

POLICY



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Policy Title: CARBON OFFSET PURCHASE
Directorate: GROWTH, ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY
Branch: HEALTH, CLIMATE AND CONSERVATION

Policy objective:

To enable Council to purchase carbon offsets and/or renewable energy certificates in order to achieve and maintain the carbon neutrality.

Policy scope:

This policy applies to the branches with a responsibility for the purchase of carbon offsets and renewable energy certificates including the Health, Climate and Conservation branch, and the Finance branch.

Definitions:

| TERM | DEFINITION |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Carbon Emission | The direct or indirect release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in terms of the equivalent impact that carbon dioxide would have on global warming, usually expressed in tonnes (also referred to a carbon dioxide equivalent or CO ₂ e). |
| Carbon Emissions Profile | The quantity of carbon emissions that occur as a result of the operations of the organisation. |
| Carbon Neutrality | The process of reducing the carbon emissions that occur as a result of the operations of the organisation where possible and compensating for the remainder of the emissions by investing in another entity's carbon offset projects to achieve net zero emissions. |
| Carbon Offset | A tradable financial instrument that when purchased and retired represents a one tonne reduction in carbon emissions. |
| Greenhouse Gases | The gases responsible for causing climate change including carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O) among others. |
| Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) | A tradable financial instrument that represents a megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity generated by renewable energy sources. |

Policy statement:

Logan City Council is committed to meeting its voluntary carbon neutrality commitments. Avoiding and reducing emissions, embracing renewable energy technologies will minimise Council's carbon emissions profile as much as possible, and purchasing and retiring carbon offsets and/or renewable energy certificates will be undertaken subject to budget approval, in order to achieve carbon neutrality certification.

The purchase of carbon offsets will occur in accordance with the Carbon Offsets Purchasing Guideline. The guideline sets out Council's process and requirements of the purchase and retirement of carbon offsets and RECs to achieve Council's Carbon neutrality commitment.

Related policies/legislation/other documents:

| DOC ID | DOCUMENT TYPE | DOCUMENT NAME |
|---------------|----------------------|---|
| 13208831 | Guideline | Carbon Offset Purchasing Guideline |
| 11780315 | Strategy | Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan |