



# INNER WEST COUNCIL

## Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 14 March 2019

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Petersham Administration Centre  
2-14 Fisher Street, Petersham 2049

---

### Committee Members Attending

- Chrissie McIntyre
- Clare Donovan
- Diego Bonetto
- Emily Prentice
- Golda de la Cruz
- Janet Sparrow
- Jo Blackman
- Justine Langford
- Liz Locksley
- Mary Stewart
- Nicole Boyd
- Patrick Medley
- Robert Helstroom

### Councillors Attending

- Cllr John Stamolis

### Staff Attending

- Kate Jackson, Coordinator Community Sustainability
- Jon Stiebel, Urban Sustainability Manager

### **6.30 – 6.45pm: Meeting Introductions**

- This was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for many committee members. Committee members spoke about their motivations for joining the Environment Advisory Committee.

### **6.45 – 7.00pm: Endorse Terms of Reference and Elect Committee Chair**

- The Draft Terms of Reference was discussed. The Committee endorsed the Draft Terms of Reference.
- There were no nominations for an Environment Advisory Committee chair at this meeting.
- A process for the election of a committee chair will be taken "offline".
- There is the option to have a rotating chair if this is preferred.
- Council provides training for committee chairs and they are provided with support by the staff convener.
- Further information will be sent to committee members to elect a chair or to express a preference to have a rotating committee chair.

### **7.00 – 7.15pm: Overview of significant projects 2019**

- A brief overview was given about significant projects in 2019 where Council would value committee members input:
  - Climate and Renewables Strategy
  - Zero Waste Strategy
  - Urban Ecology Strategy
  - Strategic Planning – Local Strategic Planning Statement, Local Environment Plan (LEP), Development Control Plan, Housing Strategy
- Invitations will be extended to the committee to attend workshops or make submissions between the Environment Advisory Committee meetings via email. This is completely voluntary and there is no expectation to commit to anything additional to the Environment Advisory Committee meetings.

- Some committee members have already attended workshops for the Housing Strategy. Feedback on the workshops was positive.

## **7.15pm – 8.20pm: Climate and Renewables Strategy Background Studies and Discussion**

### ***Pathway to Carbon Neutral Council***

- Council has passed a resolution to be carbon neutral and 100% renewable by 2025
- Staff presented the Pathway to a Carbon Neutral and 100% Renewable Council
- Points of discussion were:
  - Important that Council leads by example, the committee are supportive of the targets and council should publicise carbon reduction initiatives and progress towards the targets.
  - Council could consider carbon neutral accreditation through the National Carbon Offsets standard.
  - Committee members were interested to know more about the carbon sources that were included or excluded in the carbon emissions inventory. Staff to send information to the committee on what emission sources were included or excluded. Point raised that further work in gathering data for contractor emissions (e.g. trucks) and for materials used in capital works (e.g. roads, footpaths, new buildings) could be required before carbon neutral target.
  - Council has entered into its 1<sup>st</sup> Power Purchase Agreement for renewable electricity (approximately equivalent to its daytime energy consumption or 25%). The renewable electricity comes with Large Generations Certificates. The "renewable energy claim" is tied to the Large Generation Certificates. Large Generation Certificates can be sold to another entity. IWC will retire its LGCs (large scale generation certificates) from the Moree Solar Farm Power Purchase Agreement so it can claim the renewable energy from Moree towards its targets rather than sell the certificates.
  - When Council buys and installs a solar system on its own facilities, small-scale technology certificates can be sold at the point of sale to recoup a portion of the cost of purchasing and installing the solar system. This is permissible under Australian rules for carbon neutrality (National Carbon Offset Standard). Some committee members expressed concern with the

rule. The issue of "double counting" was raised as something to be aware of when selling small scale certificates associated with the purchase of a small solar system.

- The committee discussed ways to use more rooftops for PV, especially if possible to share with the community or between Council sites, for example through community energy projects or Virtual Net Metering.
- Staff discussed the challenges of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inner West Council Power Purchase Agreement. Council has joined the Business Renewables Centre program. It was suggested the centre could advocate to make it easier for Council's to enter into Power Purchase Agreements for renewable energy.
- Council gas consumption was discussed. Council uses gas mainly for cogeneration which heats pools at Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre and Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. When the cogeneration systems are retired Council could replace with electric heat pumps as Council's electricity will be 100% renewable by then. Will require specialist advice at this time.
- City of Sydney Good Cycles Trial is about provision of city services on e-bikes – Council should consider the program.
- Electrification of some petrol powered machinery could be feasible for Council now.
- Discussion in relation to sharing energy between Council facilities either as a private wire e.g. between Leichhardt Oval and Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre or via Virtual Net Metering. Virtual Net Metering (VNM) enables excess energy from one site to be "netted off" the energy bill of a nearby site. Although available in other countries, the current energy market in Australia doesn't assist Virtual Net Metering apart from some pilot projects. Many commentators say that Virtual Net Metering would greatly assist with a renewable energy transition.

### ***Pathway to Zero Emissions Community***

- Points of discussion were:
  - Council should publicise a zero carbon community as much as possible, example given of the former nuclear free zone signage
  - The report includes an assessment of residential consumption emissions. This is a new and innovative approach.

- One way Council could assist community to understand consumption emissions is to reduce its own consumption, e.g. turn over vehicles less often
- Need to communicate community carbon reduction via tangible and accessible information - Must provide first easy steps for people - what people can do, are doing, and what is material and makes a difference.
- Build sense of collective action by aggregating efforts e.g. across a suburb, what local businesses are doing, women's business network
- Consider the Office of Environment and Heritage Strategic research fund and how to partner on a project with universities e.g. for an app to help people make better consumption choices
- Strategies are very high level, looking forward to seeing how council will address the recommendations as an action plan
- Facilitating community solar schemes – contact Energy Efficiency Council's Rob Murray-Leach, or Luke Menzel for information and advice

### **8.20pm – 8.30pm: Next steps and conclusion**

Next meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June –Zero Waste and Urban Ecology will be on the agenda of the meeting