



Achieving net zero emissions – Advice on interim greenhouse gas emission reduction targets

8 December 2017

It is time to think about the next steps in local climate action.

The ACT is expected to meet its target of 100% renewable electricity supply by 2020, which also means that the Territory will meet its target of 40% emission reductions (on 1990 levels) by 2020. This remarkable achievement stands out both nationally and internationally. But what is next?

In order to do our fair share in keeping global warming below the 2°C Paris target, keep pace with business trends and advancing technology, and maintain leadership in the new low-carbon economy, we must do more.

Based on these considerations, the ACT Climate Change Council has recommended future greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the Territory that mark out clear milestones for our journey to a zero net emissions world.

Building on the expected emissions reduction of 40% in 2020, the Council recommends that the ACT now legislate a timeline of reduction targets in the range of:

- 50-60% by 2025;
- 65-75% by 2030; and
- 90-95% by 2040, with the goal of reaching zero net emissions by 2045 or earlier.

All targets are based on 1990 emission levels.

Rather than purchasing “offsets” (some other jurisdiction’s reductions), the Council recommends that we invest in the actions that will reduce our own emissions whilst simultaneously improving our health, well-being and prosperity here in the ACT.

Setting these legislated goals for the Territory will provide business with clear signals for investment, and ensure that the actions we undertake now support a more equitable and liveable city into the future.

The full letter of advice from the ACT Climate Change Council to the ACT Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability is available at www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/climate_change_council.