

Resilient Sydney

Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street,
Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Telephone +61 2 9265 9547
RSO@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



28 August 2022

Our Ref: 2022/435766

File No: X037606

By email: manuel.weirich@planning.nsw.gov.au; greenpower.admin@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Manuel

Resilient Sydney submission to 2022 GreenPower Program review

Resilient Sydney welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the 2022 GreenPower review.

Resilient Sydney reiterates its recommendation in our last submission (2 August 2021) on the critical need for GreenPower to introduce systemised collection of data at the local level.

*Since that submission, access to postcode or suburb level data on the uptake of GreenPower has become even more critical to enable councils to support NSW Government's net zero ambitions. Fourteen Sydney councils have now endorsed net zero targets for their own LGAs. GreenPower is seen as an important market offering that for many residents and SME businesses remains **the only feasible way** to switch to renewable energy.*

The GreenPower Consultation Paper clearly acknowledges that the market has evolved, with myriad options now available for larger entities to procure renewable energy. In this context the Consultation Paper recognises that GreenPower needs the support of promotion partners to remain viable. This is particularly the case in a market where, as noted in the Paper, many retailers are choosing to promote cheaper carbon neutral products over GreenPower to their customers.

Local government is recognised as a highly trusted voice and communications channel across Sydney communities, and ideal promotion partners for the GreenPower product. As noted in City of Sydney's submission, the City of Sydney and Resilient Sydney are supporting a syndicated GreenPower campaign across Sydney. GreenPower data at the local level is essential to measure the success of local government campaigns such as this if we are to justify our expenditure going forward. The GreenPower program has been notified on multiple occasions, by multiple organisations, about the critical need for local data.

As NSW councils develop net-zero plans and strategies they need to confidently and consistently report on actions being taken locally, such as the use of GreenPower, to understand and show contributions towards the State's ambitions to be net zero by 2050. A number of our council members express frustration that retailers are only required to report

RESILIENT SYDNEY

A program for metropolitan Sydney to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks. The Resilient Sydney Office is funded by local government and hosted by the City of Sydney.

www.resilientsydney.com.au

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

Resilient Cities Network is a urban resilience network to build safe and equitable cities for all.

www.resilientcitiesnetwork.org

GreenPower at a state level, making it impossible to measure the effectiveness of locally financed marketing campaigns.

I urge this review to take the opportunity to amend the reporting rules to require retailers to report GreenPower purchase numbers at least at suburb or postcode level. This review period marks an important period for the Greenpower program to strategically engage with stakeholders like Resilient Sydney, Cities Power Partnership and Local Government NSW to catalyse local government capacity in the promotion of GreenPower.

Resilient Sydney urges that the current review of the GreenPower program explicitly advocate for and commit to working with other agencies of government to develop those mechanisms needed to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in addition to the renewable energy target, especially beyond 2030. Concurrently we recommend that GreenPower and NSW Government explore mechanisms to reduce the costs for GreenPower, particularly to unlock this option for those in the community that are not currently able to afford this product.

Resilient Sydney notes and reiterates the City of Sydney's recommendations to the GreenPower review:

Recommendations

By 2023:

1. Make it a mandatory requirement for GreenPower providers to report local level uptake data, by post code.
2. Provide financial and/or other resources to support promotional partners including Councils.
3. Increase the GreenPower marketing budget, funded by the NSW Government, not by increasing the cost of GreenPower.
4. Include the Renewable Energy Target in all GreenPower percentages, rounded to the most recent annual Renewable Power Percentage (currently 19%, not 15%).
5. Work with the Australian Government and other stakeholders to develop what mechanisms are needed to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in addition to the renewable energy target, especially beyond 2030.
6. Investigate ways to incentivise GreenPower for embedded networks to reduce the cost and increase uptake.
7. Explore all opportunities to reduce the cost premium of GreenPower to make it more attractive, especially for households and SME electricity customers.
8. Investigate whether there would be greater efficiency and consistency if both GreenPower and the renewable energy target were both administered by the same national government agency.

By 2025:

9. Consider amending the aim of GreenPower to focus on making renewable energy more affordable as a major way to increase uptake.
10. Implement a GreenPower fund to subsidise GreenPower for low-income households.
11. Introduce a retailer star rating system for renewables and emissions.

Background

Resilient Sydney is a collaboration of all 33 metropolitan councils of Greater Sydney to develop and implement a city-wide resilience strategy, published in 2018. The program is

governed by a metropolitan steering committee of local governments, NSW Government, business, and the community sector. Resilient Sydney is aligned to the global Resilient Cities Network, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. The Resilient Sydney Office is funded by local government and hosted by the City of Sydney.

The Resilient Sydney data platform has been available to metropolitan Sydney councils since March 2019. Representatives from all 33 Sydney councils use the Platform to understand trends and track progress against their commitments. As at August 2022, there are more than 320 users of the Platform. The Platform includes data from 2013 onwards and quantifies the environmental footprint (emissions, energy, water, waste, transport and solar PV uptake) for metropolitan Sydney.

The Resilient Sydney office, and Kinesis who host the Platform, source and display the data from data owners and utilities wherever possible at suburb or postcode scale, to help councils understand their environmental footprint and track progress against their commitments and objectives. ***Access to this place-based data will become increasingly important as additional councils develop net-zero plans and strategies that contribute towards the State's ambitions to be net zero by 2050.***

In June 2021, Resilient Sydney entered into a Collaborative Agreement with the NSW Government Office Energy and Climate Change, and Greater Cities Commission to build the capacity of the 33 Greater Sydney councils to develop and deliver net zero emissions plans for community scale emissions. This agreement, and our established network of local council staff represents a significant opportunity to refresh and amplify the promotion of the GreenPower product. We welcome an opportunity to collaborate to this end.

To speak with a Resilient Sydney team member about this submission, please contact Kate Read, Program Manager on 9246 7826 or at kread@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Beck Dawson
Chief Resilience Officer – Greater Sydney