



Carbon Reduction Policy

Policy Statement

We have this policy because we recognise our responsibility to lead by example in creating a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. As custodians of community wellbeing and the natural environment, we're committed to reducing emissions not just to meet regulatory targets, but to safeguard the health, prosperity and quality of life of current and future generations. This policy ensures our decisions reflect our values – prioritising sustainability, resilience, and equity while enabling our community to adapt in a changing climate.

While climate change is a global challenge, Council affirms that local action plays a pivotal role in driving systemic change. Leading by example, the Shire aims to inspire collective action across communities and build a more sustainable future from the ground up.

In line with the Council's commitment to the WALGA Climate Change Declaration, it acknowledges:

- The science is clear: climate change is occurring, and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.
- Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.
- Urgent action is required to reduce emissions and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.
- A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.

Objectives

Reduce Carbon Emissions:

Implement a targeted Carbon Action Plan to limit Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions, delivering a 50% reduction by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

Scope

This policy applies across Shire of Denmark operations for informing and integrating carbon reduction measures into the decision-making process at the planning, development, procurement, and service delivery stages, as well as leading broader community engagement in carbon reduction practices through proactive Council-led action.

Policy Commitment

Council commits to implementing this policy through:

1. Principled leadership on climate action by following global standards, working with others and urging all levels of government to take strong action on climate change;
2. Reporting on its Scope 1 and 2 carbon reduction achievements by establishing an emissions baseline starting from 2018/19, and tracking progress at five-year intervals;
3. Pursuing funding opportunities that will contribute to the Council's carbon reduction measures;
4. Reducing the overall carbon emissions of Shire assets when undertaking asset upgrades, new builds or the replacement of plant and equipment by prioritising efficient electric alternatives, renewable energy, thermal energy efficiency and other energy-efficient measures;
5. Documenting the approach to proactively managing asset impacts from climate change in the Strategic Asset Management Plan;
6. Increasing carbon sequestration and biodiversity through land management practices, including expanded urban greening and tree planting, managing reserves for biodiversity, protecting and rehabilitating coastal ecosystems, and protecting native vegetation;
7. Support collaborative carbon-reduction stewardship through partnerships with government, not-for-profits, the private sector and Traditional Owners to uphold culturally informed, ecologically sound carbon-reduction management;
8. Encourage and empower the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change while reducing their individual carbon emissions.

Strategic Alignment

- WALGA Climate Change Declaration (2010)
- Shire of Denmark Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2025)

Responsibilities

The implementation and oversight of this Carbon Reduction Policy is the shared responsibility of all staff, with specific accountability assigned to:

- Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team for leadership on climate change and improving the overall carbon emissions performance of Shire assets
- The CEO for reporting on Scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- Team Managers and their teams for pursuing funding opportunities, collaborative carbon-reduction partnerships, improved land management practices and empowering the community to reduce emissions.

Policy Monitoring and Review

Carbon emissions are reported every five (5) years, with targets reviewed and updated as necessary.

Formal review of the Carbon Action Plan on a biennial basis, with actions included in the Council Plan.

Formal policy review cycles every five (5) years, or upon significant legislative/environmental change.

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