



8.11 CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIPS
WARD: WHOLE OF MUNICIPALITY
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ATTACHMENTS: 1. Cities Power Partnership brochure

PURPOSE

To endorse the City of Port Phillip’s participation in the ‘Cities Power Partnership’ a program of the Climate Council that is launching on 19 July 2017.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Endorses the City of Port Phillip’s participation in the ‘Cities Power Partnership’.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Cities Power Partnership (Partnership) is a program of the Climate Council that is launching on 19 July 2017.
- 2.2 The Climate Council provides independent, authoritative climate change information to the Australian public that is based on the best science available. It is an independent not-for-profit organisation, governed by six Climate Commissioners – including Tim Flannery.
- 2.3 In 2016, the Climate Council was the primary organisation communicating information regarding climate change nationally and reached eight million people per month online.
- 2.4 The Partnership provides a coordinated vehicle to accelerate, celebrate and promote local government successes in achieving emission reductions and transitioning towards clean energy.
- 2.5 There are no costs for councils to join the Partnership.
- 2.6 Twenty one councils have already signed up to the Partnership in the first round, with these councils from around the country. There are four vacancies remaining in the first round.



3. KEY INFORMATION

Benefits of joining the ‘Cities Power Partnership’

- 3.1 The opportunity to enhance the City of Port Phillip brand as a Council committed to addressing Climate Change.
- 3.2 Social Media promotion and a website profile. This will increase public awareness of Council’s Integrated Council Plan as sustainability and renewable energy success stories are shared with over 200,000 Climate Council supporters.
- 3.3 Access to the Partnership knowledge hub, webinars and potential direct access to Climate Council experts.
- 3.4 Access to an analytics tool to track and measure savings in greenhouse gas emissions, energy savings to date and financial savings to date of specific sustainability, clean energy and efficiency projects.
- 3.5 An invitation for the Mayor to participate in the media and stakeholder launch of the Cities Power Partnership (the Partnership) on 19 July in Canberra.
- 3.6 Invitations to attend the 2018 Partnership summit and awards ceremony with other councils across the country.
- 3.7 Potential access to exclusive grants and incentives to support renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport goals as they become available.

Requirements of joining the ‘Cities Power Partnership’

- 3.8 Council will be required to nominate five action items in the Power Partners Pledge.
- 3.9 There is a six month period allowed before committing to the pledges. Officers have identified five pledges that align with the Integrated Council Plan, as outlined in the table below.

	Action pledge	Integrated Council Plan
I.	Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on Council buildings for example childcare facilities, libraries, street lighting, recreation centres, sporting grounds, and council.	<p>Priority under Outcome 3.2 “Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in Council buildings...”</p> <p>Project Portfolio allocates \$460,000 in 2017/18 for the Solar PV and energy efficiency program.</p>

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2.	Power Council operations by renewables directly (with Solar PV or wind) or by purchasing Greenpower (from electricity retailers) Set targets to increase the level of renewable power for Council operations over time	<p>3.2A “Reducing Council energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Project Portfolio allocates \$460,000 in 2017/18 for the Solar PV and energy efficiency program.</p> <p>Council also purchases Greenpower to reduce emissions from its non-solar PV energy use.</p>
3.	Encourage local businesses and residents to take up Solar PV, battery storage and solar hot water heating. This can be done through providing incentives (such as solar bulk buy schemes or flexible payment options) or streamlining approval processes (such as removing planning and heritage barriers to solar PV)	<p>3.2B “Facilitating a reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by partnering with the community and private sector” Also, a priority “Develop guidelines that enable increased uptake of sustainable design features, including roof top solar, in heritage areas”</p> <p>Project Portfolio allocates \$300,000 in 2017/18 for the Sustainability Community Action Plan</p>
4	Facilitate large energy users collectively tendering and purchasing renewable energy at no cost.	<p>Priority under Outcome 3.2 “Invest....in the Melbourne Renewable Energy project, a group purchasing model to drive investment in renewable energy”</p> <p>This work is being progressed through the Sustainable Policy operational budget.</p>



5	Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets and sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectations for local residents and businesses.	<p>3.2B “Facilitating a reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by partnering with the community and private sector”</p> <p>Project Portfolio allocates \$150,000 to measure greenhouse gas emissions baseline and a further \$150,000 to develop a new sustainability strategy that will include new targets.</p>
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- 3.10 Officers will complete a six monthly online survey that provides the Climate Council with basic information on how Council is progressing on the five action pledges. This can be achieved within the current Sustainability and Transport operational budget.
- 3.11 A point of contact (the Coordinator – Sustainable Programs) will be provided so that the Climate Council can liaise with on Partnership matters.
- 3.12 Collaboration with two other local councils to facilitate knowledge sharing.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 Membership of the 'Cities Power Partnership' aligns with Direction 3 "We have smart solutions for a sustainable future'. Specifically, it will support outcome 3.2 'A City with lower carbon emissions'

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Prior to developing this recommendation, officers attended an information session and presentation with the Climate Council and other interested local government representatives.
- 5.2 Consultation also occurred across the Sustainability and Transport Department to confirm that suggested Action Pledges are achievable and that the reporting requirements can be managed within existing officer resources.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Joining the 'Cities Power Partnership' does not expose Council to any legal risk.
- 6.2 There is a reputational risk if Council fails to make progress on the Action Pledges. This risk is mitigated through the careful selection of pledges that are already priority actions within the Integrated Council Plan and have sufficient resource allocations to support success.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 Achieving the Action Pledges in the 'Cities Power Partnerships' will reduce the Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by both Council and the Community.

7.2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 Membership of the 'Cities Power Partnership' comes at no cost. The reporting requirements can be managed within the existing Sustainability and Transport departmental staffing budget.
- 7.2.2 Achieving the Action Pledges requires investment by Council. However, each pledge is already planned and budgeted within the *Integrated Council Plan* and Budget.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

- 8.1.1 5 July 2017 – Council endorse membership of the 'Cities Power Partnership'
- 8.1.2 19 July 2017 – Official launch of the program with the 25 partner Councils in Canberra

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8.1.3 1 January 2018 – Five Action Pledges formally selected

8.1.4 1 July 2018 – First report due to the Climate Council

8.2 COMMUNICATION

8.2.1 The City of Port Phillip will have access to the Climate Council's considerable public profile and social media presence to promote sustainability initiatives.

8.2.2 Membership of the 'Cities Power Partnership' will also be promoted through Council's usual communication channels including social media, newsletters and websites.

8.2.3 Joining the 'Cities Power Partnership' confirms Council's commitment to addressing Climate Change.

9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

9.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.