

Policy – No 176	Adopted:	OM: 06.04.2009
	Amended:	OM: 17.10.2011 OM: 04.11.2013 OM: 06.10.2015
	Revoked:	

TITLE: Climate Change

STRATEGY: Pittwater 2025: Our Community Strategic Plan

BUSINESS UNIT: All

RELEVANT LEGISLATION: *New South Wales (NSW) Local Government Act 1993*
NSW Planning and Assessment Act 1979
NSW Coastal Protection Act 1979
NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
NSW State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
NSW State Emergency Service Act 1989
NSW Rural Fires Act 1997
NSW Marine Estate Management 2014
NSW Crown Lands Act 1989
Pittwater Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP)

RELATED POLICIES: No. 164 – Sustainability Policy
 No. 198 – Enterprise Risk Management Policy
 No. 184 – Asset Management Policy
 No. 186 - Risk Management Policy for Coastal Public Buildings and Assets in Pittwater Policy
 Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (DCP)

Purpose of Policy:

To address climate change mitigation and adaptation through both Council operations and services provided to the community.

Objectives

- To guide the development of strategies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Pittwater.
- To assist Pittwater Council to meet internal GHG Emission Reduction Targets.
- To embed climate change adaptation into Council operations through the Enterprise Risk Management Framework to achieve a whole of organisation approach.
- To guide the development of strategies and actions to manage climate change risks to the Pittwater community; and the natural and built environments by applying a quadruple bottom line sustainability approach.
- To build the capacity of the Pittwater community to adapt to climate change impacts in the mid to long term future.
- To provide the context for the Climate Action Plan Framework.

Background

Pittwater Council accepts the international scientific research reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that has concluded that the human influence on the climate system is clear with recent anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases recorded to be the highest in history.

Mitigation includes actions to reduce GHG emissions or removing GHG from the atmosphere to limit the changes caused in the global climate by human activities.

Adaptation refers to the actions undertaken to reduce the adverse consequences of climate change and capture any beneficial opportunities. Adaptation actions aim to reduce the impacts of climate stresses on humans, natural systems and infrastructure.

Council recognises that by addressing mitigation, the impacts of climate change may be moderated which will reduce the extent of adaptation initiatives required.

Council adopted the Climate Change Risk Assessment undertaken for Pittwater in 2012.

Policy Statement

Pittwater Council accepts the scientific research that demonstrates that our climate is being modified by human activities.

Pittwater Council recognises that along with the NSW and Australian Governments, they have a responsibility to prepare for climate change in accordance with the precautionary principle as defined under the NSW *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council acknowledges the important role of local government in helping to reduce GHG emissions and manage climate change impacts at the local level, particularly through its statutory responsibilities and regulatory powers relating to land use planning, natural resource management and infrastructure management. Council amongst a number of agencies, business and not-for-profit organisations, all contribute to building resilience at the local level.

Council encourages further scientific research and a better understanding of climate change and energy issues in order to support and steer policy, to refine adaptation and mitigation strategies and to foster the necessary behavioural changes within our society.

Council understands the importance of a quadruple bottom line management approach to sustainability and is mindful that GHG abatement and climate change adaptation can only be successfully sustained in association with responsible economic management, societal changes, environmental protection and transparent governance.

Council is committed to building on the GHG reduction initiatives and partner with the Pittwater community to improve mitigation and developing appropriate adaptation actions for the climate change impacts that will most affect the Pittwater LGA.

Risks associated with climate change impact predictions must feature as a primary consideration in strategic and operational management activity undertaken by Council.

Education should be aimed at improving the awareness and understanding of climate change issues in order to assist the community to make informed contributions when participating in community engagement related to studies, strategies and plans.

Council supports an evidence based approach to policy, strategies and actions addressing climate change that are based on the best available science while recognising the need for sufficient flexibility to adapt as scientific knowledge improves.