

Potential New Climate Change Actions

Brainstorm ideas from Council programs

Council programs drew on their knowledge of climate change innovation in their respective fields and industry analysis on emerging climate change response options such as:

- Project Drawdown <https://www.drawdown.org/>
- ClimateWorks <https://www.climateworksaustralia.org/>
- Beyond Zero Emissions <https://bze.org.au/>
- Net Zero Emissions Guidance for NSW Councils: www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Climate Action Planning: <https://resourcecentre.c40.org/climate-action-planning-framework-home>

Low cost high impact or 'quick win' actions were shortlisted for consideration by the Executive Leadership Team. Action owners were then asked to describe costs, source of funding, timeframes, outcomes and confidence in delivery for shortlisted actions.

67 non-shortlisted actions are listed here. These were considered to have higher costs or lower impacts than existing or new shortlisted actions.

Emissions reduction actions
Advocacy
Advocate for State Government to investigate the benefit of Emergency Service Vehicles being electric
Education
Identify the 10 most important things we can do for climate change
Sport facilities to apply ecologically sustainable development principles, monitor and report
Education campaigns within Council to encourage behavioural change in relation to our decisions and actions.
Describe what household energy efficiency actions would generate enough savings to pay for Greenpower
Economy
Horizon scan of big thinking opportunities e.g. low carbon industries
Energy
Special rates charge for pension and concession card holders to install PV paid via rates
Find out more about the nature (patterns, uses) of Tweed's residential, industrial and electricity use and effective ways to reduce GHG emissions in each of those sub sectors
Increase 'behind the meter' solar PV uptake in the Tweed
Funding
Consider establishment of either a voluntary contribution towards Council's climate related actions or an additional climate change related levy
Reserve energy cost savings for climate change related investment
Establish an environmental bushland preservation levy
Reallocate Rates Incentive Program prize funds to provide financial incentive for those who switch to e-rates, or donate to a local sustainability community group
Offsets
Develop a policy and program for offsetting Council's printing carbon footprint
Planning & Development
Planning for higher intensity development
Review all standard conditions of consent for major development with a view to reword to encourage sustainable development, waste reduction and reuse of materials.

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Emissions reduction actions
Purchasing
Consistent use of eco-friendly print stock
Potential to track Council's spend on sustainable products in Finance One e.g. paper, investment
Sequestration
Calculate the economic and environmental impacts of local land use change for carbon sequestration gains (e.g. coastal wetlands, peat forests etc.)
Analyse and identify options for sites in the Tweed River catchment where maximum gains can be made to benefit flood storage, carbon storage and biodiversity gains
Acquisition of Tanglewood Flat floodplains and conversion to freshwater wetlands and melaleuca forest
Use of riparian reclaimed land pockets for offsets and biodiversity corridors
Measuring and listing current sequestration/offset asset's CO ₂ uptake e.g. open spaces and Council owned community and operational bushlands, Koala Corridors, Riparian corridors.
Support Landcare to investigate carbon offset value and registration of their plantings
House level tree planting program - drawdown potential
Research the scope and potential investment needed for local carbon credit or cap and trade scheme.
Transport emissions
Work from home- Continuation of post COVID-19 work from home options for approximately 25% of staff
Assess comparative impact: ULP vs Hybrid vs electric (Vehicle); Hybrid vs Diesel (Plant)
Consider replacing petrol vehicles with electric vehicles
Monitor number of vehicle trips by staff
Greater use of technology
Attract low emissions rideshare and car share technologies
More bike paths and driver education - keep kids and cyclists safe so more people cycle rather than drive
Waste
Reduce 'red tape' on waste reuse locally (stockpiling, reprocessing, innovation).
Public waste programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban plastics/straws • Provide a cloth nappy program • Create household recycling centres (waste to want) • Provide recycling education
Lobby 'standard' authorities to allow more recycled materials and speed up testing
Free composting kits
Glass reuse as sand in pavement, recycled concrete to replace virgin sand
Plastics reuse / avoidance / as fuel
Worm farming in waste management
More sustainable disposal of euthanised animals from the pound
Roll out of biodegradable dog poo bags
Waste Warriors - Reduce Single Use Program and the Circular Economy Campaign (existing)
Educating event organisers on being waste wise at public events (existing)
Understanding waste streams from which circular economy opportunities could flow
Water
Maximised water recycling at future pound site

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Adaptation actions
Biodiversity
Biodiversity offsets
Community Resiliency
Acknowledging / rewarding volunteering to strengthen resilience
Give back programs
Education
Climate adaptation for beginners sessions for Council staff and community
Need to boost staff resourcing in climate risk topics
Flooding
Increased flood response planning
Assess the resiliency of parks and recreation areas to flooding
Funding
Prioritise program investment (grants, habitat restoration, protection) to best align and maximise biodiversity, landscape connectivity and carbon storage outcomes
Consider establishment of either a voluntary contribution towards Council's climate related actions or an additional climate change related levy
Reserve energy cost savings for climate change related investment
Environmental bushland preservation levy
Infrastructure
Statement of relevant climate change impacts and responses in design reports
Betterment programs for infrastructure assets - build back better
Planning & Development
Climate ready/climate smart advice by duty planners and at Development Assessment Panel
Facilitate alternative housing in low risk precincts that are central and well serviced
Planning for higher intensity development
Review TLEP and identify options for re-zoning lands affected by climate change impacts
Risk
Working with the State to update mapping in relation to Environmental Constraints e.g. bushfire/flood. Preparing for anticipate cyclonic effects/flooding
Risk awareness / Asset Management vs Climatic impact assessments (tool or measurement)
Water
Reduce water consumption target
Non potable water re-use for irrigation
Waterways
Advocate for and educate the community in improved riparian land management
Reduce uncontrolled grazing of waterways and riparian zones.
Water Sensitive Urban Design - how well they are working and being applied benefits and level of investment