

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Council sets sights on net zero corporate carbon emissions by 2030

The Waratah-Wynyard Council has set an ambitious target of achieving net zero corporate carbon emissions by 2030.

This target follows Council's adoption of its Integrated Council Environmental Plan (ICEP) in 2020 and commissioning a carbon footprint audit this year.

Based on an independent audit, Waratah-Wynyard Council's operations produced 1,971 tonnes of carbon during the 2020/21 financial year: The equivalent emissions intensity of 142kg of carbon per person within Waratah-Wynyard.

The largest source of emissions is from Council's value chain, including contractors fuel usage and construction materials and services. The second largest source, at just under a third of the total emissions produced, are from council facilities and vehicles.

"It is crucial that our carbon footprint is reduced as quickly as possible. Failing to keep climate change to below 1.5 degrees will have significant catastrophic implications for the health of our environment." Waratah-Wynyard Council's General Manager Shane Crawford said.

Climate change can negatively impact social wellbeing and health, as well as present new economic challenges for businesses and tourism. Changes in temperature and wind patterns will also influence our large agriculture industry and our flora and fauna.

"We are proud to lead by example, setting an early target and committing to sustainable operations for our community's future. We encourage our community to seek to reduce their own household and carbon emissions for our benefit and that of our future generations" Mr Crawford said.

By committing to net zero emissions by 2030, Council will work towards avoiding and reducing emissions from its operations as much as possible. Any unavoidable residual emissions will be offset by purchasing carbon removal credits. Key priority areas for reducing our emissions include plant and equipment, facilities, methods of work and sustainable infrastructure.

"Whilst Council's carbon footprint is one area of sustainability, we would like to work closely with the community on sustainability matters that are important to them." Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said.

Waratah Wynyard Council

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As part of community collaboration, Council is calling for interested community members to volunteer to be a part of the new Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP) for a two-year term.

The SEAP will be a collaborative partnership between Council and the community to inform and advise Council on strategic, non-operational input on environmental matters.

“We welcome community members from all walks of life to apply and will value the diverse skills and expertise of each individual.” Mayor Walsh said.

For a nomination form or for further information, visit <https://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/sustainability-and-environmental-advisory-panel/>

Nominations close on 28th July 2022.

Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Thursday, June 23, 2022.