

Climate Change Office



Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

March 2023

Plain language version

Why do we need a climate change action plan?

Tasmania was the first Australian state or territory to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions, in 2014. We have now had net zero emissions for the last seven years.

We have a target to make sure that we still have net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030.

To reach our target, we need to do more to reduce our emissions.

Even if we continue to reduce our emissions, we will still experience some impacts of climate change. We need to make sure our communities, environments, buildings and economy are prepared for these impacts.

Greenhouse gases are gases that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere.

These gases occur naturally, but are also produced by human activities. For example, burning **fossil fuels** to power our homes, cars and factories produces the greenhouse gas **carbon dioxide**.

Other activities like farming cows and sheep, and sending food and garden waste to the tip, produce **methane** gas.

These activities are producing too many greenhouse gases, causing climate change.

Plants, soils and oceans remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it, known as **sequestration**.

Net zero emissions means the amount of greenhouse gases we are producing is equal to the amount that is being removed from the atmosphere.

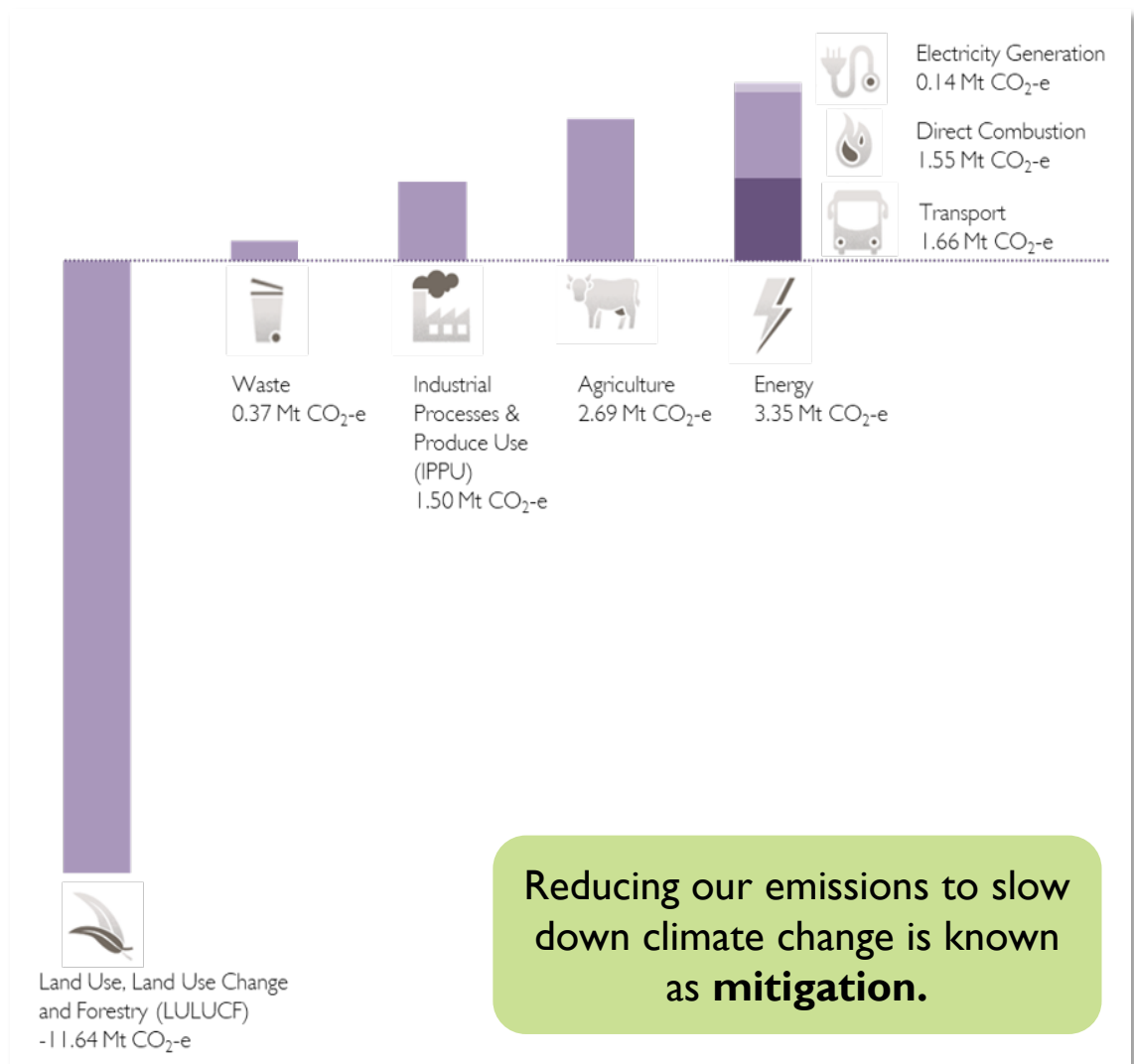
Where do our greenhouse gas emissions come from?

Tasmania's emissions are **below net zero**. This is because of our forests, which store carbon dioxide, and because we make most of our electricity from **renewable energy** instead of fossil fuels.

In 2020, Tasmania's emissions were minus 3.73 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Renewable energy is energy that comes from sources that can be naturally replaced like water, sunlight and wind.

Fossil fuels are energy sources that are formed from ancient plants, animals and other living things. The main fossil fuels are petrol (oil), coal, and natural gas.



Reducing our emissions to slow down climate change is known as **mitigation**.

What does climate change mean for Tasmania?

The impacts of climate change will create both risks and opportunities for Tasmania.

We can't remove the risks entirely, but we can make sure we understand them and prepare for them as much as we can.

Taking action on the impacts of climate change is called **adaptation.**



Significant change in rainfall patterns



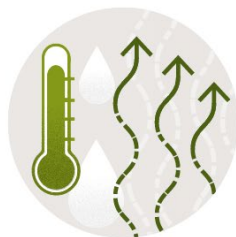
Increase in storms, creating coastal erosion



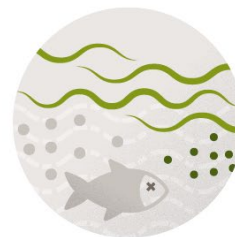
Rise in annual average temperatures



Longer fire seasons, more days of high fire danger



More hot days and heatwaves



Increased ocean acidification and water temperature



Fewer frosts



Rise in sea levels

Have your say on Tasmania's next climate change action plan

We want to hear what Tasmanians have to say about the draft climate change action plan for 2023-25.

This plain language version of the draft action plan has been developed to support a wide range of people to provide their feedback, including children and young people. We understand the importance of giving children and young people the chance to have their voice heard because of the impacts climate change will have on them.

We will use the feedback we receive to create a final climate change action plan, which will guide our action on climate change for the next two years.

We will release the final action plan in mid-2023. A plain language version of the final action plan will also be developed.

The following pages outline Tasmania's draft climate change action plan for 2023-25, and include questions to guide your thinking.

Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

Our vision is that by 2030 we will have reduced our emissions and built our resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

We are going to achieve our vision through three priority areas:

1. Information and Knowledge

Making sure we have information about Tasmania's changing climate that is up-to-date, high quality and easy to use.

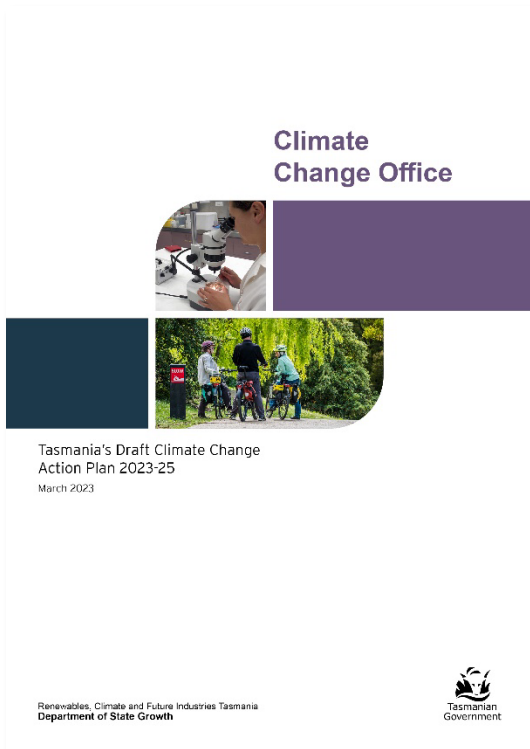
2. Transition and innovation

Making the most of opportunities to reduce our emissions and supporting homes, businesses and industry to adjust to the changes as the world moves to net zero emissions.

3. Adaptation and resilience

Managing the risks and making the most of opportunities to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Do you agree with our vision and priorities? Can you think of any issues that are not covered by these priority areas?



Priority Area I: Information and Knowledge

We will make sure we have information about Tasmania's changing climate that is up-to-date, high quality and easy to use.



How will we do this?

- **Updating our information** about how Tasmania's climate will change.
- **Improving the information we provide for businesses and the community** about Tasmania's future climate, how we can reduce our emissions, and how we can respond to the impacts of climate change.
- Making sure the **government takes into account climate change** when it makes decisions about other important issues like the environment, health and education.
- Developing climate change **resources for schools** to help Tasmanian children and young people understand climate change.
- Providing **money for research** on key climate change priorities.
- **Celebrating** communities, businesses and organisations who take action on climate change, for example through awards ceremonies.



What types of projects do you think the final action plan should include to improve our information and knowledge about climate change?

Priority Area 2: Transition and Innovation

We will make the most of opportunities to reduce our emissions and support homes, businesses and industry to adjust to the changes as the world moves to net zero emissions.



How will we do this?

- Work with industries to develop **Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans** for our cars and trucks, farms, waste, forests, energy and factories.
 - The plans will support business and industry to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the changing climate.
- Supporting business, industry, the community and government to find **new ways to reduce emissions**, now and into the future. Projects could include research, demonstrating new technology, providing information and changing the law.

What types of projects do you think the final action plan should include to reduce emissions in Tasmania?

Priority Area 3: Adaptation and Resilience

We will manage the risks and make the most of opportunities to prepare for the impacts of climate change.



How will we do this?

- Preparing Tasmania's first Statewide **Climate Change Risk Assessment** to find out how our changing climate might harm people, the environment, buildings, and our economy.
- Supporting business, industry and government to **plan for the impacts of climate change** (adaptation) and build strength.
- Projects that **support business, industry and the community** to be more resilient and adapt to a changing climate.
 - For example, providing information for communities, working with local councils to plan for climate change, working with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, supporting businesses to plan for natural disasters like floods and fires, and helping protect people from extreme weather events.

What types of projects do you think the final action plan should include to help Tasmania prepare for the impacts of climate change?

Have your say:

Consultation is open until **Thursday 6 April 2023.**

Email us at climatechange@recfit.tas.gov.au or
visit our website to find out more.



**Tasmanian
Government**

www.climatechange.tas.gov.au

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