

Action plan 23/24

Climate Change Strategy

Working together for a healthy, connected shire



Goal 1

Goal 1: Climate action is in everything we do		
Action area 1: Right across Council, our initiatives, projects, policies and services contribute to our climate response		
1.1.1	Continue convening the internal Climate Change Leadership Group.	Ongoing
1.1.2	Review options to extend Council's commitment to divesting in fossil fuel investments within the Cash Management Policy.	Jun 2024
1.1.3	As all policies, strategies and plans come up for review, update each document to address climate change impacts and responses as relevant to the subject matter.	Ongoing
1.1.4	Continue to review and update the Strategic Risk Report to ensure climate change risks are appropriately assessed and managed.	Ongoing
1.1.5	Integrate climate change risk into new project and program plans/risk assessments.	Jun 2024
1.1.6	As part of the annual planning process, ensure each team explores how climate change impacts their work area and how they can contribute to the climate response.	Jun 2024
1.1.7	Publish a snapshot of Council's climate risk assessment to keep our community informed.	Dec 2023
Action area 2: We consistently integrate climate messages into communications arising from all departments		
1.2.1	Deliver a one month pilot focused on integrating climate messages across Council communication platforms.	Dec 2023
1.2.2	Hold bi-annual internal meetings to review and reflect on how climate change messages are being integrated into broader Council communications.	Jun 2024
1.2.3	Actively promote sustainable programs and rebates available through other organisations or levels of government or for households, organisations and businesses.	Ongoing
Action area 3: We seek innovative ways to increase resourcing for climate action		
1.3.1	Investigate the establishment of an internal carbon budget.	Dec 2023

Goal 2

Goal 2: We transition in a just and equitable way to a zero emissions shire

Action area 1: Council operations are efficient, and powered by renewable energy

This Action Area will be addressed via delivery of the 23/24 financial year actions in the Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2020-2025.

Action area 2: Council partners on and supports programs to achieve a just transition to zero-net emissions for its residents and businesses		
2.2.1 (5.1)	Host an annual climate response planning meeting with local community groups to: - facilitate community feedback and input into Council's annual climate action plan - support information sharing between groups. (Note: this action is also relevant to goal 5.1)	Apr 2024
2.2.2	Continue involvement in the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance to develop regional projects, advocate and share knowledge.	Ongoing
2.2.3	Establish MoUs and agreements with community groups where there is alignment with Council's climate change goals.	Dec 2023
2.2.4	When possible support the preparation of grant applications by community groups where they align strongly with Council's climate change goals and the targeted funder's goals/criteria.	Ongoing
2.2.5	Actively promote for all tenants of Council facilities to source 100% renewable energy. Support the transition by offering tenants to join VECO or local renewable energy generators.	Jun 2024

Action area 3: Council delivers infrastructure and advocacy that supports a well-connected low carbon transport system

2.3.1	Continue to monitor usage and cost/benefit of existing Council owned EV chargers.	Ongoing
2.3.2	Consider outcomes of the CVGA project investigating policies for privately owned EV chargers on Council land.	Jun 2024
2.3.3	Promote local electric vehicle community bulk buy opportunities.	Jun 2024

Goal 3

Goal 3: Our natural environment and green spaces are healthy, resilient and increasing

Action area 1: Council delivers Water Sensitive Urban Design and partnerships for a water sensitive shire

3.1.1	Undertake next steps (if feasible) following feasibility study into Castlemaine Botanical Gardens alternative water source opportunities.	Jun 2024
3.1.2	Review Castlemaine Integrated Water Management Plan (Water for now and into the future) and how it can be used to support a water sensitive shire.	Jun 2024
3.1.3	When planning streetscape programs, seek to maximise opportunities for increased permeability and vegetation cover.	Ongoing

Action area 2: Council delivers and partners to increase canopy cover, ecosystem resilience and landscape connectivity

3.2.1	In collaboration with other councils, support the North Central Catchment Management Authority to deliver a pilot project to test the feasibility of a larger local offsetting project.	Jun 2024
3.2.2	Continue to work with First Nations, landcare and other groups such as Connecting Country to support regeneration on public and private land.	Ongoing
3.2.3	Continue to work with other agencies like Parks Victoria, Coliban Water, Catchment Management Authorities etc. to identify funding opportunities and partnerships.	Ongoing
3.2.4	Seek external funding opportunities to support maintenance and safety management of increased canopy cover.	Ongoing

Action area 3: Council seeks opportunities for positive ecological outcomes on private land

3.3.1	If funding is successful, partner to deliver the Creating Healthy and Drought Resilient Landscapes and Communities in Central Victoria project.	Jun 2024
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Goal 4

Goal 4: Our infrastructure is robust in the face of current and future climate change impacts

Action area 1: Council-owned buildings, assets and infrastructure are resilient and built for future climate

4.1.1	Review how climate change is considered in asset renewal, maintenance and retrofit cycles.	Ongoing
4.1.2	Explore potential for landscaping and footpath materials that are cooler and more permeable than traditional hard surfaces such as concrete, while still meeting the diverse mobility needs of our community.	Ongoing

Action area 2: Council uses planning controls and urban design to reduce exposure to climate risks

4.2.1	Review land use planning policies to strengthen climate change considerations.	Jun 2024
4.2.2	Identify climate resilience opportunities when undertaking master planning and strategic land use planning projects.	Ongoing
4.2.3	Ensure that climate responsive design is encouraged in housing and neighbourhood character strategies Note Implementation (planning scheme amendment) estimated by 2026.	Jun 2024
4.2.4	Incorporate climate change projections into future flood studies undertaken across the shire.	Ongoing

Action area 3: Council advocates and educates for climate-resilient buildings and development

4.3.1	Identify and pursue opportunities to improve Environmentally Sustainable Design outcomes in subdivisions, new housing developments and precinct structure plans to improve a range of healthy living outcomes.	Jun 2024
4.3.2	Partner with community organisations to educate and promote benefits of making homes climate proof/responsive.	Ongoing
4.3.3	Work with other councils and alliances to advocate for improved consideration of climate change in Victoria's planning scheme.	Ongoing

Goals 5 and 6

Goal 5: Our community is connected and has the capacity to adapt to climate change

Action area 1: Council works with our community to strengthen social cohesion and connection

5.1.1	Continue to deliver and promote activities that build social cohesion for climate resilience (examples include arts and cultural events, public art, sport, community lunches and events, markets, community gardens, volunteerism).	Ongoing
5.1.2	Continue dialogue with local Traditional Owner groups to identify opportunities to address climate change	Ongoing
5.1.3	Continue to support the Healthy Loddon Campaspe project, which is enabling healthy, equitable and environmentally sustainable food systems.	Ongoing
5.1.4	Create additional opportunities that support young people to influence and participate in the local climate change response (e.g. through Council's Youth Advocacy Group and the School Strike for Climate Group).	Ongoing

Action area 2: Within our programs and services Council prioritises support to members of the community most at risk of experiencing vulnerability to climate change impacts

5.2.1	Investigate funding opportunities for measuring and communicating community vulnerabilities and resilience across our shire.	Jun 2024
5.2.2	Continue to support community groups and organisations delivering local climate resilience initiatives.	Ongoing

Action area 3: Council partners to reduce climate risks, and prepare for and respond to extreme weather events

5.3.1	Review the Victorian Preparedness Framework to ensure Council's emergency management planning is comprehensive and aligned with other levels of government (also covered in other programs).	Dec 2023
5.3.2	Continue to participate in the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster to drive best practice responses and regional scale solutions.	Ongoing

Goal 6: Our shire is zero waste and has a resilient, circular economy

This work is noted for incorporation into Council waste and economic development programs.

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