

Wagga Wagga Community

Net Zero Emissions

2050 Roadmap



Acknowledgement of Country

Wagga Wagga City Council yali gulbali-yanhi ngurambang Wiradyuri.

Walumaldhaany-galang bala mayiny Wiradyuri.

Yindyamali-yanhi mudyiganggalang-bu balumbambal-bu balugirbam-bu.

Yindyamali-yanhi bagaraygan ngurambang-guwal-i yandu murun.wigi Wagga Wagga-dha.

Ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu buyaa-bu giilang-galam-bu.

Ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu dhaagun-bu bila-galang-bu nganha Wiradyuri-giyalang bala burrambin-bu nurranurra-bu.

Gulbali-yanhi Wiradyuri mayiny bagaraygan-guwal-bu bala yarruwala-bu waluwin-bu walanbam-bu dhirrangal-bu.

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradyuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers.

We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradyuri and First Nations communities.



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Mayor's message

Net zero emissions are being addressed at global, national and state levels. This document outlines how our local government area can support these initiatives and be a part of the solution to climate change.

During 2022 Wagga Wagga City Council resolved to set a target of 50% reduction in community emissions by 2030. It is important to recognise that the community emissions target is separate to the corporate target of the Council itself. Community emissions refer to all emissions attributed to our local government area, while corporate emissions refer to emissions created by Wagga Wagga City Council in its day-to-day operations.

A significant consultation process has informed the development of this Roadmap. This has included an open consultation with our local community along with a targeted consultation comprising of representatives of relevant community and business groups and New South Wales State Government agencies to discuss the approach to community net zero emissions.

This document outlines a menu of options that are currently available to local people to contribute to climate solutions. This document has been formulated with the intention of making it easy for different members of our community to identify what is right for them and their unique situation, within our local context. Together we can work towards the community target of net zero by 2050 and 50% by 2030.

Working towards net zero targets means being a part of the global solution to protect our planet; the life support system which we all depend on. We should take pride in participating in these pathways and explore the co-benefits they can provide such as healthier lifestyles, financial savings and better relationships in our community.

Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga, Councillor Dallas Tout

Definitions

The following are definitions to help explain some of the key terms used in this document:

Community emissions: All of the greenhouse gas emissions generated within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area boundary from all activities and all entities.

Corporate emissions: All of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by Wagga Wagga City Council in its operations. These form a small part of the Community emission profile.

CO₂ equivalent: CO₂e is a metric measure to compare the emissions from greenhouse gases on the basis of their global warming potential.

Emission: The creation of a greenhouse gas that is released into the atmosphere.

Enteric fermentation: A natural part of the digestive process in ruminant animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats. Microbes in the digestive tract, or rumen, decompose and ferment food, producing methane as a by-product.

Greenhouse gas: A gas that can trap heat in the atmosphere leading to global warming.

Net zero: This refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere i.e. the natural world is absorbing the same amount as is being emitted.

Reforestation and afforestation: Reforestation involves tree planting in areas of lands that have been degraded or cleared of vegetation. Afforestation is the establishment of a forest or stand of trees in an area where there was no previous tree cover.

Sequestration: The ability of natural ecosystems to absorb and store greenhouse gases.

Sinks: Anything that accumulates and stores carbon compounds for an indefinite period and thereby removes carbon dioxide (CO_.) from the atmosphere.

Sources: Anything that produces greenhouse gases either naturally or artificially and emits them to the atmosphere.

Soil carbon: Carbon stored in soils as both organic matter and inorganic carbonate minerals.

What's the roadmap about?

The intention of this document is to give members of our community an insight into the pathways that are available for us to engage in climate solutions.

It identifies a list of pathways that everyone in our local government area (LGA) needs to consider for us to achieve our targets for net zero emissions. This refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. We encourage our entire community - whether you are an individual, a small business or a large corporation to engage in as many pathways as possible which you feel are realistic and relevant for your specific circumstances.

We acknowledge that not all members of our community will be able to take up all the actions offered in this roadmap, however meaningful net zero actions can often be small and incorporated into our existing routines.

They can include simple actions and making some adjustments to:

- · How you get around
- What you eat
- · How you use energy
- · What you purchase
- What you throw away

There are a number of co-benefits to these actions such as being healthier, saving money, being more comfortable at home and feeling proud to be part of the global movement to protect the planet. Contributing to net zero goals doesn't have to mean turning your life or your business upside down. Sometimes it's just small changes that can be the most appropriate for your circumstances. The important thing is that we all get on board and do what we can.



The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years to come.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

What are the net zero targets?

Global context

At a global level the call to action for countries to act on climate change has been increasing for several years. Key agreements and reports that underpin international consensus to act include:

- The Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed in 2015
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Reporting cycle (AR6)¹

These reports state that if a safe future climate is to be achieved, all countries need to start reducing emissions today, make deep emissions cuts, and persist on this path for years to reach net zero emissions.

National and State context

The Australian government has legislated the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 target, and all states and territories have adopted net zero targets. The New South Wales government has adopted a target of 50% emissions reduction by 2030, 70% emissions reduction by 2035 and net zero by 2050. Figure 1 shows the relevant targets currently set by each state.





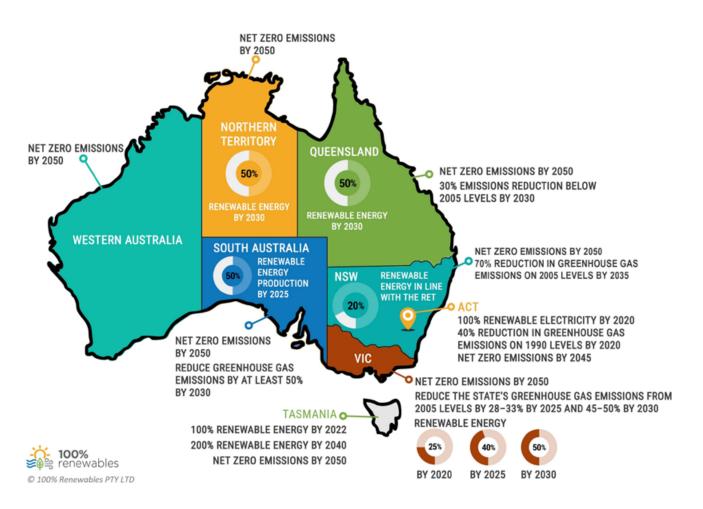


Figure 1: State level emission reduction targets (Source: 100% Renewables, 2022).²



Local context

To do our part at a local level, Wagga Wagga City Council has adopted a Community target for Net Zero Emissions by 2050 and 50% reduction in community emissions by 2030 in line with the New South Wales state government.

Wagga Wagga City Council is also leading from the front and has adopted a Corporate target for Net Zero Emissions by 2040.





Who is responsible?

Net zero emissions is an essential goal for both contemporary society and generations to come. To achieve net zero targets, all parts of our community will need to contribute.

Net Zero is a goal that can only be achieved by the collective efforts of everyone, including individual households, business, industry and all levels of government.

We will all need to consider which of the pathways listed in this document are realistic and relevant to our individual or group circumstances.

Residents have an important role to play. They can reduce their own carbon footprint by making conscious choices about how they consume energy, travel, and purchase goods. For example, by using public transportation, biking or walking, and supporting local and sustainable businesses. Collectively, all individuals can make a meaningful impact on reducing emissions.

Businesses can also play a significant role in reducing emissions by implementing sustainable practices such as energy efficient operations, investing in renewable energy and supporting local sustainable suppliers. Many large and small companies are also shifting to more sustainable business models and are encouraging their customers to do the same.

Government has a crucial role to play. All levels of government must show leadership and work together with their communities. More collaborative action across and between the various government levels and jurisdictions will see a more cohesive approach that can reduce costs and increase effectiveness.

Federal government's role

The Australian Federal government is ultimately responsible for all of our country's emissions and has a pivotal role in setting legislation, regulating and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, providing policy direction and providing funding streams to implement these things. A new national Net Zero Authority is being established to assist industry and communities in the global transformation to a net zero economy.

The Federal government is currently working to reduce emissions by³:

- · Upgrading the electricity grid to support more renewable power
- Reducing the price of electric vehicles
- Supporting businesses and industries to innovate and adopt smarter practices and technologies
- · Helping the land and agriculture sector reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Requiring our largest emitters to reduce their emissions by law.

State government's role

The New South Wales government is responsible for getting all of NSW to reduce its emissions, and that of course includes our local area. Like the Federal government they also have a crucial role in setting legislation, regulating and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, providing policy direction and providing funding streams to implement initiatives. It is not uncommon for some of these to overlap with what is happening at the Federal level.

The New South Wales government is currently working to reduce emissions through its Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 which includes initiatives across four priority areas⁴:

- 1. Drive uptake of proven emissions reduction technologies
- 2. Empower consumers and businesses to make sustainable choices
- 3. Invest in the next wave of emissions reduction innovation
- 4. Ensure the NSW government leads by example.

The current suite of major programs under this plan include:

- Emissions Intensity Reduction Program to support businesses to transition their plant, equipment and processes to low emissions alternatives
- Energy Security Safeguard (Safeguard) to ensure New South Wales has access to cheaper, more reliable electricity supplies
- Establish an expanded Energy Efficiency Program to reduce electricity use
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Model Availability Program to fast-track the growth
 of the electric vehicle market in New South Wales
- Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program to support primary producers and landowners to commercialise low emissions technologies and maximise their revenue from carbon offset programs
- Setting a target of net zero emissions from organic waste by 2030
- Developing a Green Investment Strategy so that NSW businesses can build a competitive edge
- Clean Technology Program to develop and commercialise emissions reducing technologies that have the potential to commercially out-compete existing emissionsintense goods, services and processes
- Establish a Hydrogen Program that will help the scale-up of hydrogen as an energy source and feedstock
- Implement the NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy (GREP) where public sector agencies are required to use resource-efficient technologies and services to reduce costs and lead by example.

Net zero is a goal that can only be achieved by the collective efforts of everyone, including individual households, business, industry and all levels of government.



Council's role

At a local government level, Wagga Wagga City Council has responsibility to implement many components of state legislation – such as the various planning laws and instruments. It also operates landfills and sewerage treatment plants to deal with the community's waste.

Council's corporate footprint is also quite large, and one of the best things we can do is lead by example. Council's actions in reducing its own emissions can help demonstrate how changes can be made at an organisational level. We are doing this through Council's adopted *Corporate NZE 2040 Strategy*.

Council is part of the community too, and any emission reductions we make are contributing to the community's net zero target.

Corporate emissions:

All of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by Council in its operations. These form a small part (<10%) of the community emission profile.

Community emissions:

All of the greenhouse gas emissions generated within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area boundary from all activities and all entities.



Through our Corporate Net Zero 2040 Strategy, Council is already committed to:

- · Transitioning our fleet to low or zero emission vehicles
- Minimising emissions created by our waste and sewer services
- Developing a waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy
- Replacement of gas appliances in Council facilities
- All electric installations in upgrades and new facilities
- Participating in a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement
- · Conducting energy audits at targeted facilities
- Increasing the energy efficiency of Council buildings
- Installing solar and battery where appropriate
- Developing a sustainable procurement policy and framework
- Supporting the development of infrastructure for electric vehicles
- Developing a plan to offset our remaining emissions which cannot be minimised.

Council as part of its overall operations is also committed to:

- · Implementing sustainability principles within urban design
- Implementing the Active Travel Plan
- Implementing the Urban Cooling Strategy
- · Implementing the Biodiversity Strategy
- Transitioning towards a circular economy.



Council has a key role in providing education and awareness through the provision of relevant, timely and accurate information to our local community in terms of the various initiatives and funding opportunities that are most applicable to them.

Council is also facilitating 6-monthly forums comprising of representatives from relevant community groups, business groups and State Government agencies to discuss the approach to community net zero emissions. Council will continue to facilitate community conversation to improve understanding and to support proactive and cohesive leadership by the community in net zero action.

Any significant change to Council's current policy or strategic direction will be through a resolution of Council.

Our emissions

Collectively, our community adds over a million tonnes of greenhouse gases (t CO₂e) each and every year to the atmosphere⁵.

The main cause of this pollution is energy generation and consumption, which is related to the community's population and commercial activity. Figure 3 shows the contribution of each major emissions category - Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Waste, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), Fugitive emissions and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). Each of these are discussed in more detail in the following chapter.

Achieving net zero emissions means getting this figure of emissions and any sequestrations down to a net value of zero.

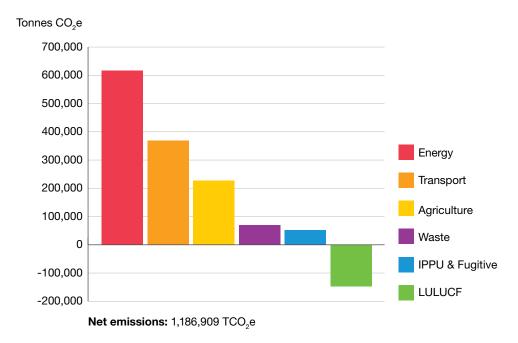


Figure 3: Emissions profile for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area 2019. (Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2023, Net Zero Emissions Dashboard 2021-2050).5



Potential pathways to net zero

The following section identifies effective pathways that everyone in our community can consider on their journey towards a climate friendly future.

Not every action will be suitable for every circumstance. Some actions may be appropriate to implement now and some might be more appropriate for the medium or longer term.

The intent of the actions listed are to provide the community with an idea of the options available to them that can help make a difference. The actions are intentionally high level as there are many ways to go about it, and lots of variables that can change your approach to it - for example a person renting a house may not take the option to install solar on the roof, but may consider purchasing green power. A person may not take the option to walk to work but may consider purchasing an electric vehicle. Every person, every business and every industry is unique.

Emerging technologies

There is a significant amount of research and development into ways to lower emissions, and new technologies and business models are emerging all the time. To keep the roadmap relevant as new advances are made in each sector, and to keep the roadmap streamlined - the potential pathways are deliberately at a high level, and can encompass many different specific actions under that pathway depending on which group you are.

For example one key pathway to reduce Transport emissions is 'Increase Active Travel' .

This could include all of the following as potential actions:

- · Walk to school (Households)
- · Bike to work (Households)
- Encourage staff to ride or walk (Business)
- · Build active travel paths (Council)
- Build user end of trip facilities (Council)
- Provide funding for additional infrastructure (NSW/Federal Government)
- Educate on environmental and financial benefits of active travel (Council)
- Educate on health benefits of active travel (Council / NSW Health)
- Educate on how to safely share the road (Council / Transport for NSW)

Each of these are a subset or separate action or of what can be done to 'Increase Active Travel' and therefore reduce emissions from transport.

Key to the pathways table

For each emissions category there is a table with potential actions to consider and who this action might apply to or be suitable for. This has been grouped as:

- Households: This means any individual or group of people living in the community.
- Business & Industry: This means any entity of any size operating in the community.
- Government: This means the various relevant state and federal agencies.

In addition to participating in emissions reduction activities (see pagea 15) Council will facilitate education and awareness on different potential pathways in more detail so that households, business and industry can have the most up to date information to help inform their decision-making on what options they may wish to undertake or explore further.

We encourage our entire community – whether you are an individual, a small business or a large corporation – to engage in as many pathways as possible which you feel are realistic and relevant for your specific circumstances.





52% of the Wagga Wagga LGA emissions profile The generation and use of energy to power and heat our homes, offices and factories is the largest contributor to Wagga Wagga's greenhouse gas emissions, making up approximately 52% of our emission profile.

These greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel powered energy stations that create our electricity, or through burning natural gas in our local area.

Gas is a polluting fossil fuel and there are now healthier, cleaner and cheaper alternatives available. Replacing gas use for heating and cooking with electric alternatives is an important step towards net zero. Although it will still use electricity it will be more efficient, and as the grid decarbonises and is powered by renewables it will also have lower emissions.

The NSW grid is currently powered by around half renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydro, and around half is still generated from non-renewable fossil fuel sources like coal and oil. While the grid is expected to continue to decarbonize and become greener in the future, it currently constitutes a significant source of emissions for the community's electricity usage and the community is responsible for these emissions as a consequence of their energy consumption.

Emissions can be reduced through efficiency - ie using less energy and also through practices like purchasing green power or installing solar.

Potential	pathways to reduce emissions	Who could participate?
EN01	Eliminate use of fossil fuels in industrial processes	Business & Industry Government
EN02	Eliminate use of fossil fuels in electricity production	Business & Industry Government
EN03	Conduct an energy audit	Households Business & Industry Government
EN04	Eliminate use of gas in new assets	Households Business & Industry Government
EN05	Electrification of existing gas assets	Households Business & Industry Government
EN06	Increase energy efficiency of buildings	Households Business & Industry Government
EN07	Utilise products and appliances that are more energy efficient to manufacture and operate	Households Business & Industry Government
EN08	Enter into power purchase agreements for renewable energy	Business & Industry Government
EN09	Purchase accredited green power	Households Business & Industry Government
EN10	Install solar and battery systems	Households Business & Industry Government
EN11	Integrate localised energy generation, distribution and consumption into the grid	Government



Transportation is the second largest contributor to emissions in the Wagga Wagga local government area.

The transportation sector is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels like gas, petrol and diesel in cars, trucks, trains, and airplanes. Transportation not only involves moving people but also the transportation of goods.

In order to effectively reduce these emissions, it is important to acknowledge that the responsibility does not solely fall on commercial providers, but rather requires a collaborative effort from commercial and private vehicle users to transition to low or zero emission vehicles. Emissions can also be reduced through behavioural changes like increasing active travel.

31% of the Wagga Wagga LGA emissions profile

Potential	pathways to reduce emissions	Who could participate?
TR01	Increase use of public transport	Households Business & Industry Government
TR02	Increase amount of active travel	Households Business & Industry Government
TR03	Increase ride sharing	Households Business & Industry Government
TR04	Minimise unnecessary travel	Households Business & Industry Government
TR05	Increase use of telepresence technologies	Business & Industry Government
TR06	Purchase or lease low or zero emission vehicles	Households Business & Industry Government
TR07	Use alternative freight pathways and technologies	Business & Industry
TR08	Develop infrastructure to support zero emission vehicles	Business & Industry Government

WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCIL 21

Agriculture

19% of the Wagga Wagga LGA emissions profile Agriculture is arguably the most important industry in our local government area, and it is also one of the most significant contributors to our emissions profile.

The agriculture sector largely comprises emissions from livestock and crop production. It includes emissions from enteric fermentation, manure management, and agricultural soils. These emissions are predominantly nitrous oxide and methane.⁷ Livestock farming, in particular, produces large amounts of greenhouse gases due to methane emissions from the digestive systems of cows, sheep, and other ruminants. Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

The use of fertilisers also has a significant impact on emissions. Some agricultural practices release nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Reducing emissions in this sector can involve practices such as livestock feed additives, reduced tillage, cover cropping, and the use of natural fertilisers.

Potential	pathways to reduce emissions	Who could participate?
AG01	Implement regenerative agricultural practices	Business & Industry
AG02	Increase production of on farm nitrogen and urea	Business & Industry
AG03	Utilise locally created compost in farming systems	Business & Industry
AG04	Increase farming of alternative protein sources	Business & Industry
AG05	Increase soil carbon sequestration	Business & Industry Government
AG06	Investigate bioenergy options	Business & Industry Government
AG07	Participate in emissions reduction programs and incentives offered by State and Federal Government	Business & Industry Government



Landfills are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, as the decomposition of organic waste (food, plants, timber, textiles etc) releases methane into the atmosphere.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and has a global warming potential of approximately 30 times that of carbon dioxide.¹ Additionally, the production and disposal of consumer goods and packaging also contributes to emissions. The waste category also includes emissions from the treatment of wastewater or sewage, which also produces greenhouse gases. This emission source is significant for Council because it is responsible for operating the landfill and the sewerage treatment facilities on behalf of the community. Everyone in the community will benefit from reducing their waste – particularly food waste which costs the average Australian Household \$2000 - \$2500 per year.⁸

Potential pathways to reduce emissions Who could participate? Business & Industry WS01 Participate in circular economy initiatives Government Households WS02 Minimise creation of food, organic and textile waste Business & Industry Government Households WS03 Reuse or recycle all organic waste Business & Industry Government Households WS04 Reduce waste sent to landfill Business & Industry Government Households Minimise unnecessary product purchasing and WS05 Business & Industry consumption Government Develop a waste avoidance and resource recovery **Business & Industry** WS06 Government

6% of the Wagga Wagga LGA emissions profile

4% of the Wagga Wagga LGA emissions profile

The industrial processes and product use (IPPU) category is used exclusively to account for emissions from the industrial sector (excluding industrial energy use).

Examples of emissions in IPPU include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) emitted from refrigeration, electronics manufacturing and cement production etc.7

Fugitive emissions refers to those greenhouse gases which unintentionally leak or escape during the extraction, processing, storage or delivery of fossil fuels like gas. This category does not include the actual combustion of these fuels for energy, which are included as energy emissions.7

Potential	pathways to reduce emissions	Who could participate?
IP01	Measure your greenhouse gas footprint	Business & Industry Government
IP02	Utilise least harmful refrigerant gases	Business & Industry Government
IP03	Improve refrigerant management in equipment and processes	Business & Industry Government
IP04	Capture fugitive industrial emissions	Business & Industry Government
IP05	Capture fugitive waste emissions	Government

The land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) category is unique in that it both creates emissions and also captures or stores them (sequestration).

It includes the land use categories: Forest land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements and Other land. When land is managed or changed in the following ways, it releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere⁹ (emissions source):

- · Clearing of vegetation for urban development
- · Clearing of vegetation for agricultural purposes
- Timber harvesting
- · Wildfires and prescribed fires

And when land is managed or changed in the following ways it acts as a sink – meaning it takes carbon out of the atmosphere and stores it in the biosphere⁹ (sequestration):

- · Reforestation and afforestation
- Soil carbon storage
- · Wetland carbon storage

Sequestration can be an effective way to reduce emissions; in the Wagga Wagga LGA it currently represents a net reduction of 12% to our emissions profile (see Figure 2).

Further reductions can be achieved through activities such as reforestation, afforestation, and soil carbon sequestration, often through simply planting trees and other vegetation to absorb and store carbon. This represents significant financial opportunities for our local farming community.

Sequestration alone cannot solve the problem of climate change, nor single-handedly achieve our local net zero goals. We must reduce our emissions as far as possible as well as maximising local sequestration opportunities.

Rehabilitating native ecosystems has a number of co-benefits such as protection of biodiversity, provision of recreational space, and improved physical and mental health.

Potential	pathways to reduce emissions	Who could participate?
LU01	Avoid, minimise and offset vegetation removal	Households Business & Industry Government
LU02	Increase native vegetation extent and connectivity across the landscape	Business & Industry Government
LU03	Increase tree planting in urban areas	Households Business & Industry Government
LU04	Increase agroforestry	Business & Industry
LU05	Optimise urban consolidation	Business & Industry Government

-12% of the Wagga Wagga LGA emissions profile Some initiatives have a significant impact on more than one piece of the emissions puzzle, so they have been included here in a multi-sector table.

A common theme is increased knowledge and networking that can help greatly in achieving the goals.

Potential	pathways to reduce emissions	Who could participate?
MS01	Measure and track your greenhouse gas footprint	Households Business & Industry Government
MS02	Take up opportunities to learn about climate change and its solutions	Households Business & Industry Government
MS03	Engage with businesses and services with net zero targets	Households Business & Industry Government
MS04	Divestment of financial portfolio to fossil fuel free funds and banking services	Households Business & Industry Government
MS05	Participate in industry or sector specific networks	Business & Industry Government
MS06	Develop and implement an organisational net zero strategy	Business & Industry Governmen
MS07	Apply sustainability principles in urban design	Business & Industry Government
MS08	Support proactive and cohesive community leadership in net zero action	Households Business & Industry Government



Monitoring and reporting

In order to enable the community to see how it is tracking towards the goal of net zero emissions, Wagga Wagga City Council will utilise the data from the New South Wales Net Zero Emissions Dashboard to report back to the community each year through our Community Strategic Plan Annual Report.

We'll also continue to work and liaise with the Community Net Zero Forum to capture data from the local community on work being done to reduce emissions within their sectors and networks across these pathways. The forum includes a mix of residents, businesses, industry groups and government agencies.

Council will also undertake community surveys periodically to determine how well the wider community is understanding the issue and if the information and education provided by Council and other levels of government is helping them to transition and take positive action.



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