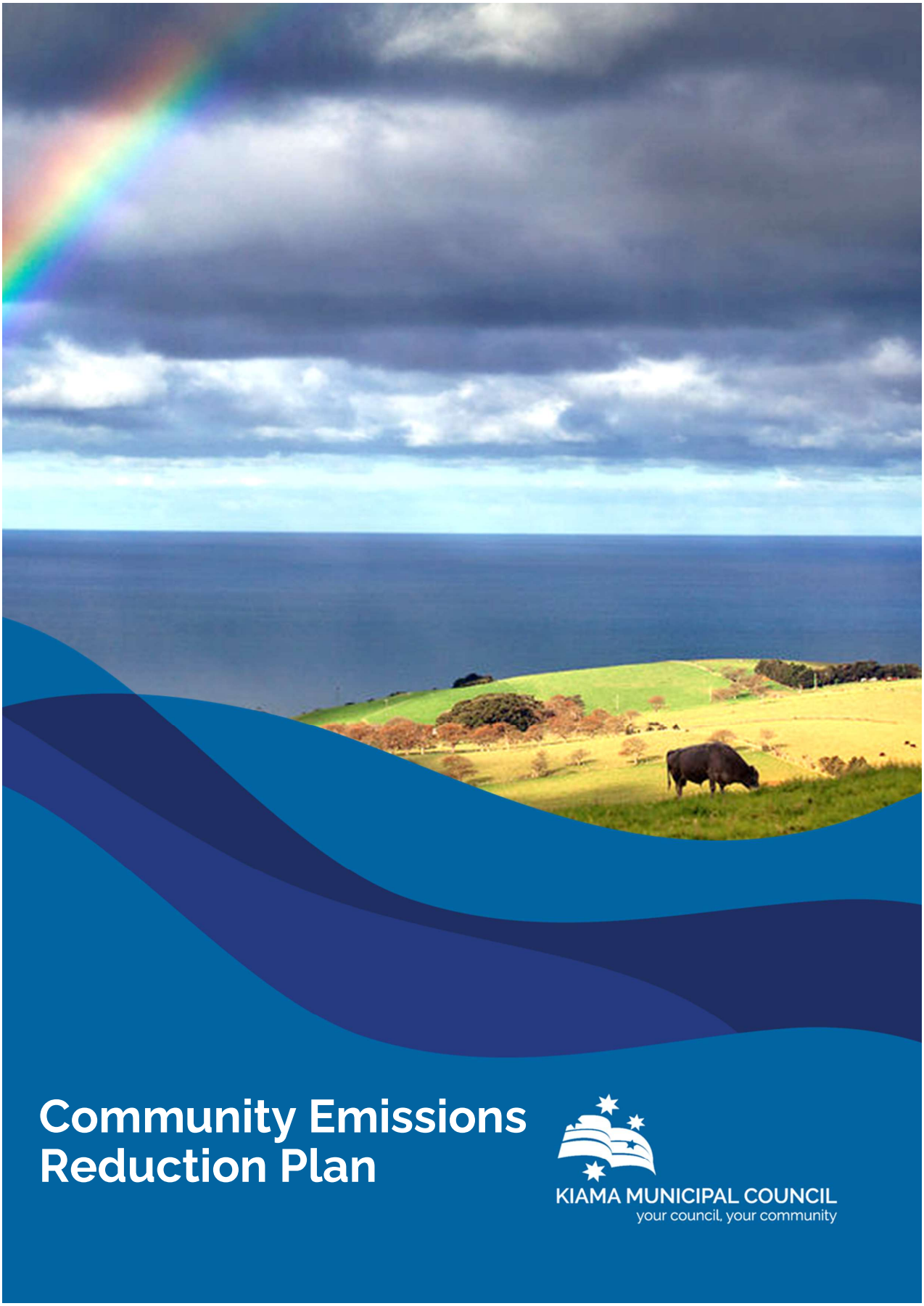

Community Emissions Reduction Plan
KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
your council, your community



Acknowledgement of country

Kiama Municipal Council would like to acknowledge Elders, Traditional Owners and Custodians with their continuing connections to Land, Waters, Sky, Culture and Community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Nation, and their Elders past, present and future.

Welcome to Country smoking ceremony.

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Mayor's Message

This Community Emissions Reduction Plan is an important step in guiding our community - The Municipality of Kiama, through a transition toward efficient, diverse, and locally sourced energy solutions. Through consultation we have identified key areas of community interest that will be addressed in a structured and methodical way. Kiama Municipal Council remains aligned with the objectives of State and Federal Government agencies throughout this process, including the actions outlined in Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan.





Introduction

Climate action is identified as one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals aimed at addressing global challenges and promoting prosperity while protecting the planet.

Kiama Municipal Council's Community Emissions Reduction Plan (Comm ERP) is aligned with global and national actions aimed at tackling the challenges associated with climate change.

Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (Corp ERP) identifies that our community is a significant stakeholder in local emissions reduction measures.

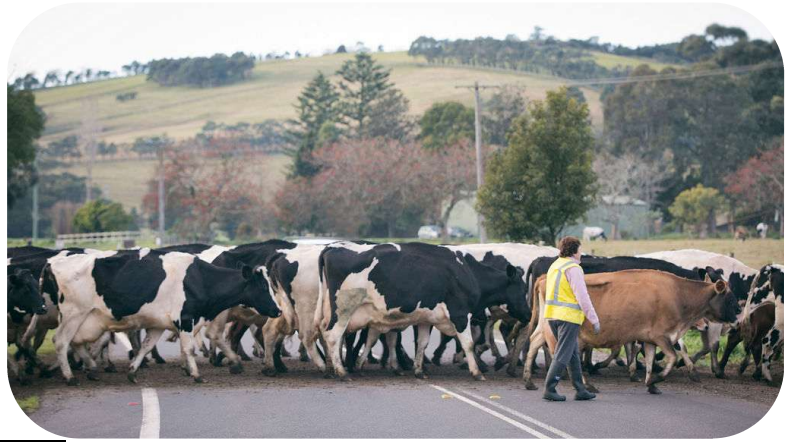
Council is keen to advocate, facilitate and lead community emissions reduction actions through the implementation of this Comm ERP.

The purpose of the Comm ERP is to establish a progressive strategy with prioritised actions. It enables Council to facilitate and advocate for community emissions-reduction measures aligned with state, national and international carbon-reduction targets.

The Comm ERP builds on the existing actions taken by Council to reduce emissions under our Corp ERP and expands upon that foundation for future opportunities to continue towards net zero emissions. The Comm ERP will principally focus on community emissions reduction activities for the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA). The Comm ERP and Corp ERP combined outline Council's complete Net Zero Emissions Strategy.

The objectives of this Plan are to:

1. Identify the causes of greenhouse gas emissions in our LGA
2. Identify community actions that can reduce greenhouse emissions
3. Identify and engage stakeholders to achieve reduced community emissions
4. Align community actions with the NSW DPI Net Zero[1] Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030
5. Align community actions to achieve state and federal emissions targets



[1] New South Wales Department of Primary Industry

Context

International efforts are underway to address greenhouse gas impacts upon the earth's climate. Carbon dioxide emissions from human driven activities have been associated with exacerbation of climatic events such as natural disasters, including flooding, bushfires, drought and storms.

For this reason, Australia is a signatory of both the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, being international strategies aimed at reducing global emissions to mitigate human induced climate change impacts.

The Paris Agreement, as the core international climate change strategy, aims to keep global temperature rise in this century to 'well below' 2°C from pre-industrial levels and provides a dynamic framework for all countries to take climate action. The commitments under the agreement are legally binding and require countries to set mitigation targets and report national emissions and progress.

The Australian Government has recently set a target to reduce emissions by 62–70% below 2005 levels by 2035. Currently the New South Wales Government aims to reach net zero by 2050.

Council is aligned with both the State and Federal emissions targets, having adopted a Corp ERP which includes the ambitious renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of:

- 50% of electricity from renewable sources by 2025, and
- Net Zero emissions for Council operations by 2031.

This Comm ERP is brought-about through Action 1.2 contained within our Corp ERP. Action 1.2 prescribes that *Council should engage with local community and (other) stakeholders for the purpose of input, support and ideas* when *implementing* the Comm ERP. The Comm ERP demonstrates Council's commitment to achieving emissions reduction actions.

A short list of key State, National and Local frameworks is provided below:

- Australia's Net Zero Plan
- National Partnership for Climate Projections
- NSW State Net Zero Plans and Policies
- Detailed Climate Projections – NARCLim2.0
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan
- Kiama Municipal Council Corp ERP



What our community told us

Engaging with the community and other key stakeholders has been essential in shaping this Comm ERP. Our Future Directions Survey, community workshops, and stakeholder discussions gathered valuable insights to ensure the Plan reflects local priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

Through the community engagement process, 5 focus areas were identified, as critical to community sentiment on emissions reduction:

- Transport
- Building
- Renewable Energy
- Greening & Food
- Waste

Those focus areas have been used to form many of the specific actions in the *community emissions reduction action table* provided later in this Plan.

The community identified that the highest priority for Council is to advocate for community renewable infrastructure and facilitate access to grants, rebates, or subsidies to support the cost of renewable energy installations.

The community is calling for direct, impactful support—particularly financial incentives, regulatory reform, and infrastructure investment—over awareness campaigns or symbolic actions.









Gardeners in their element.

Photo by Kiama Municipal Council

Community emissions profile

Kiama - 2023/24 municipal emissions snapshot

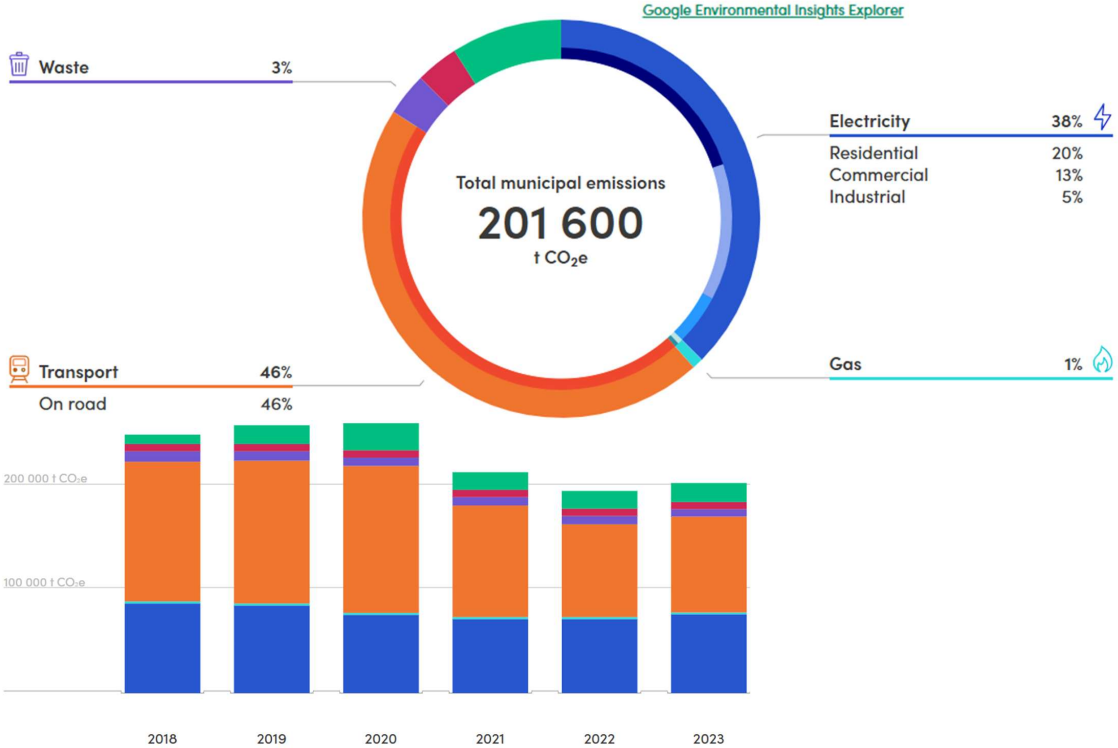
Source: Snapshot – an independent emissions accounting tool supported by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Development.

Kiama is a regional area that is geographically small relative to the state average and has a moderate urban density. Its major emissions source is on road transportation, due to the community's larger commuting and other travel requirements. The second largest source of emissions is electricity consumption."

Source	Sector	Emissions (t CO_2e)
Electricity	Residential	40 000
	Commercial	26 000
	Industrial	9 600
Gas	Residential	1 000
	Industrial	800
Transport	On road	92 000
Waste		7 000
IPPU		7 000
Fugitive		0
Agriculture		18 200
Land Use		2 000

Land Use data is not used in the chart nor the displayed total municipal emissions.

Transport activity data from Google Environmental Insights Explorer



Strategic priorities

Based on the available information, four (4) strategic priorities have been identified as central to emissions reduction measures for the Kiama LGA. Each priority comes with a target that gives direction to community action.

Transport

Strategic priority target 1: transition to low emission transport

Electricity

Strategic priority target 2: innovate and implement renewable energy solutions in buildings

Agriculture & Land Management

Strategic priority target 3: minimise emissions through improvements in agricultural and pastoral land management

Waste

Strategic priority target 4: reduce energy lost to waste through better waste management practices

Transport

Our major emissions source is on road transportation. This is due to the community's commuting and travel requirements. Being a small LGA, Kiama has limited Employment Lands on which our residents can find substantiative work. We also struggle to sustain effective public transport meaning a lack of interconnected alternative transport corridors.

Council sees opportunity for improvements in our emissions profile largely through the implementation of Transport for NSW Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan actions, and by expanding local jobs market via implementation of an employment strategy.

Further opportunities lie in new transportation means e.g. Wollongong's Hydrogen bus fleet or better forms of rapid public transit to and from employment centres.

Beyond Council's actions of advocacy and implementation, community can make independent choices to reduce their emissions profile through actions such as:

- Own and use an electric vehicle to reduce tailpipe emissions,
- Use a bicycle or walk for local trips around town,
- Consider ride share opportunities with friends, family or colleges to and from events and workplaces, or
- Any other actions that reduce the amount of individuals driving vehicles alone, when and where applicable.

Electricity

Our second largest emissions profile is electricity consumption, with residential properties emitting 20% of the LGA total emissions.

This is not surprising considering the age and construction style of buildings, residential and rural residential land holdings being a major land use for the LGA.

Improvements to housing are progressive in that dwellings are either renovated, re-built or new builds with modern improvements to design, materials and insulation. Residential building upgrades and new dwellings are also subject to higher performance standards than what was required in older buildings. Compliance with NATHERs and BASIX, better insulation, renewable energy sources, lighter external colours all help to reduce emissions from residential buildings.

Council's role largely involves advocating for regional renewable energy infrastructure and projects such as the Illawarra renewable energy zone (REZ), access to renewable energy sources for low-income housing, support for community organisations and encouraging residents to make use of stacked discounts for battery, solar and other efficient electrification technology.

The National Electricity Market is amidst a transition that will result in greater reliance on renewable energy infrastructure., Community members are encouraged to continue upgrading their homes to improve energy efficiency and align with the electricity grid transition, by:

- Installing solar panel and battery systems,
- Improving wall and ceiling insulation,
- Upgrading windows and doors, effectively sealing any air gaps,
- Installing efficient electrical circuitry, and
- Constructing energy efficient and passive design housing.

By doing the above actions, the community will improve energy vulnerability, reduce their day-to-day energy costs and lower overall emissions.

Agriculture & Land Management

Agriculture and land management contribute significantly to local emissions, while farming remains integral to our economy, history and culture. Emissions arise from land-use changes affecting soils, livestock methane, and manure and effluent management.

Better pastoral management can reduce emissions. Restoring and maintaining vegetation along waterways retains soil and nutrients which supports sustainable grazing, and protects water quality, aquatic life and downstream recreation areas.

In December 2025, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development published the NSW Land and Primary Industries Low Emissions Options Report. Its roadmap outlines emissions reduction measures for agriculture and other primary industries, barriers to adoption, and actions to overcome them.

Key measures for extensive ruminant livestock, our LGA's major subsector, include:

- feed additives
- herd management
- pasture management
- soil carbon management
- environmental plantings
- energy efficiency and small-scale renewables (solar PV and bioenergy)
- native forest regeneration.

Resources for farmers is available on NSW DPIRD website to support low emissions agriculture including an On-farm Carbon Advice Program offering services such as preparing a farm carbon management plan, carbon farming workshops, case studies and tools to calculate your enterprise footprint. Low Emissions Agriculture | Department of Primary Industries

Waste

Waste disposal and treatment produces greenhouse gas emissions through aerobic or anaerobic decomposition, or incineration. Greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste are calculated by disposal route, namely landfill, biological treatment and incineration. Waste includes emissions associated with the breakdown of waste materials; while the transport fuel consumed from the collection waste is included in the Transport sector.

These are calculated at the point of waste generation rather than waste treatment. This enables LGAs like our own, where we do not operate a landfill facility to understand the impacts of waste generated locally. Emissions generated from wastewater is derived by residential population and jobs for commercial / industrial sources. This is similar to the approach taken for electricity whereby emissions are counted by the region in which the electricity is used rather than where the power plant is located.

Following NSW EPA Guidance, residents are encouraged to:

- Shop smartly. Avoid unnecessary packaging, select recycled-content packaging, buy only what you need, and take your own reusable bags with you.
- When comparing products, think about replacement cost, life span, and the cost of parts and consumables as well as upfront cost.
- Re-use and recycle at every opportunity. Sort waste and recyclables carefully. Non-recyclables such as plastic bags, coat hangers, cigarette butts or crockery can ruin an entire recycling collection.
- Compost your food scraps or set up a worm farm.
- Mulch prunings for re-use in your garden or use your local council 'green bin' organic waste collection service.
- Look for ways to re-use, renovate or recycle household goods.
- Give good quality, good condition unwanted items to a charity or local second-hand shop.
- Hold a garage sale or advertise unwanted items using social media or community noticeboards.
- Take advantage of local recycling initiatives for unusual items like electrical equipment or furniture.
- Sort out and drop off unwanted household problem wastes at our Community Recycling Centre, or a Household Chemical CleanOut event.
- Investigate green cleaning - cleaning your home with fewer products and safer alternatives produces less waste and reduces the need for harmful chemicals.

Industrial Processes, refrigerant uses (IPPU)

Industrial processes and product use (IPPU) covers greenhouse gases released during manufacturing, such as making cement and metals, and gases leaking from fridges and air conditioners.

Where the our LGA does not include major industrial processes, the profile comprises estimates of local refrigerant emissions using state data on household, jobs and vehicle numbers.



Although IPPU is not a strategic priority in this Plan, there are actions that individuals can take to reduce their footprint from refrigerants:

- Residents can help prevent refrigerant leaks by maintaining fridges and air conditioners according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Council also encourages passive home design to keep homes comfortable with less heating and cooling.
- Choose an energy-efficient appliances. Look for the energy rating label, the more stars it has, the more efficient the product is. The less energy it uses, the less it costs you to run and the less damage it does to the environment.
- Dispose of old fridges, freezers and air-con units correctly at a resource recovery centre so the refrigerants can be recovered and not released into the atmosphere.

Actions

Partners

Successful implementation of this Plan requires the joint effort of several community and non-community stakeholders, namely:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) – a strategic regional organisation implementing various community Net Zero initiatives such as the "Community Renewables Program".
- Endeavour Energy – as the owners and managers of energy infrastructure in the Kiama LGA.
- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – leaders and partners with Council partners in a variety of Net Zero initiatives – provide funding, training and assistance in low emissions upgrades – set targets to which Council and community actions align.
- Transport for New South Wales – as major land holders within the LGA
- Australian Government - the head of renewable energy funding and strategy programs for the nation.
- Community members as individuals.
- Community organisations such as *Electrify* and *Rewiring Australia*.
- Local First Nations groups and people.

Types of action - Lead, Advocate and Partner

While Council has a critical role to play in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change, it is important to acknowledge that Council is not solely responsible for the municipality achieving the net zero emissions target. Similarly, Council cannot implement the programs in this action plan without community and stakeholder investment. Emissions reductions at this scale will require significant contributions from residents, businesses, industry, and the state and federal governments. It will also require broader societal and structural changes that are beyond Council's influence.

Community actions are referred to in the narrative for each strategic priority detailed earlier in this Plan. Meaningful community participation maximises the output of Council's investment.



Community emissions reduction action table

For Council lead actions, indicative costs are assumed to be incurred by council, not the cost to the community of participating in the program or scheme. Grant funding opportunities are not included.

Low cost – Generally includes staff time and/or training and workshop facilitation. Typically less than $100,000.

Medium cost – Includes staff time and minor capital expenses. Typically between $100,000 and $200,000.

High cost – Involves major capital works or dedicated staff to navigate complex implementation processes. Typically greater than $200,000.

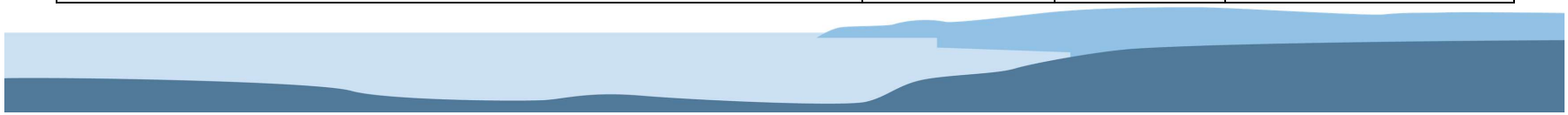
Strategic priorities

Based on the available information, we see four (4) strategic priorities as central to emissions outcomes for the Kiama Local Government Area (LGA).

Note: All Council actions identified below are written to be reportable by adopting them into Council's Operational Plan when feasible or reasonable.

TRANSPORT transition to low emission transport			
Council actions	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
1.1 – Prepare an Active Transport Strategy in line with the NSW *Active Transport Strategy*	Low cost	1 - 3 years	Manager Engineering and Technical Services
1.2 – Increase residential density around transport hubs in line with the NSW Government's *Transport Oriented Development State Environmental Planning Policy*	High Cost	1 – 20 years	Manager Planning and Development
1.3 – Advocate and partner with other organisations to install public electric vehicle charging in key areas of the LGA			
1.3.1 – Council to deliver an Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Lands Policy	Low cost	1 – 2 year	Manager Environment and Compliance

TRANSPORT transition to low emission transport			
Council actions	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
1.3.2 – Council to deliver feasibility studies for slow and fast electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Lands Policy	Low cost	1 - 2 year	Manager Environment and Compliance
1.3.3 – Council to implement standard land leasing agreements for vehicle charging infrastructure on public lands	Low cost	1 - 2 years	Manager Property and Commercial
1.3.4 – Council to partner with private industry and State departments to implement charging infrastructure on public lands	Low cost	1 - 3 years	Engineering, Environment, Property Managers
1.4 – Advocate for implementation of NSW Government *Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan* actions			
1.4.1 – Electrify the rail connection between Kiama and Bombaderry	High cost	10 – 20 years	Transport for NSW
1.4.2 – Increase investment in safe active transport infrastructure to realise a step-change in cycling, walking and micromobility to support zero emissions growth and reduce short car trips	Medium cost	5 – 10 years	Manager Engineering and Technical Services
1.4.3 – Support localised actions of the Transport for NSW Towards New Zero Emissions Freight Policy, including the increased movement of freight by rail, transition to electric and low emission trucks, and reduced or more efficient freight batching and distribution	Medium to high cost	5 - 10 years	Transport for NSW
1.4.4 – Establish a comprehensive electric vehicle (EV) charging network across the region, addressing the limited access to charging infrastructure. Collaborate with local councils and private partners to ensure charging stations are strategically located, well-maintained, and meet growing demand. This will accelerate the transition to low-emission vehicles and reduce reliance on fossil fuels	Medium to high cost	5 - 10 years	Transport for NSW



TRANSPORT transition to low emission transport			
Council actions	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
1.4.5 – Fix accessibility issues for pathways and roads to improve opportunity for use in active transport	Low to medium cost	1 - 5 years	Manager Engineering and Technical Services
1.4.6 – Implement improved bicycle access between Kiama and Gerringong	Medium cost	2 - 10 years	Manager Engineering and Technical Services
1.4.7 – Advocate for dedicated bus stops with amenities to increase accessibility in smaller centres such as Kiama	Medium cost	2 - 5 years	Executive Leaders / Elected Members
1.4.8 – Advocate for enhanced community transport access by better integrating these services with public transport to expand access for people in Kiama	Medium cost	2 - 5 years	Executive Leaders / Elected Members
1.4.9 – Advocate for integrated ticketing and payment methods across the region's transport services, between Kiama and the Shoalhaven specifically	Medium cost	2 - 5 years	Executive Leaders / Elected Members
1.4.10 – Support multimodal integrated networks of all kinds of low emissions transport options	Medium to high cost	5 years - ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
1.5 – Implement Council's Employment Lands Strategy to open more opportunity for people to work closer to where they live	Medium to high cost	2 - 20 years	Manager Planning and Development

Electricity innovate and implement renewable energy solutions in buildings			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.1 – Plan and invest in material upgrades to improve the energy efficiency of buildings			
2.1.1 – Promote upgrades to council buildings that demonstrates the benefit of energy efficient appliances, fittings and design practices.	Medium to high cost	5 - 10 years	Manager Engineering and Technical Services
2.2 – Partner with private industry and energy companies in delivery of renewable energy projects and infrastructure upgrades			
2.2.1 – Implement community battery projects on public land	Medium cost	2 - 10 years	Endeavour Energy
2.2.2 – Advocate to larger businesses based in our LGA to sponsor Net Zero initiatives	Low cost	2 years -ongoing	Executive Leaders / Elected Members
2.3 – Advocate for and educate others on the benefits of renewable and low emissions energy technology			
2.3.1 – Partner with specialist community groups to identify and implement specific actions towards improving home energy efficiency and Net Zero	Low cost	1 year - ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
2.4 – Partner with regional, state and federal government organisations in delivery of renewable energy projects and infrastructure upgrades			
2.4.1 – Advocate to NSW and Federal governments to make renewables rebates more accessible for residential solar and battery installations, especially for renters and community housing	Low cost	2 - 5 years	Executive Leaders / Elected Members
2.4.2 – Facilitate access to bulk buy discounts for residents, especially those at a disadvantage. Including PV cells, BESS and DER, heat pump, induction hobs and electric vehicle chargers	Low cost	1 - 5 years	ISJO / Manager Environment and Compliance
2.4.3 – Support community grant applications relating to energy efficiency and net zero initiatives	Low cost	1 year – 15 years	Manager Environment and Compliance



Electricity innovate and implement renewable energy solutions in buildings			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.5 – Where reasonable and feasible, implement planning controls, strategically design housing and employment lands that aim to maximise energy sustainability			
2.5.1 – Establish land zones for renewable power during the implementation of infill and greenfield sites identified within the Local Housing Strategy	Low cost	2 - 5 years	Manager Planning and Development
2.5.2 – Encourage the construction of energy efficient, well-insulated and passive builds through Council's DCP objectives	Low cost	2 - 5 years	Manager Planning and Development
2.6 – Support the development of new technology			
2.6.1 – Implement Employment Lands Strategy on greenfield and infill sites to provide research and development companies a place to conduct business.	Medium cost	2 years - ongoing	Manager Planning and Development

Agriculture and Land Management minimise emissions through improvements in agricultural and pastoral land management			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.1 – Partner with regional, State and Federal Government agencies to improve pastural land management practices			
3.1.1 – Promote educational workshops on the relationship between climate change and food production and waste	Low cost	1 - 2 years	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.2.2 – Advocate for funding to incentivise land holder to rehabilitate riparian zones	Medium cost	1 year - ongoing	Executive Leaders / Elected Members
3.2 – Include riparian rehabilitation as a key strategic priority in a future Council Rural Lands Strategy	Low cost	1 – 2 years	Manager Planning and Development



Agriculture and Land Management minimise emissions through improvements in agricultural and pastoral land management			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.3 – Partner with rural land holders to explore options for carbon-fixing on under-used or degraded land	Low – medium cost	10 years	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.3.1 - Share information on alternative farming technology, practices and techniques to increase resilience in a changing climate and support local carbon farming opportunities	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.3.2 - Link local landholders to research and pilot opportunities	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.4 – Partner with community organisations and members to run community-centred education and capacity-building projects			
3.4.1 - Support local community gardens by initiating boundary adjustment of existing site to facilitate reclassification of lot to community land.	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Property and Commercial
3.4.2 – Provide a local seed bank for native plant species	Low-medium cost	Ongoing	Manager Libraries
3.4.3 – Partner with Landcare and Local Land Services to run educational workshops on native plants and revegetation on rural lands	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.4.4 – Continue to support local markets by providing public lands to use	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Property and Commercial
3.5.5 - Promote local business doing sustainable practices and selling local food.	Low cost	Ongoing	Media Lead
3.5.6 – Advocate for sustainable and organic farming practices	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.5.7 – Continue and expand partnerships with bush regeneration and community groups.	Low-medium cost	Ongoing	Manager Operations and Maintenance



Enclosure 1 **Item 15.5**

Agriculture and Land Management minimise emissions through improvements in agricultural and pastoral land management			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.5.8 – Investigate vegetation planting as part of a Council/community carbon inset/offset program where there is public land available	Medium cost	1 - 10 years	Manager Environment and Compliance
3.5.9 – Facilitate inter-generational knowledge exchange	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Community Outcomes

Waste reduce energy lost to waste through better waste management practices			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
4.1 – Practice waste avoidance and recycling efforts			
4.1.1 – Facilitate events to divert bulky waste from landfill such as the 'Household Bulky Waste Drop-off', 'Second-hand Saturday' and 'Household Chemical CleanOut'.	Medium cost	Ongoing	Manager Waste Services
4.1.2 – Implement a Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy fit for the community that fosters waste avoidance and resource recovery to divert waste from landfill.	Low-medium cost	1-2 years	Manager Waste Services
4.1.3 – Implement findings of the Soft Plastics Recycling Pilot by investigating options and need for a permanent drop-off facility for soft plastics in the Community Recycling Centres.	Medium to high cost	2-5 years	Manager Waste Services
4.1.4 – 'Close the loop' of Council supported community initiatives. Example of this action would be to utilise the recycled product manufactured from the soft plastics in a local road as an asphalt additive.	Low-medium cost	1-2 years	Manager Operations and Maintenance
4.2 – Partner with regional, State and Federal Government agencies to improve waste avoidance and recycling outcomes			
4.2.1 – Provide support of actions under the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy.	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Waste Services



Waste reduce energy lost to waste through better waste management practices			
Action	Indicative		
	Investment	Timeframe	Responsibility
4.2.2 – Participate in Circular Illawarra Taskforce to investigate and advocate for circular economy initiatives.	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Waste Services
4.2.3 - Connect with local schools to provide waste education with programs including 'Illawarra Sustainable Schools Project'.	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Waste Services
4.3 – Partner with private industry to improve waste avoidance and recycling			
4.3.1 - Investigate and implement 'return and earn' where feasible.	Low-medium cost	1 - 2 years	Manager Waste Services
4.3.2 - Provide education and support to local businesses to ensure compliance with the food organics mandate to adopt source-separated food waste collection.	Low-medium cost	Ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance / Manager Waste Services
4.3.3 - Promote the use of recycled materials for new developments.	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Environment and Compliance
4.4 – Partner with community organisations and members to run community-centred education and capacity-buildings projects			
4.4.1 – Provide support to Food Fairness Illawarra by promoting the Illawarra Regional Food Hub and linking local food donators (e.g. farmers, supermarkets, cafes and bakeries) to reduce food waste and feed people in need.	Low cost	Ongoing	Manager Community Outcomes



Monitoring and evaluation

The Comm ERP will be measured from the baseline emissions provided at the *community emissions profile* section on page 6.

Council will provide specific actions within our Delivery and Operational Plan, annually, in the implementation of this plan.

Some measurable actions are provided below as example of how Council will evaluate the efficacy of individual programs and initiatives.

Link to relevant objective	Target	Metric	Baseline value	Data source
Innovate and implement renewable energy solutions.	Investigate other community battery projects on public land	Number of community battery installations in the LGA	1	Kiama Council Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan
Improve the energy efficiency of buildings.	Where reasonable and feasible, implement planning controls to maximise energy sustainability.	Kiama DCP Controls – qualitative and quantitative	Kiama DCP 2020	Kiama Municipal Council
Transition into low emission transport.	Install public electric vehicle charging points	Number of EV charge points in the LGA	10	www.plugshare.com

Authorisation and version control

Owner/Responsible Officer	Manager Environment and Compliance
Department	Environment and Compliance
Date adopted/endorsed	[date]
Resolution number (if applicable)	[number]
Next review date	5 years from endorsement date
TRIM reference	[trim ref]

Variation and review

The Strategy should be reviewed within 3 months of the local government elections as part of the broader review of the Community Strategic Plan.

Date reviewed	Date adopted/endorsed	Brief detail of amendments
[date]	[date]	[insert detail here]
[date]	[date]	[insert detail here]
[date]	[date]	[insert detail here]

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this Strategy.



How to contact council

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Online

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In person

Our Administration Building located at 11 Manning Street Kiama is open 8.45am to 4.15pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Respect
Innovation
Integrity
Teamwork
Excellence

KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
your council, your community

KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
your council, your community

Community Consultation Engagement Report
Community Emissions Reduction Plan

Council is developing its first Community Emissions Reduction Plan to complement the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan 2021-2031. This engagement report outlines the findings from community and stakeholder consultations that have helped shape the draft Plan to reflect community priorities, local challenges, and opportunities for reducing emissions across the municipality.



We thank everyone who took the time to participate, share their perspectives, and contribute ideas. Your input is essential in creating a practical and reflective plan that reflects our community's vision for a sustainable future.

Community consultation period

19 November 2024 – Friday 28 February 2025

Promotional activities

Your Say Page | Media release | Included in February newsletter (1,234 opens) | Seven Social Media posts (reach 1,832) | 10 posters distributed across the municipality

How you got involved

184 website visitors

99 survey responses

8 Community workshop participants

What we heard

Community consultation has identified the topic of emissions reduction is valuable to our community. Recognising the community desire to reduce emissions and facilitate an energy efficient transition into new technologies, we note the various community groups and businesses taking actions such as implementing energy efficiency upgrades and switching to low emissions technology.

To facilitate community transition into renewable, low emissions technology, 5 focus areas have been identified:

- Transport
- Building
- Renewable Energy
- Greening & Food
- Waste

Actions identified under those focus areas can best be supported by Council leading by example. Further, it is identified that Council can facilitate community emissions reduction through education, partnership, leadership and advocacy.

What's next

Once endorsed by Council, the Draft Community Emissions Reduction Plan will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, giving the community and stakeholders the opportunity to review and provide feedback.

How we engaged

Engaging with the community and key stakeholders has been essential in shaping the draft Community Emissions Reduction Plan. The Future Directions Survey, community workshops, and stakeholder discussions gathered valuable insights to ensure the plan reflects local priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

Internal stakeholder meeting

An internal stakeholder meeting, bringing together representatives from all various Council departments, was held on 29 January 2025. The meeting explored existing commitments to emissions reduction and identify opportunities for further action.

Online survey

Council's Future Directions Survey, conducted from 19 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, featured four key questions—both multiple-choice and open-ended—to help shape the Draft Community Emissions Reduction Plan. It invited community members to share their views and actions on emissions reduction. Available online and in hard copy, the survey took approximately ten minutes to complete and received 99 responses. A copy of the survey questions can be downloaded here.

Councillor briefing

On 13 February 2024, our Councillors were briefed on the development of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan as part of approval of an Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO)-led initiative called *Community Renewables Program* (CRP). The meeting opened discussion about community emission reduction measures, including a bulk-purchase program to reduced costs of solar panels and batteries for the community. Further, the CRP offers a community energy-trading platform taking form as a Virtual Power Plant retail deal. The CRP is scoped to enable disadvantaged community members to engage with an emerging decentralised east coast energy market, being an important educational step coinciding with a national transition in energy market infrastructure.

Community workshops

The community workshop on 25 February 2025 brought-together residents to explore community actions and opportunities for reducing emissions across our municipality. Each participant brought a unique perspective, shaped by their personal skills and experience. The session was collaborative, using tools like butchers paper and post-it notes to facilitate idea-sharing. Participants contributed their thoughts and identified actionable steps on key topics, including Buildings, Transport, Waste, Renewable Energy, and Greening & Food.

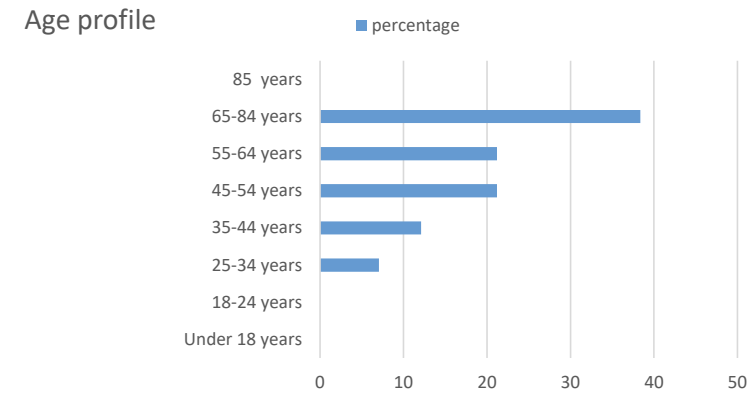


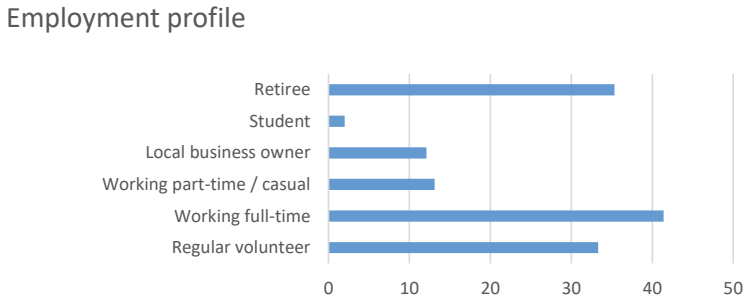


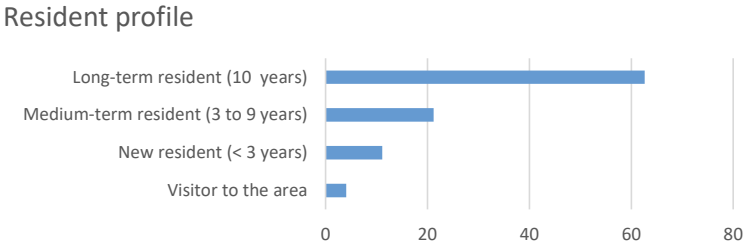


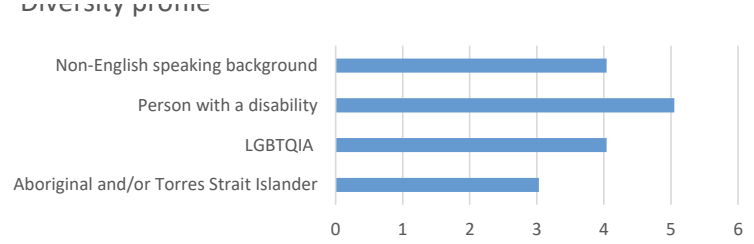
Demographics

The below graphs are based on responses from 99 survey participants. ***Note**: we acknowledge the shortcomings of community engagement – invariably, some perspectives of community members, representatives and representative groups will be missed in the drafting of a Plan of this nature. As a counter measure to shortcomings, this Plan offers actions that facilitate the ongoing engagement of community to aim for equitable representation for the varied and changing perspectives of factions and individuals. In the future, we hope to engage with a variety of niche groups such as First Nations and local businesses, to expand upon the actions identified within the Draft Community Emissions Reduction Plan.*





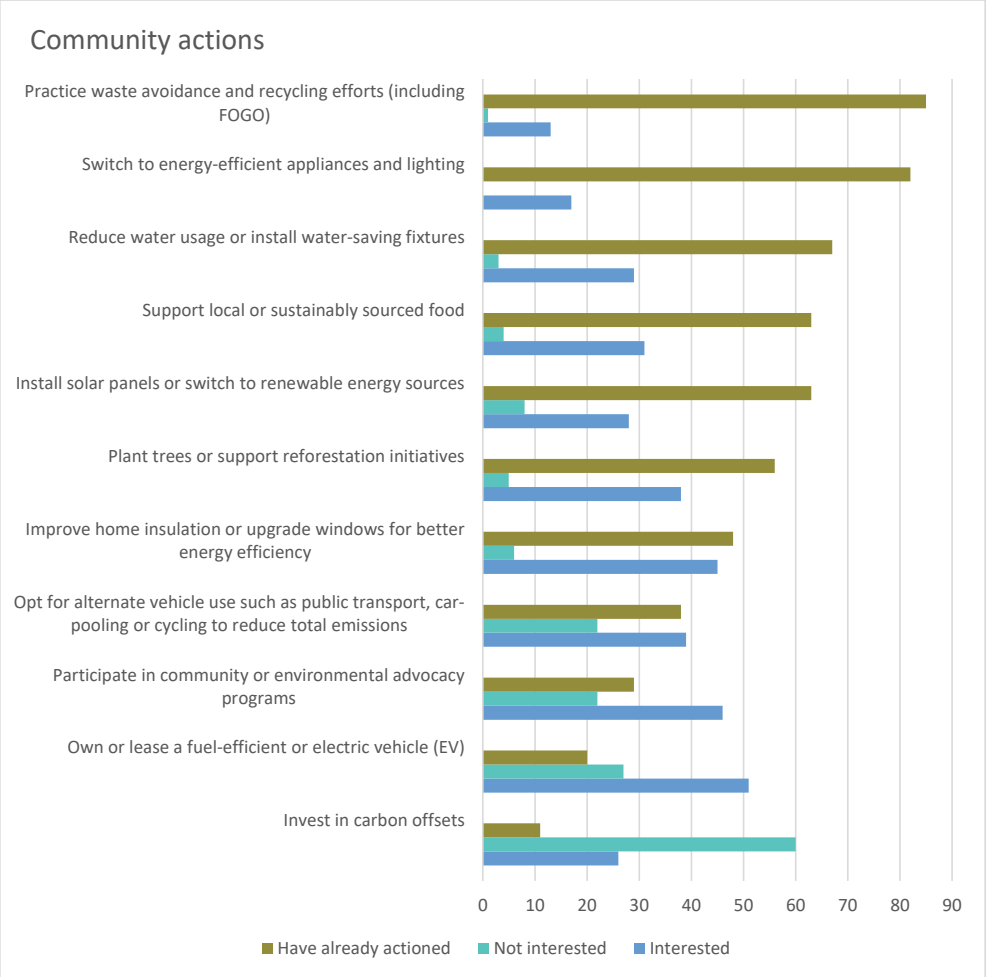




Survey insights

Community Emission Reduction Actions

We asked our community what actions they would be interested in taking or have already taken to reduce their carbon emissions. The responses reveal strong engagement in key sustainability areas. Most respondents have already adopted practices such as waste avoidance and recycling (85%), using energy-efficient appliances and lighting (82%), and reducing water usage (67%). Many have also installed solar panels or chosen renewable energy (63%) and supported sustainably sourced food (63%). Tree planting and reforestation initiatives are also popular, with 56% already engaged and 38% more interested. While fewer have taken steps like improving home insulation (48%), using alternate transport (38), or participating in advocacy programs (29%), these areas show high potential for growth given the strong interest levels. Interest in electric vehicles is rising (51%), though uptake remains relatively low (20%), and carbon offsets remain the least popular action, with 60% not interested. These results highlight both areas of strong action and opportunities for further community support and education.



Council actions to facilitate

We asked our community how Council can best facilitate carbon emission reduction actions by local residents, businesses, recreation clubs, education institutions and associations. Based on the total number of top-three votes, the community's highest priority is for Council to advocate for a community renewables program and facilitate access to grants, rebates, or subsidies to support the cost of renewable energy installations (score: 4.76). Closely following this is updating planning controls to improve energy efficiency in new developments (score: 4.54) and expanding the Community Battery Program to help lower energy costs in specific suburbs like Kiama Downs (score: 4.51).

There was also strong interest in Council leading by example to reduce its own corporate emissions (score: 3.26) and showcasing successful local renewable energy initiatives to inspire others (score: 2.17). Education-based initiatives, such as providing workshops and events (score: 2.14) and energy audits (score: 2.02) had moderate support. The lowest priority was the installation of renewable technologies on public Council-owned sites, such as EV chargers or solar panels (score: 0.11).

In summary, the community is calling for direct, impactful support—particularly financial incentives, regulatory reform, and infrastructure investment—over awareness campaigns or symbolic actions.



Community workshop insights

Below is a summary that collates key insights from the community workshop and future directions survey. This feedback has informed the development of the Draft Community Emissions Reduction Plan, provides a guide for community action, and does not constitute formal commitments.

Building

The community indicates a strong interest in practical, actionable steps to improve energy efficiency, sustainability, and resilience in the built environment.

Theme	Feedback
Advocate and enforce	• Advocate for energy efficiency considerations in new developments, incl. the use of double-glazed windows and other passive design strategies to improve building performance. • Advocate for all new housing developments operate on electricity only and phase out gas reliance. • Enforce BASIX requirements and improve their implementation. • Encourage smaller home sizes to increase green space and improve sustainability.
Education and awareness	• Provide educational workshops and events to improve community understanding of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. • Energy audits to help residents, businesses, and clubs identify ways to reduce energy consumption and transition to renewables. • Increase awareness of thermal efficiency in housing to promote better design and retrofitting practices. • Provide accessible information on energy-efficient building materials through Council's website.
Leading by example	• Improve sustainability in existing Council buildings by installing energy-efficient systems. • Ensure Council-led developments incorporate energy efficiency and water management standards. • Provide insulation and air-tight seals to residential buildings • Install water-saving fixtures
Incentives and support for the community	• Incentives for homeowners to upgrade their properties for greater sustainability. • Support community groups to apply for grants for energy efficiency upgrades.

Greening + Food

The community strongly supports initiatives that promote local food security, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, and urban greening. Participants emphasised the need for education, incentives, and policy adjustments to enable these actions.

Theme	Feedback
Sustainable agriculture and local food systems	• Advocate for organic farming approaches and sustainable agricultural practices incl. the use of Biochar as a soil ameliorant to improve soil health and carbon sequestration. • Promote Aboriginal land management practices, including full utilisation of livestock. • Support local food businesses and community groups that contribute to sustainability incl. farmers' markets, and community gardens. • Facilitate the use of vacant land for micro-farming and food production. • Introduce bush tucker gardens in public spaces to recognise and celebrate Indigenous food knowledge. • Provide free seeds, seedlings, and compost to support home and community gardening. • Implement incentives for carbon-capturing agriculture and regenerative farming.

Theme	Feedback
Education and awareness	• Educate the community on sustainable food systems, food waste reduction, urban greening, native plants and the impact of chemical pesticides, promoting natural alternatives. • Promote and educate on native plants, including their role in biodiversity and resilience. • Provide education on the relationship between climate change and food scarcity. • Bring intergenerational groups together for knowledge exchange about farming, sustainability, and local ecology. • Support and promote the 100-mile food campaign to encourage local food consumption.
Tree planting, reforestation, and carbon capture	• Expand tree planting and restoration initiatives by retaining established trees, creating new forest stands, and restoring rainforest and riparian vegetation to enhance biodiversity and carbon sequestration, including at Jerrara Dam, public parks, and mangrove areas. • Support volunteer bush regeneration and establish a native seed bank for reforestation. • Develop a bio-web program to strengthen wildlife corridors. • Enhance urban greening by turning underutilised grassy areas into native gardens to boost biodiversity and lower maintenance costs. • Prioritise green infrastructure to reduce urbanisation impacts and excessive concrete development. • Implement a balanced tree policy, ensuring carbon capture, solar access, and flexibility in housing development.
Incentives and support for the community	• Offer free seeds, seedlings, compost, and incentives for carbon-capturing agriculture.

Renewable energy

The community support strong initiative in the transition to renewable energy and low emissions technology. At a local, state and even national level, private industry, state and federal govt and communities around Australian or working on solutions to decentralised energy systems.

Theme	Feedback
Council/Public buildings	• Implement an asset register to prioritise upgrade to Council buildings • Install renewable energy or energy efficient materials and technology to reduce emissions
Residential buildings	• Switch to energy efficient lighting and appliances • Install renewable energy or energy efficient materials and technology to reduce emissions
Communication	• Promote good news stories such as Kiama Downs Battery project • Encourage the NSW and Federal governments to make rebates more accessible for residential solar and battery installations.
Educate	• Partner with specialist organisations to educate the community on renewable energy and energy efficiency
Investigate	• Rebates for residential renewable installations • Use of natural resources to store and generate energy e.g. hydro or gravitational storage • Further community battery project • Community trials of new renewable energy technologies such as Virtual Power Plants • Bulk buy discounts for residents, especially those at a disadvantage. Including PV cells, BESS and DER, heat pump, induction hobs and electric vehicle chargers • Land zones for renewable power
Invest	• Invest in new technology where viable • Research sea-based carbon capture technology • Avoid offsets given the intangible influence on material change

Transport

The community supports initiatives towards low emissions transport options. Transport is identified as one of our community's largest emission sources. This is largely due to our population working outside of the area, driving to work.

Theme	Feedback
Investigate	• Fast trains between Wollongong and Kiama to reduce private vehicle use to-and-from work • Investigate pedestrian-only and bicycle-only streets • Bulk-buy incentives for low-emissions vehicles • Bulk buy of electric vehicles • Learn from other Council trials of public fast chargers • Financial support for fuel efficient vehicles
Use	• Use low emissions transport where possible • Use public transport • Ride or walk short distances around town
Provide	• Improve and promote alternative transport means appropriate to demographic and physical capabilities, e.g. cycleways or buses between towns • Council to build bicycle pathways to make it easier to get around • Residents and Council to purchase and use low emissions vehicles • Council to install public electric vehicle charging stations, consider tourist destinations such as the blowhole and caravan parks • Electrify public transport
Education	• Safety education for use of e-bikes in partnership with NSW Police • Council to advocate for public buses • Council to promote sustainable transport solutions e.g. walking, riding, public transport, carpooling, EV adoption and charging stations • Community engagement activities such as electric vehicle days
Lead	• Council to convert fleet to electric vehicles to build conference • Council should invest in V2G capable vehicles • Encourage work from home to reduce work travel emissions • Incentivise EVs bikes and public buses
Partner	• Council to partner with local specialty groups such as Electrify Kiama to promote government rebates for electric vehicles

Waste

The Kiama community supports ongoing best practice waste management, noting we do an exemplary job in comparison to the rest of NSW (insert link to waste strategy). Some room for improvement:

Theme	Feedback
FOGO	• Promote the success and continue FOGO
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle	• Advocate for a circular economy driven by big businesses operating locally • Encourage composting • Continue good work on waste disposal • Re-introduce soft plastics recycling • Bulky waste diversion from landfill • Implement a Children's clothes and toy swap • Implement a return and earn facilities in Kiama
Investigate opportunities	• Keep green waste in Kiama LGA • Investigate reuse of biogas and methane capture from landfill and sewage treatment plant • Credit system to reward people that minimise waste
Educate	• Partner with schools to educate • Make a recipe database so that people can reuse more parts of their food and reduce wastage • Continue composting workshops • Educate new households on waste systems • Encourage locals to use less