

ADAPT: How can government, communities, businesses and individuals work together to prioritise and fund activities that build our resilience to climate change?

The People's Climate March scheduled to take place in Adelaide on 29th November is intended to generate a broader engagement with issues related to climate change and build a 'movement' to develop the steps necessary to implement appropriate strategies to effect change.

SA is a leader in many aspects of the strategies needed to address climate change and the transition to a clean safe future but community engagement remains weak. This is a problem that all environmental/climate action NGOs face for a variety of debatable reasons including: the denialist cabals including those in governments, media (Newscorp), fear, its believed to be far off into the future and people being disconnected with the natural world.

The government could sponsor 'summits' similar to the 'Accord' summit inviting people representative of a wide variety of community representatives to kick start a deeper engagement with the issues and dangers and so foster a diverse array of collaborations to develop strategies for change.

For example, the 'urban heat island' effect has a wide variety of impacts including heat stress for the elderly, rising air conditioning costs, threats to wild life, diminishing amenity, disruption to sports. Local businesses, volunteers, councils, clubs etc could be encouraged to develop plans to reduce the 'urban heat island' by increasing tree canopy shade on verges and private and public property. Similar groups could make recommendations for implementing regulations such as mandating highly heat reflective roofs, minimising unshaded hard surfaces etc. If local coalitions took ownership of these concepts government is less likely to face backlash from upsetting the status quo.

In essence, my recommendation is to have people engage with the issues, problems and solutions at the grassroots level. A side benefit could be the development of greater community engagement and responsibility.

REDUCE: What are the opportunities for South Australia to substantially reduce our emissions?

Maintain the momentum for the transition to renewable energy by providing support to those willing and able to invest in solar and other technologies.

Celebrate the growth of the renewable energy sector and publicly recognise the contribution being made by individuals, groups and businesses.

Engage with the NGOs fostering the transition and provide support where appropriate.

Support the SA electricity grid as a social good that is the primary means of efficiently and fairly sharing electricity resources. The expansion of solar, battery storage, wind and other technologies should be fostered as a means of reducing the cost of maintaining the grid, reducing the need for carbon intensive generation and emissions. Individual investment in energy producing technologies will foster an interest in this public good and assist in democratising this often opaquely complex system.

INNOVATE: How can South Australia be the innovator in climate change action?

Develop partnerships with businesses engaged in innovating in the technologies that support emissions reductions etc. Build on SA's reputation as a leader in this area and offer support to those businesses with strong and ethical plans.

Invite the public to invest in climate change innovation bonds or similar to help fund those businesses, cooperatives and community organisations active and effective in this space. People with a direct stake in the enterprises that create innovation, jobs, exports and community development are likely to assist in making them viable and successful.

Provide incentives for innovative businesses to headquarter in SA: perhaps access to cheap leases on land, foster relationships with universities, links with government and other businesses where synergies exist.

Actively support and expand Education for Sustainability programs in schools by providing additional financial support, encouraging businesses to support these programs by providing their staff as volunteers (particularly those with employment opportunities for science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The innovators of the future are now in school and need to be directly engaged with these issues by hands on activity.

Explore opportunities to attract companies such as Hazer to SA implement innovative solutions to using existing fossil fuel reserves in a carbon neutral way.

LEAD: What does it mean to you for South Australia to be a leader in taking action to respond to climate change?

The only way that the human family can deal with the dangers of climate change is for communities such as SA to take a strong and meaningful leadership role. I am proud that SA has been very active in this area. This must be sustained over the long term and support from the community for the action must be fostered so that there is the broadest possible understanding of the risks and rewards that can come from strong leadership. As far as possible bi-partisanship should be fostered.

CARBON NEUTRAL ADELAIDE: What actions could government, industry and the community take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Adelaide and create economic opportunities for the State?

I strongly support the incentive program recently implemented by the City of Adelaide. I would like to see a similar incentive program implemented by every council in SA.

I would like to see a waste recovery program implemented that aims for zero waste by encouraging strong community and business participation as a social responsibility.

All food and organic waste should be collected and reused with any methane emissions being captured and used.

