



Climate Emergency Action Plan

2020 - 2025

Bayside City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land, the Boon Wurrung people, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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PART A.

1. Executive Summary

Introduction

In December 2019, Bayside City Council declared a Climate Emergency. Council responded swiftly following a petition from the community requesting that Council declare a Climate Emergency and develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan, received in November 2019 with overwhelming support. Through its declaration and commitment, Council recognised that climate change is causing significant damage to our economy, society and environment, and that urgent action is required to reverse current trends and quickly adapt to the already changing climate.

As an organisation, we have been tackling climate change for many years. We have taken many actions: installing solar panels, introducing food waste recycling, and low emission fleet vehicles. Council is also committed to purchasing renewable energy, and maintaining carbon neutrality for our operations from 2020. Whilst we have already made progress, we understand we need to take more action together with our community, and we need to do it faster. It's not only about our children and grandchildren; it's about us, now.

Success cannot be achieved by working alone. Council has joined over 1380 other jurisdictions worldwide in acknowledging that now more than ever, we must be united and work in collaboration with our residents, businesses, community organisations, fellow local councils, and State and Federal government bodies.

Decisions made now will position our economy, society and local community for the disruption caused by climate change. Bayside's Climate Emergency Action Plan outlines the first five years of actions on which we can work together to make significant and lasting change.

The purpose of this Plan is to identify the action Council will take to respond to the Climate Emergency and support our local community to take action to reduce their impact on the environment.

The Plan includes actions to both minimise greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and reduce vulnerability (adaptation) to the impacts of climate change. The Plan draws on Council's role as a leader and advocate for change across other tiers of government, and its role to encourage and facilitate community participation and collaboration.

Key issues and findings

The latest UN IPCC report shows that we could have just 10 years left to limit a climate catastrophe. As a community, Bayside emits around 1.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. We are one of the highest greenhouse gas emitters per capita in the world. By reducing emissions, aligning to the 'Paris Agreement' targets, and preparing for the impacts of climate change locally, we are contributing to the solution, not the problem.

Council has a long-standing commitment to addressing climate change and has developed several Policies, Strategies and Action Plans which directly address mitigation and adaptation to climate change. These provide a strong underpinning for continued development and future success in addressing the Climate Emergency.

The actions in this plan have been identified through an extensive gaps and opportunities assessment of Council's 81 existing Policies, Strategies and Action Plans. This process has highlighted how Council can accelerate and adjust existing work to respond to the Climate Emergency.

As Council becomes carbon neutral for its operations from 2020, we acknowledge the inherent limitations of having direct control over greenhouse gas emissions beyond our operations. It is clear that actions to address the Climate Emergency must expand beyond the organisational boundary and be met with response and commitment from the community, businesses, neighbouring councils and other tiers of government. Through the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance, Council partners with and acts alongside neighbouring councils, and also with other Victorian councils through the other Victorian Greenhouse Alliances.

Council is taking a leadership role in ensuring the health, safety and resilience of their community and calls on the State and Federal Governments to accept their roles and rise to the challenge of addressing the Climate Emergency. Where the State and Federal Governments have direct influence, beyond Council jurisdiction, to make the necessary changes and deliver greater outcomes to safeguard the public, Council will demand that action be taken.

As part of the development of this Action Plan, extensive community engagement was undertaken. During the engagement six key themes were explored: a further theme was added to include Council's internal organisational approach. 'Renewable Energy' was the most frequently selected of the six themes for Council to focus on in the Climate Emergency Action Plan, with 37% of responses identifying this as the top priority. This was followed by 29% who selected 'Waste', and 27% who selected 'Sustainable Buildings and Homes' as their top priority area for Council.

Internal engagement was also undertaken, including with the Senior Leadership Team (Council Executive Team and Managers). Staff were engaged on the principles, themes and potential actions for the Action Plan, to elevate the importance of a holistic approach across Council.

Further key insights from both the engagement within Bayside City Council and with the community were:

- The vast majority of the engaged community supported Council's Climate Emergency declaration and believed that the declaration needs to be coupled with strong action.
- There is strong cross-organisational support to deliver the Action Plan.
- The Action Plan should achieve a balance of actions and approaches that fall between a level of ambition that is 'Transformational' and 'Leading'. Engaged community members expected to see evidence that Council is seeking a deeper transformation through the delivery of the Action Plan.
- It is important that messaging about the 'Climate Emergency and delivery of the Action Plan feels relevant to the majority of people in the community.
- Encouraging and empowering the community is likely to be a key challenge for Council and will require a whole of Council approach, and strong community partnerships.
- There is a significant expectation from the community that Council will advocate strongly to State and Federal Governments for deeper systems change.
- There was broad support in the community for Bayside to set targets aligned with State Government targets.
- While existing Council plans and strategies include actions addressing climate change, there is a significant opportunity to build on these in the context of the 'Climate Emergency'. There are examples of specific actions assessed as 'best practice' that have shown to have a big impact.

These insights have supported the development of the Action Plan. The work to develop actions included in the Plan was undertaken to help ensure that the actions align with Council, community and staff expectations and interests.

Vision statement

Bayside's urgent response to the Climate Emergency will protect current and future generations, and the places we all love.



Principles

Bayside City Council is committed to the seven delivery Principles outlined below. These Principles will be used to guide our actions. They will support internal decision-making and project design related to the Climate Emergency.

1. Employ a transformational approach

- Plan and facilitate deep cultural change
- Ensure all Council staff are accountable to act:
 - Embed the Climate Emergency response into everyday operations
 - Embed the Climate Emergency response across Departments
 - All strategies, policies and plans consider the Climate Emergency response
- Embed the top priority Climate Emergency actions into the Council Plan
- The Climate Emergency is considered in all Council and organisational decisions

2. Make the Climate Emergency one of the highest priorities

- Wherever possible, new and existing resources are leveraged to respond to the Climate Emergency
- Non-essential functions and consumption may be curtailed or rationed through an emergency lens prioritisation process
- Make resourcing decisions with long-term view that considers the future cost of inaction or inadequate action
- Make decisions based on the best available evidence, to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change

3. Authentic, unified leadership

- All organisational Leaders to deliver strong messages that inspire and empower
- Council leads by example in their operations and actions

4. Proactive advocacy

- Draw on relevant expertise and local experience to develop advocacy positions
- Be bold in advocating to State and Federal Governments
- Work with others advocating for urgent change
- Mobilise the community to advocate

5. Immediate action with a long-term view

- Plan and rapidly deliver 1-5 years of actions
- Build on what we have done already
- Focus on highest impact actions given what is within our control
- Identify opportunity areas for longer-term response

6. Be honest, clear and succinct

- Couple messages of threats and challenge with messages of action and hope
- Regularly communicate local achievements to demonstrate what is different under a Climate Emergency and prove that change is possible
- Report transparently to the community on achievements and challenges in delivering the Climate Emergency Action Plan

7. Create pathways for everyone

- Make it accessible for all parts of our community and our organisation to participate
- Strengthen actions through partnerships with the community and like-minded organisations
- Strive to address vulnerability and equity in the transition

Themes

The seven Themes outlined below reflect the aspirations of the Bayside community and the multi-faceted response required to address the Climate Emergency:

1. **Build the foundations:** Develop an educated, mindful culture ensuring the Climate Emergency response becomes business-as-usual across all Council departments.
2. **Mobilise with our community:** Work with our community to take climate action and minimise the threats from climate related shocks and stressors, such as heatwaves and flooding.
3. **Move to zero carbon transport:** Drive the transition away from internal combustion engine vehicles to sustainable transport such as walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.
4. **Transform to a climate responsive built environment:** Ensure the built environment provides comfortable, liveable spaces for people and will withstand climate related shocks and stressors, such as extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise.
5. **Protect and enhance our natural environment:** Seamlessly integrate the natural environment into cityscape, strengthening land, water and ocean-based habitats.
6. **Transition to a Circular Economy to avoid waste:** Drive the move away from the 'take, make, dispose' economy, towards one where all materials are treated as precious resources, with little thrown away.
7. **Switch to zero carbon energy:** Support the decarbonisation of the energy system through switching to efficient, renewable energy solutions such as solar and wind power.



2. Action Plan

The Climate Emergency is a complex problem that requires a multi-faceted, integrated response. To support comprehension and reporting, Actions are presented under the seven Bayside Climate Emergency Themes. However, many actions contribute to multiple Themes, and as such, the Actions should be considered and delivered as a system.

The Actions outlined below represent the core Climate Emergency actions to be undertaken by Bayside City Council. Additional and complementary actions are being completed through other strategies and plans, including the Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027, Bayside Open Space Strategy, Bayside Housing Strategy 2019, Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy, and Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-2027.

Existing Council budget will be allocated to departments continuing works and operations responding to the Climate Emergency. An additional \$172,880 has been allocated to purchase carbon offsets and achieve carbon neutrality from 2020.

The Action Plan is presented below, focused around the seven themes. Each action has: a nominated timeframe for delivery; an estimated cost; a budget source; consideration of the delivery complexity; identified lead responsibility for implementation; and an outcome.

Timeframes used in the Action Plan are dated. Unless actions are ongoing, they are to be achieved by the end of the 2024/25 year.

Costs used in the action plan have been categorised as follows:

- Low <\$50,000
- Medium \$50,000-\$500,000
- High >\$500,000

Costs are cumulative across the timeframe for delivery, i.e. the cost category refers to estimated expenditure across all years for the action to be completed, not each year.

Delivery complexity refers to the extent that the current barriers and enablers to deliver an action are understood by the organisation. This is categorised as follows:

- Low Well understood enablers with minimal barriers
- Medium Enablers and barriers are mostly understood
- High Multiple barriers to delivery with enablers not yet well understood

Examples of enablers and barriers can include: financial, number of stakeholders involved, technology barriers, or required community support.

Responsibility for implementation refers to the Lead team to deliver the action and any further collaborators, both internal and external to Council. The Lead team is the first named. A list of external collaborators and stakeholders is provided in Appendix 2.

Deliverables are specific, measurable steps taken to achieve the action. The outcome states what is achieved by the action.

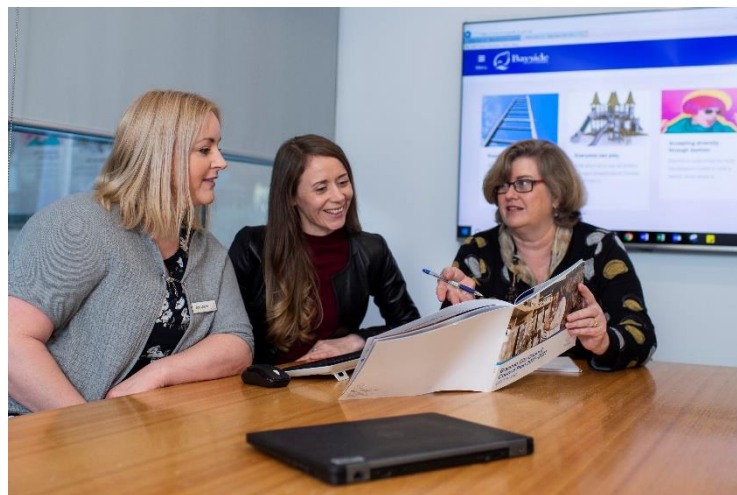
Theme 1: Build the foundations

Develop an educated, mindful culture ensuring the Climate Emergency response becomes business-as-usual across all Council departments.

Bayside City Council has long been delivering climate action. Like most Councils, action has primarily been delivered by Departments responsible for key corporate documents including the: Climate Change Strategy, Environmental Sustainability Framework, Recycling and Waste Management Strategy, Integrated Water Management Plan, Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, and Tree Strategy.

In declaring a Climate Emergency, Council has recognised the complexity and scale of the response needed. The most effective and efficient response will be delivered through a system change, under which all decisions are made with consideration of climate change impacts and opportunities. Rather than being an expensive ‘add on’, the Climate Emergency response will be integrated into all relevant current and future work, from refurbishing roads to home assistance programs, from planning to waste management services. By embedding the Climate Emergency response right across Council, resources will be deployed more efficiently and with a view to long-term resilience.

All Council Departments have a unique capacity to contribute to the Climate Emergency response through the services they offer, the community members and stakeholders they work with, the resources they consume and the projects they deliver.



Science-based targets for Bayside

Science-based targets recognise the level of climate action needed globally to align with the Paris Agreement – and translate this down to specific and practical targets for an organisation, business or community. Targets are considered ‘science-based’ if they are in line with the emissions reduction levels required to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees.

Theme 1: Build the Foundations						
Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
1.1 Embed the Climate Emergency into all staff roles and responsibilities, and performance planning.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	People & Capability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop the Employee Value Proposition to include a response to the Climate Emergency. - Continue to monitor the Climate Emergency Key Performance Indicator for the Executive Team: 'Deliver 80% of Climate Emergency actions within each directorate,' annually. <p>Outcome: All staff are aware of their responsibilities to be part of the organisational response to the Climate Emergency in their role at Bayside City Council.</p>
1.2 Develop and implement training for staff awareness and response to the Climate Emergency.	Ongoing	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Learning & Capability, Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to deliver the staff induction module including Council's response to the Climate Emergency and applying knowledge in their role. - Continue to include targeted training and development opportunities in response to the Climate Emergency in the organisation-wide training and development plan. <p>Outcome: All staff are aware of the organisational response to the Climate Emergency and applying knowledge in their role.</p>
1.3 Explore the development of a Volunteering Policy, to support staff volunteering opportunities to actively respond to the Climate Emergency.	June 2022	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	People & Capability	<p>Outcome: Opportunity for a Volunteering Policy to support staff volunteering to respond to the Climate Emergency is explored.</p>
1.4 Review the scope of the Investment Policy to ensure no direct investment in fossil fuel projects.	Ongoing	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Finance	<p>Deliverable: Continue to seek clarification from existing and prospective financial services to Bayside on their avoidance of direct investment in fossil fuel projects, as per the reviewed Investment Policy.</p> <p>Outcome: Bayside does not have any direct investments that finance fossil fuel projects.</p>

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
1.5 Review and update the Procurement Policy and procedures to address climate change impacts from Council and contractor actions.	Ongoing	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Procurement	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to include Environmental Sustainability as a standard weighting criterion for evaluation of tenders. - Continue to include specifications in contracts and tenders to address climate change impacts. - Increase the use of low emission and recycled products for buildings and infrastructure. <p>Outcome: Procurement Policy and procedures are updated to address climate change impacts.</p>
1.6 Each service area to review their existing Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and Service Plans and update in response to the Climate Emergency.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Medium	Strategy & Improvement, Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverable: Response to the Climate Emergency is integrated into the process for review of Policies, Strategies and Action Plans.</p> <p>Outcome: All Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and Service Plans are updated in response to the Climate Emergency.</p>
1.7 Establish and communicate a science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the entire Bayside community, in line with the Paris Agreement.	June 2035	Low	Existing operational budget	Medium	Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a science-based community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the community. - Develop a communications and education campaign about the community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target and how each sector of the community can help achieve them. - Continue to monitor the community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target annually, utilising tools consistent with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories. <p>Outcome: A community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target is established, integrated into the Climate Emergency Action Plan, and monitored.</p>

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
1.8 Review and update the Risk Management Framework to ensure climate risks are appropriately assessed and managed.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	Medium	Risk and Safety	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor effectiveness of Risk Assessment Procedure in assessing climate risk. - Continue to implement the Risk Management Framework, with assessment of Climate Risk. <p>Outcome: Council has actively reduced its exposure to Climate Risk through an updated Risk Management Framework.</p>
1.9 Include consideration of the response to the 'Climate Emergency' in all reports to Council.	Ongoing	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Governance	<p>Outcome: All reports to Council consider and address the implications of the Climate Emergency.</p>
1.10 Report on Council's response to the 'Climate Emergency' through Council's Quarterly Reporting to the community.	Annually	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Governance	<p>Outcome: Reporting on progress to deliver the Climate Emergency Action Plan is regular, consistent and transparent.</p>
1.11 Develop Council's advocacy priorities to address the Climate Emergency and facilitate community advocacy.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Medium	Communication & Engagement	<p>Deliverable: Implement Climate Emergency advocacy priorities through Council's Advocacy Strategy.</p> <p>Outcome: Climate Emergency advocacy priorities are clear, specific and supported by key messages to influence other stakeholders.</p>
1.12 Maintain relationship with Traditional Owners to collaborate on Climate Emergency response.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Medium	Environmental Sustainability, Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	<p>Deliverable: Continue to respond to the Climate Emergency by supporting actions integrated into the Reconciliation Action Plan.</p> <p>Outcome: Council incorporates Traditional Owners' knowledge in addressing the Climate Emergency</p>

Theme 2: Mobilise with our community

Work with our community to take climate action and minimise the threats from climate related shocks and stressors, such as heatwaves and flooding.

We have all felt the local impacts of climate change. Thinking back to the 2020 summer bushfires and health-threatening smoke haze, the heatwave that led up to ‘Black Saturday’ in 2009 or the 2016 flooding in Bayside. Unfortunately, the current scale of mitigation and adaptation action locally, nationally and globally is not enough to protect Bayside.

In the face of the Climate Emergency, we – households, Council, businesses, communities, organisations, State and Federal Government – all have a critical role to play. Locally, there is an urgent need to increase people’s understanding of the Climate Emergency and grow our community’s capacity to lead effective and sustained climate programs and advocacy. We will look for partners and allies to build momentum and grow our impact, such as local businesses, community groups and sporting clubs who are deeply ingrained in the Bayside way of life.

Council will build on work already underway to deliver a range of services designed to support community climate change action, including information sessions, school programs and community grants. Council also works closely with the Bayside Emergency Climate Action Network (BECAN), an alliance of 15 community groups that deliver strong, local climate action. By taking action together, we can increase our impact and amplify the call for stronger State and Federal climate action. As part of a historic global movement, we can protect current and future generations, and the places we all love.



Establishing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the Bayside community

There is growing community awareness and concern regarding the impacts of climate change. Natural disasters, including heatwaves and other impacts caused by climate change, result in major social impacts including on community wellbeing and resilience. Decisions made now will position our economy, society and local community for the disruption caused by climate change.

Under Action 1.7 of the *Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2025*, Council has set an ambitious target to reduce Bayside's community greenhouse gas emissions by 75% below 2005 levels by 2030; and achieve net zero emissions by 2035, or earlier.

The community target is based on science and modelling on what our municipality needs to do to make a fair contribution to limit the global temperature increase to only 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The 2005 emission level for the Bayside Community has been calculated at 1.36 million tCO₂e. This number was calculated with the support of Snapshot who derived the Bayside community's emissions using the total Victorian emissions for 2005 and 2017 along with the corresponding population for those years. This was reviewed using Bayside's emissions and population data for 2017 to work out Bayside's emission contribution in 2005 based on our population.

Our community emissions reduction target of a 75% reduction below 2005 levels results in an emissions reduction target of 325,200 tCO₂e by 2030. With a final goal of reaching net zero tCO₂e by 2035.

It means we all need to try to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 6 to 8% each year, which is challenging but not impossible. However, the longer we leave it, the more challenging it gets.

As an organisation, Bayside City Council has been tackling greenhouse gas emissions for many years - installing solar panels on Council buildings, introducing food and organic waste recycling, and adding fully electric vehicles to our fleet. Council was certified 'Carbon Neutral' in 2020 and we have halved our greenhouse gas emissions for 2020-21.

Reducing the council operating greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in one year was a great achievement, but even with all our facilities and streetlights, the Council only makes up half a percent of greenhouse gas emissions for the whole municipality.

That is why we have now adopted a whole-of-community approach to this critical issue, and we will work with each sector of the community on how they can contribute to achieving the target.

More information on the establishment of a community greenhouse gas emissions target and the associated communications and education campaign is contained within Appendix 5: Establishing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the Bayside community.

Theme 2: Mobilise with our community

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
2.1 Establish a coordinated program of community awareness, education, engagement and behaviour change initiatives to build local support and action for a Climate Emergency response.	Ongoing	Medium (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability, BECAN, Sustainability Victoria	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build on existing education activities to establish a coordinated education program in partnership with local community groups. - Deliver targeted communications and education campaign to support community greenhouse gas emissions reduction in with greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2035. - Continue to expand the 'GreenMoney' behaviour change program to the community. <p>Outcome: The community is engaged and taking action on climate change.</p>
2.2 Implement an innovative school-focused education and engagement program to build the next generation of climate and community leaders	Ongoing	Medium (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability, Port Phillip EcoCentre, Sustainability Victoria	<p>Deliverable: Continue to deliver a coordinated schools education program.</p> <p>Outcome: Schools are engaged and taking action on climate change.</p>
2.3 Develop and deliver programs to support local business climate actions, through education and incentives.	Ongoing	Medium (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Medium	Environmental Sustainability, Local Business Associations, SECCCA, Sustainability Victoria	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a program to support local business climate actions. - Continue to expand the 'GreenMoney' behaviour change program to support local businesses. - Deliver ongoing programs, partnerships & events to support local business climate actions. - Promote Federal & State Government support programs for local businesses and industry. - Provide support to Sandringham's 'Village Zero' initiative. <p>Outcome: Local businesses are engaged and taking action on climate change.</p>

<p>2.4 Provide in-kind support for action responding to the Climate Emergency led by community groups.</p>	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain up to date details of Environment Groups in the Community Directory. - Implement Climate Emergency Community Grants - Determine appropriate in-kind support activities, and develop criteria, for Council to provide support to community groups. <p>Outcome: Community groups are engaged and taking action on climate change.</p>
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Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
<p>2.5 Explore and implement innovative funding models to support investment in climate action.</p>	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	High	Environmental Sustainability, Finance, SECCCA	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement facility for Environment Upgrade Finance - Continue to facilitate Environmental Upgrade Finance for local businesses. - Explore and implement Environmental Upgrade Finance for residential properties. <p>Outcome: Implementation of innovative funding models to support investment in climate action.</p>
<p>2.6 Deliver programs and services that build community resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	High	Community Services, Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and develop new opportunities that support vulnerable community members to prepare and respond to heatwaves and extreme weather events. - Engage with young people to identify and deliver at least one activity each year that builds resilience and responds to the Climate Emergency. - Establish and deliver an annual program to support older residents to access and use technology at home, connecting them with information and advice to build their resilience and preparedness in dealing with the Climate Emergency. - Develop Energy Efficiency kits available for use across the community. <p>Outcome: The community is prepared and resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>

<p>2.7 Provide up-to-date information on climate change and practical advice for the community to stay informed, connected and take action to respond to the Climate Emergency.</p>	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to promote Council's Climate Emergency webpage across Council's communication channels. - Continue to promote Council and community action to address the Climate Emergency through events and engagement opportunities. <p>Outcome: The community are knowledgeable about climate impacts and taking action.</p>
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Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
<p>2.8 Establish a Sustainable Community Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.</p>	Ongoing	Medium (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability, Community Wellbeing	<p>Deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A grant program is established - Implement Climate Emergency Community Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. - Continue to deliver annual Bayside Climate Emergency Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change. <p>Outcome: The community is supported and taking action on climate change.</p>
<p>2.9 Investigate partnership initiatives which promote climate action within Council and across the community.</p>	Ongoing	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverable: Engage with industry organisations that promote energy efficient and sustainable products and services to the community.</p> <p>Outcome: The community are knowledgeable about climate impacts and taking action.</p>

Theme 3: Move to zero carbon transport

Drive the transition away from internal combustion engine vehicles to sustainable transport such as walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.

The Bayside community is heavily reliant on combustion engine private vehicles which generate significant and unsustainable amounts of carbon emissions¹. A steady increase in population and prosperity has led to an average annual growth in private vehicle ownership in Bayside of 1.9%². Assuming this trend continues for the next 10 years, there will be 40 new private vehicles competing for road and parking space each week³.

The Climate Emergency requires an urgent shift to electric vehicles (EV), including buses and public transport powered by renewable energy; alongside increased public transport use, cycling, walking and other forms of active transport.

Given Bayside's location, aging population and the relative affluence of our community, Bayside is in a unique position to lead the transition to EVs. Our community also stands to gain significant health benefits from an increased uptake of active transport such as walking and cycling.

Council is committed to supporting the transition to: 'zero carbon' EVs; improving active transport infrastructure; advocating for more convenient and 'zero carbon' public transport, such as electric buses; and working in partnership for better transport outcomes. We will lead by example, rapidly transitioning Council's transport to zero carbon and supporting staff and the broader community to do the same.



As households, as individuals and as business owners, we are responsible for the transport choices we make every day. And, transport is a public act, which means we can all be influencers and changemakers simply by walking, riding, catching a train or investing in an EV.

¹ In Victoria, transport accounts for 20.6% of all emissions, with cars accounting for over half of these emissions (50.3%). Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2019, State Government of Victoria

² Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028

³ Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028

Theme 3: Move to zero carbon transport

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
3.1 Explore and implement opportunities to increase the uptake of 'Zero Carbon' Electric Vehicles in Bayside.	Ongoing	Medium	Existing operational and capital budgets	Medium	Transport Planning, DNSP, VicRoads, SECCCA	Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install one public Electric Vehicle changing station annually, at suitable sites. - Explore an Electric Vehicle bulk purchase/finance agreement for residents and staff - Promote Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure finance to local businesses through Environmental Upgrade Finance. - Engage with United Energy to investigate trialling Power pole mounted EV chargers. Outcome: The Bayside community are supported to adopt electric vehicles.
3.2 Update the Fleet Policy to transition the Council fleet to net zero carbon.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational and capital budgets	High	Finance	Deliverable: Add further electric vehicles for the Council fleet supported by installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Outcome: A staged and costed plan to transition Council fleet to net zero carbon by 2025 is developed and implemented, supported by an updated Fleet Policy.
3.3 Accelerate review of the Integrated Transport Strategy and implement to address climate change impacts.	June 2025	Medium – High	Existing operational and capital budgets/ New initiative	Medium	Transport Planning	Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update and promote active transport maps to highlight shady routes and water fountains. - Review expansion of Share car network, with a focus on Electric Vehicle share cars. Outcome: Climate change impacts are addressed by the Integrated Transport Strategy.
3.4 Implement a behaviour change program to encourage residents and visitors to switch to 'zero carbon' transport modes.	Ongoing	Medium (cumulative)	New initiative	Low	Transport Planning, Environmental Sustainability	Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking behaviour change program delivered. - Cycling behaviour change program delivered. - Deliver active transport behaviour change programs annually. - Engage with local schools and community groups to promote and run active transport initiatives Outcome: Residents and visitors are making the switch to 'zero carbon' transport modes.
3.5 Advocacy relating to Zero Carbon Transport will be delivered under Action 1.11.						

Theme 4: Transform to a climate responsive built environment

Ensure the built environment provides comfortable, liveable spaces for people and will withstand climate related shocks and stressors, such as extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise.

The infrastructure we see around us today – homes, sporting facilities, community centres, roads, shopping centres, drainage systems – is largely not designed to respond to the increasingly severe weather conditions associated with climate change.

The Climate Emergency requires that new infrastructure be designed to higher environmental standards and is located with consideration to future flood and storm surge risk. Existing infrastructure has to be retrofitted to reduce environmental impact and to improve resilience. It is critical to consider how each piece of new infrastructure can contribute to a more resilient built environment. That is, how can it help keep our city cool, improve drainage or provide comfortable refuge for our community in times of need?

Climate responsive infrastructure will also improve the comfort in our homes, workplaces and community facilities. It will improve health outcomes and even help to prevent deaths in our elderly and vulnerable populations. By investing in the resilience of our infrastructure, we reduce the likelihood of expensive damage, liability, and service failure due to extreme weather events.

Council is committed to improving the buildings and infrastructure it owns and working in partnership with essential infrastructure providers such as Melbourne Water. Council will work with stakeholders to advocate for improved building performance standards in the key policy documents controlled by other levels of government. Council will engage with our community and develop our local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning Policy to support improved performance in privately owned buildings.

The vast majority of Bayside households (71%) are either homeowners or purchasing their own home⁴. This means our community is extremely well positioned to contribute to a climate resilient city by making improvements to their own homes.



⁴ Id community profile of Bayside (2016). <https://profile.id.com.au/bayside/tenure>

Theme 4: Transform to a climate responsive built environment

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
4.1 Implement a local Environmentally Sustainable Development Planning Policy in line with the Climate Emergency.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	Medium	Urban Strategy, CASBE	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning Policy is adopted in the Bayside Planning Scheme. - Pursue opportunities to improve conditions for ESD in the Bayside Planning Scheme, through the Victorian Government ESD 'Roadmap' process. - Build evidence for inclusion of clauses in response to the Climate Emergency in the local ESD Planning Policy Framework. <p>Outcome: New development in Bayside is environmentally sustainable and climate resilient.</p>
4.2 Review Streetscape Masterplans to assess their resilience to climate change.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	Medium	Urban Strategy	<p>Deliverable: Develop criteria for review of Streetscape Masterplans to assess their resilience to climate change and add to existing review process.</p> <p>Outcome: Bayside's streetscapes are resilient to climate change.</p>
4.3 Explore the climate resilience of built form in Bayside.	June 2025	Medium	Existing operational budget/ New initiative	Medium	Urban Strategy	<p>Deliverable: Deliver and utilise a research project on the current status of built form in Bayside and its resilience to climate change impacts and required future state.</p> <p>Outcome: Bayside's existing buildings are safer, more efficient to operate, more comfortable and more resilient to the effects of climate change.</p>

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
4.4 Provide information and education regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) standards.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Development Services	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide information regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development standards. - Education programs to improve existing homes to be developed and delivered annually, following design of Climate Emergency Community Activation Campaign. - Investigate opportunities with local Real Estate agents to promote energy efficient properties. <p>Outcome: The community is well informed and understands the value of environmentally sustainable design.</p>
4.5 Continue to recognise excellence in Environmentally Sustainable Design through the Bayside Built Environment Awards.	Annually	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverable: Promote and award the Environmentally Sustainable Design category in the Bayside Built Environment Awards.</p> <p>Outcome: Excellence in Environmentally Sustainable Design is recognised and promoted.</p>
4.6 Review and update the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy to align with Climate Emergency principles.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sustainable infrastructure policy is updated. - Implement updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy to ensure Council assets align with Climate Emergency principles. <p>Outcome: Council buildings and infrastructure are increasingly climate resilient and low carbon.</p>
4.7 Identify and monitor infrastructure assets at risk due to climate change and prioritise actions in response.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget and future capital budget	Medium	Assets & Investigations, Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Participate in the SECCCA 'Asset Vulnerability Assessment' Project. -Include transparent weightings to climate-related risks as part of ongoing asset management processes, to inform capital and maintenance programs. <p>Outcome: Council buildings and infrastructure are increasingly climate resilient and low carbon.</p>

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
4.8 Include requirements to address environmental impact into leases of Council property.	June 2024	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Property, Environmental Sustainability	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include standard requirements to reduce environmental impact in community and commercial lease templates for new leases - Include specific requirements to reduce environmental impact in existing community and commercial leases when renewed. <p>Outcome: Environmental impact is reduced in the operation of council owned buildings.</p>
4.9 Investigate opportunities for a pilot 'zero carbon' development.	June 2025	Low - medium	Existing operational budget/ New initiative	Medium	Environmental Sustainability, Urban Strategy, City Assets & Projects, SECCCA	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet with developers to discuss opportunities and barriers to build example zero carbon apartment blocks and homes. - Promote Sustainable House Day and showcase zero carbon developments as examples for the Bayside community. <p>Outcome: Council is actively seeking opportunities to pilot a 'zero carbon' development.</p>
4.10 Advocacy relating to the built environment will be delivered under Action 1.11.						

Theme 5: Protect and enhance our natural environment

Seamlessly integrate the natural environment into cityscape, strengthening land, water and ocean based habitats.

The natural ecosystem underpins human life. In Bayside, we are lucky to have access to iconic beaches, parklands and a significant number of tree-lined streets. Unfortunately, climate change is threatening these essential assets and the biodiversity they support.

The Climate Emergency requires a rapid scale-up in efforts to protect, enhance, expand and integrate the natural environment into our cityscape. To maintain and grow essential biodiversity, we must plan for and plant a diverse range of climate resilient trees and undergrowth, and harness the value of water in the landscape.

Urban greening delivers a huge number of benefits. It helps to cool our City, creates habitat for the biodiversity essential for natural systems maintenance, reduces water runoff that contributes to flooding, purifies the air we breathe, supports food supply systems, delivers aesthetic benefits, provides space for recreation, and supports the physical and mental health of our community.

Council is committed to maximising greening and the use of blue-green infrastructure on Council owned land. Council will work in partnership with the State Government and our community to protect our beaches from issues such as coastal erosion, and encourage nature to flourish on private land. Working together we can grow connected greenspaces to increase the resilience of our local habitat and maximise the benefits that nature brings to our lives.



Theme 5: Protect and enhance our natural environment

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
5.1 Finalise and implement the Urban Forest Strategy.	June 2025	Medium	Existing operational budget	Medium	Urban Strategy	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalise the Bayside Urban Forest Strategy for adoption by Council - Investigate opportunities for increasing trees and vegetation on public and private land. - Continue to implement the Urban Forest Strategy. <p>Outcome: The Urban Forest Strategy is implemented, responding to Climate Emergency by: reducing Urban Heat Island impact; increasing tree canopy cover; and strengthening biodiversity and habitat.</p>
5.2 Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan.	June 2025	High	Existing operational and capital budgets	Medium	Open Space	<p>Deliverable: Continue to implement the Biodiversity Action Plan in response to the Climate Emergency.</p> <p>Outcome: The Biodiversity Action Plan is implemented, responding to the Climate Emergency by: reducing Urban Heat Island impact; increasing tree canopy cover; and strengthening biodiversity and habitat.</p>
5.3 Accelerate review of the Integrated Water Management Plan and implement to address climate change impacts.	June 2025	High	Existing and future capital budgets	Medium	Environmental Sustainability, City Assets & Projects	<p>Deliverables: Build on 'Climate Emergency Action Plan Gaps and Opportunities Report' to review and update Integrated Water Management Plan.</p> <p>Outcome: The Integrated Water Management Plan is implemented, responding to the Climate Emergency by addressing: supporting biodiversity and habitat through healthier waterways and reduced pollutants in the bay; managing water resources more efficiently; using water in the landscape to improve climate resilience.</p>

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
5.4 Update and implement the Coastal and Marine Management Plan and related plans considering outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment, to address issues such as coastal erosion.	June 2025	High	Existing operational budget	High	Open Space	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Coastal and Marine Management Plan is updated in response to outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment. - The Biodiversity Action Plan is updated in response to outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Coastal and Marine Management Plan and Biodiversity Plan are updated in response to the Climate Emergency. - Capital projects in future foreshore masterplan developments are guided by the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.
5.5 Accelerate review and update the Open Space Strategy in response to the Climate Emergency.	June 2024	Low	Existing operational budget	High	Open Space	<p>Deliverable: Build on 'Climate Emergency Action Plan Gaps and Opportunities Report' to review and update Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Outcome: Open space in Bayside is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>
5.6 Review and update the Street and Park Tree Management Policy to ensure mature trees managed by Council are regularly checked for health and potential safety hazards (e.g. shedding of limbs due to dry or stormy conditions) by qualified specialists.	June 2023	Low	Existing operational budget	Medium	Open Space	<p>Outcome: Increased tree canopy cover.</p>
5.7 All planting and landscape renewal plans in Council open space consider hardiness and adaptability of species in the context of climate change risks.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Open Space, Urban Strategy	<p>Outcome: Open space in Bayside is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>
5.8 Investigate the opportunity to measure, protect and improve Bayside's capacity to absorb carbon.	December 2023	Low	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability, Open Space	<p>Outcome: Open space in Bayside is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>

5.9 Support local food production across the municipality.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Medium	Environmental Sustainability	Deliverable: Review and update the Community Garden Policy. Outcome: Increased capacity for local food production.
5.10 Advocacy relating to the natural environment will be delivered under Action 1.11.						

Theme 6: Transition to a Circular Economy to avoid waste

Drive the move away from the ‘take, make, dispose’ economy, towards one where all materials are treated as precious resources, with little thrown away.

We are currently living under the ‘take-make-dispose’ model, in which our collective consumption habits are depleting natural resources, resulting in large amounts of landfill waste and generating avoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Emergency requires a shift toward a Circular Economy, in which all resources are highly valued and remain in the system through Re-Use, Re-Purposing and Recycling (see diagram below).

The Circular Economy offers a range of benefits, including new business opportunities, stimulating innovation, delivering a more sustainable economy and of course, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For us as consumers, we can look forward to more durable and innovative products with the potential to increase our quality of life and save us money.

Council is committed to working in collaboration with our community and the State Government to implement improved recycling and reuse infrastructure, making it easier for everyone to be part of the transition. Through its procurement processes and economic development activities, Council will seek to support industry and businesses that are part of the circular economy solution.

We are all consumers, so we all have a role to play in the journey toward a Circular Economy and we can start right now.



Diagram 1. The Circular Economy

Theme 6: Transition to a Circular Economy to avoid waste

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
<p>6.1 Review and update Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy to reflect the transition to the 'circular economy'.</p>	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Recycling & Waste Management	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a 'Circular Economy Transition Plan'. - Comply with the new obligations and reporting requirements under the Circular Economy Act 2021. <p>Outcome: Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy reflects the transition to the 'circular economy'.</p>
<p>6.2 Develop and deliver a campaign in partnership with local businesses and community groups to reduce waste to landfill, recognising leaders in the community.</p>	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget/ New initiative	Low	Recycling & Waste Management	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A project to reduce single-use plastics with local organisations, businesses and community groups is delivered building on the campaign developed by Victorian Government's Single Use Plastic (SUP) ban schedules for 2023. - A project to support organics recycling with local organisations, businesses and community groups is delivered, annually. - Investigate the opportunity to create a 'Leading waste management' category as part of the Bayside Business Excellence awards. <p>Outcome: Local businesses and community groups are reducing waste to landfill.</p>
<p>6.3 Engage and support the community with practical strategies and actions to avoid waste, through education and incentives.</p>	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget/ New initiative	Medium	Recycling & Waste Management	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to deliver a community education program on actions to avoid waste. - Continue to use the 'GreenMoney' behaviour change program to provide education and incentives for actions to avoid waste. <p>Outcome: The Bayside community are knowledgeable about waste avoidance, what they can do to reduce consumption, increase reuse, and increase recycling.</p>
<p>6.4 Advocacy relating to the Circular Economy will be delivered under Action 1.11.</p>						

Theme 7: Switch to zero carbon energy

Support the decarbonisation of the energy system through switching to efficient, renewable energy solutions such as solar and wind power.

Energy generation is the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Victoria⁵. The Climate Emergency requires an urgent increase in energy efficiency, the switch from pollution intense coal-fired electricity to clean, renewable energy, and swapping out gas appliances in favour of all-electric.

As our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions, energy is also our biggest opportunity to have an impact. By joining the renewable energy transition, we not only reduce emissions, we also support the growth of the clean energy industry and strengthen our economy. Through installing solar (and associated infrastructure such as batteries), we have the opportunity to increase our control over the energy we generate, store and use.

Through increasing energy efficiency, switching to renewable energy and purchasing carbon offsets, Council is committed to achieving, and maintaining, carbon neutrality for Council operations from 2020 (the year this Action Plan was published). A budget of \$172,880 has been allocated to purchasing carbon offsets. Council will advocate to State and Federal governments to urgently transition our energy systems to be efficient and 100% renewable. Through programs and partnerships, Council will seek to make it easier for households and businesses to improve energy efficiency and harness the power of renewable energy.

We are all energy users, so we all have a role to play in the renewable energy transition and we can start right now.



⁵ In Victoria, electricity generation accounts for 50.9% of all emissions and direct combustion (which includes the burning of gas in homes) accounts for 16.4%. Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2019, State Government of Victoria

Theme 7: Switch to zero carbon energy

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
7.1 Maintain 'Carbon Neutral' certification for council operations, to the 'Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard'.	Ongoing	Medium (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability	Deliverable: Promote details of certification each Financial Year Outcome: Certified 'Carbon Neutral' status is maintained.
7.2 Purchase all electricity used by Council from renewable sources.	June 2023	High	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability	Outcome: 100% of Council purchased electricity is from renewable sources.
7.3 Transition Council operations to all-electric (i.e. gas/fossil fuel free) by June 2030.	2030	Medium	Existing and future capital budgets	Medium	Environmental Sustainability	Deliverable: Develop a plan to transition Council operations to all-electric. Outcome: Council operations are 100% gas free.
7.4 Continue to upgrade public lighting with energy efficient LED lamps.	2030	High	New initiative/ External funding	High	City Assets & Projects, Environmental Sustainability	Deliverable: Explore opportunities to fund upgrade of all remaining street lighting to LED lamps. Outcome: All public lighting including street lighting uses energy efficient LED lamps.
7.5 Continue to implement a capital works program to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy, and batteries, in Council buildings and assets.	June 2025	High	Existing and future capital budgets	Medium	Environmental Sustainability, City Assets & Projects	Deliverable: - Develop a business case to implement battery systems in Council buildings and assets, as opportunities present. - Develop a repository of information to capture the current status of equipment and appliances regarding energy efficiency, water efficiency and use of renewable energy, in Council buildings and assets. Outcome: Council buildings and assets require minimal energy input and are energy-efficient.

Action	Timeframe	Cost	Budget Source	Delivery complexity	Responsible	Deliverable
7.6 Support vulnerable members of the community to ensure they are not left behind in the switch to 'zero carbon' energy.	Ongoing	Low (cumulative)	Existing operational budget	Low	Environmental Sustainability, Community Services	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer subsidised home energy assessments for vulnerable community members. - Support vulnerable community members to access affordable energy efficiency upgrade. <p>Outcome: Vulnerable residents are included in the switch to 'zero carbon' energy.</p>
7.7 Work with partners to explore feasibility and pilot innovative solutions to support the community to rapidly and equitably switch to zero carbon energy.	June 2025	Low	Existing operational budget	High	Environmental Sustainability, SECCCA, DNSP, Energy Retailers	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop business case for suitable neighbourhood battery locations. - Identify local businesses that would benefit from a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement - Meet with Developers and Body Corporate managers to incentivise GreenPower options for sites. <p>Outcome: Innovative solutions to switch to 'zero carbon' energy are explored and trialed.</p>
7.8 Advocacy relating to zero carbon energy will be delivered under Action 1.11.						

PART B.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to identify actions Council will take to respond to the Climate Emergency, as well as support our local community to take action to reduce impact on the environment.

The Plan includes actions to both minimise greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and reduce vulnerability (adaptation) to the impacts of climate change. The Plan draws on Council's role as a leader and advocate for change across other tiers of government, and its role to encourage and facilitate community participation and collaboration.

4. Council's Strategic Planning Framework

The Climate Emergency Action Plan is an integral part of Council's Strategic Planning Framework and is aligned with both the Council Plan 2017 – 2021, the Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016 – 2025, the Bayside Community Plan 2025 and the 'One Bayside' Organisational Strategy 2019 - 2021.

This Plan enhances our ability to create and maintain extraordinary places, thriving communities and a better future by addressing the Climate Emergency. It will help build a better Bayside by strengthening the resilience of the community to successfully deal with change, be it economic, environmental or social.

The relationship between the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Community Plan and the Environmental Sustainability Framework is represented in Diagram 2 overleaf.

The Community Plan 2025 identifies the responsibility that both community and Council will take in relation to the Environment. We all need to be environmental stewards, taking action to protect and enhance the natural environment and balancing appreciation and use with the need to protect natural assets for future generations.

The Community Plan also recognises that managing the environment requires more than just local effort. This sentiment is highlighted through the approach to successfully addressing the Climate Emergency, where all levels of government must collaborate effectively to achieve positive and long lasting outcomes.



Diagram 2. The relationship between the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Community Plan

5. Scope

The Plan applies to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from Council operations. Community emissions are acknowledged and the Plan involves Council's influence, and ability to leverage its partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, to address community emissions. The approach Council uses to manage activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will depend on Council's direct control over the emissions source.

The Plan will be implemented alongside various relevant Strategies and Plans including but not limited to: the Environmental Sustainability Framework, the Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027, the Bayside Open Space Strategy, the 'Water for Bayside' 2019-2039 Integrated Water Management Plan, the Bayside Housing Strategy 2019, the Integrated Transport Strategy, and the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-2027. The Plan will build on and emphasise the Strategies and Plans which are integral to Council's holistic approach to addressing the Climate Emergency.

The timeframe for the implementation of this Action Plan is five years (2020 to 2025). This is to align with the timeframe of the Environmental Sustainability Framework. The Action Plan will be updated after the first year of implementation to align with the review of the ESF, and will then reviewed biennially to ensure the actions and goals remain current and relevant.

6. Background

At the October Council meeting, it was resolved:

That Council receives a report at the December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting on the proposed revision of the Climate Change Strategy that was adopted in 2012 and the merits of Council declaring a Climate Emergency.

At the November Council meeting, a petition was received from over 2200 residents requesting Council to declare a climate emergency and respond with an appropriate action plan.

On 17 December 2019, at the Ordinary Council Meeting it was resolved:

That Council:

1. Declares a 'Climate Emergency' and in response, develops a Climate Emergency Action Plan by October 2020.
2. Notes the existing commitments to purchase renewable electricity, purchase offsets to be carbon neutral in 2020 and to continue to reduce emissions including fleet emissions.
3. Calls on the Federal Government to increase its carbon emissions reduction target immediately.

Declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' recognises the need for urgent, meaningful action on human-induced climate change at all levels of government, including local government.

As part of this declaration, Council responded quickly with an extensive community engagement process to ensure the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan reflected the community's voice. The development of the Action Plan by October 2020 will result in the rapid delivery of actions from this time forward and further demonstrates Council's leadership on this topic.

In 2012, Council adopted its *Climate Change Strategy*. The Strategy focused on responding to the impacts of climate change through initiatives to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

Following adoption of the Strategy, the Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025 and the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2018-2020 were adopted which support actions and initiatives identified within the Strategy. The Climate Emergency Action Plan supersedes the Climate Change Strategy and the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2018-2020. Relevant actions from within these have been embedded in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Council's progression to meet its 'carbon neutral' goal, as a response to the Climate Emergency, uses the *Avoid, Reduce, Switch* and *Offset* approach to prioritise actions.

- *Avoidance* of greenhouse gas emissions through Council activities and processes;
- *Reduction* of greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy efficiency in Council buildings and other assets and reducing greenhouse gas intensive fuels;
- *Switching* from fossil fuel-based energy generation to renewable energy by installing solar generation on Council buildings, procuring renewable energy sources; and
- *Offset* of residual greenhouse gas emissions.

In line with this approach, in April 2020 Council resolved to procure renewable energy for its Public Lighting and Large sites from 1 July 2020. Additionally, in November 2019, Council resolved to allocate \$172,880 to purchase carbon offsets to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions for 2019/2020 to net zero.

Our community in Bayside is the key stakeholder for delivery of this Action Plan. Maintaining a high level of liveability and wellbeing for the community is the top priority for Council. This Action Plan addresses this priority by defining Council's response to the Climate Emergency, including our role in mobilising with the community to meet this challenge. The community has been the driver for local climate action through this Plan. The breadth of local resources to address climate change impacts is demonstrated through the many active community groups.

The Bayside Emergency Climate Action Network (BECAN) was formed in 2019 as an alliance of 15 community groups based in Bayside that share a vision of a safe climate for all in a healthy and sustainable environment. The network represents a broad range of the community across many age groups and specialises in various environmental areas. The combined groups have volunteers with expertise in environmental science, community engagement, and advocacy, and benefit from the support of many members.

The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) is a collaboration of nine councils in Victoria's south-east making a regional response to climate change. SECCCA delivers projects, research programs and advocacy on behalf of its Council members, assisting communities in the south east region to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Senior leaders, have been engaged in the development of this Action Plan, to ensure a whole-of-organisation approach and input from all areas. Each area listed as responsible for actions is invested in the delivery of their part of the Plan, to achieve a holistic response to the Climate Emergency by the organisation.

Councillors are key advocates on behalf of the community to other tiers of government, and other councils, to address the Climate Emergency. Through annual reporting, they ensure the Action Plan meets community expectations and is continuously improved. Councillors can also ensure that the Climate Emergency is considered in all decisions.

Our Indigenous community is also a key stakeholder in addressing the Climate Emergency locally. With unique knowledge passed down for many generations, they have been caring for country we now call the City of Bayside.

7. Legislative policy and context

Responding to the Climate Emergency requires action at the international, national, state and local levels. This section provides a summary of the current policy context.

Global

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Australia is a signatory to the UNFCCC, requiring the Federal Government to submit a National Communication every four years and a Biennial Report every two, detailing progress towards targets, projects, mitigation actions and support to economically-developing countries.

In 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached an agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. This agreement became known as the Paris Agreement.

The central aim of the Paris Agreement is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Further to this, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the body responsible for the scientific evidence to support decision making by the UNFCCC, released the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2018). This study found that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would require emissions of carbon dioxide to fall to around net zero by 2050. A further global agreement on emissions reduction targets to 2050 is yet to be made.

Federal

Australia's 2030 Climate Change Target

The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through nationally determined contributions and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. Australia has agreed to a target of 26%-28% reduction in emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. No target date for zero net emissions exists at the Federal level.

National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2015

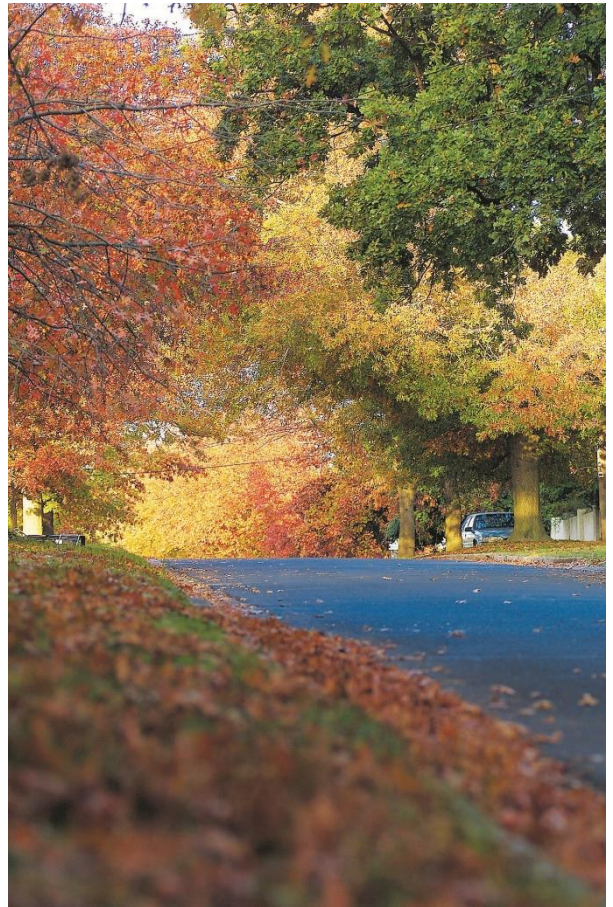
In 2015, the Australian Government released a National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy. The Strategy sets out how Australia is managing climate risks for the benefit of the community, economy and environment. It identifies a set of principles to guide effective adaptation practice and resilience building, and outlines the Government's vision for the future.

The principles include:

- Shared responsibility – governments at all levels, businesses, communities and individuals all have a role to play in managing climate risks
- Factoring in climate risks into decision making
- An evidence-based, risk management approach
- Helping the vulnerable
- Collaborative, value-based choices
- Revisiting decisions and outcomes over time

National Construction Code

The National Construction Code (NCC) sets minimum requirements for new buildings in relation to structure, fire safety, access and egress, accessibility, health and amenity, and sustainability. Although the National Construction Code for non-residential buildings was recently updated, updates to the residential building sections of the NCC are still pending, expected in 2022. The current requirements for residential buildings under the NCC are seen as a bare minimum and do not consider the longer-term impacts of the changing climate on new buildings.



State

Climate Change Act 2017

The *Climate Change Act 2017* sets the legislative foundation to manage climate change risks, maximise the opportunities that arise from decisive action and drive the transition to a climate resilient community and economy with net zero emissions by 2050. The Act:

- Establishes a long-term emissions reduction target of net zero by 2050
- Requires five yearly interim targets, to keep Victoria on track to meet this long-term target
- Introduces a new set of policy objectives and an updated set of guiding principles to embed climate change in government decision making
- Requires the government to develop a Climate Change Strategy every five years, which will set out how Victoria will meet its targets and adapt to the impacts of climate change (from 2020)
- Requires Adaptation Action Plans for key systems that are either vulnerable to the impacts of climate change or essential to ensure Victoria is prepared (from 2021)
- Establishes a pledging model to reduce emissions from government's own operations and from across the economy (from 2020)
- Establishes a system of periodic reporting to provide transparency, accountability and ensure the community remains informed.

At the time of writing, a State interim emissions target for 2030 is being considered, likely to be a 45% or 60% target.

Renewable Energy Act 2017

Under the *Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017*, Victoria legislated renewable energy targets of 25% by 2020, 40% by 2025 and 50% by 2050. The Act also supports schemes to achieve the targets while encouraging investment and employment in Victoria. These targets respond directly to a reduction in emissions intensity of grid supplied electricity and are integral to driving emissions reduction in the stationary energy sector. As electric vehicles replace internal combustion vehicles over the next 20 to 30 years, this impact is compounded as transport related emissions also decline as their energy source becomes increasingly 'cleaner'.

Recycling Victoria Policy 2020

Recycling Victoria is the Victorian Government's 10-year policy and action plan to transform the waste and recycling sectors. It outlines 5 goals to transition to a circular economy:

1. Make – Design to last, repair and recycle
2. Use – Use products that create more value
3. Recycle – Recycle more resources
4. Manage – Reduce harm from waste and pollution
5. Measure progress



Local

Local Government Act 2020

The *Local Government Act 2020* provides a framework for the establishment and operation of councils. The Local Government Act includes the following overarching governance principles:

- Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law
- Priority is given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipality, including the mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted
- The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making
- Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued
- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured
- Regional, state, and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making
- The transparency of decisions, actions and information is to be ensured

The Climate Emergency response at a local government level is key to ensuring that Bayside City Council responds to the governance principles identified above.

Local Policies and Strategies

The Climate Emergency declaration is a mandate to increase action and impact across the policies and strategies that Bayside City Council has already implemented. Bayside City Council has over 80 policies and strategies. Through these strategies and policies, Bayside has already been taking action on climate change and increasing local resilience. See Appendix 1 for a full list of the relevant strategies, policies and action plans relevant to the Climate Emergency.

Council Plan 2017-2021

As with council's policies and strategies, the Climate Emergency declaration is a mandate to consider the Climate Emergency throughout the Council Plan. Up for renewal in 2021, the development of the new Council Plan will be informed by the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

8. Methodology

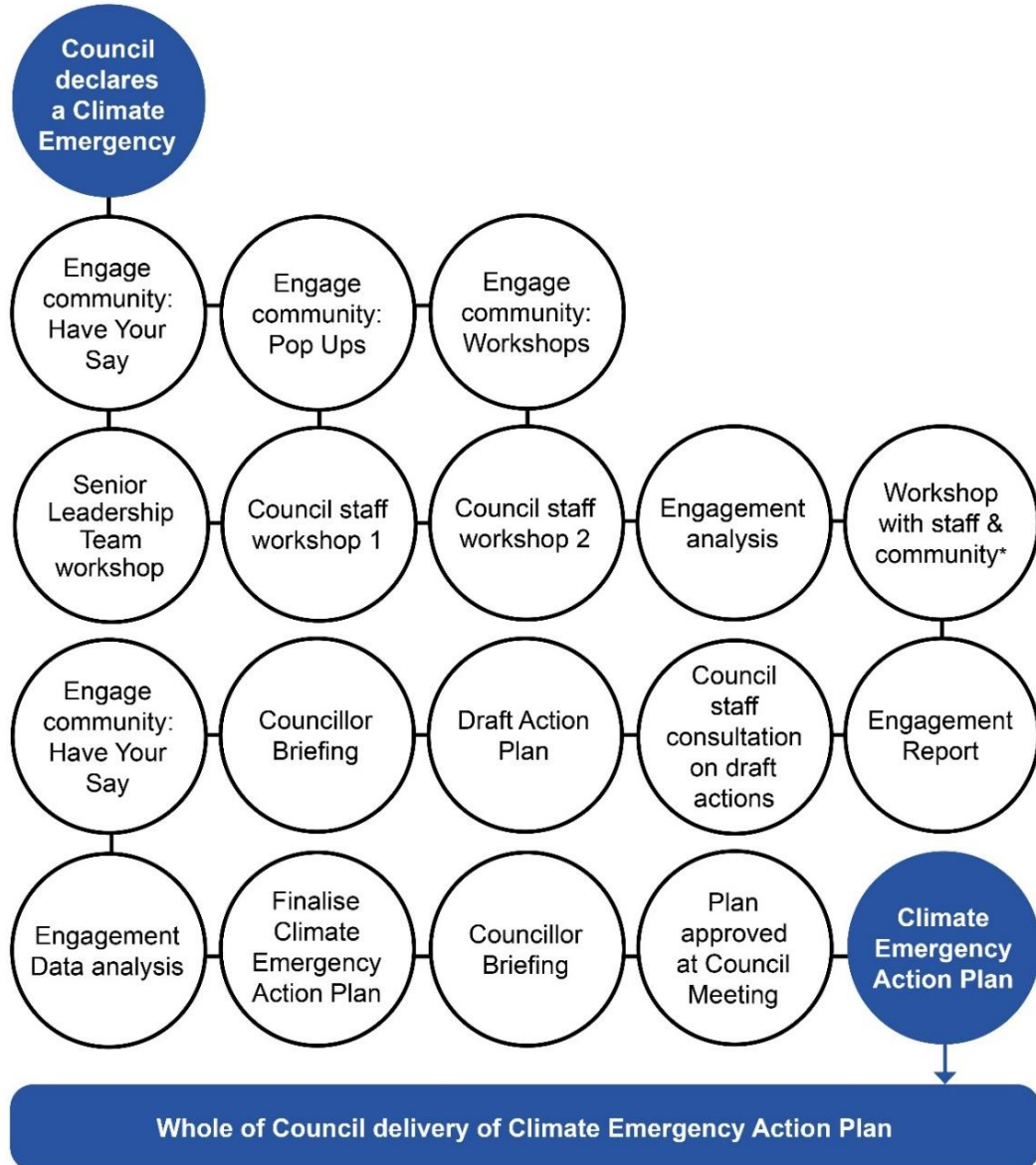
Rationale

The rationale to develop the Action Plan, following Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency included:

1. Development of a Communications and Engagement Plan to reach and engage as many people in Bayside as possible
2. Engagement of a consultant to assist with:
 - Investigation and review of Council's current and relevant Strategies and Plans programs, and decision making processes;
 - Facilitation of internal and community engagement,
 - Research into best practice; and
 - Alignment with State and Federal Government policy
3. Identification of opportunities for action, considering the community feedback, local climate risks, resources available; and goals of the Plan
4. Development of a set of recommended actions, with clear outcomes, estimated budgets and timeframes
5. Collaboration with internal stakeholders to share ownership of proposed actions in the Plan
6. Collation of an achievable Action Plan.

Development Process

Diagram 4 below shows the process to develop the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan.



* Not held due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Diagram 4. Climate Emergency Action Plan Development Process

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement and consultation activities were undertaken between 2 February and 30 March 2020. The purpose was to gain insights from the community and from within Council, to support development of the Action Plan.

Engagement events were led by either the Council Environmental Sustainability team or consultants HIP V. HYPE Sustainability. There were 16 events in total, directly engaging nearly 3000 people, with the communications being seen over 260,000 times.

The table below highlights the results.

Table 1. Community Engagement activities and results

Engagement Activity	Dates	No. of People	Lead
Ideas Board (online)	3 Feb – 30 Mar 2020	151	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Survey (online)	3 Feb – 30 Mar 2020	421	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Survey (reply paid)	3 Feb – 30 Mar 2020	210	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Phone calls	3 Feb – 30 Mar 2020	5	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Emails and correspondence	3 Feb - 30 Mar 2020	6	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Facebook	3 Feb - 30 Mar 2020	384 comments (nested and original)	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Pop ups (face-to-face)	8 Feb - 3 Mar 2020	1,734	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Senior Leadership Team Workshop (face-to-face)	2 Mar 2020	15	HIP V. HYPE Sustainability
Community Drop-in	10 Mar 2020	0	BCC Environmental Sustainability
Staff workshop 1 and 2 (online)	20 Mar 2020	24 (58 invited)	HIP V. HYPE Sustainability
Community workshop (online) ¹	25 Mar 2020	15	HIP V. HYPE Sustainability
Total Engagement		2,965	
Total Reach²		260,218	

Notes: 1. Originally two face-to-face community workshops were scheduled with 37 people registered. Unfortunately, the timing of the workshops coincided with the start of COVID-19 restrictions. Those registered were invited to attend an online workshop and only 15 people responded. As such, only one workshop was run. 2. Reach represents the number of people who saw Council communications relating to this engagement.

Unfortunately, some engagement activities were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Workshops scheduled to occur during the period in which gatherings and non-essential travel was banned, were redesigned and delivered online. While these workshops were effective, people’s ability to engage was impacted by the restrictions.

Three proposed activities were rescheduled or cancelled due to the restrictions and therefore did not contribute to the engagement process (see Table 2).

Table 2. Rescheduled or cancelled events

Engagement Activity	Date Scheduled	Purpose
Bayside Schools Climate Summit	18 March 2020	Engage youth (school students)
Pop up – ‘Close the Gap’ event	21 March 2020	Engage local indigenous community
Facilitated community workshop	18 April 2020	Prioritise actions based on data received through engagement

Internal

Extensive internal engagement was undertaken to ensure a holistic understanding of the required response to the Climate Emergency, and shared ownership of proposed actions in the Action Plan. A workshop was held with members of the Senior Leadership Team, supported by two further workshops with team leaders across all relevant areas. Eighteen teams across the organisation were consulted to understand the intent of proposed actions, agree on the responsibility for delivery of actions, and refine wording to make actions more meaningful and achievable. Table 3 shows the Departments directly engaged to discuss their responsibility to deliver relevant actions.

Table 3. Internal Stakeholders consulted on actions

Team / Department		
City Assets & Projects	Finance	Urban Strategy
Assets & Investigations	Governance	Development Services
Open Space	Strategy & Improvement	Property
Transport Planning	Learning & Capability	Procurement
Recycling & Waste Management	People & Capability	Risk and Safety
Environmental Sustainability	Community Services	Communication & Engagement

The second stage of community engagement involved the public release of the Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan for feedback. During June-July 2020, Council conducted a six-week community engagement process to collect feedback on the direction and content of the draft Action Plan.

Overall, there were 52 individuals who provided feedback, either on-line or via email to Council. Three stakeholder organisations also provided detailed comments to Council via email. Table 4 below shows the activities and results.

Table 4. Community Engagement (Phase 2) activities and results

Activity (5 June – 26 July 2020)	Results
On-line engagement platform <i>Have Your Say</i> Surveys seeking feedback on the themes and actions under each theme	582 visitors 43 contributors 48 contributions 20 project followers
Social media <i>Bayside Council</i> Facebook and Instagram page 4 separate Facebook posts were made by Council alerting readers to the second stage of community engagement	0 comments 1 'Shares' 57 'Likes'
Correspondence to Council Emails with detailed comments were sent to Council by the following organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside Emergency Climate Action Network (BECAN) • The Wilderness Society Bayside (TWS) • South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) 	3 emails were sent from organisations 5 emails and 1 REX were sent by individuals

Overall the majority of stakeholders supported the Action Plan themes and acknowledged the important step Council had taken in drafting an Action Plan to address the Climate Emergency.

Table 5 summarises the survey responses received through the On-line engagement platform 'Have Your Say' project page.

Table 5. 'Have Your Say' responses to Draft Action Plan Theme actions

Theme of draft Action Plan	Support all of actions	Support some of actions but have comments	Do not support actions	Total
Build the foundations	24 (55%)	15 (34%)	5 (11%)	44
Mobilise with our community	24 (55%)	15 (34%)	5 (11%)	44
Move to zero carbon transport	14 (32%)	26 (59%)	4 (9%)	44
Transform to a climate responsive built environment	17 (38%)	21 (47%)	7 (16%)	45
Protect and enhance our natural environment	20 (47%)	17 (40%)	6 (14%)	43
Transition to a Circular Economy to avoid waste	19 (45%)	18 (43%)	5 (12%)	42
Switch to zero carbon energy	25 (58%)	13 (30%)	5 (12%)	43

Email correspondence from individuals was mostly supportive and provided valuable feedback on Council's overall approach to the Action Plan.

Review of Strategies

Over 81 policies, strategies and plans were reviewed to inform the development of the Action Plan (see Appendix 1 for the full list). Documents were reviewed for actions related to climate change, recognising that some actions should be extended, adapted or retracted, to align with the response to the Climate Emergency through the Action Plan.

This Action Plan replaces the *Climate Change Strategy 2012*. Actions not yet implemented from the Climate Change Strategy have been incorporated, with updated wording to consider the current context. Actions from the *Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2018-20* appropriate to continue have also been incorporated into this Action Plan.

Gaps and Opportunities Assessment

A 'Gaps and Opportunities' Assessment report was prepared by the consultants. Each policy, strategy and plan reviewed was assessed for its strengths, gaps and opportunities in relation to the Action Plan. The results from this detailed assessment were presented with reference to the seven key themes in the Action Plan.

Research into relevant plans and strategies of other local governments was conducted, to consider examples of 'best practice' for comparison. The intention was to highlight opportunities for Bayside to meet aspirations of the Action Plan to be 'Leading' or 'Transformational'. Together with the community engagement results, this report highlighted key areas of focus recommended for inclusion in the Action Plan.

9. Key issues and findings

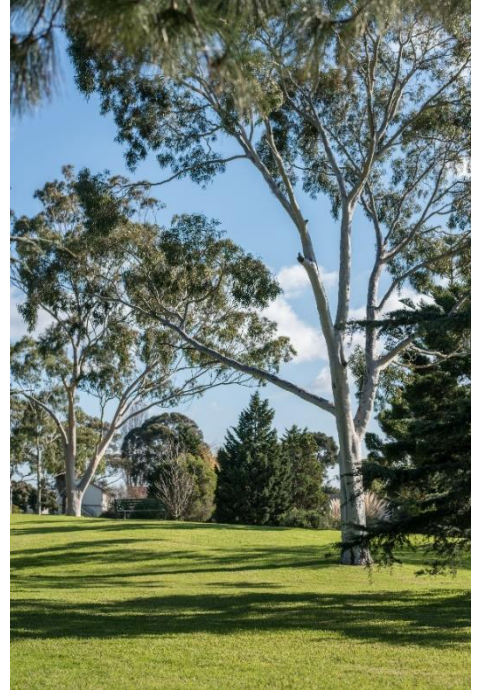
The latest UN IPCC report shows that we could have just 10 years left to limit a climate catastrophe. As a community, Bayside emits around 1.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. We are the highest greenhouse gas emitters per capita in the world. By reducing emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change locally we are contributing to the solution, not the problem.

As part of the development of this Action Plan, extensive community engagement was undertaken. During the engagement six key themes were explored: a further theme was added to include Council's internal organisational approach. 'Renewable Energy' was the most frequently selected of the six themes for Council to focus on in the Climate Emergency Action Plan, with 37% of responses identifying this as the top priority. This was followed by 29% who selected 'Waste', and 27% who selected 'Sustainable Buildings and Homes' as their top priority area for Council.

Engagement was also undertaken with staff, including with the Senior Leadership Team (Council Executive Team and Managers). Staff were engaged on the principles, themes and potential actions for the Action Plan, to elevate the importance of a holistic approach across Council. The actions were identified through an extensive gaps and opportunities assessment of Council's 81 existing Policies, Strategies and Action Plans.

This process highlighted how Council can accelerate and adjust existing work to respond to the Climate Emergency.

As Council becomes carbon neutral for its operations from 2020, it acknowledges the inherent limitations of having direct control over greenhouse gas emissions beyond our operations. It is clear that actions to address the Climate Emergency must expand beyond the organisational boundary and be met with response and commitment from the community, businesses, neighbouring councils and other tiers of government. Through SECCCA, Council partners and acts alongside neighbouring councils and other Victorian councils through the other Climate Change Alliances across Victoria.



Council is taking a leadership role in ensuring the health, safety and resilience for the community and calls on the State and Federal Governments to accept their roles and rise to the challenge of addressing the Climate Emergency. Where the State and Federal Governments have direct influence, beyond Council jurisdiction, to make the necessary changes and deliver greater outcomes to safeguard the public, Council demands this action be taken.

Further key insights from both the engagement within Bayside City Council and with the community were:

- The vast majority of the engaged community supported Council's Climate Emergency declaration and believed that the declaration needs to be coupled with strong action.
- There is strong cross-organisational support to deliver the Action Plan.
- The Action Plan should achieve a balance of actions and approaches that fall between a level of ambition that is 'Transformational' and 'Leading'. Engaged community members expected to see evidence that Council is seeking a deeper transformation through the delivery of the Action Plan.
- It is important that messaging about the 'Climate Emergency and delivery of the Action Plan feels relevant to the majority of people in the community.
- Encouraging and empowering the community is likely to be a key challenge for Council and will require a whole of Council approach, and strong community partnerships.
- There is a significant expectation from the community that Council will advocate strongly to State and Federal Governments for deeper systems change.
- There was broad support in the community for Bayside to set targets aligned with State Government targets.
- While existing Council plans and strategies include actions addressing climate change, there is a significant opportunity to build on these in the context of the 'Climate Emergency'. There are examples of specific actions assessed as 'best practice' that have shown to have a big impact.

These insights have supported the development of the Action Plan. The work to develop actions included in the Plan was undertaken to help ensure that the actions align with Council, community and staff expectations and interests.

10. Implementation and reporting

Implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan will be monitored and the progress of delivery of actions reported annually to Council. Actions will be reviewed and updated after the first year of implementation, and then biennially.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan will be fully reviewed in 2024/25. This timing aligns with the review of the Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025.

Key indicators of success of the Plan will be:

- Completion of scheduled actions and deliverables in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

This can be measured through:

- Action Completion;
- Annual Reporting; and
- Council Plan Key Performance Indicators, i.e. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations.

A Monitoring and Reporting Framework has been established for the measurement of each action and deliverable in the Action Plan. This details how each action will be monitored and reported, the frequency of measurement, the area of Council which reports, and the measurement of success. A sample of the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for Theme 7 is included as Appendix 4.

Achievements will be communicated through Council's range of communications channels, such as our website, 'Let's Talk Bayside' magazine, and social media, to

promote and extend Bayside's community climate action efforts.



11. Glossary

Term	Definitions
Blue-green infrastructure	The use of vegetation, soils and natural processes in an urban context to simultaneously deliver landscape and water management benefits. Examples include natural and artificial waterways, raingardens, trees and indigenous plant landscapes.
Carbon neutrality	Carbon neutrality is achieved when the net greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organisation’s activities, products, services and events are equal to zero.
Carbon offset	Represents the removal of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere by sinks, or a reduction in emissions relative to a business-as-usual baseline. Carbon offsets are tradeable and often used to negate (or offset) all or part of another entity’s emissions. Examples include tree planting to sequester capture, methane capture and use and renewable energy projects.
Circular Economy	A system in which all resources are highly valued and remain in the system through Re-Use, Re-Purposing and Recycling.
Climate change	Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects.
Climate change mitigation	Human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.
Climate Emergency	The catastrophic changes to the climate brought about by human activity that poses a dangerous threat to all life on the planet.
Deliverable	A measurable output of the action
Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)	Using, conserving and enhancing the community’s resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased’.
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	There are six GHGs which are considered to be key contributors to global warming. These are Carbon dioxide (CO ₂), Methane (CH ₄), Nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆). Carbon dioxide is considered the most significant GHG due to its increasing prevalence within the atmosphere.
LED	Light emitting diode
Renewable energy	Energy generated by renewable sources such as wind, solar, tidal, wave and hydro.
Resilience	The capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to adapt, survive and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.
Urban heat island	An urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding areas. This increased warmth is due to heat being retained by roads, buildings, footpaths made of concrete and asphalt, and waste heat created by cars and people. The urban heat island effect can negatively impact the natural environment and human health.

12. References

Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/ipcc-sixth-assessment-report-explained/>

Climate Council IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Explained

Department of Environment Land Water and Planning Victoria's Climate Science Report 2019

Id community profile of Bayside (2016). <https://profile.id.com.au/bayside/tenure>

Snapshot community climate tool (2019)

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report Summary for Policy Makers (2018)

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report Summary for Policy Makers (2021)

https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/download_file/1493/1587 Victorian State Government and CSIRO Local Scale Climate Projections Report 2019

Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2019, State Government of Victoria

13. Appendices

Appendix 1 List of Strategic Documents Reviewed

Appendix 2 List of External Collaborators and Stakeholders

Appendix 3 Action Plan Summary

Appendix 4 Monitoring and Reporting Framework

Appendix 5 Establishing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the Bayside Community

Appendix 1: Strategic Documents Reviewed

- *Active by the Bay Recreation Strategy*
- *Annual Budget 2019/20*
- *Bayside Arts Strategic Plan 2018-2022*
- *Bayside Climate Change Strategy*
- *Bayside Coastal Management Plan 2014*
- *Bayside Housing Strategy 2019*
- *Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy*
- *Bayside Native Vegetation Works Program - Stage 2*
- *Bayside Open Space Strategy*
- *Bayside Road Management Plan*
- *Bayside Road Safety Strategy 2019-2024*
- *Bayside Sportsground Pavilion Improvement Plan*
- *Bayside Tourism Strategy 2013*
- *Bayside Tree Strategy*
- *Bayside Walking Strategy*
- *Bicycle Action Plan 2019-2026*
- *Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027*
- *Buildings Service-Driven Asset Management Plan 2016*
- *Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2018-20*
- *Community Plan 2025*
- *Council Plan 2017-2021 (2019 Review)*
- *Digital Transformation Strategy 2018-2021*
- *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021*
- *Drainage Service-Driven Asset Management Plan 2015*
- *Drainage Upgrade Strategy*
- *Early Years Action Plan 2017-2021*
- *Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2018-2028*
- *Economic Development Strategy*
- *Electric Line Clearance Management Plan*
- *Environment Sustainability Framework Action Plan 2019-23*
- *Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025*
- *Healthy Ageing Action Plan 2017-2021*
- *Healthy Community Action Plan 2017-2021*
- *Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-39*
- *Library Services Strategic Plan 2018-2022*
- *Long Term Financial Plan 2019/20-2028/29*
- *Municipal Emergency Management Plan*
- *Open Space Sustainable Water Management Strategy*
- *Property Strategy 2018-2021*
- *Public Toilet Strategy 2019-2023*
- *Public Transport Advocacy Statement*
- *Recreation and Open Space Asset Management Plan*

- *Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-2027*
- *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan*
- *Retail, Commercial and Employment Strategy 2016-2031*
- *Roads Service Driven Asset Management Plan*
- *Sandringham Beach and Gardens Masterplan*
- *Strategic Resource Plan 2019/20-2022/23*
- *Wellbeing for All Ages and Abilities Strategy*
- *Women's Charter Action Plan 2018-2020*
- *Youth Action Plan 2017-2021*

Appendix 2 – External Stakeholders and Collaborators

Abbreviation	Organisation / function
SECCCA	South East Councils Climate Change Alliance
DNSP	Distribution Network Service Provider for electricity and gas
Sustainability Victoria	Victorian Government Agency
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
BECAN	Bayside Emergency Climate Action Network
Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group	BECAN member
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc,	BECAN member
Bayside Seniors Action Group	BECAN member
Beaumaris Modern	BECAN member
Bee Friendly Bayside	BECAN member
Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association	BECAN member
Brighton Foreshore Association	BECAN member
Brighton Residents for Urban Protection	BECAN member
Elsternwick Park Association	BECAN member
Greenpeace Bayside	BECAN member
Intrepid Landcare Bayside	BECAN member
Marine Care Ricketts Point	BECAN member
Marine Education Science Community Centre	BECAN member
Sandringham Foreshore Association	BECAN member
The Wilderness Society Bayside	BECAN member
Port Phillip EcoCentre	Not-for-profit Community Environmental Centre
Sustainability Education Providers	Providers of school and community education resources
DoT (VicRoads)	Department of Transport (formerly VicRoads)
RACV	Royal Automotive Club of Victoria
DoT (PTV)	Department of Transport (formerly Public Transport Victoria)
Victoria Walks	Not-for-profit Walking promotion
VicHealth	Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Bicycle Network Victoria	Not-for-profit Bicycle riding promotion
CASBE	Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment
MWRRG	Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group
RVBIC	Recycling Victoria Business Innovation Centre

Appendix 3 – Action Plan Summary

VISION: Bayside's urgent response to the Climate Emergency will protect current and future generations, and the places we all love.							
	1. Build the foundations	2. Mobilise with our community	3. Move to zero carbon transport	4. Transform to a climate responsive built environment	5. Protect and enhance our natural environment	6. Transition to a circular economy to avoid waste	7. Switch to zero carbon energy
Objective	Develop an educated, mindful culture ensuring the Climate Emergency response becomes business-as-usual across all Council departments.	Work with our community to take climate action and minimise the threats from climate related shocks and stressors, such as heatwaves and flooding.	Drive the transition away from internal combustion engine vehicles to sustainable transport such as walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.	Ensure the built environment provides comfortable, liveable spaces for people and will withstand climate related shocks and stressors, such as extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise.	Seamlessly integrate the natural environment into cityscape, strengthening land, water and ocean based habitats.	Drive the move away from the 'take, make, dispose' economy, towards one where all materials are treated as precious resources, with little thrown away.	Support the decarbonisation of the energy system through switching to efficient, renewable energy solutions such as solar and wind power.
Outcomes by 2025 <i>Note: Outcomes represented here are a summary from the detailed Action Tables in the Climate Emergency Action Plan and may not appear word for word for ease of reading.</i>	<p>All staff are aware of the organisational response to the Climate Emergency and their individual responsibilities.</p> <p>All Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and Service Plans reflect the Climate Emergency.</p> <p>A community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target is established and integrated into the Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p> <p>All reports to Council consider and address the implications of the Climate Emergency.</p>	<p>The community is engaged, supporting and taking action on climate change.</p> <p>The Bayside community are knowledgeable about climate impacts and what they can do.</p> <p>Schools, businesses and community groups are responding to the Climate Emergency.</p> <p>Implementation of innovative funding models to support investment in climate action.</p> <p>The community is prepared and resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>The Bayside community are supported to adopt electric vehicles</p> <p>A staged and costed plan to transition Council fleet to net zero carbon by 2025 has been developed and implemented.</p> <p>Climate change impacts are addressed and implemented through the Integrated Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Residents and visitors are making the switch to 'zero carbon' transport modes.</p>	<p>New development in Bayside is environmentally sustainable and climate resilient.</p> <p>Bayside's streetscapes are resilient to climate change.</p> <p>Bayside's existing buildings are safer, more comfortable and more resilient to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>The community is well informed and understands the value of environmentally sustainable design.</p> <p>Excellence in Environmentally Sustainable Design is recognised and promoted.</p>	<p>Reduced Urban Heat Island impact.</p> <p>Increased tree canopy cover.</p> <p>Strengthened biodiversity and habitat.</p> <p>Healthier waterways and reduced pollutants in the bay.</p> <p>Water resources are managed more efficiently.</p> <p>Water is used in the landscape to improve climate resilience.</p> <p>Open space in Bayside is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy reflects the transition to the 'circular economy'.</p> <p>Local businesses and community groups are reducing waste to landfill.</p> <p>The Bayside community are knowledgeable about waste avoidance and what they can do to reduce consumption and increase recycling.</p>	<p>Certified 'Carbon Neutral' status is maintained for council operations.</p> <p>100% of Council purchased electricity is from renewable sources.</p> <p>Council operations are 100% gas free.</p> <p>All public lighting including street lighting uses energy efficient LED lamps</p> <p>Vulnerable residents are included in the switch to 'zero carbon' energy.</p> <p>Innovative solutions to switch to 'zero carbon' energy are explored and trialled.</p>

	<p>Climate emergency reporting to the community is regular, consistent and transparent.</p> <p>Climate Emergency advocacy priorities are clear, specific and supported by key messages.</p>			<p>Council buildings and infrastructure are increasingly climate resilient and low carbon.</p> <p>Environmental impact is reduced in the operation of Council owned buildings</p> <p>Council is actively seeking opportunities to pilot a 'zero carbon' development.</p>	<p>Bayside has increased capacity for local food production.</p>		
<p>Key Strategies, Plans and Policies</p> <p>Green - to be implemented</p> <p>Purple - to be reviewed</p> <p>Blue - to be developed</p>	<p>Procurement Policy</p> <p>Risk Management Policy</p> <p>Investment Policy</p> <p>'One Bayside' Organisational Strategy</p> <p>Climate Emergency Advocacy Plan</p>	<p>Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p> <p>Fleet Policy</p>	<p>Environmentally Sustainable Design Planning Policy</p> <p>Local Planning Policy</p>	<p>Urban Forest Strategy</p> <p>Integrated Water Management Plan</p> <p>Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Coastal Management Plan</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Street and Park Tree Management Policy</p>	<p>Recycling and Waste Management Strategy</p> <p>Circular Economy Transition Plan</p>	<p>Carbon Neutral Plan</p>

Appendix 5 – Establishing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the Bayside community

There is growing community awareness and concern regarding the impacts of climate change. Natural disasters, including heatwaves, storm surges, and flooding caused by climate change result in major social impacts including on community wellbeing and resilience. Decisions made now will position our economy, society and local community for the disruption caused by climate change.

Bayside City Council responded to community expectations by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' in December 2019. Community engagement to develop the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan has shown an expectation within the Bayside community that Council will use its resources efficiently and will work with and on behalf of the community to respond to the challenges of climate change.

Climate change is already having significant adverse effects on human health. These include physical and psychological trauma associated with extreme weather events, warmer temperatures which are contributing to worsening air pollution, spread of infectious diseases, and risks to food and water security.⁶

Council has a responsibility to ensure the resilience, health and wellbeing of the community. With vulnerable, ageing and young community members at higher risk from climate change, this poses a serious threat to our community.

The recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report finds that average global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming above pre-industrial levels over the next 20 years and has warmed approximately 1.1°C since 1850-1900. As this report states: *Climate change is “widespread, rapid, and intensifying”*.⁷

Based on this latest science, and taking into account Australia's national circumstances, the Climate Council has concluded that *“Australia should reduce its emissions by 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2035”*.⁸

Under Action 1.7 of the *Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2025*, Council committed to “establish and communicate a science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the entire Bayside community, in line with the Paris Agreement”.

⁶ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [MassonDelmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

⁷ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [MassonDelmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

⁸ <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/ipcc-sixth-assessment-report-explained/>

As an organisation, Bayside City Council has been tackling greenhouse gas emissions for many years - installing solar panels on Council buildings, introducing food and organic waste recycling, and adding fully electric vehicles to our fleet. Bayside has shown leadership by becoming the first Council certified 'carbon neutral' for its operations in the south east of Melbourne and only the ninth Council in Australia to do so.

Reducing the council operating greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in one year was a great achievement, but even with all our facilities and streetlights, the Council only makes up half a percent of greenhouse gas emissions for the whole municipality.

That is why we have now adopted a whole-of-community approach to this critical issue, and we will work with each sector of the community on how they can contribute to achieving the target.

In November 2021, it was resolved that:

That Council adopts a community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in response to Action 1.7 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan of: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% below 2005 levels by 2030; and achieving net zero emissions by 2035 or earlier.

Council has worked through the South East Council Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) to deliver the 'Community Climate Action Planning' project. The major objective of this project was to identify the most effective community greenhouse gas reducing actions for each participating council, and for SECCCA across the south east region.

The project has also provided an evidence base for both regional and individual Council targets to pursue efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in line with the aspirations of the Paris Agreement. To achieve this target by 2035, the region needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.8% per year until 2035.

Based on international climate science and modelling used in the report, the remaining 'carbon budget' for the City of Bayside is 8,600 ktCO_{2e}. This is the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions that the whole of the municipality can emit if it is to make a 'fair contribution' to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The report states that if greenhouse gas emissions were emitted at the same rate as in, this 'carbon budget' would be used up in 6.3 years from 2021, or approximately by late 2027. In order to stretch this 'carbon budget' to 2033, greenhouse gas emissions from the Bayside municipality must reduce linearly by around 10% year on year.

To put this another way, greenhouse gas emissions in Bayside need to be reduced by 10% each year from 2021 to 2033 for the whole of the municipality to make a ‘fair contribution’ to limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C, in alignment with the Paris Agreement.

Report time period

2019 July – 2020 June ▼

Bayside

2019/20 municipal emissions snapshot

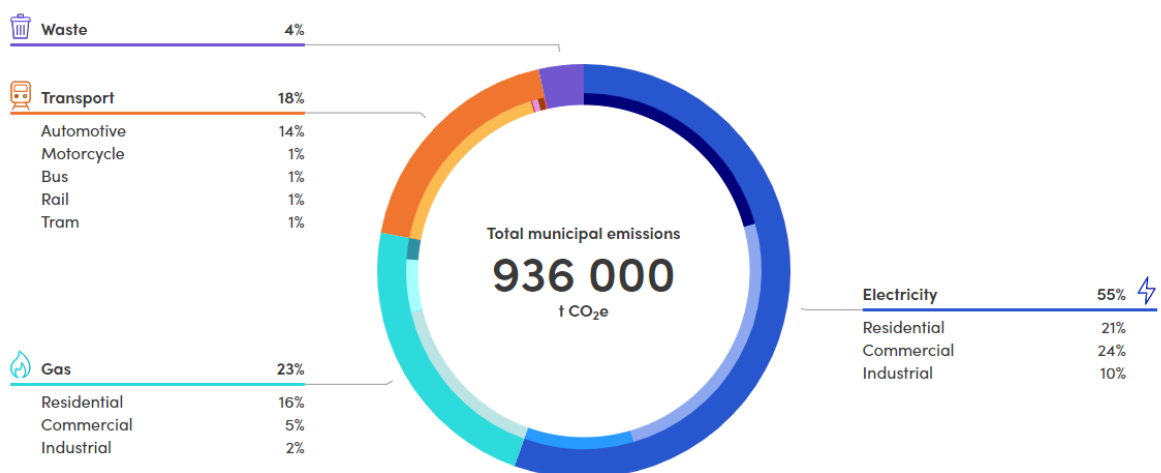


Figure 1: Bayside Community Emissions Profile, Source, [Snapshot](#).

The Bayside community released approximately 936 thousand tonnes CO₂e in 2019/20 (Figure 1).

The 2005 emission level for the Bayside Community has been calculated at 1.36 million tCO₂e. This number was calculated with the support of Snapshot who derived the Bayside community’s emissions using the total Victorian emissions for 2005.

Our community emissions reduction target of a 75% reduction below 2005 levels results in an emissions reduction target of 325,200 tCO₂e by 2030. With a final goal of reaching net zero tCO₂e by 2035.

Council has chosen the Snapshot reporting tool to monitor our community emissions each year as it is publicly available via their website snapshotclimate.com.au. The emission levels are reported with a delay to allow time to collate available data and develop reports for each municipality. There may be some variations year on year as reporting and calculation assumptions and methods are refined and improved.

The Snapshot community climate tool has been developed by Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability and is the first national tool providing community-wide greenhouse gas profiles for every council across Australia. Snapshot is generated from State level data on the volume of greenhouse gases emitted within a set boundary and the different sources of these emissions. Snapshot calculates major sources of carbon emissions, including stationary energy, transport, waste, agriculture, and land-use change.

Snapshot profiles have been developed in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC). The GPC Protocol is designed to promote best practice greenhouse gas accounting and reporting.

In March 2022, Council began development of a communications and education campaign to help mobilise the Bayside community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the adopted community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.

Research has been undertaken to design a community education campaign which:

Reaches the broadest possible audience in Bayside, including audiences who do not typically engage with Council and focuses on audiences and mechanisms which target high-emitting sectors, therefore most likely to reduce emissions quickly.

To date, a review of current literature related to climate change communications, a review of Bayside community data (including the Bayside 2050 community vision) and existing policies and strategies, industry stakeholder interviews, and community focus groups with a representative sample of Bayside residents have been completed.

This preliminary research phase allowed for the testing of campaign messaging and collection of behavioural insights, used to inform the direction and focus of the communications campaign.

The campaign has been designed with longevity in mind, setting overarching key messages which can be used for the life of the campaign (until the emissions reduction targets are met), and flexible 'plug-in' programs to target specific audiences, sectors, and behaviours.

It is however important to note that Council does not have direct control over community emissions, and the campaign is designed to target our areas of highest influence over community greenhouse gas emissions.

Alongside the outcomes of the SECCCA 'Community Climate Action Planning' project, this campaign framework is intended to determine the approach for achieving the strategic objectives set by the *Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025* and the community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.



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Bayside City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land, the Boon Wurrung people, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.