

FACT SHEET: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN



PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Council plays a significant role in encouraging environmental responsibility among local businesses, community groups, households and schools and has ongoing programs that cover many aspects of ecologically sustainable development.

By improving our planning and management, we are working hard to minimise the environmental impacts of our operations and protect environmentally-sensitive areas.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

In September 2013, Council adopted a Climate Change Policy that acknowledges the reality of climate change and its impact on both the current and future way of life for the whole Coffs Harbour community and our natural and built environment.

With the adoption of the Policy, Council committed to:

- Reducing our contribution to climate change and supporting the community to reduce its contribution to climate change.
- Adapting Council’s activities and services to become more resilient to climate change and realise the opportunities this provides.
- Working with the community to educate residents about the importance of putting measures into place to ensure a sustainable future for all.

COUNCIL’S RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN (REERP)

Our goal is to source all of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

In April 2016 Council adopted a Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (REERP) in order to meet the Targets that are shown in Figure 1 (right).

By 2025 Council aims to have reduced its per annum corporate emissions (tonnes CO₂-e) from 2010 levels by 50%.

Council’s energy resources are consumed by a range of vital community and infrastructure services, including:

- Water and sewerage pumping and treatment systems;
 - Streetlights;
 - Holiday Parks;
 - Council’s administration, works, community and other facilities.
- The REERP consists of a framework for implementing, monitoring and reporting on renewable energy and emissions. It also identifies priorities and opportunities to achieve the set targets in the most cost-effective way.

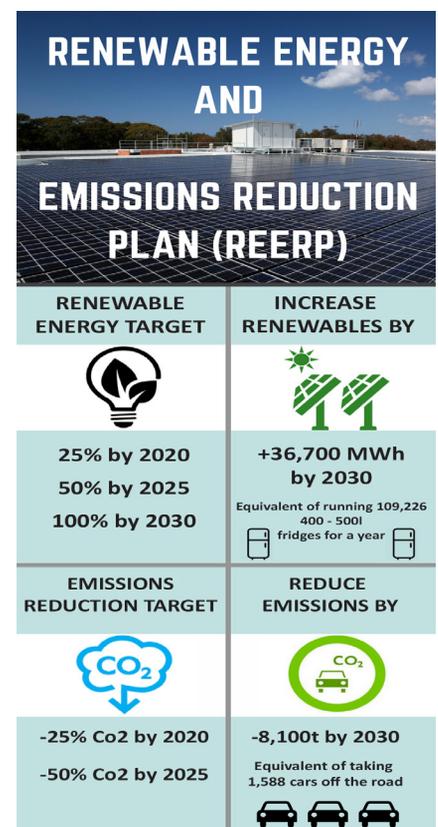


Figure 1.

STAGE 1 IS UNDERWAY

The range of energy efficiency measures includes:

1. Switching to LED street lighting
2. Installing solar-powered systems at Council-owned sites such as:
 - Water reclamation plant
 - The regional airport
 - Libraries and community centres



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LED STREET LIGHTING UPDATE - JANUARY 2019



PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Coffs Harbour City Council is one of many local government authorities that has embraced the Australian Government's commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change. In April 2016 Council adopted a **Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (REERP)** and has set targets for increasing use of renewable energy sources and reduction of carbon dioxide (Co2) emissions by 2030.

INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTING

- Coffs Harbour City Council is supplied with street lighting by Essential Energy. Council pays for this through an annual Street Light Use of System charge and also pays for the electricity used by the street lighting. The street lights are owned and maintained by Essential Energy.
- As part of the roll-out of the REERP Council has engaged Essential Energy to replace existing street light fittings with LED lamps. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with Essential Energy's regular bulk street lamp replacement program.
- The bulk street lamp replacement program, which was commenced by Essential Energy in November 2018, is due for completion at the end of February 2019 and is currently about 50% complete. It will involve the replacement of about 3000 lights across the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area.
- The new street lights are required to be installed in accordance with the Australian / New Zealand Standard 1158.3 – Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces, which specifies the acceptable environmental standards for street lighting.
- Whilst the new lighting has been generally well-received, some concerns have been raised in relation to the impact of the LED lighting on a small number of properties.
- Council is currently working with Essential Energy to carry out assessments of these issues on a case-by-case basis to determine if the lighting meets the design objectives and environmental criteria in the lighting standard.
- Because the street lights are owned and maintained by Essential Energy, Council does not have the authority to arrange alterations to the lights without having first obtained the approval of Essential Energy.
- Council takes residents' concerns regarding the environmental effects of street lighting seriously and will continue to work with Essential Energy to determine where lights do not comply with the required standard and arrange any required rectification work. This will be undertaken as quickly as possible but will be dependent on responses and action from Essential Energy.

Further enquiries can be directed to:

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