

Environmental Action Plan 2018 - 2022

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Executive Summary

The Environmental Action Plan 2018 – 2022 sets out the environmental actions to be undertaken by City of Prospect for the next four years. This Plan builds on an earlier Environmental Action Plan undertaken by Council in 2008 which has been reviewed as part of the creation of this Plan. Council's 2020 Strategic Plan has provided scope for the activities to be undertaken for the next four years and reporting period.

The actions and strategies within the previous Environmental Action Plan (2008) were reviewed and where no longer relevant or completed, they were removed. Remaining actions and strategies were then regrouped and new actions proposed.

Sustainable development principles, environmental themes and actions were prepared in liaison with Council staff, Elected Members, and City of Prospect's community. This consultation has guided the development of the Environmental Action Plan 2018-2022.

The actions contained within the Plan are arranged under five key environmental themes. Each of these themes has a corresponding vision and actions. These actions provide direction for environmental projects in the coming financial years. Actions will be dependent on Council budgets and human resources. Potential internal (Council departments) and external partners have been considered in the development of the actions within the Environmental Action Plan.

Introduction

City of Prospect is an inner metropolitan Council area with a population of approximately 20,000. Within City of Prospect's Strategic Plan to 2020, Council's Environmental vision for the city is outlined with the following key strategies and deliverables:

PEOPLE

1.2 Environmentally active, sustainably focussed

1.2.1 Community learning focused on environmental impacts and issues.

TARGETS

- Number of community learning opportunities focused on environmental issues provided and number of participants.

1.2.2 Council activities and Community events are supported by a no waste approach.

TARGETS

- A zero (0) waste to landfill outcome at events.

1.2.3 Community environmental initiatives are supported and encouraged.

TARGETS

- Number of community environmental initiatives supported and encouraged by Council.

PLACE

2.3 An Accessible City

2.3.1 Key areas are accessible and linked

TARGETS

- Finalise Master Plan by end of 2017/2018 and establish one (1) upgraded East-West connection by 2020.

2.3.2 Connected/ integrated bicycle and pedestrian networks across the City and linked to other areas.

TARGETS

- Partner with the Australian Bicycle Council to include Prospect within the biennial National Cycling Participation Survey to measure users of the Prospect network.

2.3.3 A City well serviced by public transport.

TARGETS

- Increase in the level of public transport services particularly addressing peak hour issues.
- Year on year 5% increase in patronage of community transport options.

2.4 A Greener Future

2.4.1 Attractive streets with leafy tree canopies.

TARGETS

- Identify all streets that will not achieve “green tunnel” street canopy coverage by the end of 2016 and incorporate into the program for 2017/18.

2.4.2 A City recognised for its flora, fauna and biodiversity.

TARGETS

- Thriving gardens and verges under Council’s control.

2.4.3 Committed to having a reduced environmental footprint.

TARGETS

- Year on year reduction in our environmental footprint for all of Council’s activities.

2.4.4 ‘Green’ strategies are established within development activities across the City.

TARGETS

- All Development Approvals to have landscaping conditions (where appropriate) which are enforceable and that our policies support this position.

SERVICES

4.3 Responsible Waste Management

4.3.1 Waste collection and recycling services meeting community need and enhancing the amenity of the City.

TARGETS

- Year on year increase in customer satisfaction of waste collection and recycling services as measured through the Resident Satisfaction Survey.

4.3.2 Innovation in waste management to align with environmental goals

TARGETS

- Waste collection data collected by 2020 and shared as appropriate.
- A framework is developed that delivers at least one innovative waste management practice each year.

The Environmental Action Plan 2018-2022 is responsive to Council's sustainability and environmental Strategic Directions and will help to drive and implement environmental sustainability initiatives across Council and within the community.

The Council previously adopted an Environmental Action Plan in 2002 and in 2008. The Environmental Action Plan 2018-2022 (The Plan) is the culmination of a detailed review undertaken with Council officers of the strategies and actions outlined in the Environmental Action Plan 2008-2011, and the outcomes of a series of workshops held with staff, the community, and Elected Members to identify current priorities and potential actions, and finally a community wide survey on the potential actions.

The Plan outlines the approach undertaken to review and develop the Plan, the strategic context within which the Environmental Action Plan will operate, and the guiding principles by which actions will be assessed.

The Plan provides an overview of the 5 Key Themes identified and provides an action plan for each theme including potential partnerships and resources available for each action, a responsible Council officer, and a timeframe in which each action is expected to be completed.

Approach

City of Prospect engaged a Strategic Environmental Consultant, Liveken, to facilitate Phase 1 and 2 of the development of the Plan to guide Council's sustainability and environmental projects for the period 2018-2022.

This Plan is the outcome of an intensive consultation process including an internal review of the Environmental Action Plan 2008-2011, Community and Elected Member engagement, and development of the Draft Environmental Action Plan.

Phase 1: Undertake review of the current Environmental Action Plan

The Plan was reviewed in a workshop with Council officers. There was representation from different sections of Council's operations to ensure a comprehensive review of the Plan's actions. The officers assessed the actions from the existing plan to determine if they were current, relevant, completed or still to be undertaken.

Following this process, any actions which were considered outdated or completed were removed from the Plan. The remaining actions were reviewed for gaps and emerging environmental issues inadequately covered by these actions were identified.

Council identified 5 key themes for the new plan:

- 1. Enabling a Sustainable Community**
- 2. Environmental Education**
- 3. Green Procurement and Economic Development**
- 4. Sustainable Resource Management**
- 5. Enhancing Local Biodiversity**

Actions were further developed and elaborated upon within these themes and guiding principles were identified for prioritising actions.

Phase 2: Identify actions and Draft the Plan

As suggested by the themes above, The Plan is strongly focussed on community level sustainability and environmental outcomes. To facilitate community ownership of the plan, a series of workshops were held with Elected Members and community representatives to identify further potential actions for each of the key themes. These workshops also focused on identifying potential areas for collaboration, partnerships and sharing of resources within City of Prospect. All actions were ranked and prioritised according to the guiding principles identified with the Council.

Phase 3: Consultation and Finalisation

The Plan was released for community consultation. Council was keen to receive feedback from the wider community about the proposed direction for sustainability and environmental projects over the next four financial years. All comments were considered and incorporated into the final plan where appropriate.

Phase 4: Finalisation and Promotion

The final Environmental Action Plan 2018-2022 will be promoted throughout the community, will be available via Council's website www.prospect.sa.gov.au and hard copies will be made available only upon request.

Phase 5: Implementation

The Plan will be implemented in a timely manner. Elected Members will be provided with quarterly updates on the progress of the Plan. There will be an annual review of the Environmental Action Plan which will help to inform the budget process and provide for the inclusion of actions that should respond to the changing environmental climate.

Prospect Profile

The Prospect City Council area comprises 779 hectares (7.79 Km²) located immediately to the north of the Adelaide City Local Government Area (LGA). It is bounded by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to the north, the City of Charles Sturt to the west and the Town of Walkerville to the east. Suburbs in City of Prospect include Prospect, Nailsworth, Collinswood, Medindie Gardens, Thorngate and Fitzroy, and parts of Sefton Park, Broadview and Ovingham.

The area is dominated by residential development with commercial strips along Main North Road, North East Road, Churchill Road and Prospect Road. The topography is generally flat, gently grading towards the north-west.



A total of 24 open spaces are provided for the community including the Prospect and Broadview ovals, St Helens Park, Prospect Estate Reserve, George Whittle Reserve, Charles Cane Reserve, W.T. Smith Reserve and several local open space areas accessed by local and broad communities.

Housing styles include traditional bungalows and villas, town houses, units and recently, medium density housing construction is increasing along the main transport corridors

The Prospect community, like many inner suburban areas, comprises mainly of families and couples only households, although there are an increasing number of single person households. This trend for a higher proportion of single person households is due to infill development and the creation of smaller housing on individual allotments.

Despite this, the number of persons per dwelling is still relatively high at 2.4 and the residential density sits at 2,473 persons per square kilometre.

At the 2016 Census, the resident population was 20,527, an increase of 570 people (2.9%) from the 2011 population of 19,955.

The median age of the population in 2016 was 37 and in 2011 was 36 years of age.

Businesses within the Prospect Council area generally consist of commercial and retail type land uses. There is a retail and civic precinct along Prospect Road which includes the Council offices, a dining precinct, cinema complex and several retail outlets.

The Environmental Action Plan has been developed taking into consideration the:

- **Dominant urban development;**
- **Number and type of open spaces;**
- **Prospect community demographics and;**
- **Extent of business areas.**



Strategic Plans and Strategies

2020 Strategic Plan

Council's *2020 Strategic Plan* document provides the direction for Council's various functions over a three (3) year term. *EcoProspect* will sit underneath Council's Strategic Management Plan. The Plan will inform Council's budget process for sustainability and environmental initiatives for each financial year.



Figure 1: *City of Prospect's Strategic Management Planning Process*

Other Relevant Plans and Strategies

The Plan has been developed with consideration to various environmental plans and strategies that are in place for the State and region, and has also taken into consideration Council's other relevant plans.

Some of these plans include:

- South Australia's Strategic Plan 2011
- Towards a Low Carbon Economy: South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050
- South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020
- A Thirst for Change: Water Proofing Adelaide 2005 – 2025
- Our Place Our Future – State Natural Resources Management Plan South Australia 2012-2017
- City of Prospect's 2020 Strategic Plan
- City of Prospect's Development Plan

Legislation

Council has statutory obligations to comply with environmental legislative requirements including:

- Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007
- Development Act 1993
- Environment Protection Act 1993
- Local Government Act 1999
- Natural Resource Management Act 2004

Guiding Principles

The following principles have been developed to provide a broad overarching framework for ensuring sustainable development within City of Prospect.

They have been developed to provide direction for the selection and implementation of actions, and will help to facilitate low risk and integrated actions which are responsive to the local sustainability and environmental needs.

- **Multiple Environmental Benefits:** where an action has benefits for more than one environmental area (example: planting locally indigenous species- water savings and biodiversity benefits).

- **Strategic:** where an action has a positive outcome beyond environmental improvement (examples may include: strategic partnerships; increase Council’s profile; or community capacity building).
- **Encourages and Facilitates Community Ownership:** where an action enables community groups to accept ongoing responsibility for a program or activity.
- **Funding Opportunities:** where funding may be available to help a project through partnering with another organisation.
- **Legislative Requirements:** where Council has resolved to undertake an action or has a legal requirement to undertake the action.
- **Potential Cost Benefit:** where an action results in a cost saving to Council.
- **Flow on Actions:** the proposed action is required before further actions are undertaken.
- **Leadership:** results in Council leading by example. This includes innovative new programs that may be adopted by other Councils and actions where Council provides an example and leadership to the community.

Key Themes

The themes, projects and actions in this plan have been prepared taking into consideration the aforementioned guiding principles.

Five key themes have been identified, including:

- 1. Enabling a Sustainable Community**
- 2. Environmental Education**
- 3. Green Procurement and Economic Development**
- 4. Sustainable Resource Management**
 - a. Water**
 - b. Waste**
 - c. Energy**
 - d. Transport**
- 5. Enhancing Local Biodiversity**

Action Plans

Within this section, each key theme is broken down as follows:

- Introduction to each theme.
- Overarching goal and Key Project for theme.
- Action table.

1. Enabling a Sustainable Community

There is a strong community appetite for communal ownership and responsibility when it comes to living sustainably within City of Prospect.

With this in mind, the first key theme to be identified was 'Enabling Community' and in particular encouraging community action that aligns with the Council's vision for a sustainable City of Prospect.

This theme includes actions related to providing community incentives such as grants, awards and shared expectations for achieving the broader vision of a sustainable 'Eco Prospect'.

Overarching Goal

To create a resilient and healthy community with strong local livelihoods, while reducing our community's ecological footprint.

Action Table

Enabling a Sustainability Community			
Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe	Resources
Support and promote environmental partnerships and links between community groups, businesses, and schools	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2019	Council
Provide guidance and education to local businesses for implementing sustainable actions	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2020	Council
Support community environmental programs and initiatives	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2020	Council
Implement a local Sustainability leaders program and network	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2020	Council and Community
Implement the 'Resilient East' climate change adaptation plan	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 - 2022	Council

2. Environmental Education

In order to create a sustainable community where members are enabled and empowered to take action, it is important to develop a shared set of values both within Council and the wider community.

This theme covers actions related to community and staff education and the development of guidelines for a sustainable City of Prospect, as well as the idea of the Council leading by example for the wider community.

Overarching Goal

To promote environmental values and education for Council staff and the wider community.

Action Table

Environmental Education			
Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe	Resources
Develop 'Environmental Impact' assessment tools for Council infrastructure projects and events	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2019	Council
Create an online 'Resource Library' related to environmentally friendly and sustainable practices	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 - 2022	Council
Create an internal education program to reinforce Environmental Values within Council and to ensure the Council is leading by example	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018	Council
Use Prospect Magazine and the website to promote environmental values and education programs delivered by both the Council and the wider community	Web and Digital Media Officer, and Senior Content Marketer	2018	Council
Provide environmental education programs that engage with community members from all generations and cultures	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 – 2022	Council

3. Green Procurement and Economic Development

Sustainability starts from the creation and procurement of products. As such it is important to consider the environmental impact of all purchases and developments.

This theme includes actions related to sustainable purchases both within Council and the wider community.

It includes actions on buying local and assessing the recycled content and emissions associated with purchases.

Overarching Goal

To increase sustainable procurement practices and economic development within City of Prospect.

Action Table

Green Procurement and Economic Development			
Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe	Resources
Promote sustainable purchasing to the wider community including businesses and residents	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018	Council
Develop guidelines for local and sustainable purchasing options for Council internally	Environment & Sustainability Officer, Finance Officer (Procurement)	2018	Council

4. Sustainable Resource Management

This broad theme covers the sustainable use of natural resources within Council including water, waste, energy, and transport.

Actions within this theme include corporate actions to reduce Council's own resource use, as well as encouraging the community to do the same.

Overarching Goal

To increase efficiency and reduce consumption across the community.

Action Table

Sustainable Resource Management			
Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe	Resources
Water			
Promote the use of Water Sensitive Urban Design for Council and Private land	Environment & Sustainability Officer, Development Officers	2018 - 2022	Council
Undertake a water efficiency audit of Council facilities	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 - 2022	External
Implement Grey water recycling for Council land and buildings where appropriate	Property Officer	2018 - 2022	Council
Waste			
Review current guidelines to further reduce waste at Council and Community run events, including increasing education at events	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018	Council
Engage with Schools on waste reduction and education	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 - 2022	Council

Sustainable Resource Management

Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe	Resources
Energy			
Establish annual Greenhouse Gas assessments of Council operations to identify areas for, and track, improvement	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2019	External
Develop guidelines for local developers on energy efficient and sustainable (recycled/green spaces) design	Development Officers	2018 - 2022	Council
Undertake an energy audit of all Council buildings and implement recommendations where appropriate	Property Officer	2019 - 2022	External
Transport			
Through local master plans, improve cycling and walkability of City of Prospect	Infrastructure Engineer and Landscape Architect	2018 - 2022	Council
Investigate and assess the establishment of a Prospect Ring Route Bus that facilitates travel to major shopping centres, libraries etc.	Community Transport Coordinator	2019 - 2021	Council

5. Enhancing Local Biodiversity

This theme focuses on the enhancement and protection of locally indigenous biodiversity, and management of Council's open spaces.

Actions within this theme include guidelines and projects increasing these features in Council managed lands and community engagement promoting and enabling similar actions on private property.

Overarching Goal

To increase local biodiversity within City of Prospect.

Action Table

Enhancing Local Biodiversity			
Action	Responsible Officer	Timeframe	Resources
Green Council buildings and encourage residents/local businesses to do the same	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 - 2022	Council
Encourage schools and early learning centres to work with/in community gardens	Environment & Sustainability Officer	2018 - 2022	Internal and Community
Develop planting guidelines that incorporate plant species with low water requirements (e.g. natives, low water requirement turf, artificial turf) into park landscape plans as plans are revised	Landscape Architect	2019	Council
Change the vista of existing green spaces to encourage nature play and attract wildlife	Landscape Architect	2018 - 2022	Council
Review the Urban Street Tree Guide and incorporate drought resistant and locally indigenous species that are fauna attractive where appropriate	Landscape Architect	2018	Internal
Retain and expand green space within the Council	Landscape Architect	2018 - 2022	Council