



Newcastle Emission Reduction Alliance and Charter

The closing of the summit will be marked by the signing of the Newcastle Emission Reduction Charter, and the creation of the Newcastle Emission Reduction Alliance for the Newcastle Local Government Area.

The new Alliance will involve those organisations gathered at the Summit as well as enabling a wider range of stakeholders to play their part in cutting Newcastle's carbon footprint to zero.

By agreeing to join the Alliance, organisations and individuals will be supporting an ambition of achieving at least a 50% reduction in carbon emissions as a Local Government Area by 2030.

The new Alliance will:

- provide a collaborative approach to implementing carbon reduction measures
- enable members to share their examples of best practice and learn from each other
- develop funding bids and attract financial support for the ambitious and innovative projects which will allow the Newcastle Local Government Area to go further and faster in its journey to net zero carbon
- advocate to the NSW Government and Australian Federal Government for powers, policy, and funding
- engage Council, businesses and the community in shared climate action

The Newcastle Emission Reduction Alliance draws inspiration from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) goal to limit global warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and as close to 1.5°C as possible, and the Community Emission Reduction City Aspirational Goals detailed in the City of Newcastle "Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-2025" and Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan. This was established with an aim to reduce carbon emissions in Newcastle by 30% by 2025 and a 100% reduction in electricity emissions by 2030, by individuals, businesses and organisations managing their own carbon footprints.

The new Alliance expands the focus from individual actions to reduce emissions, towards collaborative action and using each member's sphere of influence and knowledge to achieve shared goals and initiatives across the Newcastle Local Government Area.

The Alliance will be governed by a Steering Group to provide high level governance, composed of key organisations that are strategically important to reducing emissions in the Newcastle Local Government Area.

Note. The Newcastle Emission Reduction Charter has been adapted from the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership and Zero Carbon Oxford Charter that was endorsed at the Zero Carbon Oxford Summit held on Thursday 4 February 2021. Read about the Zero Carbon Oxford Summit here:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20291/climate_emergency/1431/zero_carbon_oxford_summit



The Newcastle Emission Reduction Charter

This charter is proposed for endorsement by participants and organisations at the Newcastle Climate Action Summit, 18 November 2023.

We the undersigned are committed to working together to create a zero carbon Newcastle. We will collaborate to build a prosperous, sustainable Local Government Area in which we all can share.

In particular we commit ourselves to:

Setting carbon targets, monitoring and reporting

1. Collaborate to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the Newcastle Local Government Area.
2. Support the efforts of Newcastle as a whole to reach its goal to achieve at least a 50% reduction by 2030. We will take these targets into consideration when making plans to reduce carbon emissions from our own organisations and operations.
3. Establish a shared framework to monitor progress against these targets and report publicly on an annual basis, along with reviewing the targets and increasing ambition if it is feasible to do so in terms of changing policy, technology or finance.

Road map and action planning

4. Contribute to the development and adoption of a roadmap and action plans that outline the steps needed for Newcastle to meet these carbon targets. This must also identify any gaps or impediments at a local, state or national level to implementation and recognise the topics listed in the Alliance's scope.
5. Recognise the wider non-carbon benefits that climate action can bring, including sustainable economies and local prosperity.

Working collaboratively

6. Work collaboratively to accelerate the rate of carbon emissions reduction within the Newcastle Local Government Area, exploring opportunities to work on shared projects that deliver greater carbon emission reductions than we could achieve individually.
7. Support sharing best practice and piloting sustainable innovations.
8. Collectively identify funding sources to support a zero carbon Newcastle and the delivery of net zero activities within the Newcastle Local Government Area.
9. Jointly lobby the NSW and Australian Government to provide the regulatory, infrastructural and funding support necessary to achieve net zero carbon emissions.
10. Encourage other organisations to join the Alliance, generally promote the work of the Alliance and engage with staff, customers and service users about climate issues.

Governance

11. Support a steering group of key organisations and recognise that accountability is through collective and fair scrutiny.

We commend the progress made to date in Newcastle to tackle climate change and sustainability challenges, and call on all communities, organisations and businesses in Newcastle to endorse the Newcastle Emission Reduction Charter and help to create change for good.