

Tweed **CAN** - Action Plan

MISSION

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through local action.

THIS MISSION WILL BE ACHIEVED BY

- Promoting greenhouse friendly and ecologically sustainable behaviours for:
 - Transport.
 - Energy consumption.
 - Resource consumption.
 - Recycling and Waste management.
 - Nature conservation and vegetation management.
- Lobbying all levels of government to deliver greenhouse gas reduction outcomes.
- Advocating renewable energy and against nuclear power.
- Networking with similar Climate Action Groups to identify successful greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.
- Leading by example on how to reduce individual emission levels.
- Using local media and word of mouth for widespread promotion of practical ways to reduce global warming impacts.

TWEED **CAN WORKS ON THE PREMISE THAT**

- If you come up with an idea for the group, don't expect anything to happen unless you put in some effort yourself.
- Generally speaking education to foster sustainable behaviours in the wider community has failed because it does not present behaviour change messages in 'bite size chunks'.
- Keeping it simple, with practical and achievable actions may not get the immediate response you are after, but it puts people on the right path and makes them more receptive to future actions. Tweed CAN calls this the 'stepping stone approach' to greenhouse gas reduction.

RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR EACH OTHER

Philosophy: The underlying philosophy of Tweed CAN is to:

- Respect the diversity of ideas and opinions of members and guests and to demonstrate that respect at all times.
- Respect the natural environment through leading by example when it comes to the adoption of ecologically sustainable lifestyles.

Conflict Resolution: Tweed CAN seeks to avoid the creation of conflict though its underlying philosophy of respect for the environment and for each other. Where unavoidable conflict does arise, all efforts shall be made to resolve the conflict amicably and swiftly through open discussion and a vote if necessary. Where ongoing conflicts arise between the same people, a mediator shall be appointed to try and resolve the root cause of the ongoing conflict.

TWEED CAN ADMINISTRATION

Decision Making: Tweed CAN seeks to maintain a democratic and transparent decision making process through majority vote on major issues affecting the group. Only paying members who have attended at least two prior Tweed CAN meetings in the last six months are eligible to vote.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Tweed CAN shall monitor and evaluate the success of initiatives by ensuring appropriate methodology is developed during the planning phase of project delivery.

Review and Improvement: Tweed CAN have a commitment to continual improvement and shall document and file appropriate new ideas and strategies for inclusion in updated versions of this Action Plan.

TWEED CAN TARGET AUDIENCES

Everyone has a role to play in helping to reduce greenhouse gases. Tweed CAN aims to reach all sectors of the community, particularly:

- Schools
- Business
- Households
- Government

However, as a volunteer organisation we acknowledge the importance of not spreading ourselves too thin on the ground. We must prioritise our actions to make best use of the skills and energy that members bring to the group.

TWEED CAN WORKING GROUPS

Working groups need to be established to develop and implement actions that reach the target audiences.

When working groups are formed depends on the skills, interests and available energy of individual members.

Suggested working groups include:

- Schools Working Group
- Business Working Group
- Festivals and Events Working Group
- Lobbying Working Group
- Media and Promotions Working Group.

A small number of actions have been identified to provide some impetus for the establishment of working groups. These are detailed on the following pages.

HOW TO READ THE ACTION TABLES OF THIS PLAN

Action	Target Area	Priority	Status / Comment
Description of the action	General Public Schools Business Government	Critical (high priority) Important (medium priority) Beneficial (standard priority) The prioritization of actions will be based on emissions reductions that are <u>practical and achievable</u> within the scope of Tweed CAN.	How is the action progressing? Are there any issues that affect its implementation?

TWEED CAN LIST OF INTENDED ACTIONS

Action	Target Area	Priority	Status / Comment
Develop a resource base for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event attendance (banner, top 10 action list, reference library) • Website • Media releases • Letter writing 	All	Critical	
Develop a Tweed CAN 'top 10 actions for reducing greenhouse pollution'	General Public. Business	Critical	
Develop (using existing resources) a climate change education package for delivery within local schools.	Schools	Critical	
Develop (using existing resources) a climate change education package for delivery within local business association networks. The package is to place particular emphasis on practical actions that business can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Green Power electricity • Reduce, Reuse, Recycle • Water efficiency 	Business	Critical	Existing resources can be obtained from NSW EPA 'profiting from cleaner production' and the QLD EPA 'ecobiz'.

Action	Target Area	Priority	Status / Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency 			
Develop a Climate Action Pledge and gather signatures	All	Important	Commenced January 07
Visit local community groups and encourage them to use their networks to promote action on climate change.	General Public. Business	Critical	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present to group 2. Ask them to distribute Tweed CAN Pledge and action brochures.
Identify like-minded organisations and what initiatives have been successful for them. E.g. www.cooltheglobe.com www.fightglobalwarming.com (great info on transport). climate action network Australia www.cana.net.au www.coolmob.org.au www.greenhouse.gov.au	All	Critical	
<p>Encourage participation in events such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to Work Day. • Earth Hour. • Buy Nothing Day. • Local tree planting days. 	All	Important	Walk to work day includes car pooling, riding bikes etc.
<p>Liase with local event organizers to promote greenhouse gas reduction actions. Possible events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed on Tweed (hybrid car / biodiesel entry, bike V car time trial • Banana Festival • Wollumbin Festival • World Environment Day • Harmony Day • Tweed River Festival • Seniors Expo • etc 	General Public. Business.	Important	
<p>Develop a ongoing program to promote 'climate friendly actions' such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting renewable energy. 2. Energy saving tips 3. Transport tips 4. Waste / recycling tips 5. Grocery purchasing tips 	General Public. Business	Critical	The council newsletter will run a series of climate action tips in April 2007.

Action	Target Area	Priority	Status / Comment
6. What is embodied energy?			
Review Rainforest Information Centres 'letter writing kit' to assist with lobbying actions.	Government, Business	Important	Visit www.climate.net.au for more information.
Lobby for greater emphasis on the establishment of commuter bikeways, footpaths and associated infrastructure to encourage alternatives to car-based transport.	Local Government	Critical	
Lobby for the development of policies to ensure new community facilities are greenhouse friendly.	Local Government	Critical	
Lobby for an increase in the 'mandatory renewable energy target' from the current level of 2%.	Federal Government	Critical	
Lobby for an increase in rebates / incentives for photovoltaic (solar electric) installations.	State & Federal Government	Critical	
Lobby for the establishment of a national carbon emissions trading scheme.	Federal Government	Important	
Encourage ratification of the 'Kyoto Protocol'	Local, State & Federal Government	Important	
IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED ACTION FOR TWEED CAN WE'D LOVE TO HEAR IT.			