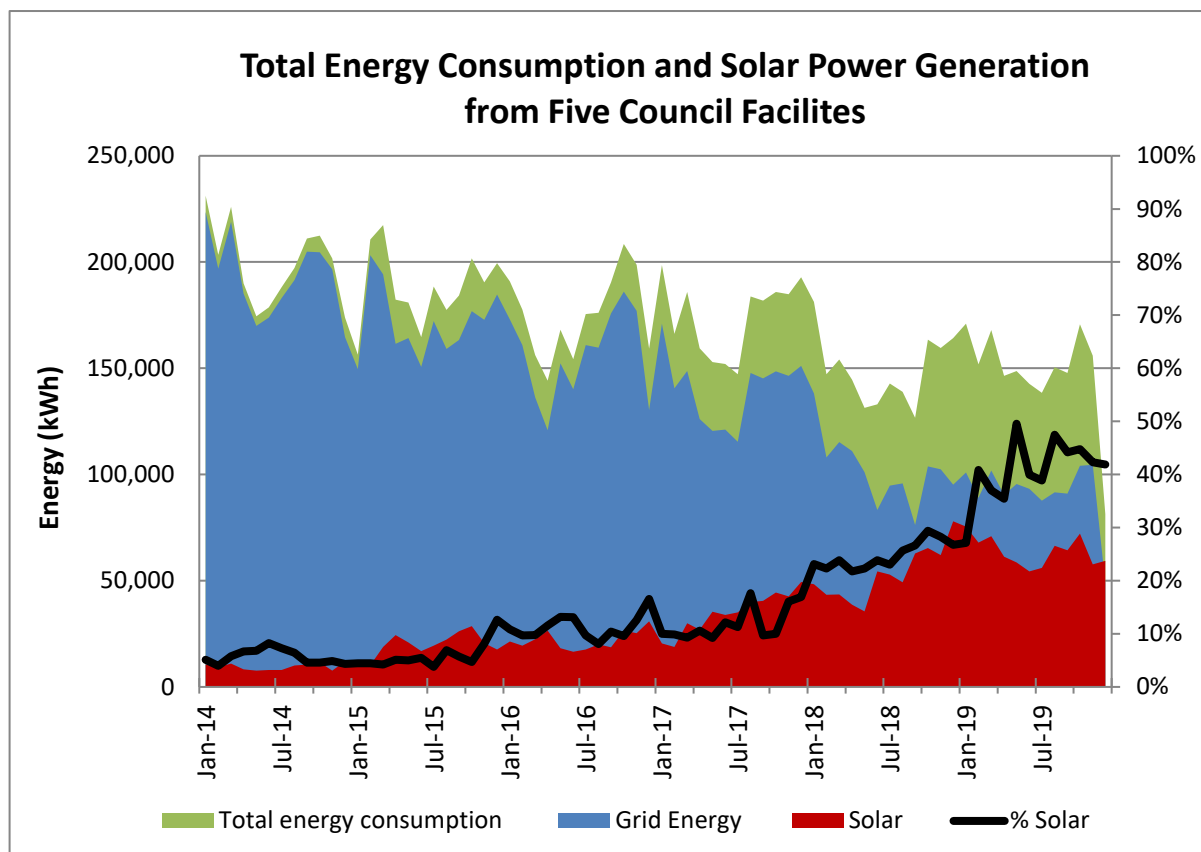


Figure 6. Total energy consumption, grid supplied energy and solar energy produced for five individual Council facilities. The graph also shows Greenhouse Gas emissions avoided through the use of solar power (red).

The Environment Officer clarified that the solar marked in red in Figure 6 is the solar produced and equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions abated.

10. WATER

Nil

11. WASTE AND RECYCLING

11.1 Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) - Manager RWMF

Total Waste: Total Waste MINUS clean fill collected at the Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) for July 2019 to December 2019 was 17,056.82 tonnes. In July 2019 to December 2019 8,779.24 tonnes of clean fill was collected.

Total Recycled: Total Recycled material for July 2019 to December 2019 period was 8,260.35 tonnes.

Percentage Recycled: Total percentage of materials recycled between July 2019 and December 2019 is 48.428%. In July 2018 to December 2019 2.9% was recycled.

	July 2018- December 2018		July 2019- December 2019	
	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT
Animal Carcass	6.00		5.49	0.00
Asbestos	388.94		314.39	0.00
Building Material		52.92	0.00	49.16
Cardboard & Paper	167.67		289.31	120.64
Chemicals			0.00	0.00
Clean Fill	6,458.09		8,779.24	2,463.34
Concrete	1,065.05	110.00	1,254.74	3,472.20
Container Deposit			0.00	22.53
Council Supported	3.24		0.00	0.00
Demolition Materials	2,802.93		2,402.04	0.00
Domestic Bins	3,471.88		3,442.78	0.00
Drop off Zone* (Shop)		70.06	0.00	61.14
Electronic waste	28.14	10.00	48.92	13.52
Glass **	51.91	8.76	59.34	59.62
Green Waste	1,270.69	733.55	1,079.26	186.68
FOGO				.80
Household Goods		29.21	0.00	42.80
Liquid Waste	578.78		550.37	0.00
Mattresses	28.65	1.32	90.98	0.00
Metals ***	362.33		252.77	786.54
Mixed Waste ****	5,458.51		6,876.11	0.00
Timber & Pallets	316.14	12.57	381.20	981.06
Tyres	6.62		9.12	0.32
Total	22,465.57	464.64	25,836.06	8,260.35
Total minus clean fill	16,007.48		17,056.82	
Percentage recycled		2.90%		48.428%

Table 1. Breakdown of items and recycled material through the weighbridge displayed as yearly accumulated data for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial periods

Key:

- * Drop off Zone – Goods dropped off by the Public at the Rediscovery Shop
- ** Glass categories
- *** Metal categories - include other categories (e.g. whitegoods etc.)
- **** Mixed Waste - includes other categories (e.g. confidential burial; food surrender; transfer station, general waste; street clean

Cardboard:

December 2019	0 Tonnes
July 2019 to December 2019	120.64 Tonnes
\$50.00/tonne	\$ 0

The Manager Technical Services advised that in December 2019, Council did not send out any cardboard for processing.

Mayor Ryan enquired how much it cost Council to send the products out for recycling to earn the amount of income that had been received. The Manager Technical Services took the question on notice.

Action:

Manager Technical Services to report on all costs associated with processing the cardboard.

Steel:

December 2019	15.58 Tonnes
July 2019 to December 2019	786.54 Tonnes
\$50.00/ tonne	\$779.00

11.2 Recycling Initiatives - Environment Officer

Recycling Initiative	Item	Amount
Close The Loop	Printer cartridges	9.1 kg
Mobile Muster	Mobile phones	1.25 kg
MRI	Household batteries	15.4 kg

The total weight annually of recycled printer cartridges, mobile phones and household batteries collected at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

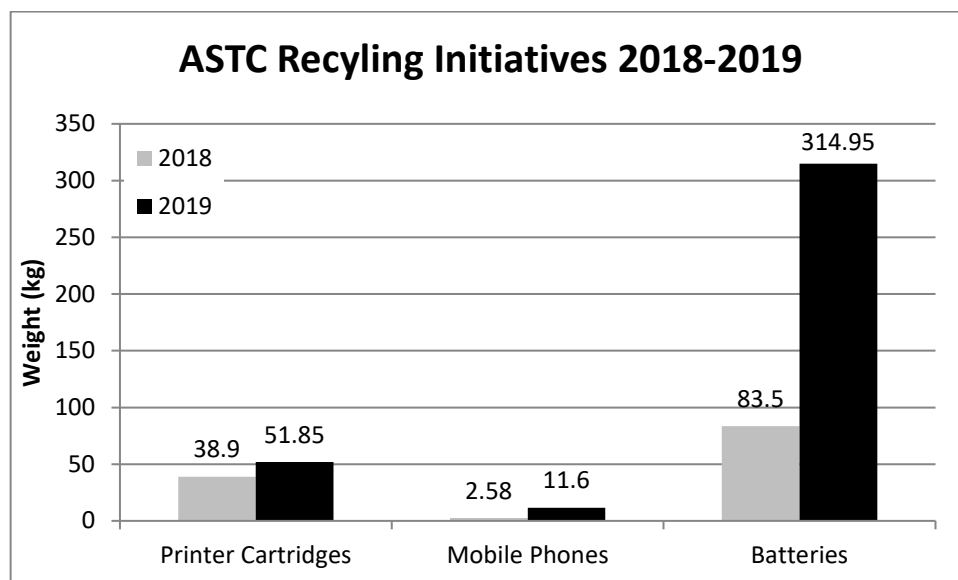


Figure 7. The total weight of printer cartridges, mobile phones and household batteries collected during 2018-2019 at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

The number of fluorescent light tubes recycled annually at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

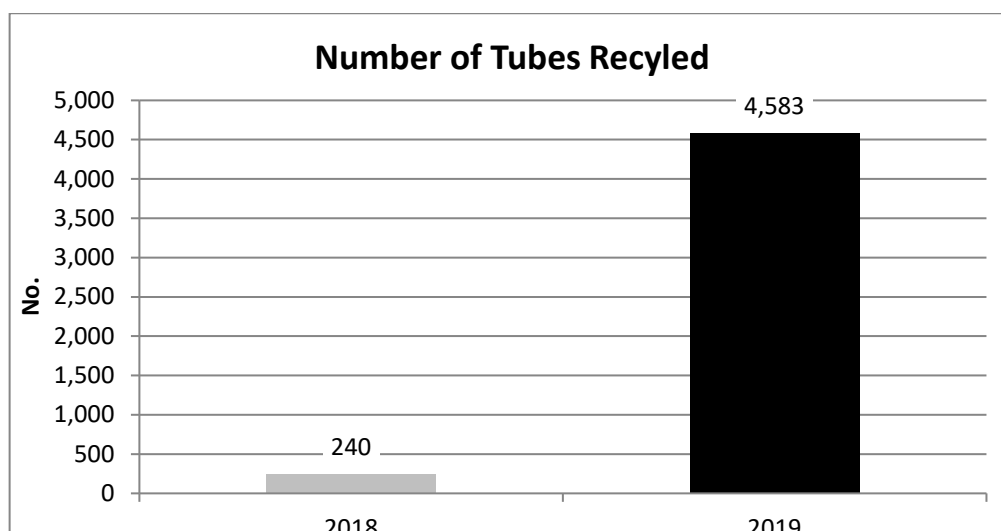


Figure 8. The total number of fluorescent tubes recycled during 2018-2019 at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

12.1 Climate Action Plan - Environment Officer

In 2019 a total of 16.67% of the CAP was completed to 100%.

	Start date	Estimated completion date	Percentage complete
Climate Action Plan	01/01/18	31/12/21	16.67%
5.1 ENERGY	01/01/18	31/12/21	0%
Source 50% of renewable energy by 2021	01/06/20	01/06/20	50%
<i>Action- Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Grant 2018- 2019</i>	20/01/20	01/06/20	0%
Implement LED street lighting changeover		31/12/21	0%
Introduce user-pays systems and user-agreements for energy use in Council-owned facilities.		01/10/20	0%
Replace all inefficient lights in Council buildings with LEDs.		31/12/21	10%
Financial support for sports and other user groups to become energy efficient or install renewable energy.		30/09/21	0%
<i>Push button timers Traeger toilet block</i>	01/09/19	01/03/20	100%
Consider sustainability issues in the decision-making process of planning including a forecast of estimated energy use for all new facilities. Ensure new buildings are appropriately insulated and shaded.		01/08/20	0%
Undertake an energy audit of key Council facilities.		30/11/20	0%

Establish a rolling fund for financing energy efficiency projects and renewable energy.		31/03/20	0%
5.2 GAS			100%
Pool blankets for indoor heated pools at ASALC.			100%
5.3 TRANSPORT	01/01/19	31/12/21	38%
Replace one Council vehicle with an electric vehicle per year (when vehicles are due for renewal). Provide a charge point for the electric vehicle.	01/09/19	31/12/21	25%
<i>Update vehicle change over plan</i>	09/12/19	31/01/20	
Introduce an active transport policy for Council staff. Incentivise active transport.		30/07/20	
Ensure bicycles and electric bicycles are available for transport during work hours and encourage their use.	01/01/19	31/12/21	100%
Reduce fuel use at landfill by adopting GPS monitoring for compactor at landfill.			100%
Introduce a green fleet policy.		01/08/20	0%
Introduce minimum fuel efficiency standards for waste-contractor vehicles.		01/08/20	0%
5.4 WASTE & RECYCLING	01/01/18	31/12/21	21%
Trial commercial food waste composting systems.	01/01/19	31/12/20	25%
Reduce pallets going to landfill by 50%.		31/12/21	0%
Identify cost-effective measures to reduce food waste and garden waste going to landfill.			100%
5.5 POLICY	01/01/18	31/12/21	44%
Embed sustainable practices and carbon reduction measures into all staff KPIs (Key performance indicator).		01/08/20	0%
Facilitate staff training in energy efficiency, energy auditing, eco-driving, waste management etc.		01/08/20	0%
Collaborate with other Councils to share and contribute advice through the Cities Power Partnership.			100%
Sustainable purchasing policy.		01/08/20	0%

6.1 ENERGY	01/01/18	31/12/21	2%
Lead, advocate for or assist with community-owned solar.	29/01/20	31/12/21	5%
Provide information on household and business solar.		29/02/20	0%
Open up unused Council land for solar projects.		31/12/21	0%
Engage with and lobby the Northern Territory Government, electricity generators and retailers and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition to a renewable energy powered network is feasible. Transition to include innovative technologies to support renewable energy such as peer to peer trading.	01/01/18	31/12/21	10%
Attract a service that enables billing of renters for solar to make it more attractive for home-owners to install solar.	29/01/20	31/12/21	0%
6.2 TRANSPORT	01/01/18	31/12/21	13%
Set a target for active transport (walking and cycling) and commit to developing a bicycle plan.		01/02/21	0%
Expand provision of safe, secure infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.		31/12/21	0%
Develop and identity as a bike-friendly town.		31/12/21	0%
Facilitate meetings with key stakeholders to progress the incursion of electric vehicles in central Australia. Lobby NT Tourism and the NTG to set up a linked network of electric vehicles in central Australia. Desert Knowledge Australia.	01/12/19	31/12/21	0%
Install electric vehicle charging stations in a central location.	01/02/20	31/12/21	50%
<i>Determine vehicles to be changed over and plan locations for chargers</i>		27/03/20	
6.3 WASTE & RECYCLING	01/01/18	31/12/21	10%
Implement a kerbside recycling service for residents and businesses.		31/12/21	0%
Pending outcome of business case (action item 3), implement a food and garden organics kerbside collection service.	01/01/18	31/12/21	25%
Home composting program implemented.		31/12/20	0%
6.4 WASTEWATER	01/01/18	31/12/21	100%
Lobby Power Water Corporation to reduce emissions from wastewater by investigating water efficiency programs and wastewater treatment.	01/11/19	01/12/21	100%

6.5 LEADERSHIP, AWARENESS & EDUCATION	01/01/18	31/12/21	8%
Lobby the NT Government to provide strong leadership on climate action.	01/11/19	31/12/21	33%
Partner with key local organisations to develop or progress action on climate change initiatives.	01/10/19	31/12/21	15%
Engage with and support the community on climate change issues through the arts and through community events.	13/01/20	30/04/20	15%
Establish an environmental grant under Council's Community Grants Program.	13/01/20	01/03/20	100%
Increase awareness of the science of, potential impacts, and mitigating actions of climate change within Council staff and within the community of Alice Springs.		31/12/21	0%
Support innovation through local responses to climate change.		31/12/21	0%

Tierneigh Parnell enquired at what stage the commercial food waste project was up to. The Environment Officer reported that:

- the Food Organics Garden Organics project was at stage one, which involved a trial of collection of FOGO from Council staff,
- the waste collected to date had formed one 'windrow' at the RWMF in the FOGO collection area, and
- a trial and error process was being undertaken in regard to temperatures of the compost to maintain the optimum temperature for the required length of time (15 consecutive days).

Alex Read enquired what had been done in regard to the action '*Lobby the NT Government*'. The Environment Officer responded advising that correspondence had been sent in regard to the Climate Change Response and Electric Vehicles and continued work would be done until the Climate Action Plan is completed.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

13.1 **Environment Advisory Committee - Charter**

Councillor Banks acknowledged that all Committee Charters were currently under review, and requested the reviewed Charter be presented to the next EAC meeting for this Committee's review and feedback prior to adoption by Council.

Mayor Ryan noted under *Section 4 Membership* – the Charter only allowed for three Elected Members and did not specifically mention the Mayor as holding a position on this Committee. Discussion ensued in regard to the Mayor's longstanding position on this Committee.

Mayor Ryan noted the Charter needed an update in regard to the names of NT Government Departments.

Councillor Banks requested direction from the Chief Executive Officer if an action was required to ensure that the reviewed Charter be returned to this Committee at the next meeting on the 6 April 2020. The Chief Executive Officer responded, advising that the Charter could be reviewed in this time and returned to the next meeting.

Action:

Manager Governance to provide the reviewed Charter (Terms of Reference) to the next meeting of the Environment Advisory Committee on the 6 April 2020.

14. NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 April 2020, 4:30pm in the Andy McNeill Room

The meeting closed at 17:50 pm