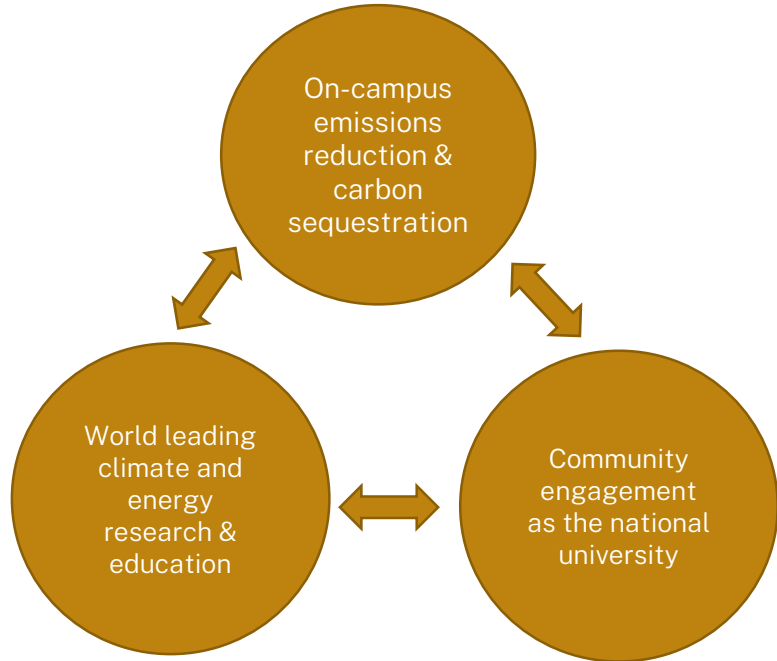


ANU BELOW ZERO REPORT

JUNE 2021



Below Zero Goals



ANU Council endorsed targets in Feb 2021

- Net zero emissions by 2025
 - Below zero emissions by 2030
- For direct on-campus emissions, energy, business travel and waste
 - First and foremost goal = reduce emissions
 - Use carbon offsets as back up only. By 2030 only use carbon offsets with an ANU research / teaching connection or on ANU land / partnership.
 - Beyond 2030, progressively draw down emissions accumulated earlier
 - Reduce all other indirect emissions from procurement and commuter travel as rapidly as possible, based on international best practice for university sector



Reducing our emissions from energy

1. Monitoring emissions: Development of Energy dashboard,
(delivery time unclear, TBC)

2. Starting transition from gas immediately

- Replacing 7/100+ gas boilers in 2021 (\$1.8 mil)
- Review of all gas assets as part of Infrastructure Strategy
(consultation expected completion date - end of July 2021)
- Developing policies to ban installation of new gas assets



3. Energy Transition Strategy (medium-term – starting now): Currently exploring & procuring expertise in relation to energy transitions and alternative financing mechanisms



ANU Battery Storage & Grid Integration Program (BSGIP) proposal to deliver techno-social-economic analysis of technology & commercial solutions from the market - currently being refined



Goal is to develop energy procurement strategy for ANU Council approval – December 2021

Reducing our emissions from business travel



Business travel could be the largest source of emissions in a pre-COVID year – 3x previous estimates with only 23% of ANU travel booked through ANU travel system, approx. 30,000 tonnes CO₂e per annum



Below Zero Travel Working Group, chaired by Prof Sharon Bell – work in progress:

- Use COVID travel window to change habits
- Make GHG impacts transparent – monitor and track emissions & display individual's emissions prior to travel approvals / travel booking
- Develop travel hierarchy
 - Engage users in travel decision - Is travel essential? If not, avoid.
 - Reduce travel demand to and from ANU
 - Travel without flying
 - Fly when there are no alternatives and offset these emissions



- Promote travel alternatives – provide options & resources to facilitate low carbon choices e.g. virtual events, multi-node hybrid conferences, development of **low carbon travel guide & guide to low carbon events**
- Amending **travel approval form** & adding GHG emissions calculator
- Developing **policy recommendations** for Travel Policy Review process
- Exploring development of GHG emissions calculator app
- If travel is essential, offset using high quality carbon offsets – developing an **ANU offset policy**



Carbon removal (negative emissions)



To limit global warming to Paris Climate goals, we need go beyond net zero emissions – we need to draw down and sequester greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. However, going to market for emission-offsets is growing increasingly expensive and will have no research or teaching dividend for ANU. Many offset schemes have questions hanging over them.

- Working towards development of ANU offsets policy
- Exploring Centre of Excellence application re negative emissions
- Establishment of **Land Management for Carbon Sequestration** research group:
 - Build ANU research & educational capacity - exploring societal co-benefits of carbon sequestration: biodiversity, agriculture, energy farming, first nations cultural heritage, social and economic benefits
 - **Develop opportunities for best practice carbon sequestration and related research at landscape level on ANU land**
- Exploring and developing funding opportunities & partnerships – working with ANU Advancement, ACT Govt, landholders
- Planning to engage others including corporate partners, First Nations groups, NSW Government



Community engagement as the national university



Public launch featuring ANU Vice Chancellor and Prof Mark Howden, Director, ICEDS (20 May)

- Strong media coverage: 363 news items across print, online radio and TV reaching audience of 2.2 – 4.7 million people
- Media highlights: Extensive coverage by ABC Radio & TV as well as other channels
- Top media tweet from @ourANU Twitter handle in May

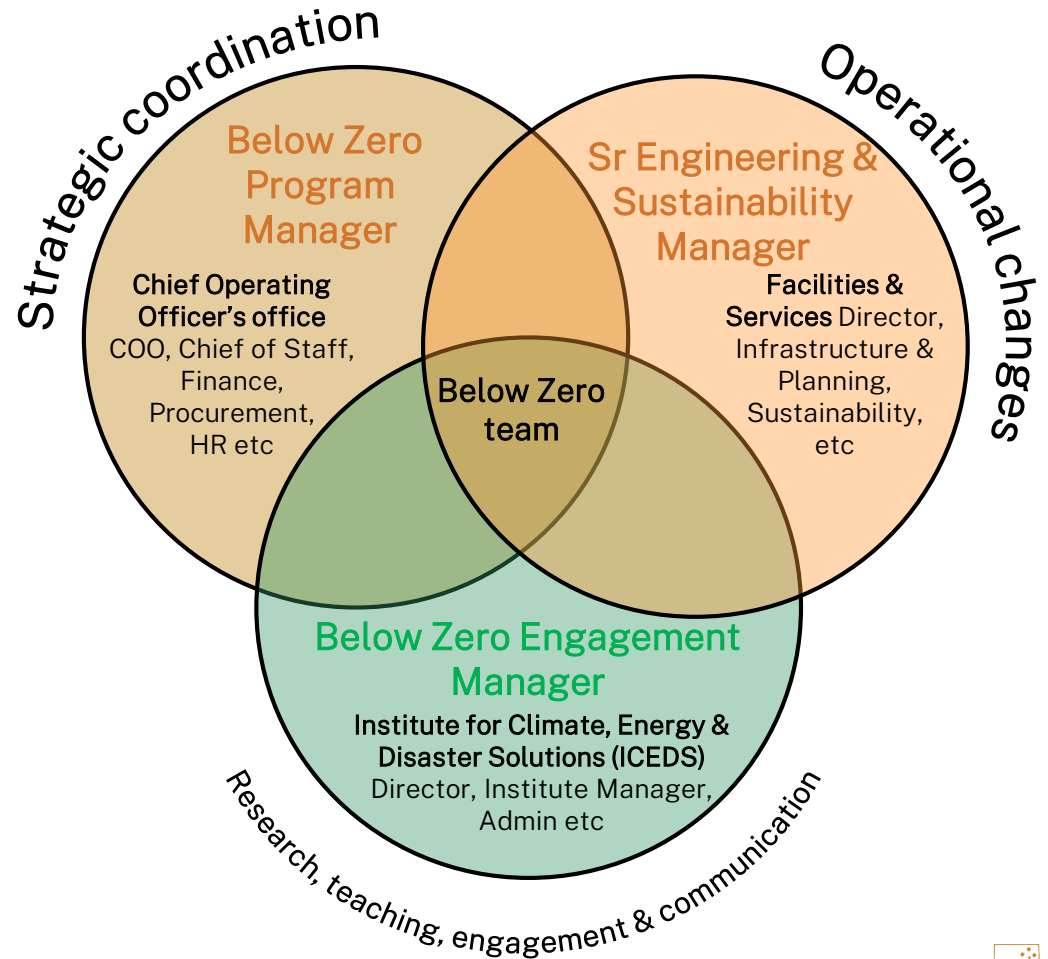
ANU has joined the UN's [Race to Zero](#) – to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonised economy ahead of COP26

- Along with 733 cities, 31 regions, 3,067 businesses, 622 Higher Education Institutions and growing



Building the Below Zero team – recruitment in progress, taking longer than anticipated

Green text = new staff recruited.
Orange text = recruitment still in progress.
Other staff are already in place.



DISCUSSION

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