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MEDIA RELEASE | Embargoed until 4 June midnight

South Australia's first climate action festival launches with 100 events planned

LGA South Australia joins as Founding Presenting Partner as Adelaide Climate Action Week releases first 16 events

Adelaide Climate Action Week (ACAW) today released the first 16 events in what will become South Australia's first climate action festival, bringing together residents, businesses, councils, researchers, artists, innovators and decision-makers across more than 100 events from 27 July to 2 August 2026.

The opening program features tours of renewable energy battery storage facilities and SA Power Networks infrastructure, visits to the world's first regenerative data centre in the Barossa Valley, a professional forum examining the hidden climate impacts of artificial intelligence, and a community rewilding day with Tim Jarvis on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

With events spanning renewable energy, climate resilience, biodiversity, circular economy and sustainable technology, ACAW will showcase the ideas, innovations and local leadership shaping South Australia's future.

The festival also announced LGA South Australia as a Founding Presenting Partner, recognising the critical role local government is playing in climate resilience, emissions reduction and community leadership across the state.



From left to right:

Greg Hodgkinson, Jen St Jack, Marco Cicchianni, Adelaide Xerri, Lord Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM, Mayor Anne Monceaux, Mark Rowland, Minister Emily Bourke, Mayor Angela Evans, Mayor Moira Were AM, Mayor Michael Hewitson AM



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Co-Founder Jen St Jack said Adelaide Climate Action Week was born from a belief that South Australians deserve to see, celebrate and participate in the extraordinary climate action already happening across the state.

"South Australia is already a world climate superstar for its leadership in renewables. The question now is what we do with that opportunity," Ms St Jack said.

"Adelaide Climate Action Week will open the doors to the people, places and projects shaping our future, and invite everyone to be part of the next chapter."

Co-Founder Mark Rowland said the festival aimed to create a platform for collaboration, inspiration and practical action.

"Climate action doesn't belong to any one sector, organisation or level of government. It belongs to everyone," Mr Rowland said.

"This festival creates a space where people can learn, challenge assumptions, find collaborators, celebrate success and discover practical ways to contribute."

"While Adelaide will not host COP31, ACAW will create opportunities for South Australians to shape the conversations that will influence climate action nationally and globally."

South Australia is already recognised as a global leader in renewable energy, with 74 per cent of our electricity coming from wind and solar, renewable generation regularly exceeding local operational demand, and a target to achieve 100 per cent net renewable electricity by the end of 2027. The state has been identified by the **SuperPower Institute** as having the potential to become the climate action capital of the Asia-Pacific region.

President of LGA South Australia, Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, said councils across the state were reducing emissions, building resilience and helping communities prepare for the future.

"If you want to see climate action in practice, look at local government," Mayor Holmes-Ross said.

"It's the shade from a street tree on a hot day, the flood resilience of a local road, the solar panels on community facilities, and the choices we make about the places we love," Mayor Holmes-Ross said.

"Adelaide Climate Action Week is a chance to showcase what's working, learn from each other and inspire even greater action across our state."

"We're proud to be a Founding Presenting Partner of a festival that is bringing people together to move from climate ambition to climate action."



The first program release spans ACAW's five action areas:

- **Learn** - Understanding our changing world
- **Care** - People, justice and community voice
- **Use Wisely** - Energy, economy and circular futures
- **Restore** - Country, nature and living systems
- **Be Ready** - Resilience, adaptation and disaster preparedness

Two further program releases will follow, bringing the total number of events to around 100. Event registrations and updates are available via my.acaw.org.au.

Program Highlights

Barossa Green – The World's First Regenerative Data Centre

Explore a globally significant project reimagining what digital infrastructure can contribute to regional communities through renewable energy generation, water innovation and economic development.

The Beast at MOD.

Experience an immersive energy exhibit that challenges participants to balance renewable and non-renewable energy sources while navigating the complexities of a modern electricity system.

From Ambition to Action: Sustainable Technology in a Net-Zero Economy

A professional webinar examining digital emissions, AI, cloud computing and the growing expectations facing organisations under Australia's sustainability reporting framework.

Rewilding the Fleurieu

Join Tim Jarvis and the Forktree Project for a hands-on restoration event focused on biodiversity, resilience and landscape regeneration.

ENDS



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MEDIA CONTACT

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ADDITIONAL STORY OPPORTUNITIES

Media are invited to contact ACAW regarding interviews, feature stories and exclusive access opportunities, including:

- Can Adelaide become the climate action capital of the Asia-Pacific?
 - w/ Joanna Kay, Program Director, International at The SuperPower Institute
 - w/ Mark & Jen, Co-Founders, Adelaide Climate Action Week
- Climate leadership from South Australian councils
 - w/ President of LGA South Australia, Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross
- South Australia's path to 100 per cent net renewable electricity by 2027
 - w/ Michelle Howie, Innovation Development Manager, SA Power Networks
- The world's first regenerative data centre in the Barossa Valley
 - w/ Adrian Odorisio, Founder & Managing Director, Barossa Green
- Community-led restoration and resilience projects
 - w/ Tess & Triton, Founders, HumankindStudios & The Circular Initiative
 - w/ Austin Redden, Breath Easy Revegetation

Additional interview opportunities and exclusives are available with festival founders, climate experts, local government leaders, industry innovators and event hosts.

Launch photos/videos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/152dQHYqhhQyTnvR4N3zDcGBWK5oBjaMQ?usp=drive_