



The International Council for
Local Environmental Initiatives

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Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA
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Comments on *'Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy' Consultation Draft Sept 2002*

Dear Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is a membership organisation of local governments and their associations. The Council is dedicated to building and supporting a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental conditions through the cumulative impact of local initiatives.

ICLEI is grateful of this opportunity to comment on the draft State Sustainability Strategy and highlights activities currently undertaken by local government and its role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We note the positive references to Cities for Climate Protection (CCP™) in the draft strategy.

ICLEI Australia New Zealand (A/NZ) delivers the CCP™- Australia Program in collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO). There are currently 161 local governments across Australia participating in the Program, covering 65% of the national population. In Western Australia there are currently 32 participating local authorities covering 72% of the population (Dec 02) who actively pursuing greenhouse gas abatement.

CCP™ Australia is the only local government program delivered by a Local Government Association that can demonstrate greenhouse gas abatement by its participant councils.

While CCP™ Australia has been delivered by ICLEI in collaboration with the AGO, we wish to highlight that with increased state government support, WA local government could participant and deliver even more in regards to greenhouse abatement and more generally the strategy's intentions for a more sustainable state.

Why involve Local government in greenhouse abatement?

Today 10 years after the launching of the Framework Convention on Climate Change at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and five years after Governments internationally committed themselves to emissions reduction targets at Kyoto, national governments continue to debate a way forward to reduce greenhouse emissions and mitigate the threat posed by global climate change.

In contrast, many Local governments have succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving local air quality and increasing sustainable transportation and efficient energy use and consequently, strengthened local economies.

Local government leaders have been active advocates for local implementation and have demonstrated what can be achieved through appropriate goal setting, strategic action and overall implementation.

The daily decisions made by Local government, the operations and facilities they manage, the types of services and infrastructures they provide, can determine the energy used and waste generated within their municipalities and communities. Local governments often set local laws that can impact on the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings. They control waste management and landfill operations. Local governments can influence the greenhouse emissions as well as the health and urban livability of their communities.

Local government land use and development decisions determine the density and physical layout of neighborhoods that in turn profoundly influences the level of auto dependency in the community. Local government can also influence the extent to how a community transit their municipality through bike plans, pedestrian access and transport nodes around commercial centers.

Summary of benefits of Cities for Climate Protection™ Australia

CCP™ has delivered for the Australian government over the past 4.5 years as part of a collaborative framework agreement. There are further opportunities for this agreement to be extended in each state. The Victorian Government as part of their Greenhouse Strategy has entered into tripartite arrangement with ICLEI and the AGO to extend CCP™ already underway in Victoria and achieve even greater greenhouse benefits.

Both the Federal and State governments engaged with CCP™ recognise that this program has delivered on many fronts including:

Greenhouse Abatement by Local government

- Strong, consistent and increasing greenhouse gas emission reductions
- Leveraging investment from Local government in greenhouse abatement
- Facilitating networking with other sectors to promote further abatement such as Property Councils of Australia, SEDA (NSW), SEA (VIC) and SEDO in WA.

Leadership at the Local government level

- With a constituency of committed and informed councils willing to engage in a global issue and support national efforts to contribute to greenhouse abatement. This engagement is seen from CEOs to councillors to officers.
- By providing local government with the capacity to make the challenging political decisions required to achieve the long term change required to combat climate change.

Capacity Building

- At the local level, by building the capacity of Local government to make institutional changes, at the corporate and municipal level, that lead to greenhouse abatement.
- At the Local government level with access to tools, networking opportunities and expertise to ensure ongoing commitment and action of greenhouse action.

Quantifiable Results through a Credible Methodology

- ICLEI has created a performance base Milestone methodology demonstrating successful triple bottom line (TBL) results. Its quantification methodology developed by ICLEI's Australian Technical team is thorough, transparent and has provided results for direct use by the AGO.
- The CCPTTM methodology provides a simple, standardised way of acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and of monitoring, measuring, and reporting performance. ICLEI has developed software that considerably eases the analytical work involved and permits standardised, quantitative comparisons among different cities within individual countries and across the globe.

With further support the WA State government could also benefit further:

- Through the numerous opportunities (conferences, media releases, recognition ceremonies, newsletters and website) provided to promote the achievements of related government state programs.
- Through direct association with a program that demonstrates how policy leadership at the state government level can be facilitated and implemented to achieve results at the community level.

Promotion

- Through the consistent 'good news story' for government with many positive outcomes and outputs from demonstrated abatement and associated multiple benefits.
- With a Campaign that is recognised worldwide as a model for developed country action to engage Local government in voluntary approaches to greenhouse abatement.

State Greenhouse Strategy Program Implementation

- CCPTTM is a program which clearly demonstrates the multiple benefits that accrue from greenhouse abatement including improvement in air quality, sustainable transport and reduce traffic congestion, efficient energy use, regeneration of biodiversity through sequestration, local economic development and job creation.

- With a Campaign model that provides a tangible example of how partnerships and collaborative approaches can achieve the targets set to reach state greenhouse abatement commitments.

In conclusion, the CCP™ program is ideally placed as the mechanism to deliver greenhouse abatement and other positive multiple benefits to the state agenda with:

- ICLEI's CCP™ infrastructure in place
- its sound and tested methodology accepted as an appropriate protocol and standard for NGGI
- a performance based program framework delivering results and
- a growing momentum of enthusiasm and change within local government.

ICLEI would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with the WA Sustainability Policy Unit what further opportunities are available which can :

- Work off the strengths of the CCP™ milestone framework and program delivery
- Capitalise on the work already underway by the current pool of WA local government CCP™ participants to deepen and increase their abatement
- Work with relevant state agencies to provide greater technical assistance to ensure all projects undertaken have a sound and proven approach to deliver the abatement predicted
- Create a distance education program to enable more efficient resource use throughout WA
- Support Milestone 5 councils to re-engage in CCP™ by offering further opportunities to build their capacity to influence abatement.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience and congratulations on the momentum being created through this State lead Sustainability Strategy.

Yours sincerely

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9 December 2002