

# Energy and Resources

## Outcome 2041:

A low carbon, energy and resource efficient community making sustainable choices.

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## Target:

Sunshine Coast Council is a zero-net emissions organisation and the community is low carbon by 2041.





The Sunshine Coast's community and visitors consume energy in the form of electricity and fuels for lighting and heating or cooling and to power vehicles and business. We also use natural resources such as water and agricultural lands for food production.

Energy, food, air and water are essential to our individual lives, society and economy. None of us can live or function without them. In addition to our use of resources, we produce significant volumes of green, organic, plastic, and construction and demolition waste. The waste we generate can be reduced and recovered to become a usable resource while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To build capacity for low carbon, resource efficient and resilient communities will require a shift to lower emission transport options such as electric vehicles, driverless cars and increased use of pedestrian, cycle and public transport.

To support a thriving community now and in the future it is critical that we manage our energy and resources efficiently and sustainably. By doing so, households can achieve better energy performance and lower running costs and businesses can gain improved cash flows, greater productivity and higher profits. Energy and resource efficiency also reduces environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions, supporting a healthier planet.

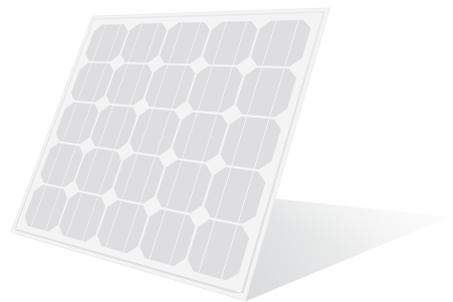
Together, council, the community, businesses and other stakeholders need to act to ensure a sustainable Sunshine Coast community and minimise financial and environmental risks such as extreme climate events.

This requires a transition to using cost effective, low (or zero) carbon energy, renewable resources, and effective transport and waste management that is delivered through resilient assets and systems, to maintain business continuity and confidence.

The community will benefit from this transition through:

- cost savings from reduced energy and resource consumption
- reduced exposure to increasing energy costs
- reduced greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts
- access to energy and resource assets and distribution systems that are resilient to climate risks
- maintained and enhanced liveability and lifestyle
- innovative opportunities that emerge from the transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient community.

This transition will also ensure that the Sunshine Coast contributes to achieving international, federal and state greenhouse gas reduction targets.



## Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on energy and resources and will continue to present challenges for the future.

Key impacts may include:

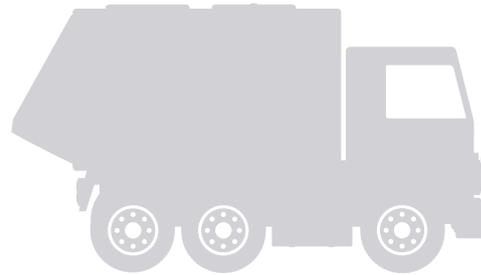
- the cost and availability of energy and resources
- increased demand for energy, resources, consumables and services
- an increase in waste generated and sent to landfill
- increased greenhouse gas emissions
- increased risk to energy security and resource infrastructure, especially energy, water, transport of essential goods and waste disposal facilities, due to extreme weather events.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

## Council's role

Council's key role is to provide strong leadership and strategic direction for the use of innovative technology and techniques, transitioning to a new approach of energy and resources use on the Sunshine Coast. Council role is to lead by example, trialling new technology and sharing learnings, knowledge and collaborating with industry and the community to effect change.

Regulation of energy markets and setting national energy renewable targets is the responsibility of federal and state governments.



## Energy and Resources policy positions

### 10.1 Energy and resource usage, and waste management are transformed to minimise emissions and maximise environmental, social and financial benefits:

- a Emissions and air pollutants are minimised and residual greenhouse gas emissions managed to mitigate climate risk.
- b Renewable energy usage is maximised and underpins a transition to a clean energy future.
- c Consumption of energy and resources is minimised and managed to reduce costs, waste generation and environmental impacts.
- d New models and partnerships in waste management maximise resource recovery.
- e Innovative solutions and technologies are tested and adopted to achieve energy, waste and resource efficiencies and grow the economy.

### 10.2 Essential resources and systems are secure and resilient to change:

- a Agricultural and food production areas are protected and effectively managed, enabling an adaptive and flexible local food supply.
- b Resources and services are sustainably produced and sourced locally to support self-sufficiency and containment.
- c Disruptions to energy, water and waste assets from climate risks are minimised.
- d Energy and resource security, including business continuity is provided through a diversity of centralised and decentralised systems.

