

Position Paper

Adopted: 8th October 2008.

Latest Revision: 14th June 2011.

Note: This is a working document and subject to review.

Background

This group came into being as a result of a *Let's Live Sustainably* community forum held in June 2007.

Philosophy

WATCH is an apolitical group which accepts current, peer-reviewed [scientific evidence](#) that without extremely large reductions in world-wide carbon emissions in the next decade there is grave danger to ourselves and many other species. We believe that Australia is well placed to show leadership in meeting the challenge of human-induced climate change. However, we also believe that an effective response will test our consumer-driven society. It will require a high degree of human ingenuity, skill, resourcefulness and a bi-partisan commitment to environmental reform.

Climate goals

- To reduce global warming to 0.5 degrees C over pre-industrial levels.
- To return atmospheric levels of CO₂ to 350 ppm or less.

To achieve these goals, we advocate the following greenhouse gas mitigation targets:

- No further rise in greenhouse gas emission.
- Annual interim greenhouse emission targets, commencing simultaneous with the implementation of a carbon price.
- Greenhouse gas reduction target of at least 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels) and 80% by 2050.
- Mandatory renewable energy target (MRET) of at least 30% by 2020.

Statement of intent

The intent of WATCH is to communicate with people in positions of influence to encourage them to take urgent and appropriate action on climate change.

Objectives

To communicate with people in positions of influence (including government, business and media) to:

1. Inform them of community concern about climate change.
2. Determine their views on climate change and the actions necessary to address climate change.
3. Engage them in dialogue on climate change and the actions necessary to address climate change.
4. Encourage them to take urgent and appropriate action to address climate change.

Our modus operandi will include written correspondence followed up, where possible, with face to face meetings.

Plan of Action

1. To encourage influential local people to engage with politicians and other members of the community on climate change.
2. To hold further meetings with our state and federal MPs (i.e. Greg Aplin, Sussan Ley, Sophie Mirabella, Bill Tilley), and request meetings with state and federal ministers if they are in our region.
3. To develop strong economic arguments for climate change action.
4. Continue to monitor the actions of Wodonga and Albury City Councils and meet with key individuals as appropriate.
5. To coordinate with regional, national and international climate action campaigns when appropriate.

WATCH Privacy Policy

- WATCH may occasionally ask you to provide personal information to facilitate communication with you.
- WATCH undertakes to use this information only for the purpose it was originally provided.
- WATCH will never knowingly release any of your personal information to any other party without your consent.