



Liveable Climate

Action Plan 2020—2030







What Council will do

The actions in this document outline the role that every team within Council will play in responding to climate change. This work across the entire organisation will ensure we can reach our goals.

1

Renewable Energy

All our energy is sourced from renewables

Action	Timeframe	Project type
<p>Action 1.1</p> <p>Construct and operate Solar Farms on closed landfill sites, generating 100% renewable power for council operations.</p> <p>Cost: \$8.2M*</p>	<p>Operational by 2023</p>	<p>New infrastructure. Capital investment with 15-20 year payback</p>
<p>Action 1.2</p> <p>Establish a Biomass Carbon Capture Facility to process organic wastes from across the region into high value biochar and renewable energy.</p> <p>Cost: \$1M*</p>	<p>Operational by 2023</p>	<p>New infrastructure. Capital investment with <5 year payback.</p>
<p>Action 1.3</p> <p>Explore new opportunities, such as Power Purchase Agreements, to source affordable renewable energy for Council operations from outside Yarra Ranges, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Immediate, and ongoing consideration</p>	<p>New procurement option, in partnership with other Councils.</p>
<p>Action 1.4</p> <p>Continue to manage, and extend, the portfolio of Solar PV and Energy Storage systems across Council sites; to provide reliable, cost-effective renewable energy directly to facilities and services wherever viable.</p>	<p>Continuation of current work, to 2030</p>	<p>New infrastructure. Capital investment with 10-15 year payback.</p>



2

Zero Emission Fleet

Our vehicles and equipment are zero emission

Action	Timeframe	Project type
<p>Action 2.1</p> <p>Develop a Zero Emissions Fleet, Plant and Equipment Plan in 2021, to guide the transition to zero emission technology by 2030.</p> <p>Cost: \$75,000*</p>	<p>Completed by Dec 2021</p>	<p>One-off study</p>
<p>Action 2.2</p> <p>Transform Council's entire fleet to zero emissions technology, such as Electric Vehicles, by 2030.</p>	<p>As available, complete by 2030</p>	<p>Gradual change-over, as individual assets are replaced</p>
<p>Action 2.3</p> <p>Replace all Council Plant and Equipment with viable zero emissions alternatives by 2030.</p>	<p>As available, complete by 2030</p>	<p>Gradual change-over, as individual assets are replaced</p>

*All cost estimates are based on 2020 modelling. Individual projects are subject to Council's annual budgeting process, with external funding support wherever possible.



3

Resilient Buildings

Our buildings are energy efficient and resilient in a changing climate

Action 3.1

Administer a dedicated **Climate Action Fund** to upgrade facilities and equipment - improving energy and water efficiency, building climate resilience and continuing the shift to renewable resources.

Cost: \$250,000/year*

Timeframe

Annual fund from 2020

Project type

Continuous improvement in resource efficiency and adaptation via capital projects

Action 3.2

Develop a **Resilient Buildings Study**, ensuring Council facilities are increasingly resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Cost: \$75,000*

Timeframe

Completed by June 2022

Project type

One-off study in partnership with EAGA

Action 3.3

Review the **Building Maintenance and Renewal** program to ensure resource efficiency measures are delivered via routine maintenance.

Timeframe

Annually from 2021

Project type

Annual review of works program

*All cost estimates are based on 2020 modelling. Individual projects are subject to Council's annual budgeting process, with external funding support wherever possible.



4

Sustainable Design

All our assets are designed, built and managed using a sustainable lifecycle approach

Action	Timeframe	Project type
<p>Action 4.1</p> <p>Embed climate risk assessment and adaptation measures throughout Asset Management Planning.</p>	<p>Ongoing, from 2021</p>	<p>Continuous improvement process</p>
<p>Action 4.2</p> <p>Prepare for changes in rainfall by updating Council's Stormwater and Flood Modelling, consistent with the current Australian Standard for Rainfall and Runoff (e.g. ARR2019) and inclusive of 100 years of forecast climate modelling.</p>	<p>Updated by 2022, then ongoing</p>	<p>Continuous improvement, in partnership with Melbourne Water</p>
<p>Action 4.3</p> <p>Improve Digital Utility Management by monitoring energy and water (collection and usage) across Council sites through data capture, smart technology and accurate reporting.</p> <p>Cost: \$25,000*</p>	<p>Begun by 2021, then ongoing</p>	<p>Continuous improvement, as part of Council's digital transformation</p>
<p>Action 4.4</p> <p>Establish an ESD Assessment Service to support Council's capital works program, ensuring environmentally sustainable design outcomes are achieved in building and infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>Established by 2021, then ongoing</p>	<p>New service, within existing resources</p>



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5

Climate Thinking

We consider climate change in all our strategies, policies, programs and services

<p>Action 5.1</p> <p>Climate risks and opportunities are identified and addressed in the Council Plan and by each business unit through their annual Business Planning process.</p>	<p>Timeframe</p> <p>Established by 2021, then ongoing</p>	<p>Project type</p> <p>Continuous improvement, via regular planning and reporting cycle</p>
<p>Action 5.2</p> <p>Update Council's key Policies and Strategies to promote economic, social and environmental sustainability while mitigating and planning for climate change risks, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Wellbeing Plan• Organisational Risk Register• Community Waste Management Plan• Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy• Procurement Policy• Integrated Water Management Plan	<p>Timeframe</p> <p>All updated by 2022, then ongoing</p>	<p>Project type</p> <p>Continuous improvement, via regular policy development cycle</p>
<p>Action 5.3</p> <p>Provide planning applicants with an ESD Advisory Service to ensure our current and future communities are supported by resilient and affordable building stock.</p>	<p>Timeframe</p> <p>Established by 2021, then ongoing</p>	<p>Project type</p> <p>Staff resource dedicated to supporting planning applications</p>
<p>Action 5.4</p> <p>Continue to partner across the region and government sector, to deliver on climate change initiatives through a collaborative approach; e.g. Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA), Cities Power Partnership, Sustainability Victoria's TAKE2 program.</p>	<p>Timeframe</p> <p>Continuation of current work, to 2030</p>	<p>Project type</p> <p>Partnerships and Advocacy</p>
<p>Action 5.5</p> <p>Advocate to State and Federal government for action on climate change that benefits our local community, including local businesses, households and the agricultural sector.</p>	<p>Timeframe</p> <p>Continuation of current work, to 2030</p>	<p>Project type</p> <p>Partnerships and Advocacy</p>



How we will work with our communities

These actions detail how we will work with our community to respond to climate change, through Council services and programs. Our goal is to support a thriving economy, a climate-resilient landscape and to improve the liveability and connectedness of our entire community.

6

Living Landscapes

Our townships and suburbs are leafy green oases

Action 6.1

Develop and implement a **Tree Strategy** to grow a healthy and resilient treescape across suburbs and townships; and increase tree canopy cover along key pedestrian and tourist routes.

Timeframe

Endorsed by 2021, implemented to 2030

Project type

Council policy development and implementation

Action 6.2

Collaborate with traditional owners and the broader community to foster an approach to **Stewardship Founded on Indigenous Connection** to land and country; to protect existing biodiversity from land use changes and the impacts of a changing climate.

Timeframe

Continuation and expansion of current work, to 2030

Project type

Collaboration and partnerships

Action 6.3

Develop and implement **Urban Design Guidelines** to ensure Council placemaking improves the amenity, walkability and climate resilience of townships, while reducing environmental impacts of new works e.g. through selection of materials with high recycled content, low embodied emissions, etc.

Timeframe

Endorsed by 2022, implemented to 2030

Project type

Council policy development and implementation

Action 6.4

Work with government and community partners to apply **Integrated Water Management** across the municipality. Retain water in the landscape to improve water security, protect against drought, bushfire, heat, rising costs etc.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Collaboration with agencies



7

Thriving Yarra Ranges

Local community, business and industry are climate-ready and energised

Action	Timeframe	Project type
<p>Action 7.1</p> <p>Work with townships to develop tailored Community Resilience Plans, ensuring they can respond to the various emergencies, shocks and stresses resulting from a changing climate; including bushfire, storms, heat and drought.</p>	<p>Continuation of current work, to 2030</p>	<p>Continuous improvement and extension of existing programs</p>
<p>Action 7.2</p> <p>Develop and coordinate a comprehensive Sustainable Business Program to actively support the transition to a vibrant, zero-carbon and circular economy. Cost: \$100,000/year*</p>	<p>Program launched by 2022, then ongoing</p>	<p>Support program for businesses and the local economy</p>
<p>Action 7.3</p> <p>Update Council's Community Grants Program to specifically encourage activities that support climate adaptation and/or emission reduction.</p>	<p>Updated by 2021, then ongoing</p>	<p>Continuous improvement of existing programs</p>
<p>Action 7.4</p> <p>Work with traditional owners, local growers, peak bodies and land managers to promote Resilient Land Management and regenerative agriculture practices, including firestick and other indigenous land management techniques.</p>	<p>Continuation of current work, to 2030</p>	<p>Support for the agricultural and rural land sector</p>
<p>Action 7.5</p> <p>Conduct a Public Land Capability Assessment across the municipality to inform climate-ready place planning, adaptive management of public open space, and innovative partnerships with local communities. Cost: \$100,000</p>	<p>Completed by 2023</p>	<p>One-off study</p>

*All cost estimates are based on 2020 modelling. Individual projects are subject to Council's annual budgeting process, with external funding support wherever possible.

Action 7.6

Continue to coordinate an inter-agency and regional partnership approach to facilitate **Regional Resilience**, and ensure the local economy is able to adapt and take advantage of emerging opportunities, such as sustainable tourism and recycled water for agriculture.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Collaboration and partnerships

Action 7.7

Work in partnership to promote **Sustainable Tourism** that contributes to a prosperous local economy while benefiting local communities and the environment.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Collaboration and partnerships



8

Adapting Together

No one in Yarra Ranges is left behind in the shift to our low carbon future

Action 8.1

Establish a **Resilient Communities Program** to help local communities overcome barriers to investing in climate resilience measures, including energy efficiency, water harvesting, renewables and energy storage.

Cost: \$250,000/year*

Timeframe

Program launched by 2022, then ongoing

Project type

Annual program of financial and administrative support

Action 8.2

Provide ongoing **Practical Support Programs** that help residents, schools, groups and businesses to overcome barriers and participate in the transition to a low carbon future.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Continuation and extension of existing programs

Action 8.3

Support communities working to develop localised **Climate Action and Adaptation Plans** tailored to their unique area.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Community support through co-design models and partnerships

*All cost estimates are based on 2020 modelling. Individual projects are subject to Council's annual budgeting process, with external funding support wherever possible.



9

Sustainable Transport

Low-carbon options are integrated throughout the region, to keep everyone active and moving.

Action 9.1

Deliver the Integrated Transport Strategy, to ensure our townships and neighbourhoods are connected by a **Network of Paths and Trails** that make walking and cycling the easy and obvious choice for an everyday option.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Council policy development and implementation

Action 9.2

Advocate to State and Federal government for **Effective and Efficient Public Transport** infrastructure and services throughout Yarra Ranges.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Partnerships and advocacy

Action 9.3

Facilitate the uptake of **Electric Vehicles** throughout the region through partnerships, advocacy and strategic support.

Timeframe

Continuation of current work, to 2030

Project type

Partnerships and advocacy



10

Food Security

Local food initiatives take root and flourish

Action 10.1

Work to expand and improve **Community Gardens** infrastructure throughout the region, in partnership with local groups, service providers and agencies; to support the growing demand for inclusive recreation, affordable fresh produce, and diverse opportunities for social connection.

Timeframe

Continuation and expansion of current work, to 2030

Project type

Partnerships and advocacy

Action 10.2

Deliver **Food Security Programs** that promote community resilience, quality nutrition and social cohesion; in partnership with commercial growers, traditional owners, visitors, service providers and local gardeners.

Timeframe

New programs launched by 2023, then ongoing

Project type

New programs

Action 10.3

Partner with local industry to avoid, minimise and compost food waste by **Fostering Local Food Networks**, creating and/or enhancing existing farmers markets & food banks, and innovative local composting options.

Timeframe

Continuation and expansion of current work, to 2030

Project type

Partnerships and advocacy

Action 10.4

Secure and promote **Yarra Ranges as a Food Bowl** for Melbourne by developing and administering appropriate planning controls, and working with industry peak bodies to enhance the region's reputation as a leader in sustainable agriculture.

Timeframe

New measures identified and in place by 2025

Project type

Continuous improvement





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