

**Mayor Michael Hewitson AM TO REPRESENT the City of Unley, South Australia ON GLOBAL STAGE
AT UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE COP28**

Mayor Michael Hewitson AM has accepted the invitation of United Nations to participate in historic Local Climate Action Summit alongside local leaders to showcase the City of Unley, South Australia's leadership in fighting the climate crisis.

The City of Unley Council announced that Mayor Hewitson had been invited with costs fully covered, to participate in [COP28](#). This annual global climate conference is hosted by the United Nations and will take place in Dubai this year. COP28 brings world leaders together to engage in crucial negotiations and commitments concerning the climate crisis. Mayor Michael Hewitson AM will be there to represent local solutions and elevate the voice of the City of Unley, South Australia.

While in Dubai, Mayor Hewitson will take part in the **COP28 Local Climate Action Summit**, where world leaders will convene to discuss climate change. Mayor Hewitson's involvement offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow climate leaders to align, share, and advance climate action plans.

Given the pivotal role local governments play in fighting the climate crisis, COP28 and the Local Climate Action Summit provide an invaluable platform for national and world leaders to directly engage and learn about the City of Unley, South Australia's comprehensive climate plan, progress and ongoing projects. This paves the way for transformative, collective ambition and action on a global scale.

"Cities are at the forefront of climate impacts and solutions," said Mayor Hewitson "I extend my appreciation to Bloomberg Philanthropies and the COP28 Presidency for dedicating a space to local and regional climate efforts. We must prioritize using this time effectively to drive actionable change and progress both globally and within our cities, given the direct impact on our communities. We have long been at the climate frontlines, experiencing the effects firsthand. At the Local Climate Action Summit, I urge world leaders to recognize our efforts and support struggling cities, fostering their growth and resilience."

At COP28 and the Local Climate Action Summit, Mayor Hewitson will highlight the actions and progress made in the City of Unley, South Australia, including:

- taking steps to actively reduce our impacts and help slow climate change. Our aim is to be carbon neutral for our corporate emissions by December 2030. Taking these measures will have a long-term positive impact on Council's operating budget by lowering the ongoing costs of fuel and electricity, reducing our vulnerability to price increases and improving our organisations resilience as we transition to a low carbon economy.

- Unley is making a national regional and global contribution to ensuring a liveable City of Unley, a liveable Australia, and Asia Pacific region. Unley may have the opportunity to make a significant CO₂ reduction globally with our innovative work to mitigate and adapt as temperatures rise.
- Inner Cities areas lose trees and cities globally become heat radiators. Our National prize-winning IT work has now enabled the City of Unley to involve and inform our citizens and property owners of the tree canopy cover on their property. We now know that 50% of our local tree canopy loss is from just over 200 new developments that increase the built form. Our proposal to undertake a 10 year trial of an incentive scheme could reduce future temperatures by 12°C on hot days, resulting in lower CO₂ emissions from A/Cons in cars, work and homes. We seek to trial a 10% incentive/charge for owners of these properties to achieve at least 15% tree canopy cover. [Inner Suburban Tree Canopy – Let’s Get Real!](#)
- In November 2020, the City of Unley committed to becoming a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), a global coalition of like-minded councils and city leaders who have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to galvanise climate and energy action across cities worldwide. In joining, we pledge to measure emissions, set targets and develop a plan to support emission reductions.
- [Carbon Neutral Unley by December 2030](#)
- [City of Unley Climate and Energy Plan 2023](#)
- In March 2021, the City of Unley participated in an external audit of corporate climate change risk. The City of Unley demonstrated a good understanding of the climate risks presented as an organisation and a top score was received for Strategic Planning, Public Risk Disclosure, Asset Management and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction. View the [full report](#). Council is taking direct action in our operations to reduce the impact on our environment.

The LCAS will unite subnational and national leaders to establish a new paradigm for fully-integrated climate action between governments at all levels across four core themes:

- **Transforming Local Climate Finance:** Strengthen sustainable financial mechanisms to mobilize the trillions of dollars in public and private investment needed globally at the subnational level to deliver real change.
- **Integrating Local Contributions to Enhance Global Action:** Incorporate local implementation into national and international climate policy design and determine how best to factor subnational action into future national and global climate goals, including for 2030.
- **Fast-tracking the Local Energy Transition:** Propel rapid advancements across pivotal sectors and surface new strategies to deliver ambitious results locally.
- **Strengthening Local Resilience and Adaptation:** Protect residents and infrastructure from immediate and future climate risks.

For more information about the Summit, please visit www.cop28.com/LCAS.