The Northern Territory Government is leading the charge against climate change by committing to becoming a carbon neutral organisation within eight years.

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson and the Climate Change Minister Karl Hampton made the commitment while launching a comprehensive action plan to address climate change today.

“Climate change is one of the most important issues facing our community. It cannot be ignored. It cannot be tackled piecemeal,” he said.

“The Territory Government will take the lead and bring the community with us to effect change.

“The Environment and Economic Sustainability are core areas of Territory 2030, and the Territory’s climate change policy is a key part of both of these.”

Underpinning the policy is an aspirational goal of a 60% reduction in carbon emissions on 2007 levels by 2050.

“This Government also strongly supports a national emissions trading scheme. This means we can drive real change and reduce emissions,” Mr Henderson said.
The policy also includes nine major elements with 40 targets and five headline action areas:

- By 2018 we will ensure the Northern Territory Government is carbon neutral
- By 2020 at least 4 million tonnes of carbon per year will be removed from the atmosphere through better land management and the establishment of a new carbon off-set fund arrangement
- The annual rate of land clearing will not be allowed to increase – the Territory will be a low-land clearing jurisdiction.
- By 2020, the Territory will be a world leading generator of renewable and low emissions power in remote communities
- The Territory will be at the forefront of efforts to save the best of our priceless coastal wetlands by reducing salt water intrusion, protecting fishing and saving biodiversity.

Mr Hampton said the action areas are supported by targets that everybody can help achieve, including phasing out single-use plastic shopping bags and reducing the amount of waste going to our dumps.

“Other notable targets include developing Alice Springs and Central Australia as a world-leading solar energy centre by 2020; developing Weddell as a world-class green city and replacing diesel with renewable and low-emission energy sources in remote communities by 2020,” Mr Hampton said.

“Even though the Territory has a relatively small carbon footprint, our policy puts us on a strong footing to play our part in the global effort.”

Media contacts: Geoff Fraser (Chief Minister) 0407 360256
Edwin Edlund (Minister Hampton) 0401 119563