

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION — A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Lake Macquarie, Australia

Setting ambitious emission reduction targets, including consumption impacts

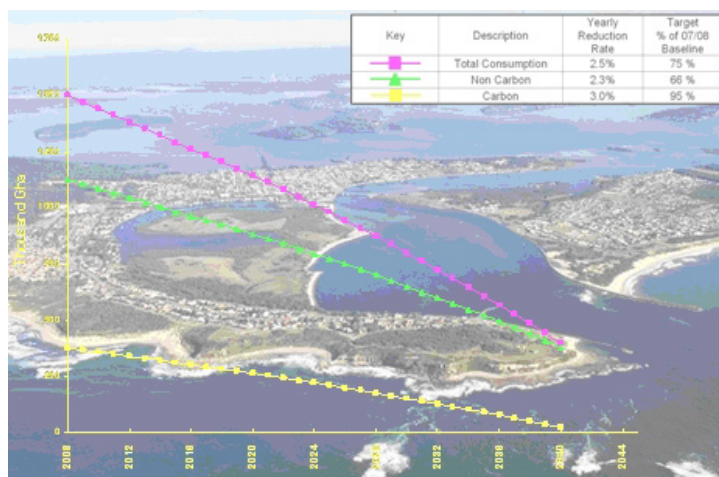
STORY IN SHORT: Lake Macquarie's contribution to ensuring global sustainability combines policy development with community empowerment and partnering. Drawing on the power of individuals and neighbourhoods right through to national and global stakeholders will set a path to achieving targets of 95% CO₂e reduction and 75% reduction in consumption impact by 2040.

People, policies and partnerships to mitigate CO₂ and global impacts

In order to form policy in line with the strategic direction of making a local contribution to global equity and sustainability, the Lake Macquarie City Council adopted the principle of contraction and convergence. This resulted in a CO₂e reduction target of 3% per capita per year, based on CO₂e emissions in 2008. Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) is a measurement that allows addition of the different greenhouse gases according to an estimate of their relative effect on the climate over time. The measurement takes CO₂ as a basis for the comparison with other GHGs.

In parallel with this goal of reduced emissions, the long-term management plan stipulates a 2.5% per annum per capita reduction in local consumption impact expressed in global hectares (according to the approach of the World Wildlife Fund). This project aims to reduce the resources used by residents. Known locally in Lake Macquarie as the Living Smart campaign, it encourages residents to live sustainably. By 2040, this should lead to a 75% footprint reduction (see right-hand graph).

For a copy of the Living Planet Report from WWF, see www.footprintnetwork.org/download.php?id=505



Lake Macquarie's targets for reductions of CO₂e and consumption impacts.



Sustainable neighbourhoods workshop

Sustainable Neighbourhood Process: Principles for Community Empowerment

1. **Participatory Democracy**
2. **Sustainable Governance**
3. **Developing a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan that considers technical Community knowledge, skills, expertise and values, and technical information for footprint reduction.**
4. **Professional and Independent Facilitation**
5. **Multiplication Step where one neighbourhood helps others adopt similar practices**

Sustainable neighbourhoods and stakeholder partners

As part of their strategy to implement the policy, the Lake Macquarie Council has thus far initiated partnerships with twelve of the total 100 neighbourhoods. These neighbourhood groups develop their own implementation plan, addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, consumption impact reduction, protection from environmental risks, and local ecosystem enhancement. Each neighbourhood will implement its plan over the next 30 years. The aim is to initiate locally owned plans in all 100 neighbourhoods within ten years. In addition, the city is partnering with 120 stakeholders from all sectors and scales of society to create synergy bonuses to reduce footprints in each footprint wedge over 30 years.



Partnership with Funafuti

Process towards local community empowerment

1. Awareness raising
2. Analysis of community assets and needs
3. Capturing of community knowledge
4. Detailed specific local risk analysis
5. Development of a sustainable neighbourhood plan (environmental risk reduction, sustainable living or natural resource management plan)
6. To ensure a sustainable process, "structures" are set-up within community
7. Feasible resource analysis
8. Finalisation and adoption of the plan
9. Implementation of the plan
10. Multiplication step assisting other community groups

Involvement in international climate initiatives

Part of the City Council's vision is to mutually gain from partnerships with international communities of varying stages of development. An example of this is the organisation's partnership with Funafuti Council in the island nation of Tuvalu. This partnership includes all components of sustainability (environmental, social, financial, and governance). In a bid to share experiences and learn about sustainable living and well-being from other communities, the Council is applying part of its funds to build additional international partnerships. Furthermore, the City Council is involved with stakeholders at 11 scales of human interaction with the environment: individual, group, precinct, neighbourhood, ward, city, regional, state, national, globally regional, and international.



Lake Macquarie is a diverse city with 200 000 people, a coastline, mountains, a lagoon, urban, periurban, rural, forestry and conservation areas.

City profile & contacts

Lake Macquarie is an area in the New South Wales state of Australia. It covers 754km² and is inhabited by 200,000 people. Lake Macquarie, the city centrepiece, is a large barrier lagoon with a surface area of 110 km². To the west of the city, there are 13 State and National Park forests in the Watagan Mountain Range. The City area supports a range of native flora and fauna species, including rainforest, forest, woodland, heath, waterway, lagoon, wetlands, coast and ocean ecosystems. The eastern side of the city is flanked with coastline.

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The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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