

Climate Emergency 2021-2023 Action Plan

Final Progress Report

The Climate Emergency Response Plan 2021-2031 sets out Council's commitments to climate action over 10 years. Our climate emergency response areas are:

Mitigation

Actions to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to help limit future impact

Adaption

Actions to reduce our vulnerability and build resilience to the unavoidable climate impacts

Mobilisation

Empowering our staff and community to act

Climate change presents an enormous challenge to humanity across the globe that can often feel overwhelming. Our 2021-23 progress report focuses on the things that are within Council's control, celebrates the positive outcomes we're achieving, and the progress we're making in the face of such a complex challenge. There is more work to do, but we have laid a solid foundation and achieved a lot over the last two years.

Mitigation highlights:

- Reduced non-landfill emissions by more than 2,140t CO₂-e (that's 41% since 2020-21).
- 316kW solar + 64kWh battery storage installed on Council facilities across the shire.
- 100% renewable electricity for Council operations through the Victorian Energy Collaboration, saving Council \$173k through reduced utility bills (2021-23 expenditure compared to 2019-21).
- Corporate emissions reduction target and roadmap adopted: Zero scope 1 and 2 non-landfill emissions by 2030.
- Climate Active Carbon Neutral certification achieved for 2021-22 (submission underway for 2022-23).
- Delivered energy efficiency/electrification works on Council facilities, incl. Aireys Inlet Hall which is now all electric.
- Electrifying Council's fleet & plant:
 - 25% small plant now electric
 - 4 EV charging stations at Council office and depots
 - Light fleet now a mix of electric, hybrid and petrol vehicles



Gobata Dja team



Adaptation highlights:

- Developed a Climate Adaptation Planning Framework to better coordinate Council's adaptation responses.
- Worked with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to protect midden sites at Djarrak (Bells Beach).
- Completed a demonstration climate resilient site at Aireys Inlet Hall incl. electrification, solar, battery, energy efficiency upgrades and fire preparedness works.
- Undertook a Sustainable Water Use Study for Council operations.
- Established a Community Bushfire Leadership Program and strengthened community understanding of flood risk of the Painkalac Creek.
- Initiated two Integrated Water Management projects: Jan Juc Creek Daylighting Stage 2 and Winchelsea Greening and Stormwater Improvement Upgrades.



Mobilisation highlights:

- Developed and implemented the Climate Emergency Grants stream, funding five community climate action projects.
- Strengthened relationships with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, including engaging WTOAC Gobata Dja team for land management services at Djarrak (Bells Beach).
- Council were founding members of the Barwon South West Climate Alliance, strengthening regional collaboration on climate action.
- Embedded consideration of climate in Council's decision making, including Council's budget process.
- Partnered with Geelong Sustainability for the All Electric Homes and Sustainable House Day campaigns.
- Partnered with Anglesea Community House delivering a series of sustainability events.
- Delivered the Youth for Climate program annually.