

# Draft First-Year Action Plan

## Climate Change Strategy



GOAL 1 Climate action is in everything we do		
G1. ACTION AREA 1 Right across Council, our initiatives, projects, and services have climate outcomes		
1.1.1	Continue convening the internal Climate Change Leadership Group	Ongoing
1.1.2	Review options to extend Council's commitment to divesting in fossil fuel investments within the Cash Management Policy	Jun 2024
1.1.3	As all policies, strategies and plans come up for review consider the climate impact and integrate responses as relevant to policy context	Ongoing
1.1.4	Continue to review and update the Strategic Risk Report to ensure climate change risks are appropriately assessed and managed	Ongoing
1.1.5	Integrate climate change risk into new project and program plans / risk assessments	Jun 2024
1.1.6	As part of the annual planning process, ensure each team explores how climate change is/will impact their work area and how they can contribute to the climate response	Jun 2024
1.1.7	Publish a snapshot of Council's climate risk assessment to keep our community informed	Dec 2023
G1. ACTION AREA 2 We consistently integrate climate messages into communications arising from all departments		
1.2.1	Deliver a one month pilot focused on integrating climate messages across Council communication platforms.	Dec 2023
1.2.2	Hold bi-annual internal meetings to review and reflect on how climate change messages are being integrated into broader Council communications	Jun 2024
1.2.3	Actively promote sustainable programs and rebates available through other organisations or levels of government or for households, organisations and businesses	Ongoing
G1. ACTION AREA 3 We seek innovative ways to increase resourcing for climate action		
1.3.1	Investigate the establishment of an internal carbon budget	Dec 2023
GOAL 2 We transition in a just and equitable way to a zero emissions shire		
G2. ACTION AREA 1 Council operations are efficient, and powered by renewable energy		
This Action Area will be addressed via delivery of the 23/24 financial year actions in the Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2020-2025		Jun 2024

<b>G2. ACTION AREA 2</b>		<b>Council partners on and supports programs to achieve a just transition to zero-net emissions for its residents and businesses</b>
2.2.1 (5.1)	Host an annual climate response planning meeting with local community groups to: - Facilitate community feedback and input into Council's annual climate action plan - Support information sharing between groups (Note: this action is also relevant to goal 5.1)	Apr 2024
2.2.2	Continue involvement in the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance to develop regional projects, advocate and share knowledge	Ongoing
2.2.3	Establish MoUs and agreements with community groups where there is alignment with Council's climate change goals	Dec 2023
2.2.4	When possible support the preparation of community grant applications where they align with Council's climate change goals	Ongoing
2.2.5	Actively promote for all tenants of Council facilities to source 100% renewable energy. Support the transition by offering tenants to join VECO, and local renewable energy generators.	Jun 2024
<b>G2. ACTION AREA 3</b>		<b>Council delivers infrastructure and advocacy that supports a well-connected low carbon transport system</b>
2.3.1	Continue to monitor usage and cost/benefit of existing council owned EV chargers	Ongoing
2.3.2	Consider outcomes of the CVGA project investigating policies for privately owned EV chargers on Council land.	Jun 2024
2.3.3	Promote local electric vehicle community bulk buy opportunities	Jun 2024
<b>GOAL 3 Our natural environment and green spaces are healthy, resilient and increasing</b>		
<b>G3. ACTION AREA 1</b>		<b>Council delivers Water Sensitive Urban Design, and partnerships for a water sensitive shire</b>
3.1.1	Undertake next steps (if feasible) following feasibility study into Botanical Gardens alternative water source opportunities.	Jun 2024
3.1.2	Review Castlemaine Integrated Water Management Plan (Water for now and into the future) and how it can be used to support a water sensitive Shire.	Jun 2024
3.1.3	When planning streetscape programs seek to maximise opportunities for increased permeability and vegetation cover.	Ongoing
<b>G3. ACTION AREA 2</b>		<b>Council delivers and partners to increase canopy cover, ecosystem resilience and landscape connectivity</b>
3.2.1	In collaboration with other councils, support the North Central Catchment Management Authority to deliver a pilot project to test the feasibility of a larger local offsetting project.	Jun 2024
3.2.2	Continue to work with First Nations, landcare and other groups such as Connecting Country to support regeneration on public and private land.	Ongoing
3.2.3	Continue to work with other agencies like Parks Victoria, Coliban Water, Catchment Management Authorities etc. to identify funding opportunities and partnerships.	Ongoing

<b>G3. ACTION AREA 3</b>		<b>Council seeks opportunities for positive environmental outcomes on private land</b>
3.3.1	If funding is successful, partner to deliver the Creating Healthy and Drought Resilient Landscapes and Communities in Central Victoria project.	Jun 2024
<b>GOAL 4 Our infrastructure is robust in the face of current and future climate change impacts</b>		
<b>G4. ACTION AREA 1</b>		<b>Council-owned buildings, assets and infrastructure are resilient and built for future climate</b>
4.1.1	Review how climate change is considered in asset renewal, maintenance and retrofit cycles	Ongoing
4.1.2	Explore potential for landscaping and footpath materials that are cooler and more permeable than traditional hard surfaces such as concrete	Ongoing
<b>G4. ACTION AREA 2</b>		<b>Council uses planning controls to reduce exposure to climate risks</b>
4.2.1	Review land use planning policies to strengthen climate change considerations	Jun 2024
4.2.2	Identify climate resilience opportunities when undertaking master planning and strategic land use planning projects	Ongoing
4.2.3	Ensure that climate responsive design is encouraged in housing and neighbourhood character strategies <i>Note Implementation (planning scheme amendment) estimated by 2026</i>	Strategies: 2024
4.2.4	Incorporate climate change projections into future flood studies undertaken across the Shire.	Ongoing
<b>G4. ACTION AREA 3</b>		<b>Council advocates and educates for climate-resilient buildings and development</b>
4.3.1	Identify and pursue opportunities to improve Environmentally Sustainable Design outcomes in subdivisions, new housing developments, and precinct structure plans to improve a range of healthy living outcomes.	Jun 2024
4.3.2	Partner with community organisations to educate and promote benefits of making homes climate proof/responsive	Ongoing
4.3.3	Work with other councils and alliances to advocate for improved consideration of climate change in Victoria's planning scheme	Ongoing
<b>GOAL 5 Our community is connected and has the capacity to adapt to climate change</b>		
<b>G5. ACTION AREA 1</b>		<b>Council works with our community to strengthen social cohesion and connection</b>
5.1.1	Continue to deliver and promote activities that build social cohesion for climate resilience (examples include arts and cultural events, public art, sport, community lunches and events, markets, community gardens, volunteerism).	Ongoing
5.1.2	Continue dialogue with Djaara to identify opportunities to address climate change	Ongoing
5.1.3	Continue to support the Healthy Loddon Campaspe project, which is enabling healthy, equitable and environmentally sustainable food systems.	Ongoing

5.1.4	Create additional opportunities that support young people to influence and participate in the local climate change response (e.g. through Council's Youth Reference Group and the School Strike for Climate Group)	Ongoing
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<b>G5. ACTION AREA 2</b>	<b>Within our programs and services Council prioritises support to members of the community most at risk of experiencing vulnerability to climate change impacts</b>
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5.2.1	Investigate funding opportunities for measuring and communicating community vulnerabilities and resilience across our shire	Jun 2024
5.2.2	Continue to support community groups and organisations delivering local climate resilience initiatives	Ongoing

<b>G5. ACTION AREA 3</b>	<b>Council partners to reduce climate risks, and prepare for and respond to extreme weather events</b>
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5.3.1	Review the <a href="#">Victorian Preparedness Framework</a> to ensure Council's emergency management planning is comprehensive and aligned with other levels of Government	Dec 2023
5.3.2	Continue to participate in the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster to drive best practice responses and regional scale solutions	Ongoing