



Media release

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Council joins global bid to reduce greenhouse gases

Townsville is advancing its campaign to improve the local environment by joining an international grass roots program to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The Townsville City Council is expected to approve membership of the international Cities for Climate Protection program.

Under the program councils are tackling the issue of climate change by reducing greenhouse emissions they produce from their own activities, and encouraging the rest of the community to follow suit.

Deputy Mayor and chair of the Sustainable Development Committee Cr Ann Bunnell said 188 councils representing 75% of Australia's population had already signed up.

Cr Bunnell said the program was established by the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) in conjunction with the Australian Greenhouse Office and provided guidelines as well as resources to assist councils.

The programs five key milestones comprise:

1. establishing an inventory and forecast for greenhouse emissions by council operations (buildings, vehicle fleet, energy use, waste) as well as community activities (residential, commercial, industrial and transportation)
2. setting an emissions reduction goal
3. develop and adopt local greenhouse action plan
4. implementation of greenhouse action plan
5. monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions and actions and measures

Cr Bunnell said the program could provide significant environmental benefits as well as savings through reduced energy costs.

"The Townsville City Council has built up a strong track record on the environment and sustainability in recent years by working successfully with the community on a range of initiatives and especially in initiating Greenhouse Gas Reduction Projects. By joining this program we are providing leadership for our community in addressing a fundamental environmental issue."

Media information:

Cr Ann Bunnell