



City of Newcastle

SDGs Cities Challenge Snapshot



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
CITIES CHALLENGE

Challenge Overview

City of Newcastle (CN) has a to be a smart, liveable, sustainable global city by 2030.

We take our commitment to being a global city seriously and we are passionate about achieving this through our commitment to the UN's SDGs. We have aligned our Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan to the SDGs and the next step to ensure we are delivering on our global commitment is to further embed them in our reporting framework and our indicator framework. This will ensure transparency and accountability across the organisation and positive outcomes for our community.

Thus, our challenge is to integrate SDG 11 into our Indicator Framework.

Success will be looking back in 1, 2, 3 ... 5 ... 10 years and being able to see our progress through trend data collected against our indicators. Success will be knowing that CN did all it could to ensure that we contributed to the achievement of the SDGs in this Decade of Action.



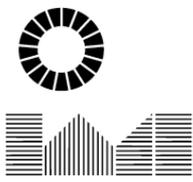
Key City Characteristics

- **Population:** Newcastle's current population is 165,050, with a projected population of 198,350 by 2036 and a population density of 883 persons per km².
- **City Classification:** Newcastle is a harbour city in the Australian state of New South Wales.
- **Governance:** The City of Newcastle has two main pieces to their governance structure: an elected Council (the popularly elected Lord Mayor and 12 Councillors); and the administration (led by the Chief Executive Officer). Within the elected Council, Councillors are elected to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers and provide leadership and guidance to the community. The CEO leads the administration arm of the Council. The CEO is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Council's organisation and ensuring that the decisions of the Council are implemented. The Councillors are democratically elected based on a four-year election cycle. The CEO is appointed to the position.
- **Climate & Geography:** The climate for the City of Newcastle would be described as *coastal* and displays a hot summer from December to February and mild winters from May to July. The key climate hazards for the city are East Coast low pressure systems that bring flooding, bushfires, coastal erosion and air pollution.
- **Economy:** Newcastle is the capital of the Hunter Region. The main industry in the Newcastle local government area is the health and social assistance sector which employs 20,293 or 19.74%, followed by Education and Training with 9.52%. The Manufacturing industry sector makes the greatest contribution to economic output in the region, which at \$5.0 B accounts for 14.1% of total output. Traditionally, the Hunter Region and Newcastle have had a strong connection to Coal Mining and Steel Manufacture. Mining accounts for just over 1% of jobs in the local government area and 5% in the Hunter Region. In terms of exports, mining accounts for 8.31% for the local government. It is important to note here that the Port of Newcastle is the largest coal port in the world (by tonnes).
- **Languages:** The official language spoken in the City of Newcastle is English, however Mandarin, Macedonian, Italian, Greek and Cantonese are also spoken by residents.
- **Cultural Features:** The City of Newcastle is situated on the traditional lands of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. Since 2008/2009, the City of Newcastle has been making significant progress with Climate Action. There has been a strong focus on energy efficiency, delivering the multi-year roll out of the Smart Buildings Smart Workforce program between 2013-2015. As one of the largest energy users across CN operations, street lighting was also targeted for accelerated replacement to LED lighting. More recently, a 5 megawatt Solar Farm was constructed on a closed landfill site at Summerhill Waste Management Centre. On 1 January 2020, CN also became the first Council in NSW to move to 100% renewable electricity supply, signing a Power Purchase Agreement to receive renewable energy from Sapphire Wind Farm.



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Existing Data & Challenge Data Needs – same text here and in section below

One of the specific needs of this challenge is to engage with stakeholders both internally and externally to understand their different areas of expertise, e.g. Housing, Heritage, Environment and Waste. For each of these disciplines, we need their buy-in and understanding of the value of implementing the SDGs and setting SDG-aligned, internal targets and indicators.

We would like to develop a checklist that will help with the future alignment of other SDG indicators and will:

- Improve integration
- Provide common language with our internal and external stakeholders
- Help expand the ‘thinking’ of our stakeholders

We have knowledge gaps in terms of approaches to localising some of the indicators and setting appropriate targets for City of Newcastle to control and actively achieve.



Source: Newcastle Community Strategic Plan

Key Linkages

The [Newcastle Community Strategic Plan](#) is the highest level, guiding document which establishes the City of Newcastle’s vision and direction. It embeds the SDGs and the indicator framework for reporting and accountability.

As our challenge is to align SDG 11 to our indicator framework, we are striving for the SDG indicators to become localised and linked to CN’s outcomes.

The SDGs Cities Challenge Pitch

It is hoped that this challenge will result in the:

- **SDGs being aligned to CN’s Community Strategic Plan (CSP)**
 - Map to the themes and domains and identify any gaps or opportunities
 - SDG indicators will be localised and linked to CN’s outcomes and form part of CN’s Indicators Framework
- **SDGs being aligned with CN’s Strategies and Plans**
 - Map SDGs against each of CN’s Strategies and Plans
 - Group SDGs by objectives and link SDG indicators to outcomes
 - Link the localised SDG indicators to CN’s Strategies and Plans
 - An SDG checklist will be developed to improve integration and provide a common language with stakeholders and community
- **A scorecard/dashboard of meaningful Community (SDG) Indicators**
 - Working closely with stakeholders to develop innovative approaches to progressing SDG program implementation
 - Develop a framework for auditing SDG awareness and uptake.

Key Challenge questions:

1. What are the best types of dashboards that can be used to report to the community?
2. What measures have worked in the Australian context for SDG 11?
3. Do you lose buy in and commitment to the SDGs if you only concentrate on the highest impact areas?
4. How can you get broad buy in across the organisation and/or community on the SDGs?
5. What are the benefits of going through a materiality assessment?

Key Literature & References

- [Newcastle Community Strategic Plan](#) – 2018
- [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) – 2016
- [Hunter Region Plan 2036](#) – 2016
- [Newcastle Affordable Living Plan](#) – 2018