



CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2022-2030





CENTRAL
GOLDFIELDS
SHIRE COUNCIL



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Photo acknowledgements:

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Page 1 Home grown produce, Calai Creative
Page 3 Wattle at Goldfields Reservoir, Amanda Simpson
Page 5 Dry earth, Goldfields Image Makers
Page 6 Majorca Sugar Gum plantation, Wood4Good
Page 7 Seed raising event, Goldfields Sustainability Group
Page 8 Climate Action Collaboration workshop
Page 9 Dunolly Community Garden
Page 11 Home composting, Calai creative; residential solar panels, Goldfields Image Makers; Tree planting, Goldfields Image Makers

Page 12 High Street Maryborough; Livestock, Goldfields Image Makers
Page 13 Fire truck, Goldfields Image Makers
Page 14 Walking Lake Victoria, Goldfields Image Makers
Page 16 Fiona with electric bike, Calai Creative; Alistair in Majorca Sugar Gum plantation, Wood4Good; Wildlife corridor vegetation to link with McCallums Creek, Chris Pollock
Page 17 Seed raising event, Goldfields Sustainability Group; True Foods rooftop solar, True Foods; Lisa at community garden food sharing stall
Page 18 Maryborough Climate Action Rally 2020, Maryborough Climate Action Group; Energy Breakthrough; Climate Winter Warmer Walk
Page 19 Electric vehicle charging station, Goldfields Image Makers
Back cover Bealiba Reservoir, Jessie Saul

CONTENTS

Welcome message	2	Our emissions, risks and opportunities	12
Council's commitment to climate action	3	Our greenhouse gas emissions	
		Climate risks & opportunities	
Context	4		
A global call to action			
Legislative context			
State and regional strategic framework			
Council's strategic framework			
A local response	7	Starting from a solid foundation	15
About this Plan		Key climate action achievements 2012–22	
Guiding principles		Stories from our community	
How we developed this Plan			
Knowing the basics	10	Leading action	18
What is climate change?		Net Zero Council Emissions 2030	
Why is our Earth warming?		Six priority areas	
What does this mean for our climate?		Activating and enhancing local action	
What does action look like?		Implementation, monitoring and evaluation	
		Appendices	25
		Implementation Plan June 2022 – June 2024	
		Community initiatives	



WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of DJAARA I am extremely pleased to provide this message for the Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan.

Dja Dja Wurrung people know how to respectfully receive the gifts from Country and as modern people we are increasingly conscious of our demands on Bap Djandak our Mother Earth and the consequences posed by the climate crisis. The lands and waters across the Central Goldfields Shire are and always have been Djandak our beautiful Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Djandak is a mosaic of cultural landscapes crafted over thousands of generations. Cultural landscapes are the product of the skills, traditions, and technology of Djaara (people) and reflect our way of engaging with the world. Djaara land management and other cultural practices are uniquely placed to mitigate climate change through reducing emissions and sequestering carbon within cultural landscapes while adapting to its impacts by building social, ecological and climate resilience.

Life here in the Central Goldfields region provided a place for Dja Dja Wurrung families and Elders to teach their children about how to survive, hand down and share stories, celebrate and live on Country.

Reinserting Djaara in Djandak (Country) through public land and cultural landscape management, will restore and heal Country for all living in the Shire. The primary indicator of healthy Country, healthy people and landscape or ecosystem health is Djaara in Djandak.

We hope that climate action in partnership between Dja Dja Wurrung and Council will heal Country, heal people and heal the climate for the Central Goldfields and beyond.

Dhelkup Murrupuk Dhelkunya Dja we give good spirit to people and Country

Rodney Carter
Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO



COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION

The science on climate change is clear and we are already experiencing changes in climate patterns locally.

Central Goldfields Shire Council is leading on climate action through its commitment to net zero emissions for Council operations by 2030.

We are also required to consider climate risk in Council activities, under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020 and the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017, including the development of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

In doing this, we acknowledge our ancestors and descendants of the Dja Dja Wurrung. The Dja Dja Wurrung People and Dja Dja Wurrung Country have endured previous large-scale climatic change events. Their in-depth understanding of the land, together with their traditional knowledge, and their capacity to adapt to environmental change is critical to our approach and we look forward to working closely with Dja Dja Wurrung through the delivery of this Plan.

Whilst Council can show leadership in this space, we are stronger together. Climate change is important to all sectors of our community and this Plan sets out what we as a Council can do, understanding that everyone in our community can make a difference and has a responsibility to reduce their footprint.

In developing this Plan, we identified all the wonderful action already taking place in our community. Across all sectors, our community is acting to mitigate and adapt to climate change in many ways.

There is strength in diverse action and a lot we can learn from our peers at home, school, work or on the farm. By connecting and combining efforts and building on existing action, our community can continue to make a real difference.

Local and regional partnerships and supporting community mobilisation will also be critical for us to broaden influence and strengthen our impact.

Community input in the development of this Plan has been invaluable and I'd like to acknowledge the significant commitment and contribution from members of the Climate Action Collaboration.

Tony Macer, Barry Parsons, Jeff Hoober, Bronwen Haywood, Troy Butler have worked closely with Cr Liesbeth Long, Cr Wayne Sproull and Council's Sustainability Officer and Community Engagement Manager as a stewarding group for the project.

Additional community members have also participated in Climate Action Collaboration workshops.

We thank them for their unwavering input and passion in supporting us with our vision for climate action in the Central Goldfields.

I'm thrilled to present the Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan – and look forward to seeing its impact over the years to come.

**Cr Chris Meddows-Taylor
Mayor, Central Goldfields Shire Council**



CONTEXT

A global call for action

The urgency for global action on Climate change is becoming increasingly evident.

According to the [World Research Institute](#), global temperatures have risen by 1.1°C so far, and already we are seeing an increase in natural disasters such as **flooding, fires, droughts and other climatic events**.

The latest [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) report 2022 has warned that the world is set to reach **the 1.5°C level** within the **next two decades** and only the most drastic cuts in **carbon emissions** from now will help prevent an environmental disaster.

The IPCC report 2022 states: **"It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land" and "the world is close to reaching tipping points** on climate change, meaning that we will have gone beyond the point where the damage can be repaired.

We all have a responsibility to take action, as governments, businesses, individuals and communities. Together we can make change to protect each other and our environment.

Keeping global temperature rise to 1.5 °C

According to the IPCC, every increment of warming beyond 1.5°C will result in increasingly destructive and costly repercussions, particularly for the **most vulnerable** communities and countries in low-income and small island states.

The latest IPCC climate report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

The third volume of the 6th IPCC assessment report that was launched on April 2022, is the result of a collaboration of **270 scientists** from more than **60 different countries**.

This volume is only part of the sixth assessment report. The full version will be published in September 2022.

Legislative context

International The [2016 Paris Agreement](#) is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, with the goal to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. The Agreement has been adopted by 196 parties, including Australia.

National Australia has recently set a target for net zero emissions by 2050 to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement. This follows an interim target to achieve between 26–28% emissions reduction on 2005 levels by 2030.

State The Victorian Government's Climate Change Strategy (May 2021) outlines targets to reduce the state's emissions from 2005 levels by 28- 33% by 2025 and 45-50% by 2030, on the way to net zero emissions by 2050.

Local The [Victorian Local Government Act 2020](#) sets a clear expectation that councils consider the long-term negative impacts of climate change on future generations through their planning, decision-making and actions.

[Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017](#) also requires councils to respond to climate change (including potential impacts and contributions to Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions) through the development of their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Councils have additional legislative obligations related to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change under the [Renewable Energy \(Jobs and Investment\) Act 2017](#), [Planning and Environment Act 1987](#) and [Emergency Management Act 2013](#). Further to this, the [Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006](#) specifies provisions to protect against the harming of Aboriginal living cultural heritage.

In the course of Council performing its role, we must give effect to overarching governance principles including promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability, mitigating and planning for climate change risks, and achieving the best outcomes for our community, including future generations.

Local Government Act 2020 Section 9

State and regional strategic framework

Climate action to reach legislated targets and goals is supported through a diversity of state and regional strategies, plans and programs. Key documents to help frame our local response are included below:

State	Victorian Climate Change Strategy	Recycling Victoria: a new economy	Healthy Heart of Victoria	Transport sector emissions reduction pledge
	Coliban Integrated Water Management (IWM) Program	Biodiversity 2037	Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy 2021	Aboriginal Energy Program
Regional	ADAPT Climate Ready Plan	Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Country Plan	Loddon Mallee Renewable Energy Roadmap	Loddon Campaspe Integrated Transport Strategy





Council's strategic framework

Council has a comprehensive strategic planning framework comprising a range of strategies and plans in the areas of our community wellbeing, our growing economy, our spaces and places and leading change. Climate action is an important consideration across all areas of Council's strategic planning and delivery.

This Plan will build on the mitigation and adaptation efforts already being facilitated within many strategies and plans, to provide an overarching strategic approach to climate action.

Our strategic planning framework

Community Goldfields Community Vision 2031			
Central Goldfields - Your Community 2030 (Ten year community township plans)			
Council Plan 2021 – 2025			
Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025			
Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan 2022–30 (this Plan)			
Our community wellbeing	Our growing economy	Our spaces and places	Leading change
Inclusive: Disability Plan 2022–2027	Industrial Land Supply and Demand Assessment and Strategy 2021	Intergrated Transport Strategy 2020–2030	Volunteer Strategy and Action Plan 2021
2021–2026 Positive Ageing Strategy	Population, Housing and Residential Strategy 2020	Waste Management Strategy 2020–2030	Long-Term Financial Plan 2021–2031
Walking and Cycling Strategy 2017–2026	Economic Development Strategy 2020–2025	Maryborough Integrated Water Management Plan 2018	Priority Projects Plan 2022
Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020–2029	Tourism and Events Strategy 2020–2025	Waterway Management Plan for Carisbrook 2021	Communications and Engagement Strategy 2021
Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2020		Motorised Mobility Device Strategy Plan 2022–2027	Rating and Revenue Strategy 2021–2025
Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2024			Energy Breakthrough Strategic Plan 2019

A LOCAL RESPONSE

The science on climate change is clear and we are already experiencing changes in climate patterns locally.

The Central Goldfields Shire Council is committed to showing leadership on climate action and supporting its community to both reduce emissions and be proactive in adapting to a changing climate.

To expand its influence and strengthen our local response to climate change, Council places much importance on local and regional partnerships, as well as working closely with the community.

About this Plan

This Plan outlines Council's role in leading the local response to climate change, with a strong focus on partners, community and collaborative action to strengthen impact. It can be utilised as an educative tool for those people new to the climate change space and provides direction for the Central Goldfields community to tackle climate change together.

Guiding principles

These guiding principles are a critical tool in keeping Council and the community focused on community education, collaboration, and mobilisation. Developed with key stakeholders through the Climate Action Collaboration, these five principles will continue to guide the implementation of this Plan.

ENHANCE: Build on existing networks, initiatives and actions. Start with those already engaged and gradually bring in the broader community.

EMPOWER: Connect people with each other and the information they need to act. Harness the power of conversation. Provide ongoing and diverse opportunities for community engagement and input.

INSPIRE: Keep messaging balanced, local and accessible. Openly engage with the severity of the problem but prioritise sharing of good news stories to build hope and inspire action.

INCLUDE: Bring everyone along. Listen to and learn from other perspectives. Seek out all voices in the community and ensure equitable solutions.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: Partner with and enable Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners to lead and manage Country within Central Goldfields Shire





How we developed this Plan

This Plan was developed with valued input from climate change experts, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, regional service providers and agencies, community organisations and leaders, and elected representatives and staff across Council.

Five key components comprised the development of this Plan:

Project governance

In April 2021, the Maryborough Climate Action Group approached Council to work together on climate action. This led to the establishment of a stewarding group including Councillor, Council staff and key community group representation.

This group initiated a broader community engagement project – the Climate Action Collaboration – and provided ongoing guidance for the collaborative process.

Expert advice and input

In June 2021, Climate Change experts, Ndevr Environmental, were engaged to support Council and community in identifying climate risks and opportunities and make recommendations on responsibilities, goals and targets.

The full technical report can be found here:

<https://engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/climateaction>

Climate Action Collaboration

In July 2021 the Central Goldfields community was invited to join a local collaborative approach to climate action.

A series of community workshops took place from August through to November 2021. These workshops provided valuable insights and direction for the development of this Plan. The growing list of 40+ local climate leaders (engaged through this process) are a strong foundation for ongoing community education, collaboration and mobilisation.

Ongoing consultations with key stakeholders

Throughout this Plan's development, targeted consultations were conducted with Council staff and regional service providers to ensure this Plan built on existing work and captured important opportunities for collaborative impact.

Seed funding

Through the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership (CVPCP), seed funding was available to activate local action. To date one project has been successful in gaining seed funding. This Project – Climate Conversation Week – will play a fundamental role in raising awareness and activating community mobilisation.

The journey

Over 12 months, from June 2021 to June 2022, the approach outlined on page 8 supported the following key activities to develop this Plan:

June 2021	Identify existing local projects and initiatives
	Identify and connect climate champions in the community
	Identify key risks and opportunities for Council and the community
	Identify emission sources for Council and community
November 2021	Develop goals and priority areas
	Identify key actions
March 2022	Draft Climate Action Plan Public exhibition period
June 2022	Adoption of FINAL PLAN by Council



KNOWING THE BASICS

What is climate change?

Climate change is a long-term change in the Earth's local, regional and global climates.

The Earth's climate has changed naturally many times before. However, human activity is causing the Earth's average temperature to rise unusually fast leading to rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers, changes in flower and plant blooming times and an increase in frequency and severity of storms, floods, heatwaves and fires.

Why is our Earth warming?

Greenhouse gases

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are gases in Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. They let sunlight pass through the atmosphere, but they prevent the heat that the sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere. This has a warming effect on the Earth. The main greenhouse gases are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide and man-made chlorofluorocarbons.

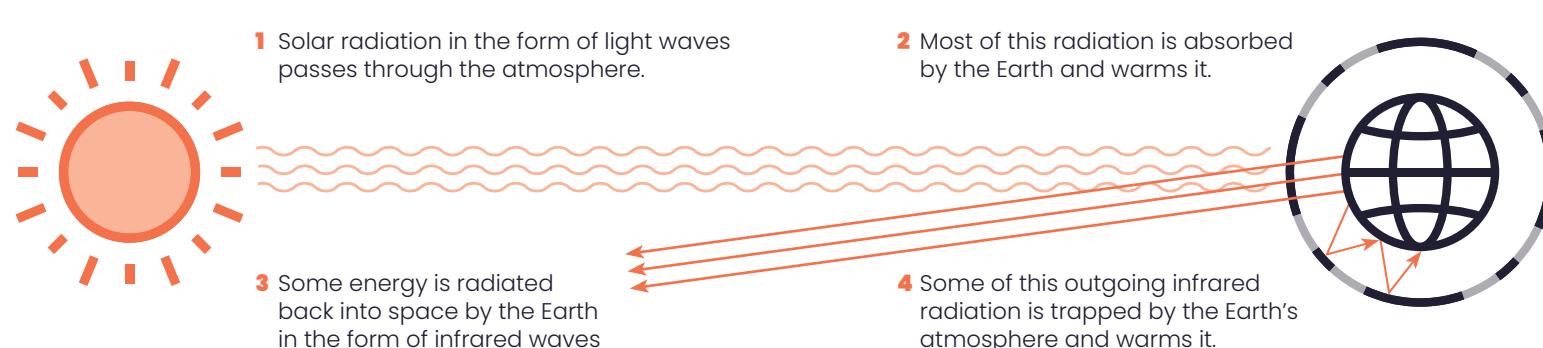
The greenhouse effect

The greenhouse effect is the process where greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere trap the sun's heat. This makes Earth much warmer than it would be without an atmosphere. Without the greenhouse effect Earth would be too cold for life to exist.

The enhanced greenhouse effect

Human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, are adding more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. This is enhancing the greenhouse effect, trapping more heat and causing global temperatures to rise, with associated consequences for our climate.

The greenhouse effect



As the CO₂ concentration increases, more of the outgoing infrared radiation is trapped.

What does this mean for our climate?

The Central Goldfields region is already becoming warmer and drier. [The 2019 Loddon Campaspe Climate Projections report](#) by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the CSIRO predicts this trend to continue.

Into the future our Shire can expect:

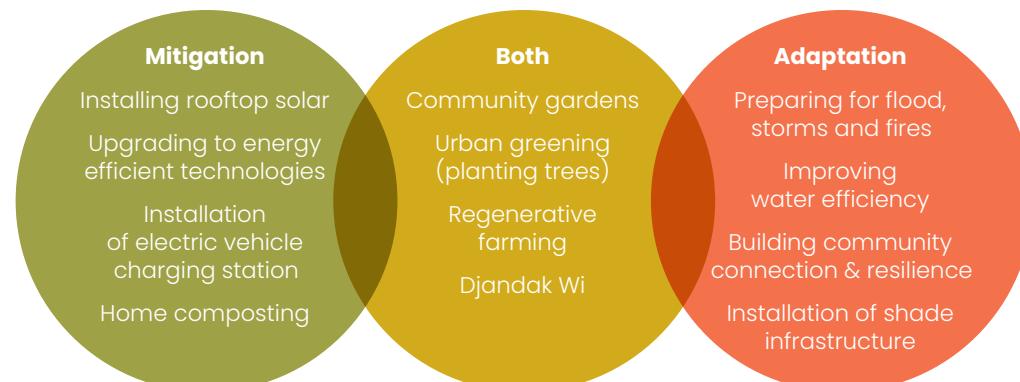
Climate Change Hazards	
	Average temperature increases across all seasons
	Reduced annual rainfall, humidity, and frosts
	Increased rainfall intensity and storms
	Increased extreme heat days and fire
	Increased evaporation and longer droughts
	Increased flooding events

What does climate action look like?

In addressing climate change, both mitigation and adaptation actions are important and many actions can have both mitigation and adaptation benefits.

Mitigation – actions seeking to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

Adaptation – Some changes to our climate are now unavoidable or already being experienced. Adaptation actions help us to prepare for these changes in order to minimise harm, act on opportunities or cope with the consequences of changes to our natural and human systems.



Examples of mitigation and adaptation actions



Djandak Wi

Djandak Wi is the Dja Dja Wurrung term for ‘Country Fire’, sometimes referred to as ‘cultural burning’ or ‘cultural fire’.

Djandak Wi has been handed down between generations of Dja Dja Wurrung. It is a complex and integrated approach to seasonally burning the land and careful stewardship over time. Following the principle of *‘Right Fire, Right Time’* fire is applied to specific places at times of the year to heal Country. To practice Djandak Wi is viewed by Dja Dja Wurrung as an obligation, an act of protecting Country, cultivating the environment, healing ecosystems and community.

Djandak Wi is an active and empowering way of responding to climate change. It puts Djaara knowledge at the forefront of healing climate impacted land, enabling Dja Dja Wurrung to connect and spend time on Country, creating economic opportunities, and building community resilience amongst increasingly dangerous fire regimes. Djandak Wi can help to reduce emissions, store carbon, enhance biodiversity and reduce climate risk and vulnerabilities thus addressing both mitigation and adaptation.

Carbon sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process of capture and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks, such as forests, woody plants or soils.

Sustainable land and water management practices, such as regenerative farming and Djandak Wi, are key ways to encourage carbon sequestration.

Carbon sequestration mitigates climate change by reducing carbon (i.e carbon dioxide, CO₂) in the atmosphere. Soil that is rich in carbon can also hold more moisture and nutrient in the ground, helping to make ecosystems more resilient in droughts and restoring natural water cycles to what they once were.

EMISSIONS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

Our Greenhouse Gas Emissions

An emissions profile shows what proportion of greenhouse gas emissions are coming from different activities. Measuring our emissions and understanding our emissions profile can help us decide where we should focus our mitigation efforts and track progress in reducing emissions.

Measuring emissions - what is CO₂-e??

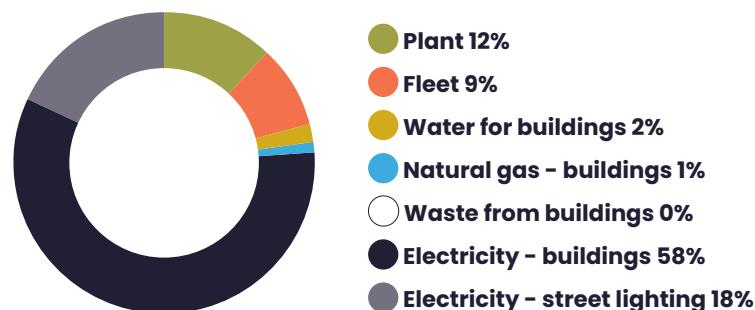
Every greenhouse gas has its own global warming potential (GWP), which is a measurement of how much heat the GHG can trap within the atmosphere and how much of an environmental impact it is expected to have. For example, methane (a common emission associated with landfills and ruminant livestock) is considered 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide (over 100 years).

To help measure and compare greenhouse gas emissions, one tonne of carbon dioxide has become the standard unit. Each tonne of greenhouse gas is multiplied by its global warming potential and expressed in tCO₂-e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent).

Council's emissions

Council's most recent emission profile is for 2016/17. Total emissions for this financial year were 1688 tCO₂-e. Major sources of emissions were electricity in buildings (58%) street lighting (18%), plant (12%) and fleet (9%).

Participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) for 100% renewable electricity was a significant achievement for Council in 2021 – **reducing overall emissions by 75%**.

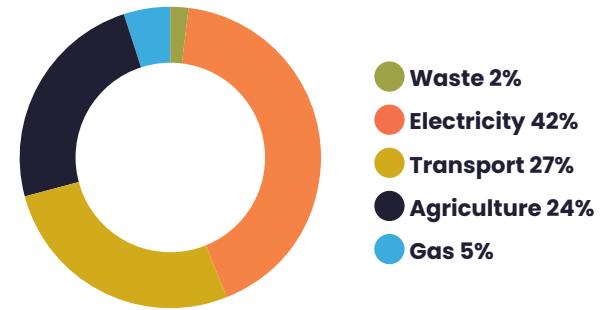


CGSC corporate emissions profile, based on operational data and modified from Ironbark Sustainability Emissions Inventory & Reduction Plan (2018).

Community emissions

Total emissions for the Central Goldfields Shire in 2019/20 were 255 000 tCO₂-e. The largest source of emissions was electricity consumed by the industrial (22%), commercial (10%) and residential (10%) sectors.

On-road transportation accounts for 27% of emissions and Agriculture, 24% of total emissions.



Central Goldfields Shire municipal emissions profile, sourced using [Snapshot – Community Climate Tool](#). This is a free online tool estimating municipal emissions based on high-level data, led by Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability



Climate risks and opportunities

Climate hazards (as identified on page 10) lead to direct and indirect impacts on the natural environment, built environment, economy and people. A number of factors make the Central Goldfields Shire particularly vulnerable to the risks associated with a changing climate.



Existing fire and flood risk



Ageing and low socio-economic population



Existing threatened flora and fauna species



Limited access to resources (eg. health, transport, water)



Climate sensitive industries (eg. agriculture and outdoor workforce)



Limited Council budget/funding

Understanding risks empowers people to prepare for and mitigate the potential consequences of those risks. Furthermore, this section also outlines the opportunities the Central Goldfields community and Council has in responding to climate change proactively and realising the co-benefits of climate action.

Climate Change Hazards



Climate risks in the Central Goldfields

Social	Health, wellbeing, injury and death impacts Mental health impacts – climate anxiety, job security, isolation Increased infectious disease Loss of culturally significant Dja Dja Wurrung sites
Natural resources	Reduced water security and quality Disruption to flora/fauna cycles and biodiversity loss Reduced agricultural yield (economic impacts) Reduced quality, and impact to, natural assets Safety and wellbeing impacts for animals (i.e. pets, livestock)
Economy	Increased maintenance, recovery and insurance costs Increased costs of fuel, energy, raw materials and GHG emissions Job security issues resulting from extreme events Increased operating costs of buildings for thermal comfort
Infrastructure	Disruption to essential services Damage/disrupted transport routes Damage and deterioration of assets
Council operations and governance	Managing of cascading and unpredictable emergencies Increased resource constraints, disruption of services Increased reporting requirements Federal/state policy not suited to regional areas Liability if climate not considered in planning/decision making





Climate opportunities in the Central Goldfields

Social	Establish community networks and connectivity Draw on knowledge and leadership capacity of Traditional Owners, youth and women Holistic health benefits from greater connection to Country and experiencing nature as a healer
Natural resources	Enhance forests to increase adaptivity to climate and reduce risk of infectious disease Increase horticultural opportunities through pipeline water supply Increase productivity, biodiversity and carbon sequestration through regenerative farming and forestry practices
Economy	Low carbon practices as a competitive advantage and creating economic diversity Nature-based and electric vehicle tourism Building upgrades and automation leading to reduced repair/operating costs Job creation for Dja Dja Wurrung rangers, low carbon, circular economy and maintenance industries Energy security through local renewable energy projects Better economies of scale through collaboration
Infrastructure	Cool spaces providing opportunities for social connection
Council operations and governance	Collaboration and joint management opportunities for Council to work hand in hand with Dja Dja Wurrung on climate action Place-based governance and integrated planning for climate risk and adaptation Draw on existing grant and funding opportunities

Adapted from Ndevr Environmental Technical Report for the Central Goldfields Climate Action Plan (2021). For a more detailed look at climate risks and opportunities for our Shire, click [here](#).

Caring for those most at risk

Climate change amplifies disadvantage and the burdens of climate risk and benefits of climate action are often felt disproportionately across communities.

Hence, our mitigation and adaptation action must be sure to support those most at risk, including our elderly, low socio-economic, people living with mental and physical disabilities, Dja Dja Wurrung and other Traditional Owners living on Djaara Country, culturally and linguistically diverse, female and LGBTIQ+ communities; as well as outdoor workers, farmers and those living in fire or flood prone areas.

STARTING FROM A SOLID FOUNDATION

Through the development of this Plan, we heard many stories about climate action already taking place in our community.

Across all sectors, our community is acting to mitigate and prepare for climate change in many different ways. There is strength in diverse action and a lot we can learn from Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners, as well as our peers at home, school, work or on the farm.

By 'connecting the dots', combining efforts, and building on existing action, our community can continue to make positive change towards a low impact and climate ready Central Goldfields.

Key climate action achievements 2012–2022

- Sustainability Community Action Plan 2012–20 developed
- Local community gardens and Maryborough Street Harvest promoting social connection, waste reduction and food security
- Goldfields Sustainability Group providing opportunities for peer-to-peer learning about sustainability practices
- 20 000+ people attending annual Energy Breakthrough event to promote collaboration, innovation, and technical exploration of energy solutions
- Council Greenhouse Emission Inventory & Reduction Plan (2018) developed
- Energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades conducted on four of Council's largest facilities
- 70kW of solar power capacity installed on Council facilities
- Council Fleet Policy updated to prioritise fuel efficient (hybrid) vehicles
- Residential streetlights upgraded to LED globes
- Electric vehicle charging station installed at the Maryborough Community Hub
- Council partners in Cool It – heat vulnerability mapping & climate resistant tree asset planting project
- Council partners in Loddon Campaspe Environmentally Sustainable Design Project
- Food Organics Garden Organics waste collection service offered across the Shire, with materials processed locally at Carisbrook Transfer Station
- Flood studies completed for Dunolly, Carisbrook, and Maryborough (still in draft stage)
- Biodiversity, soil and waterway health supported through local Landcare projects
- Joint Management Plan for Paddys Ranges State Park developed between Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria and the Victorian Government
- Development of the Integrated Water Management Plan for Maryborough (2018) and Waterway Management Plan for Carisbrook (2021)
- Increased awareness and knowledge sharing of sustainable farming practice through the Central Victorian Regenerative Farmers Group
- Promotion of active transport and Council development of Walking and Cycling Strategy 2017–26
- Drinking fountains and shade infrastructure installed across the Shire
- Community & neighbourhood houses offered as heat retreats on high temperature days
- 38.1% of Central Goldfields dwellings have solar installed including three large scale (>100kW) systems
- Delivery of community Emergency Information Sessions by Council, supported by CFA & SES
- Estimated 250 attendees at 2020 Climate Rally in Maryborough
- Kitchen table conversations led by community members to support development of the Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan
- A community tackling climate change and responding to public health emergencies' included as a key aim in Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Council partners in Community Sparks project to investigate feasibility of a community battery site in the Shire
- Victorian Energy Collaboration sees Council buildings and streetlights powered by 100% renewable electricity
- Increased train service from Ballarat to Maryborough and Talbot

Stories from our community



"As community members it's important to focus on solutions to counteract climate change in the home, your community, your work, when shopping, at the polling booth and in every part of your life you have control over.

So we... grow food, compost /worm farm. Preserve, ferment, pickle, dry or share excess produce. Say NO to plastic – use beeswax wraps, mesh produce bags, bar soap and shampoo. Installed solar panels, changed to LED lights and use solar / battery/timer for security lighting. Walk or cycle for shopping, exercise and leisure. Have acquired a hybrid vehicle and have a heat pump for water and heating on our wish-list. Do laundry only when dirty and line dry. There are many local second-hand shops for clothes/books etc. to encourage conscious consuming.

We can change the system as we individuals ARE the system."

– Fiona Sliver, Maryborough resident



"My great-grandfather helped establish Majorca plantation in 1895. Now it is 400 acres of big trees, wattles, grasses and wildlife. I harvest from it and I've built a sustainable business from it, supporting local employment.

For farmers looking for a way of increasing economic and landscape resilience of their farm; for marginal land getting harder to work under climate change - regenerative forestry is a real option to build carbon, wildlife and business opportunities for the whole community.

There's huge potential for investment in the Central Goldfields economy, our future and the future of the planet."

– Alistair Hull, Talbot Timbers



"Our four Landcare member groups within the Central Goldfields Shire – McCallums Creek, Moolort, Timor West and the Central Victorian Regenerative Farmers – have a significant member presence in the area.

The Ethos of Landcare is to continue to maintain healthy, interlinked communities within and between the Natural, Farming and Built Environments the end aim being a sustainable future for generations to come.

We offer information and resources to support weed and pest control, landscape repair and regeneration, improved soil health, maintenance of perennial vegetation, integration of wildlife and diversity and protecting water quality."

– Chris Pollock, The Upper Loddon & Avoca Landcare Network



"Goldfields Sustainability Group (GSG) are residents of the Central Goldfields Shire passionate about living sustainably and assisting others in the shire to build a sustainable future."

GSG organise monthly workshops, guest speakers or visits to local sites to learn first hand about the efforts of Shire residents attempting to put sustainability into action."

– Barry Parsons, Goldfields Sustainability Group



"Sustainability is a core value of our business at True Foods.

We have recently invested in our own on-site solar farm which consists of more than 3,300 panels covering all points of our bakery. Now 100% of the energy used to make our Simson's Pantry product is powered by the Australian sun!

We have just started a staged roll out of a new air conditioning system that uses 70% less power than our current system, and are currently working on some new plastic packaging to ensure it remains recyclable through the Red Cycle program.

To help our staff and offices stay cool over the summer, we have also planted deciduous trees around our office area."

– Mark Thurlow, True Foods



"Dunolly Community Garden offers weekly gatherings where people come along to do some gardening and share in the produce. We have lots of mature fruit trees and beds for growing vegetables.

Gardening is one of the most effective methods of tackling climate change, by reducing the impact on the planet. The food available from the super market has quite often travelled many hundreds of miles and has been produced using very energy intensive methods.

At the garden we use environmentally friendly methods to combat weeds and use very efficient watering systems to reduce our impact.

We meet every Thursday afternoon and welcome new members."

– Lisa Mahon, Dunolly Community Garden

LEADING ACTION

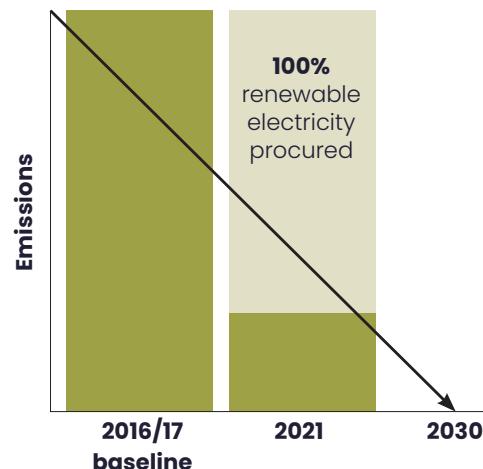
This section provides direction for the Central Goldfields in responding to climate change. It recognises Council's role and responsibility as a leader in this space and the importance of whole community collaboration to achieve real and meaningful impact.

Our climate response includes six climate priority areas, nineteen goals and a net zero emissions target for Council operations.

Net Zero Council Emissions 2030

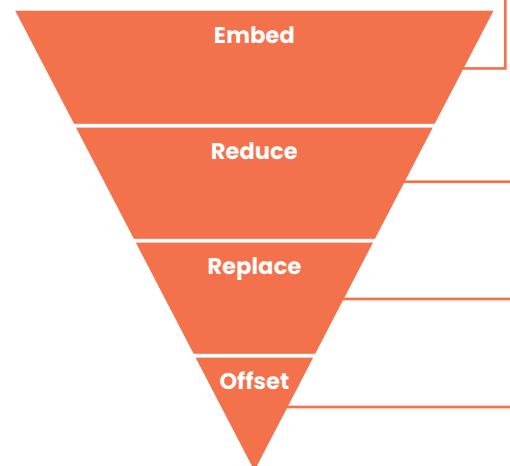
Council commits to pursuing a Net Zero Emissions target for Council operations by 2030.

This target has been set recognising the science on climate change, the scale and speed of change required and the opportunities available to achieve reductions to emissions.



Reaching Net Zero

The emissions reduction hierarchy below will facilitate Council's transition to Net Zero emissions, by embedding good practice across Council, reducing energy and waste consumption, replacing fossil fuel energy sources with renewables and, as a final measure, purchasing offsets to 'cancel out' any remaining emissions.



- Embed waste and emissions reduction in Council culture and decision-making
- Monitor and report on progress
- Reduce energy and waste consumption through behaviour change
- Increase energy efficiency of vehicles, equipment, buildings and streetlights
- Continue procurement of 100% renewable electricity through VECO
- Increase onsite renewable energy generation
- Transition to all electric buildings
- Transition to zero emissions fleet and plant
- Develop and implement offsetting plan for any remaining emissions (including exploration of local offsetting projects)



What is Net Zero?

'Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. Net Zero is achieved by:

1. Calculating emissions generated by activity (e.g., fuel and electricity use)
2. Reducing emissions through clean technology or changes to operations
3. Purchasing offsets to 'cancel out' any remaining emissions

Carbon offset units are generated from activities that prevent, reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.



Six priority areas for mitigation and adaptation

Our climate response is guided by nineteen goals under six climate priority areas. Both mitigation and adaptation goals are captured to ensure we are actively reducing our contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, as well as preparing for and adapting to a changing climate. Actions for the next two years, aligning with each priority area and goal are included in Appendix One.

EDUCATION,
COLLABORATION
& MOBILISATION

HEALTH &
WELLBEING

RENEWABLE ENERGY
& ENERGY EFFICIENCY

BUILT
ENVIRONMENT
& TRANSPORT

WASTE & THE
CIRCULAR ECONOMY

LAND & WATER

Six priority areas for mitigation and adaptation (continued)

Priority area	Goals
Education, Collaboration & Mobilisation <p>Council plays an important role in this space, connecting people with information and each other, and also leading and influencing by example, by taking steps to address climate change in its own operations.</p> <p>Community-led efforts to educate and raise awareness are already prominent in the Central Goldfields. We hope to elevate these efforts and get more people talking about and engaging in local, collaborative solutions to climate change.</p> <p>Climate change will affect people differently. People will also have different capacities to act. An important part of our work will be to create understanding for other perspectives, empower self-determined action and foster action that supports our community as a whole.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Our Council embeds climate adaptation and emissions reduction in its decision-making and operationsOur community has many opportunities to learn and collaborate around climate actionOur young people and groups most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are heard and supported in self-determined climate action
Health & Wellbeing <p>Climate change will have direct and indirect impacts on the health and wellbeing of our community. For example, extreme weather events such as fire and flood can cause direct physical harm, while ongoing temperature increases may indirectly affect our community health and happiness by reducing opportunities to be active outdoors.</p> <p>Food and water security will be increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change. Our mental health can also suffer as we face the challenges and uncertainties of a changing climate.</p> <p>Connecting people with nature/Country is key to holistic health and wellbeing for both Djaara and non-Indigenous members of the community. Our built and social environments also play an important role in supporting community's ability to adapt and remain resilient in a changing climate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Our community feels connected, supported and mentally resilient to the challenges of a changing climateOur community is comfortable and active through increasing temperaturesOur community is prepared for and able to recover from flood, bushfire, storms and heatwavesOur food systems are equitable, healthy and sustainable
Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency <p>Transitioning away from fossil fuel energy sources, reducing energy consumption, and adopting energy efficient technologies will have a significant contribution to our mitigation work.</p> <p>We can 'green' our electricity supply through local renewable energy projects such as rooftop solar or opting for 'green power' from our energy supplier. Local renewable energy projects can provide economic, social and environmental outcomes – reducing power bills, providing opportunities for employment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>We can also look to ensure the benefits of renewable energy are shared amongst our community through community-based energy projects, including support for renewable energy projects led by Dja Dja Wurrung and other Traditional Owners living on Djaara Country.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Our energy is renewable, equitable and secureOur Council and community transition off natural gasOur Council and community adopt energy efficient behaviour and technologies

Built Environment & Transport

Environmentally sustainable design principles can help our community to reduce emissions, save on energy, water, fuel and repair costs and remain safe and comfortable in a changing climate.

Urban greening – increasing vegetation and canopy cover throughout our towns – will play a significant role in keeping our urban environment cool, while also helping mitigate climate risk by removing carbon from the atmosphere.

It is important to consider the effect intensifying temperatures, storms, fire and flood will have on our buildings and community spaces. In particular, we need to ensure our built environment and transport systems are supportive of our low socio-economic, elderly and disability communities through these climatic extremes.

11. Our built environment incorporates environmentally sustainable and resilient design
12. Our built environment has more green spaces and canopy cover
13. Our transport is low emissions and accessible to all

Waste & the Circular Economy

The Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Policy aims to transform the recycling sector towards a circular economy by 2030.

A circular economy model recognises that there are useful items and materials that can be recovered and utilised (often multiple times) rather than being disposed of to landfill. This model should lead to emissions reductions, reduced reliance on virgin material, and provide an opportunity for diversification of the local economy.

Finding ways to use our recovered waste locally, as well as buying local, buying less, avoiding packaging, preferencing items that are durable, repairable, compostable and recyclable are all ways we can help transition the Central Goldfields to a circular economy

14. Our Council & community is committed to waste avoidance and transitioning to a circular economy
15. Our community has the knowledge and opportunity to recycle right
16. Our community composts and grows its own food

Land & Water

Traditional Owners are central to the management of lands and waterways across the Shire. Protecting and enhancing our natural environment will strengthen the resilience of our natural and cultural assets to harsher climatic conditions associated with climate change.

Holistic land management that improves biodiversity and soil health can also lead to increased productivity and resilience of our farming and forestry ecosystems. Furthermore, enhanced carbon sequestration helps mitigate climate risk through the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and storage in vegetation and soil.

Community health benefits such as reduced risk of infectious disease can also be realised through maintaining healthy natural environments and water systems, while nature-based tourism and bush recreation activities can provide economic and holistic health benefits.

17. Our natural environment and cultural assets are protected, enhanced and enjoyed
18. Our water systems are healthy, resilient, and secure
19. Our land use industries are adaptive, innovative and sustainable

Activating and enhancing local action

Council, nor any single group, leader or organisation, can tackle climate change alone. To gain maximum impact from our work, it is important to engage all sectors of the community, build on action already happening and mobilise collaborative action.

Advocacy

Advocacy provides the opportunity to seek investment from the State and Commonwealth governments for initiatives and developments that are needed and important and wanted by communities. Advocacy is much more than simply stating what is wanted. The best advocacy links wants and needs to the priorities of those making investment decisions. It may involve many partners and is constantly evolving, as the shaping of wants, needs, partners and investment priorities and decisions changes.

Advocacy will play an important role in achieving our climate action goals and influencing broader systemic changes required to address climate change at a regional, state and national level.

A partnership approach

Partnerships are critical to the delivery of this Plan.

A Partnership approach – including Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners, community leaders, community services, schools, health organisations, farmers, industry, business and regional agencies – will ensure that key stakeholders work together to create meaningful impact on emissions reduction and adaptation to local climate challenges.

The partnership approach will be established within six months of adoption of this Plan and will function on two year membership. The approach will be convened by Council with key stakeholders working together to oversee, govern and activate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this Plan.

Benefits of a partnership approach

- Holistic approach to a complex problem
- Pooling of resources – time, expertise, funding
- Community ownership & buy-in
- Consistent messaging across the Shire
- Attractive to funders

**Stronger outcomes
for our community**

Website

A fit for purpose portal will provide a central point for information about local climate action. It will help connect, inform and empower the community regarding climate science and will identify local climate actions they might contribute to.

The website will elevate the profile of Central Goldfields as a climate action leader in the broader Loddon Mallee region. It will also assist with the forming of partnerships and amplify effective climate action.

The delivery of this website is a high priority action detailed within the 2022–2024 implementation plan. A partnership approach to the delivery of the website will be essential.

Seed funding

An important focus of this Plan is community education, collaboration and mobilisation. Providing seed funding will be a critical factor in supporting community-led action.

Seed funding will be available through an annual grants program. Applicants will be shortlisted by the Partnership and successful applicants appointed by Council. Appendix Two and case study on the following page provide examples of what community-led projects might look like.

This program will be piloted in the initial year, with the full program to be implemented in the 2023–24 financial year (subject to a successful budget bid).

This project was funded in part by the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership (CVPCP).

The Central Goldfields Shire Council would like to acknowledge and thank CVPCP for their support in the development of this Plan and initial key deliverables within the Plan, including website development, pilot grant program seed funding, and building foundations for ongoing engagement and partnership with Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners.

Our collaborative work in action!

An initial community-led project idea to come out of our collaborative work – Climate Conversation Week – provides an example of the valuable role our collaborative group can play over the delivery of the plan: ensuring our work remains connected to the needs of our community, raising awareness and fostering community mobilisation.

Climate Conversation Week

Our collaborative group is looking to lead a whole of community event involving ‘kitchen-table’ style conversations around climate change.

Community members interested in leading a conversation in their homes, school, sporting club, or workplace will be provided with a conversation kit. The kit will contain all they need to bring together those around them to share climate stories, consider other perspectives, and think about what opportunities our community has to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

Teams can apply through the formal grants process to fund ideas generated through this initiative.

This community-led project will:

- raise awareness of how our community may be impacted by climate change and opportunities to reduce emissions and adapt
- create a sense of whole-of-community action and catalyse community mobilisation
- gather insights from the broader community around risks and potential actions which will inform the ongoing implementation of the Climate Action Plan

Implementation, monitoring & evaluation

This plan provides direction for Council, key agencies and the Central Goldfields community to 2030, through six climate priority areas, nineteen goals and a net zero emissions target for Council operations. Every two years an implementation plan will be developed with actions aligned to each of the goals.

The initial two years will be split into three phases (shown below). Partnerships take time to develop, hence our first our first step (phase one) will be to establish the partnership approach. Phase two will provide an opportunity for Council to focus on its own systems and existing projects, ensuring it has a strong foundation for climate responsible practice, before phase three where it will expand its delivery to community focused projects.



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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up the Central Goldfields Climate Action Partnership• Jun 2022 – Dec 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consolidate council's leading role (Towards net zero emissions and climate Adaptation)• Sept 2022 – Jun 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community outreach• June 2023 – June 2024 |
|--|---|--|

While this is presented as three distinct stages, there is likely to be some overlap between phases as projects are delivered concurrently across different departments and we may wish to be opportunistic if suitable funding opportunities arise for a particular project.

A full monitoring and evaluation framework of each implementation plan will be developed with the Partnership. Review of priority areas and goals will take place after four years.

APPENDIX ONE: Implementation Plan June 2022–June 2024

An Implementation Plan will be developed every two years throughout the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. The actions below are for the initial two years of the Plan (2022–24). Actions are linked with their corresponding goals in each of the six priority areas.

			Education, collaboration, mobilisation	Health and wellbeing	Renewable energy & energy efficiency	Built enviro and transport	Waste and the circular economy	Land and water
Ongoing Advocacy	Responsible work area/s	Funding/ resourcing						
1. Work with local community groups to raise awareness of grants and funding opportunities and advocate for community projects that support climate goals in this Plan	Sustainability	Existing budget	2,3	4,5,6,7	8,9,10	11,12,13	14,15,16	17,18,19
2. Advocate for funding to provide a regional focus to enable delivery of actions that address both state and federal sustainability policies	Sustainability / Waste	Existing budget	1					
3. Advocate for improved GP and health and wellbeing service access in the Central Goldfields Shire, including specific support for climate related health (eg. climate anxiety, asthma)	Community partnerships	Existing budget		4,6				
4. Through Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), advocate for changes in state, regional and local planning legislation to mandate climate change considerations and environmentally sustainable design	Sustainability	Existing budget		5,6		11, 12		
5. Source water to keep Goldfields Reservoir and Lake Victoria functional all year long	infrastructure	Existing budget		5				17,19
6. Advocate with CVGA for federal and state incentives for rooftop solar and improved transmission network to increase grid capacity for solar feed-in	Sustainability	Existing budget			8			
7. Advocate for improved public transport services and electric vehicles	Sustainability / Economic Development	Existing budget				13		
8. Collaborate with Department Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and stakeholders to explore opportunities under the regional and Circular Economy Plan	Waste / Economic Development	Existing budget					14	

9. Advocate for businesses and industry to use a circular framework approach in their business	Waste / Economic Development	Existing budget		14	
10. Advocate for and enable recycling and waste reduction industries to be based locally, including social enterprise opportunities	Waste / Economic Development	Existing budget		14	
11. Advocate to DELWP for improved signage and visitor interpretation in state parks and reserves	Tourism, Events and Culture	Existing budget			17
12. Investigate opportunities for recycled water infrastructure	Economic Development / Recreation	Existing budget			19
13. Collaborate with Dja Dja Wurrung and other traditional owners to seek funding in support of healing of Country, empowerment of traditional owners and opportunities for sharing experience/knowledge of caring for Country	Sustainability / Economic Development / Strategic Planning / Community Partnerships	Existing budget	3	4,5,6,7 8,9,10 11,12,13 14,15,16	17,18,19
Current Initiatives (Funded and currently being delivered by Council)					
14. Collaborate and participate in regional projects with other Councils through Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	Sustainability	Existing corporate membership budget	1		
15. Promote sustainability achievements, programs and funding opportunities through Council's Community Update newsletter	Sustainability / Media & Communications	Existing budget	2		
16. Engage students, teachers, parents and local industry in exploring innovative energy solutions and sustainability practices through the annual Energy Breakthrough event	Energy Breakthrough	Existing budget	2		
17. Offer mental health services to Council staff and promote its benefit in relation to climate change	Occupational Health and Safety	Existing budget		4	
18. Ongoing review of shade and bubble tap/ water station needs and completion of installations at key outdoor places across the Shire eg. parks, playgrounds, pools, trails	Recreation	Existing budget		5	

19. Ongoing review and updating of Local Planning Policy Frameworks in the planning scheme with greater consideration for climate risk, biodiversity, energy efficiency, water sensitive design, sustainable transport considerations and climate resilient building fabric and design	Strategic Planning	Existing budget and future budget bids	6		11, 12, 13		17, 19
20. Strengthen our work with Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster municipalities to support, promote and deliver appropriate community emergency prevention and awareness programs	Emergency Management	Existing budget	6				
21. Participate in Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) power purchase agreement	Infrastructure	Existing budget		8			
22. Participate in Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) Community Sparks project to investigate feasibility of a community battery site in the Shire	Sustainability	Existing budget		8			
23. Support delivery of MASH solar and battery information sessions & promotion of community bulk buy opportunity	Sustainability / Media and Communications	Existing budget		8			
24. Partner with CVGA to support small business investment in low emissions equipment through Sustainability Victoria's Small Business Energy Saver Program (or similar, if program discontinues)	Sustainability / Economic Development	Existing budget		10			
25. Promote compact urban form of Maryborough through the planning scheme, with environmental and social outcomes such as improved accessibility and reduced reliance on cars	Strategic Planning	Existing budget			11		
26. Complete shire wide tree audit	Parks and Open Spaces	Existing budget			12		
27. Utilise web-based fleet management system to improve management of fleet and identify opportunities to reduce fleet-related emissions	Procurement / Sustainability	Existing budget			13		
28. Improve and extend walking, cycling & scooter networks	Recreation	Existing budget			13		
29. Support the exploration of sustainable forestry (including agroforestry and regenerative plantations) opportunities and associated biodiversity, carbon sequestration and sustainable timber supply outcomes	Economic Development / Sustainability	Existing budget					18

30. Work closely with water corporations, catchment management authorities and Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners to achieve integrated and holistic water management	Strategic Planning / Infrastructure / Sustainability	Existing budget		19
Future Initiatives (To be funded and led by Council)				
PHASE ONE – SET UP THE CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP JUN 2022 – DEC 2022				
31. Invite expressions of interest to for local and regional agencies and community members to join the Partnership	Sustainability / Community Engagement	Existing budget	1,2	
32. Appoint membership to the Partnership based on ability to satisfy key selection criteria	Sustainability / Community Engagement	Existing budget	1,2	
33. Establish a Terms of Reference to define scope and function of the Partnership including Council's role as secretariat and activities of the group such as co-ordinated delivery of projects, high level advocacy and funding, facilitating longer term culture change and community outreach (inc. community grants), networking and sharing ideas and opportunities and; accountability (ie. monitoring progress on priority areas)	Sustainability / Community Engagement	Existing budget	1,2	
34. Oversee the development of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework to assess the ongoing performance of the action plan	Sustainability	Existing budget	1,2	
35. Oversee the development of a website to make the Partnership visible - both regionally and locally - and to provide a central point for local climate action information and opportunities	Sustainability	Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership Funding	2	
PHASE TWO – CONSOLIDATE COUNCIL'S LEADING ROLE (TOWARDS NET ZERO EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION) SEPT 2022 – JUN 2024				
36. Investigate options to track emissions data, including group procurement of emissions data management system in collaboration with other CVGA Councils	Sustainability	Existing budget and subject to budget bid for sustainability operational budget	1	

37. Design a way forward for applying a climate lens to Council's strategy, planning and delivery with specific consideration of unseen impacts of climate change (i.e slowly rising temperatures), cascading emergencies, bushfire and flood risk	Sustainability / Governance, Property and Risk	Existing budget	1					
38. Include managing climate risk as part of Council's risk management framework	Governance, Property and Risk	Existing budget	1					
39. Review and update procurement policy and procedures to strengthen environmental sustainability and circular economy outcomes	Procurement / Waste / Sustainability	Existing budget	1		11	14		
40. Build staff capacity to develop project specifications that incorporate sustainability and climate considerations (eg. specification template, guidelines, training)	All / supported by Procurement / Sustainability / Waste	Existing budget	1		II	14		
41. Investigate further opportunities to involve DJAARA in Local Planning Policy frameworks, particularly in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation	Strategic Planning	Existing budget	1,3					
42. Include climate action lens in Council's Engage! Youth Leadership Program and explore opportunities to link in with ADAPT Loddon Mallee Youth Climate Network	Community Partnerships	Existing budget	3					
43. In collaboration with Dja Dja Wurrung, scope opportunities to support healing of Country, empowerment of traditional owners, and opportunities for sharing experience/knowledge of caring for Country	Sustainability / Economic Development / Community Wellbeing	Existing budget	3	4,5,6,7	8,9,10	11,12,13	14,15,16	17,18,19
44. Arrange for Dja Dja Wurrung culture and cultural heritage training with Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners	Sustainability	Subject to budget bid for sustainability operational budget	3					
45. Develop business continuity planning (BCP) for resilience of Council operations and service provision during extreme events and emergencies	Governance, Property and Risk	Subject to budget bid	1	6				
46. Develop Building Assets Management Plan to prioritise consideration of energy efficient and electric infrastructure for all new installations and replacements in Council owned and/or managed buildings	Infrastructure / Sustainability	Existing budget	1		9, 10	11		

47. Investigate opportunities to improve environmental sustainability and climate resilience standards and guidelines for the development and maintenance of Council assets and infrastructure	Infrastructure / Sustainability / Operations	Existing budget	1		11	
48. Review and update fleet policy to support transition to zero emissions fleet	Procurement / Sustainability	Existing budget	1	8,10	13	
49. Review and update plant replacement plan to support transition to zero emissions plant	Operations / Procurement	Existing budget	1	8,10		
50. Develop waste wise events policy to ensure Council events, festivals and meetings are 'waste-wise' and increase the use of local and environmentally friendly caterers, avoiding packaging waste and prioritising seasonal and plant rich cuisine	Waste	Existing budget	1			14
51. Investigate ways to maximise accessibility to pools, especially during extreme heat day and seek funding for community pool facility upgrades and potential development of water play spaces	Recreation	Existing budget and subject to external funding		5		
52. Seek funding to deliver a community food festival or forum and support the creation of a local food coalition in partnership with Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners, businesses, community organisations and individuals	Community Partnerships	Subject to external funding		7		
53. Seek funding to develop a feasibility study comparing rooftop solar battery storage, micro-grid and other renewable energy options	Sustainability / Economic Development	Subject to external funding		8		
54. Review 2019 energy audits/facility assessments of Council buildings and seek funding to implement outstanding LED lighting, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) and building fabric upgrades	Sustainability / Infrastructure	Existing budget and subject to external funding		10		
55. Explore collaboration with neighboring municipalities on a funding request to support phase two (major roads) of streetlight upgrades to LED	Sustainability / Infrastructure	Subject to external funding		10		
56. Develop a Tree Planting Strategy, including a plan for new and succession planting and consideration for shade, drought tolerant, indigenous, and endemic species	Parks and Open Spaces	Subject to budget bid			12	

57. Promote availability of electric vehicle charging station through existing tourism collateral	Tourism, Events and Culture	Existing budget	12	
58. Seek funding to improve waste management and engagement at Energy Breakthrough, elevating the event as a benchmark for waste wise event practices	Energy Breakthrough / Waste / Sustainability	Subject to external funding	14	
59. Introduce the State Government legislated Container Deposit Scheme - using a cash reward for the return of drink cans, cartons and bottles for recycling	Waste	Existing budget	15	
60. Introduce the State Government legislated four waste stream system to expand existing waste and recycling collection in the Shire (general waste, food and garden organics, co-mingled recycling, glass recycling)	Waste	Existing budget / some external funding	15	
61. Promote nature-based tourism and bush recreation activities	Tourism, Events, Culture / Recreation	Existing budget		17

PHASE THREE – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

JUNE 2023 – JUNE 2024

62. Establish an annual community grant fund to seed community projects that align with the Climate Action Plan	Sustainability	Subject to future budget bid	2,3	4,5,6,7	8,9,10	11,12,13	14,15,16	17,18,19
63. Develop a climate focused education program - offering regular community forums/information sessions/workshops on climate related topics - that complements and consolidates existing community-led programs	Sustainability / Waste / Economic Development / Community Partnerships / Emergency Management / Media and communications	Existing budget and subject to budget bid for sustainability operational budget	2	4,5,6,7	8,9,10	11,12,13	14,15,16	17,18,19
64. Support community groups and organisations who work with elderly, people living with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse, female and LGBTIQ+ populations to build climate action capacity and leadership in these groups	Sustainability / Community Partnerships	Existing budget and subject to budget bid for sustainability operational budget	3					
65. Support the establishment of a community energy group to investigate and facilitate renewable energy opportunities that benefit the community	Sustainability	Existing budget	2		8			

66. Investigate partnership opportunities between Council and neighbourhood houses and other community groups to support resilience and connection	Community Partnerships / Sustainability	Existing budget	4	
67. Support sporting clubs to assess risks and adapt to increasing temperatures eg timing of events, shade requirements, lighting to facilitate activities at night, alternative surfaces, future-proofing and retrofitting facilities	Recreation	Existing budget and subject to external funding	5	
68. Map and scope opportunities to activate community cool zones – including green spaces and facilities. This may include identifying spaces for retrofitting or repurposing.	Sustainability / Recreation	Subject to future budget bid	5	
69. Assist community organisations and groups to promote and support uptake of programs for property owners and renters to retrofit buildings in order to reduce emissions, transition off gas and maximise energy efficiency	Sustainability / Community Partnerships	Existing budget	5	9,10 11
70. Support community gardens through the exploring the provision of locally processed compost under an expanded compost production	Waste	Existing budget	7	16
71. Increase promotion of Council's FOGO (food organics garden organics) kerbside collection	Waste	Existing budget some grant funding support received		16
72. Engage with Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC) to develop a way to work together to improve community understanding of cultural values and how we can champion these through climate change	Sustainability	Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership Funding		17

APPENDIX TWO: Community initiatives

An important focus of this Plan is community education, collaboration and mobilisation. Many diverse and exciting ideas for community-led projects arose through the development of this Plan. Here is a selection to help you start thinking about how you might like to get involved in climate action!

Confirmed project Lead Climate Conversation Week event - generating broad community awareness and mobilised action through a week of community-led discussions on climate change and action Goal 2 Goal 4	Establish physical community space dedicated to climate action Goal 2 Goal 4	Develop climate action community engagement kit to support community-led engagement stalls at major events in the Shire Goal 2	Support a youth voice in the region around climate action (eg. through a youth radio show/podcast) Goal 2 & 3 Goal 4
Confirmed project Establish a community energy group to investigate and facilitate renewable energy opportunities that benefit the community – supported by the Loddon Mallee Community Power Hub (or its continuing entity). Goal 2 & 3 Goal 8	Host climate cafes or/and community craft activities where people can come and express their emotions about the climate crisis in a supportive environment Goal 4	Establish project to enhance backyard & nature strip biodiversity and create linking habitats Goal 2 Goal 17 Goal 12	Develop community safety initiatives for days of extreme heat and fire danger (e.g identify 'heat retreats', develop shared fire plans and strategies for checking on neighbours.) Goal 2 Goal 4,5 & 6
Establish a regular sustainability column in the local newspaper Goal 2	Establish local sharing economy and reuse groups such as 'repair cafes', 'tool libraries' and peer-to-peer sharing Goal 2 Goal 14	Edible food project identifying opportunities to transform unused land into community gardens/planter boxes/fruit trees Goal 4 & 7	



To learn more about this Plan and how to get involved in local climate action, contact Council's Sustainability Officer:

Email: mail@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

Phone: **03 5461 0610**

