

July 2024

Issues and options consultation document

Environment and sustainability

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: A Vision for a Resilient Future

Climate change presents one of the most pressing challenges of our time, with far-reaching implications for our environment, economy, and society. As a forward-thinking local council, we are committed to taking decisive action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Our policies are designed to not only reduce our carbon footprint but also enhance our resilience to changing climatic conditions, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is paramount in addressing climate change. To this end, we have developed a comprehensive set of policies aimed at transitioning to a low-carbon economy and promoting sustainable practices across our community.

- 1. Transition to Renewable Energy:** We are committed to promoting renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. Our policies include incentives for renewable energy installations, streamlined permitting processes, and partnerships with local businesses and organizations to accelerate the adoption of clean energy technologies.
- 2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation:** Improving energy efficiency is a key strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We support energy efficiency initiatives in residential, commercial, and public buildings through grants, rebates, and education programs. Additionally, we are implementing measures to reduce energy consumption in municipal operations, such as upgrading lighting systems and optimizing transportation fleets.
- 3. Sustainable Transportation:** Transportation is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Our policies promote sustainable transportation options such as public transit, cycling infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging stations. By investing in alternative transportation modes and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, we aim to create a more resilient and environmentally friendly transportation system.

Adapting to Climate Change Impacts:

While mitigation efforts are essential, we also recognize the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already occurring and anticipated in the future. Our adaptation strategies focus on enhancing resilience and preparedness across various sectors of our community.

1. **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** We are investing in climate-resilient infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events such as floods, storms, and heatwaves. This includes upgrading drainage systems, strengthening coastal defenses, and incorporating green infrastructure solutions to manage stormwater runoff and reduce urban heat island effects.
2. **Natural Resource Management:** Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems is crucial for enhancing resilience to climate change. Our policies prioritize the conservation of biodiversity, wetlands, and green spaces to provide natural buffers against climate-related hazards and maintain ecosystem services essential for human well-being.
3. **Community Engagement and Education:** Building community resilience requires active participation and collaboration. We are engaging residents, businesses, and stakeholders through outreach campaigns, workshops, and resilience-building initiatives. By raising awareness and empowering individuals to take action, we can foster a culture of resilience and collective responsibility in tackling climate change.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: A Sustainable Future

In line with our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, our council is dedicated to promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency within our community. By embracing these principles, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint, mitigate climate change impacts, and create a healthier and more resilient locality for current and future generations.

Promoting Renewable Energy Sources in New Developments:

One of the key strategies in our approach to renewable energy is the promotion of renewable energy sources in new developments. We recognize the importance of transitioning away from fossil fuels and towards cleaner, more sustainable alternatives. As such, our planning policies incentivize the incorporation of renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels, wind turbines, and ground-source heat pumps, into new buildings and developments.

Through streamlined planning processes, financial incentives, and partnership initiatives with renewable energy providers, we aim to make it easier and more cost-effective for developers to integrate renewable energy solutions into their projects. By prioritizing renewable energy at the outset of development, we can significantly reduce our community's reliance on non-renewable energy sources and contribute to the transition towards a low-carbon future.

Encouraging Energy-Efficient Design and Construction Practices:

In addition to promoting renewable energy, our council places a strong emphasis on energy-efficient design and construction practices. We believe that improving the energy efficiency of buildings is

essential for reducing energy consumption, lowering utility costs, and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

To achieve this goal, we have developed comprehensive design guidelines and standards that encourage developers to incorporate energy-efficient features into their projects from the outset. These may include passive design strategies, such as orientation, insulation, and natural ventilation, as well as the use of high-performance building materials and technologies, such as energy-efficient appliances, LED lighting, and advanced HVAC systems.

Through public awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and training programs for architects, builders, and contractors, we strive to raise awareness about the benefits of energy efficiency and provide support and guidance on best practices for sustainable building design and construction. By empowering stakeholders with the knowledge and resources they need to adopt energy-efficient practices, we can drive widespread adoption of sustainable building techniques and contribute to significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions across our locality.

(this is an example document)