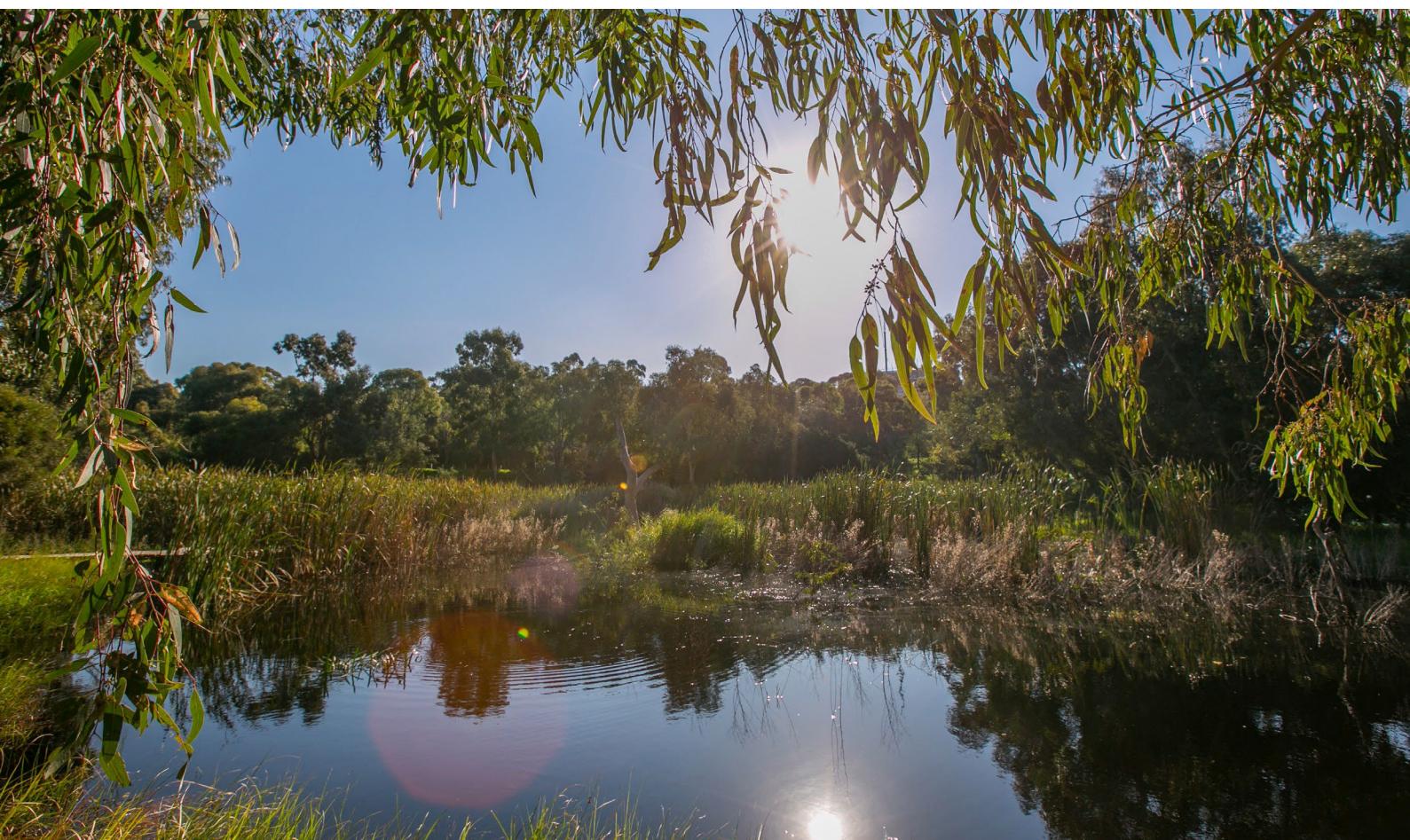




CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN
2021–2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Council is proud to represent a municipality filled with important and significant Aboriginal history. It acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation, and acknowledges the rich culture and considerable contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made and continue to make to this City



Maribyrnong City Council
Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021–2025

Draft March 2022

This document accompanies the
Climate Emergency Strategy 2020–2025

Table of Contents

Glossary	4
Why is Council taking action on the climate emergency?	6
What is Council's commitment to addressing the climate emergency	6
What is the Climate Emergency Action Plan?	6
Summary of Climate Emergency Strategy objectives	7
Action Plan 2021–2025	8
The climate emergency	9
Energy	12
Efficient buildings and infrastructure	13
Transport	15
Consumption and waste	16
Land use and drawdown	17
Reviewing progress	18
Conclusion	19

Glossary

20 minute neighbourhood	The 20 minute neighbourhood is based on the principles of 'living locally' so that needs are met and services are available within a 20 minute walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local transport options.
Active transport	Modes of transport that rely on human power to fuel movement, e.g. cycling, walking, skating and running.
Adaptation	Learning to live with, adjusting or making changes to cope with impacts. Adaptation in a climate emergency fails to address the emergency itself but focuses on adjusting to live within the actual or expected climate impacts. This is in contrast to mitigation which is about ending the emergency.
Circular economy	As opposed to a linear economy which focuses on make, use and dispose, a circular economy aims to close the loop and eliminate waste and the continual use of resources by reusing products and materials, which also minimises greenhouse gas emissions.
Culturally appropriate species	Species of trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbs which are considered by Traditional Owners to be culturally appropriate have historical presence within the local landscapes. These species may or may not have been used by Traditional Owners.
Drawdown	The active removal of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere, e.g. through the absorption of carbon dioxide by plants which then store it as carbon.
Embodied carbon	The amount of carbon emissions released throughout the whole lifecycle of a material or product, including resource extraction, production, transportation and disposal. Sometimes called embodied energy.
Emissions/greenhouse gas emissions/carbon emissions	When used in this document, these terms all refer the release of greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere as part of the greenhouse effect and cause global warming and the climate emergency.
First Nations	First Nations refers to the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations across the continent, who were here first before colonisation.

Mitigation	In terms of climate emergency, mitigation is focused on ending the emergency by reducing and preventing emissions of greenhouse gases, and draw down of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. This is in contrast to adaptation, which is not about ending the emergency, but is about adjusting to it.
Net Zero Emissions	Achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere, resulting in a net zero amount.
Offsets	To achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, many organisations pay for carbon offsets which avoid or remove emissions from the atmosphere. This means that the greenhouse emissions from an activity, are 'cancelled out' by the purchase of an 'offset' where the equivalent amount of emissions are avoided or removed from the atmosphere.
Safe climate	Pre-industrial climate conditions, prior to human induced warming. A safe climate can be restored by rapidly ceasing emissions and capturing and storing the excess greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.
Share economy	Mostly community led initiatives, focused on sharing resources within the community. This can include sharing goods, reusing or repairing materials.
Solar PV	Photovoltaic solar is the type of rooftop solar installed on homes and businesses, and uses the heat from the sun to generate renewable electricity.
Traditional Owners	Traditional Owners have sovereignty over lands, waterways and seas which they occupied before, and after, colonial invasion. In Maribyrnong the Traditional Owners are the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung, Bunurong and Boon wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. For further information, see the Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of this document.

Why is Council taking action on the climate emergency?

Maribyrnong City Council recognises that the global climate emergency affects everyone, and poses an unprecedented threat to our society, economy and environment. Locally, our community is already experiencing the impacts of climate change through extreme weather events, heat waves, flooding, health impacts, bushfire smoke and other impacts to air and water quality — and these will only worsen as the climate emergency continues.

Climate change presents a challenge, but there are also many benefits for our community that will come from taking climate action. This includes increased vegetation and greening, decreased truck and vehicle pollution, more connected and safe cycling and walking options, and more comfortable housing with decreased electricity costs.

What is Council's commitment to address the climate emergency?

Council recognises that addressing the climate emergency requires a collective, collaborative effort as a local and global community.

In 2019, Council acknowledged that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local councils. In making this commitment, Maribyrnong City Council joined an international movement of over 2000 (and rapidly growing) climate emergency jurisdictions from around the world.

In 2020, community members of Maribyrnong City Council's Climate Emergency Community Advisory Group developed Council's first ever Climate Emergency Strategy, using a deliberative democracy approach. The Maribyrnong City Council Climate Emergency Strategy 2020–2025 (CES) details Council's commitment to addressing the climate emergency through the strategic direction, vision and around 100 high level goals.

What is the Climate Emergency Action Plan?

This Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is written to accompany the CES. It includes proposed actions that Maribyrnong City Council can take to deliver on the vision and high level goals Council has committed to in the CES.

The CES and this CEAP address six key priority areas: The Climate Emergency, Energy, Efficient Buildings and Infrastructure, Transport, Consumption and Waste, and Land Use and Drawdown.

The CES and this CEAP are predominantly focused on mitigation and ending the climate emergency, by reducing or eliminating new greenhouse gas emissions and by removing (drawing down) existing emissions.

A complementary Adaptation Framework will follow this CEAP, which will focus on adaptation measures and building resilience to climate impacts.

Many of the visions and goals in the CES are short (2025) or mid (2030) term. While 2030 is the key timeline that we are working towards, with the ever-changing understanding of climate emergency it is considered that a 2025 review period is critical, so the timelines for the CES and the CEAP are until 2025.

A number of goals will require work beyond the 2025 timeline, thus many of the actions in this CEAP may not be fully delivered within the next four years, but will have ongoing implementation timeframes.

Summary of the Climate Emergency Strategy commitments to be achieved by the Climate Emergency Action Plan

1 overarching goal

Restore a safe climate at emergency speed to provide maximum protection for people and species, recognising and acting on the need for coordinated local and global action.

3 key objectives

- Ceasing emissions of greenhouse gases by Council and working with the Maribyrnong community to transition to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- Drawing down (removing) existing and future greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere
- Empowering and mobilising community action and building community resilience.

4 main approaches

- Embedding the climate emergency response in Council's planning, operations, infrastructure, strategies and organisational culture
- Supporting and working with our community to understand and take action on the climate emergency
- Developing partnerships and networks with other Councils and organisations to be more effective in climate emergency action
- Advocating to all levels of government for urgent climate emergency responses.

6 key priority areas



The Climate Emergency

Recognise the urgency needed to address the climate emergency, and work with others to educate and move beyond business as usual.



Energy

Transition to renewable forms of energy, increase energy efficiency and move investments from fossil fuel industries.



Efficient Buildings and Infrastructure

Build or retrofit buildings which use less energy to occupy and incorporate green roof and wall options. Use low/zero carbon and recycled materials in construction, renovation and maintenance of buildings, and infrastructure projects.



Transport

Prioritise zero emissions and sustainable transport, support transition to electric vehicles and phase out fossil fuel powered vehicles. Shift Council's fleet to electric and end unnecessary travel.



Consumption and Waste

Prioritise waste avoidance and reduced consumption, encourage food waste recycling and focus procurement and other activities to support a local circular economy.



Land use and Drawdown

Drawdown (remove) excess carbon out of the atmosphere, restore and protect open spaces and undertake greening opportunities.

Action Plan 2021–2025





The climate emergency

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
CE01	Develop the Council Plan 2025-2029 and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan to integrate and reflect Council's commitment to the climate emergency response	2024/2025	Within Council operating resources
CE02	Progressively update and review all relevant Council policies and plans to include climate emergency mitigation, adaptation and resilience fast tracking priority policies and documents with a strong link to the climate emergency and those specifically identified in the Climate Emergency Strategy	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
CE03	Update internal procurement documentation and processes to ensure consideration of climate emergency objectives, emissions reduction and energy use when procuring goods, services and works	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE04	Develop and deliver a Council staff education and capacity building program covering a range of climate emergency topics, for all relevant staff, Executive Management Team (EMT) and leadership teams	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE05	Transition all Council festivals and events to be zero emissions, powered by 100% renewable energy, supporting zero waste to landfill, and promoting sustainable transport options to site	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
CE06	Investigate opportunities to include climate emergency KPIs and responsibilities for all relevant staff, including Executive Management Team, Managers and leadership positions within the organisation	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE07	Develop an organisational climate emergency performance measurement framework to assess the climate emergency impact (mitigation, emissions impacts, and adaptation) for all Council projects and Council's overall climate emergency response	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE08	Develop and implement an Adaptation Framework focused on increasing Council and community resilience and preparedness for climate impacts, including a risk assessment and modelling of climate impacts, and consultation with Council's insurance broker with regard to insuring against climate risk	2022/2023	To be referred to future budget
CE09	Work with Melbourne Water to update their flooding areas, identify any Council local flood areas and incorporate into the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme, and update the Maribyrnong Flood Management Plan	2021/2022	N/A
CE10	Undertake advocacy to State and Federal Governments on the range of advocacy goals identified in the Climate Emergency Strategy, including coordinated advocacy with relevant local government/climate networks and programs to further Council's climate emergency work and leadership	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources



The climate emergency

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
CE11	Engage with research institutes, innovative technology groups, Non-government organisations, climate emergency strategists and others leaders to ensure innovative and best practice climate response	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources
CE12	Work with Traditional Owners and First Nations people to identify opportunities to collaborate on the climate emergency response	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources
CE13	Develop and implement a community climate education plan and education programs for residents, businesses and industry on a range of climate topics, which considers the diverse make up of our community, and includes Traditional Owner/First Nations cultural education and knowledge	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE14	Develop and promote climate information resources in multiple languages and include climate messaging in the range of Council's communications and media platforms, to highlight Council's commitment to the climate emergency and share information about ways people can contribute to the climate emergency response	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources
CE15	Develop an Engagement Strategy for the Climate Emergency Action Plan, setting guidelines and direction for continuous engagement, including engagement with residents, and a specific business program	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within existing budget
CE16	Develop a community a climate civic participation and leadership program, focused on increasing skills and ability for the community to act on climate, with ongoing peer to peer engagement a key outcome	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE17	Support a youth climate summit run by Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Committee	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE18	Encourage and support community groups that use Council facilities (including local sporting/hobby/clubs) to develop and implement a climate emergency plan, that could include actions on energy efficiency, green travel, zero waste, and community engagement on the climate emergency	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources
CE19	Include climate emergency in existing community programs working with our diverse community, including in Welcome dinners/activities, interfaith events, the history and culture of First Nations program, and the emerging intersectional group being established	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CE20	Review the Business District Grant Program, and prioritise applications that help address the climate emergency	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources



The climate emergency

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
CE21	Investigate options to establish a community group to work with Council on the climate emergency, with a focus on climate justice, and/or work with other Council advisory groups on the climate emergency response	2022/2023-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources



	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
E01	Ensure that electric options and energy efficiency is prioritised and is a key criteria when procuring Council plant and equipment	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
E02	Investigate options to establish preferred supplier panels with suppliers who meet sustainability and emissions reduction requirements	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
E01	Continue to adopt a positive screening approach for investment with financial institutions and actively invest with fossil fuel free financial institutions, within the parameters of Council's investment policy, including divestment	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
E03	Investigate opportunities for a Virtual Energy Network, or other renewable energy models, utilising Council buildings/assets	2021/2022	Contracting
E04	Work with the community to understand the level of interest for community led renewable energy initiatives within Maribyrnong, and investigate best options and role for Council support	2023/2024	To be referred to future budget
E05	Continue participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration project or similar, with the outcome that Council remains powered by 100% renewable electricity from wind or solar sources	2021/2022-2025/2026	Decreased annual costs (TBC after Dec 2022)
E06	Develop and implement a plan to remove gas from all existing Council buildings, replacing with 100% renewable electricity	2023/2024-2024/2025	To be referred to future budget (for implementation)
E07	Provide or support renewable energy and energy efficiency programs for residents and businesses, through initiatives such as Solar Savers, Environmental Upgrade Agreements and the Western Alliance of Greenhouse Action Business Resilience Program	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources



Efficient buildings and infrastructure

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
EBI01	Review and update the Council Environmental Sustainable Design Policy and Guidelines to ensure best climate outcomes for Council buildings, including ongoing review of best available low/zero emissions materials and recycled materials	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
EBI02	Update specifications for all current and future Council construction, infrastructure, renovation and maintenance to prioritise low/zero carbon materials and recycled content and specify minimum climate/sustainability targets	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
EBI03	Establish a system to redeploy and store infrastructure/assets in good condition to be reused in other Council projects, and investigate the potential to work with other councils to share and recycle products and assets	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
EBI04	Embed ESD, recycled content and climate requirements in the Project Management Framework and in the Project Charter, and engage with teams to increase understanding and use of Project Management Framework	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
EBI05	Continue energy efficiency retrofitting and upgrades of Council buildings and assets, including installation of PV and roll out of energy efficiency appliances including lighting, heating and cooling	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources for 2022/23 and to be referred to future budget for subsequent years
EBI06	Add energy efficient use and special conditions into lease agreements for Council buildings and facilities	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
EBI07	Work with Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment, local government and state government on investigating "Elevating ESD targets in the Planning Scheme" and options to implement into the Planning Scheme and other mechanisms	2021/2022-2023/2024	Within Council operating resources
EBI08	Progress Medium Density Guidelines for new developments, including investigating ways to implement into the Planning Scheme to encourage best practice climate outcomes for private developments	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
EBI09	Develop household energy efficiency toolkits and thermal imaging cameras for loan to community members, businesses or groups	2022/2023-2024/2025	Within Council operating resources
EBI10	Promote a showcase of zero emissions and other innovative/sustainable buildings and design	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources



Efficient buildings and infrastructure

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
EBI11	Work with State Government to ensure large regional infrastructure projects that cross Maribyrnong consider climate emergency outcomes in their development and end use	2021/2022-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources



Transport

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
T01	Review and update relevant transport infrastructure design standards and construction methodologies to ensure they prioritise zero emissions transport outcomes	2022/2023-2023/2024	Within Council operating resources
T02	Ensure annual Council renewal and capital works budgets prioritise, wherever practicable, zero emissions transport outcomes, including improvement to key cycling infrastructure and re-allocating key road lanes to bicycle lanes	2022/2023-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
T03	Ensure that '20min neighbourhood' principles are embedded into all relevant Council strategies and policies	2022/2023-2024/2026	Within Council operating resources
T04	Planting to increase the shade of pedestrian pathways, especially key pathways for walking to school and local shopping precincts	Ongoing	To be referred to future budget (as required)
T05	Investigate the provision of paid parking across Maribyrnong in needed areas, including undertaking extensive community engagement to mitigate risks, and increase provision of car share spaces	2023/2024	Within Council operating resources
T06	Develop an electric vehicle fleet transition plan for all Council light and heavy fleet vehicles and contracted vehicles (including waste services), and begin replacing the Council fleet with electric vehicles	2022/2023	To be referred to future budget (for implementation)
T07	Update and implement a new Electric Vehicle Charging Policy	2021/2022-2025/2026	To be referred to future budget (for implementation)
T08	Investigate options to support staff to use zero emissions/green transport via incentivised green travel program/s, training, and e-bike access	2022/2023-2025/2026	To be referred to future budget



Consumption and waste

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
CW01	Investigate the introduction of a separate glass recycling service across the municipality in line with Recycling Victoria Policy	2023/2024 - 2024/2025	To be referred to future budget
CW02	Provide more programs for hard to recycle items such as e-waste, batteries, clothes, CDs and DVDs, X rays, light globes etc.	2023/2024- 2025/2026	To be referred to future budget
CW03	Encourage and support local businesses and industry to adopt zero waste and low emissions initiatives, including utilising State/Federal circular economy grants	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources
CW04	Promote initiatives for the reuse and repair of items and products including repair and reuse workshops in the Sustainable Living program	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CW05	Support or promote community initiatives that develop share economy programs, e.g. 'share' libraries (toys, books, tools, clothes etc.), local car share, share waste programs and apps	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CW06	Continue to work with State Government support deliver a food and garden waste collection service to all residents and investigate potential options for businesses, and provide supporting education programs with schools	Ongoing	To be referred to future budget (for business/school program options)
CW07	Investigate options to encourage residents to avoid excessive consumption and waste generation, e.g. weight based fee structure	2023/2024	To be referred to future budget
CW08	Work with the new Waste Authority to develop waste management plans for businesses and industry that focus on minimising emissions and contributing to a circular economy	2024/2025- 2025/2026	To be referred to future budget
CW09	Promote local food businesses selling low carbon and low food miles produce, and low packaging/waste	2023/2024	Within Council operating resources
CW10	Ensure Council meetings, activities, events and catering minimise waste and associated emissions through careful procurement, eliminating single use plastics, separating recycling and waste buying local/low emissions food and produce	2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
CW11	Review recycling and food waste management in Council facilities and install bins and collection services	2022/2023- 2025/2026	Within Council operating resources



Land use and drawdown

	Action	Timeline (FY)	Resources
LUD01	Undertake an assessment of land availability and total capacity for increased vegetation across the municipality, including potential for understory planting, grasses and wetlands, and use this to set increased targets for percentage of tree cover, vegetation, understory and herbaceous cover	2021/2022-2022/2023	Within Council operating resources
LUD02	Research and investigate opportunities to increase targets for tree cover, green walls and roofs, vegetation, and permeable surfaces in new developments through the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme or other planning policies	2022/2023-2024/2025	Within Council operating resources
LUD03	Research and develop a plan to increase carbon drawdown to replace or reduce the need for overseas offsets to achieve carbon neutrality, including options to sequester carbon in regional areas	2022/2023-2023/2024	Within Council operating resources
LUD04	Include land use and vegetation sequestration in Council's annual emissions assessments and reporting, including an initial assessment of baseline carbon sequestration from current vegetation, and continue annual Disclosure Statement Net Zero Emissions using additional sequestration from Council drawdown programs	2022/2023-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
LUD05	Promote tree and garden planting on private land, including culturally appropriate, climate resilient and high carbon sequestering species, supported by programs such as My Smart Garden	Ongoing	Within Council operating resources
LUD06	Support youth focused planting events, including fundraising events by Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Committee	2021/2022	Within current budget
LUD07	Investigate opportunities to acquire and revegetate land, in alignment with the Open Space Strategy, Tottenham Employment Precinct Framework Plan (2020) and the Stony Creek Directions Plan (2020)	2022/2023-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources
LUD08	Work with Traditional Owners/First Nations to actively seek opportunities for drawdown, improved tree cover and understory planting (including grasses), develop a list of culturally appropriate species for planting, protect cultural heritage, and to better incorporate First Nations living cultural knowledge and land use management practices	2023/2024-2025/2026	To be referred to future budget
LUD09	Work with others to identify regional partnership opportunities for drawdown program beyond the municipality, including major bio-link projects	2022/2023-2025/2026	Within Council operating resources

Reviewing Progress

Key measures will be developed to track and evaluate actions for the next four years in order to measure the outcomes against the high-level goals in the Climate Emergency Strategy.

The Climate Emergency Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in 2026. When the Climate Emergency Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan are reviewed, the need for new goals and actions will be assessed.



Conclusion

If the climate emergency isn't addressed, local and global impacts will be significant. While State and Federal governments have power to create the most significant change, local governments also have a critical role, with the ability to manage their own greenhouse emissions, support and work with the local communities in their municipality, and undertake advocacy.

Through addressing the climate emergency, Maribyrnong City Council aims to create a greener, healthier and more resilient city. We look forward to working together with our community to create these positive changes.





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