

Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan

2020–2025

Let's co-create our future

Acknowledgment of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Kulin Nation including the Wurundjeri, Bunurong and Boon Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners of this land and waterways and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

For the Traditional Owners the lands in the City of Brimbank have always been a significant trading and meeting place.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Brimbank and their Elders for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

Caring for Country

Aboriginal Victorians have a deep understanding of our environment and landscape, and as such are very aware of changes occurring on their land because of climate change.

Registered Aboriginal Parties and other Traditional Owners groups play an important role in working with government and communities to safeguard and pass on knowledge of the Victorian landscapes and cultural heritage and to help non-indigenous Victorians understand the cultural and spiritual significance of Victoria's land, water and sky.

Accordingly, Council, in the context of the climate emergency, will seek to work closely with Traditional Owners to draw upon their knowledge and skills as the custodians and voice of Country.

Traditional Owner leadership will be essential to help care for our municipality, and to help all local people to develop a connection to, and ethic of caring for Country as required by Council's climate emergency position statement. It is everyone's job to care for Country.



Contents

Foreword	2
Executive Summary	3
Scope and Purpose	5
Vision and Outcome	5
Planning Hierarchy and Funding	6
Emission Targets	6
Council Position Statement	7
Principles of the Climate Emergency Lens	8
COVID-19 and the Climate Emergency	9
Background	10
The Problem and Solution	10
Risks	10
Opportunities	11
The Global Policy Context	12
Emission Reduction Analysis and Pathway	13
Australia and Victoria	13
Brimbank	13
Plan Development and Pledge	15
Key Advocacy Goals	15
Themes for Action	16
People Power: Growing our Voice	17
100% Renewable: Growing our Energy	18
Resilient Rebuild: Growing our Strength	19
Green and Cool: Growing our Wellness	20
Circular Economy: Growing our Prosperity	21
Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting	22
Action Plan	23

Foreword

The global ecological and climate emergency is mobilising communities everywhere. Many people, including Brimbank residents, are speaking up to demand urgent action.

For individuals, businesses and governments it is past time to embrace humility. This means we must acknowledge and embrace our reliance upon, interdependence with, and responsibility to care for our planet. We must define and actualise sustainable development. We must acknowledge the urgency of the climate emergency and act.

Council's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019 is a bold, but necessary and required action. Just as people are taking active steps to align their own life with a climate friendly future, so must businesses and governments, and by extension, whole municipalities, cities and nations. Cities such as Brimbank are the global climate leaders.

The *Victorian Local Government Act 2020* includes overarching governance principles that require Council to consider the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the municipality, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and plan for climate change risks.

The *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* requires Council to consider climate change in our long-term municipal health and wellbeing plan, Brimbank 2040. It also encourages Council to make a public pledge to reduce emissions across the municipality.

Council's advocacy platform, Transforming Brimbank - Environmental Agenda, acknowledges that our community has long bore the brunt of Victoria's industrial, waste storage and transport needs. No longer. Our recompense should be significant Federal and State government investment in Brimbank's sustainability and environment.

The climate crisis is not going away. Indeed, the level of risk is ratcheting upwards each day. From the heatwaves, bushfires and COVID-19 emergencies that punctured our lives in 2020, we must lean in and learn, and bounce forward, not just bounce back.

We are not powerless. We can solve the climate emergency and ensure positive climate measures contribute to our economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, making our municipality rich in jobs, industry, energy, liveability, equity and community. Brimbank can become an oasis of sustainable living. Climate action can orientate and shape Brimbank's collaborative re-creation.

This is the transformational decade. Climate change must be a lens for all decision making, by all aspects of society. Our democratically elected Council will lead by example, orientated by its position statement and principles in this Plan.

Importantly, our people are experiencing climate change not only as a fast-moving natural disaster but also as the biggest global health threat of the 21st century. We must care for our vulnerable as we create opportunities out of crisis, and transition to a zero net emissions resilient world.

The environmental, economic, social and political implications of global warming are profound. Our response must be equally profound. Individual commitment is critical. Council's top priority is the health, wellbeing and economic welfare of our community.

Executive Summary

Globally, we have lost valuable time. 'Socially just' climate action is a necessity and must happen at scale and speed. We must kick our climate pollution habit ASAP.

The emergency declaration is a symptom and signal of the need to upscale our response, and to recognise the concern for what it is: an emergency.

In this moment, we must achieve our emergence through emergency. This urgent crisis is an opportunity - an opportunity to create a better, fairer, more prosperous and liveable Brimbank.

Council operations will target zero net emissions by 2030. For the Brimbank municipality we will target zero net emissions by 2040, with an interim aspirational target of a 70% reduction by 2030.

Our residents and businesses have suffered high energy bills and other impacts for too long from inadequate planning and action. Council will prioritise emission reduction projects that save money for and improve the health of our people. We need a healthy environment and a healthy economy - if we do not have both we cannot have either.

To address the challenge of climate change we must develop a low-carbon resilient community from within the existing fabric of our suburban life.

Brimbank is well suited to the intensification of sustainability programs including water, waste and energy harvesting programs, increased active transport connections, and shared public spaces such as libraries and open reserves for increased social cohesion.

The municipality has excellent rail links and will become a hub city between Melbourne's CBD and regional Victoria and intersecting with the Melbourne Airport. Our grasslands and watercourses are significant assets, and we retain a proud history of industry with related built heritage to conserve and reference as we progress.

Given the degree of climate change already happening, urgent efforts are required to minimise the impacts of climatic disasters on the community. There is a critical need to engage with local emergency and health services to plan safe responses to extreme weather events such as heatwaves and to construct early warning systems that are accessible to the community with its diverse communication needs.

Brimbank is well placed to be re-envisioned and co-created. The Plan identifies a position statement, principles, and five themes for action. The position statement commits Council to, in short:

- Adopt and promote a custodial ethic of Caring for Country
- Acknowledge the 21st century as a period of climate emergency and opportunity for positive social change
- Lead the Brimbank community to zero net emissions in accordance with climate science
- Position the climate emergency as the strategic focus of Council operations
- Advocate for genuine science-based leadership from higher levels of government

Decision-making principles provide the 'lens' to implement this position statement.

The five themes for action outline the themes of work we are required to do:

- **People Power** is about following the optimistic impulse for positive change together, leaving no one behind
- **100% Renewable** is about using clean renewable energy for all our needs, including to heat and light buildings, transport people and goods, and to undertake industrial processes
- **Resilient Rebuild** is about smarter, more thermally comfortable and sustainable buildings, and making safe connections for low emission transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling, and electric vehicles
- **Green and Cool** is about embracing nature as an ally, caring for biodiversity as our privilege and responsibility, and being aware that what we eat has a huge impact on us and on the planet
- **Circular Economy** is about recognising that the goods and services we use have a big environmental impact, and so we need to choose and reuse wisely

These five themes capture the impulse for action based positive change. Change towards improved environmental, social, and economic equity - and thus improved wellbeing, resilience, and shared prosperity.

If the five themes for action are addressed together, Brimbank will contribute towards efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Implementation will influence the future style and substance of the municipality. This Plan will be a pledge under the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017*, and will be reviewed every year.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 emergency has resulted in unplanned and consequential disruptions and impacts on our community. It has also created a realignment with our core human value of taking care of one another.

Responding to COVID-19 issues and its broad impacts, by placing our care for one another front and centre, creates an entry point for a new 'social contract'. This new social contract, must for example, include a broader inclusion of 'us' - to include other species, future generations, and distant populations - and delineate the far-reaching protections that we expect from our State and Federal governments in times of crisis. Implementation of positive change will require a prescriptive and practical agenda.

This Plan, inclusive of the position statement, principles, and five themes, provides at our municipal level, a framework to guide the social and economic stimulus needed to recover from COVID-19, and address concurrently the climate emergency.

It provides a framework to build our resilience to current and future 'shocks and stresses', whilst outlining the themes we need to realise the future we want - a community that is prosperous, caring, inclusive, strong, healthy, and fun.

A positive future is only possible if we avert from the current path towards a climate change induced existential catastrophe. It is also clear that we are going to experience dramatic changes in the global climate, regardless of actions taken in the coming years, and so need to discern how we will respond to all manner of crises.

Scope and Purpose

The scope of the Plan is from 2020 to 2025. It is a plan for the whole municipality.

Its principal purpose is to outline Council's position statement on the climate emergency, with the aim that this statement orientates social transformation, with Council taking a municipal leadership role, while promoting action from, and collaboration with, all quarters.

The position statement 'implementation framework' includes six principles that serve as a climate emergency decision-making lens, and five themes for action.

Actions include those things that Council can control, partner and advocate for that affect the climate emergency and transition to the net zero emission resilient economy.

Vision and Outcome

The Brimbank Community Vision 2040 describes the community's vision for 2040. Achieving the Brimbank Community Vision is the long-term outcome sought by the Plan.

By 2040, the Brimbank community will be healthy and safe and we will be united through a sense of belonging and pride.

Our city will be inclusive, resilient, innovative and vibrant and our people will share equally in the City's prosperity and opportunity.

The environment will be protected and enhanced and Brimbank's diverse neighbourhoods and housing will offer something for everyone.



Planning Hierarchy and Funding

This Plan, with reference to international, national and Victorian commitments and legislation, and informed by and alongside the Brimbank Social Justice Charter, sits at the highest level of Council's strategic planning framework, above and informing the four-year Council plans that are established at each new Council term.

Issue based actions will remain in the documents that address the relevant constituent issues of the climate emergency. For example, the Brimbank Greenhouse Reduction Strategy will continue to address greenhouse mitigation issues; the Urban Forest Strategy will continue to address urban forest objectives.

Council will continue to develop, implement and update constituent issue strategies and plans to ensure their alignment with the Council position statement on the climate emergency.

This document and Council's 2020 Transforming Brimbank-Environmental Agenda specifically call for Federal government, State government and non-government funding support for urgent climate change action, and for support of Brimbank's climate emergency campaign.

Council will submit this Plan as a Council pledge under the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017*.

Annually, Council will publish a public review of this Plan.

Emission Targets

Through this Plan, Council commits to pursue the following emission targets:

Zero net emissions	for Council operations by 2030.	
	for the Brimbank municipality by 2040.	
An interim aspirational target for the Brimbank municipality of	70% less net annual emissions	by 2030 (i.e. 731kt CO2-e for 2030). Based on the emission profile baseline in this Plan of 2,438kt CO2-e (2017 data).

These targets have been set recognising the science on climate change, the scale and speed of change required and the opportunities available to achieve deep cuts to emissions.



Council Position Statement

Council adopts and commits to promote a custodial ethic of caring for Country (land, water, air and all living beings) as the necessary ethical foundation for the future, and commits to engage with Traditional Owners as core to this undertaking

Council acknowledges the 21st century as a period of climate emergency, and that this urgent crisis presents an opportunity for positive social change

Council commits to lead the Brimbank community towards a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the contemporary advice of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Council commits to take account of this Plan in all decision making and to position the climate emergency response as the focus of organisational strategic coordination until the emergency is declared ended

Council commits to advocate for genuine science-based climate leadership from other local governments, and from the Victorian and Australian governments

Principles of the Climate Emergency Lens

Council, noting the principles outlined in the UN Framework Convention, and using principles outlined in *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* as a basis, asserts the following principles.

These principles form Council's climate emergency decision-making 'lens'. This lens supports the implementation of Council's position statement on the climate emergency:

1. Principle of informed decision-making

Decision-making will be based on the best practicably available information about the potential effects of climate change, and the potential contribution of a decision to reduce the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Principle of integrated decision-making

Decision-making will integrate the competing long, medium, and short term environmental, economic, health and other social considerations relating to climate change.

3. Principle of risk management

Decision-making will be based on a careful evaluation of risk. Risk will be allocated in a manner that is easily seen and understood, and a lack of full scientific certainty is not a reason to postpone appropriate measures.

4. Principle of equity

Decision-making will create opportunities for the present generation and future generations to adapt to climate change. In particular, for those people most vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate change.

The present generation will ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations and that any adverse impacts of climate change are minimised for future generations.

5. Principle of community engagement

Decision-making will include community involvement in decisions that may affect members of the community, including youth, the vulnerable or marginalised communities.

Communities will be provided with appropriate information, opportunities to be involved, and appropriate and adequate public consultation.

6. Principle of compatibility

Decision-making will seek to promote a coherent policy framework within Victoria; and seek to achieve cohesion with other municipalities, the Commonwealth government; and governments of other countries, international bodies and organisations



COVID-19 and the Climate Emergency

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken lives and affected the entire economy and community fabric. The response must provide immediate support for livelihoods; and be in alignment with, and sustain, the structural changes needed to achieve medium and long-term community health and wellbeing, and prosperity.

Embedded in this Plan, decarbonisation is the core task to resolve the climate emergency. Thus, it is the logical core task to orientate the COVID-19 recovery.

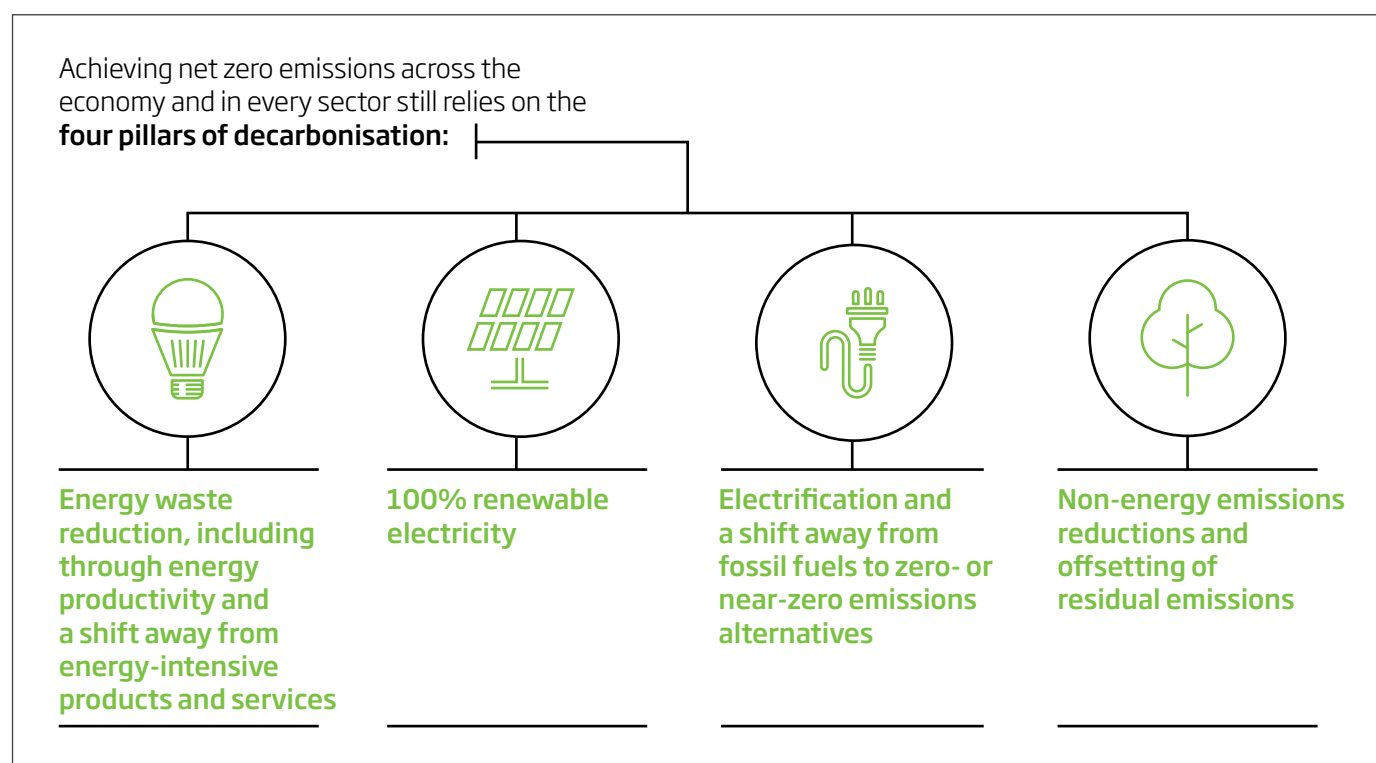
Maximising the job potential of decarbonisation and other climate emergency tasks requires understanding the skills required, and developing effective ways to facilitate the shift in the labour force and market at the local level.

Within Brimbank, public and private investment in medium-scale and small-scale renewable energy, and mass energy efficiency and waste reduction programs for households and industry need to form part of a pandemic recovery package that delivers jobs and prosperity.

Cities such as Brimbank provide the link between the global issues of climate change and the coronavirus, and the required systemic prescriptive and practical local actions.

“By accelerating renewables and making the energy transition an integral part of the wider recovery, governments can achieve multiple economic and social objectives in the pursuit of a resilient future that leaves nobody behind.”

International Renewable Energy Agency,
Director-General Francesco La Camera



Source: climateworksaustralia.org

Background

The Problem and Solution

The Earth's average temperature has increased 1°C since the industrial revolution commenced in circa 1750AD. This has occurred principally due to human actions that have turned carbon stored in solid and liquid forms, such as ancient coal and oil deposits, into carbon in (invisible) gas form in the air.

The more carbon and other 'greenhouse gases' in the air the more heat that is trapped, disrupting the stable climate we have become accustomed to, and enjoyed. This is called the 'enhanced greenhouse effect' because the human released gases are additional to the natural level.

We have known about climate change for many decades. In 1992, the United Nations adopted the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). If we had started reducing emissions steadily from then, the scale and speed of emission reductions would have been gradual. However, we did not act. We went in the wrong direction.

Globally, global warming is now likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if warming continues to increase at the current rate; and three and five degrees of warming by the end of the century unless we 'bite the bullet' and make significant positive changes.

The Victorian Government projects that Victoria will be between 1.2°C and 2°C warmer by 2030. CSIRO projections indicate that Melbourne, by the end of the century, under a high emissions scenario (3 °C increase in annual maximum temperature and a 15 percent decrease in annual rainfall) will have the current climate of Dubbo, NSW.

Climate change risks will increase with global warming of 1.5°C and ratchet up further with 2°C and beyond. There is a big difference between these temperature increases in terms of the health impacts on people, and all other living things.

To stay within 1.5°C emissions now need to reduce dramatically. To reiterate, we are presently drifting towards a frightening 3°C or more of warming by the end of the century.

The key message is that fossil fuels have served their purpose and are fast approaching their 'use by date'. Burning fossil fuels is currently responsible for 79% of all emissions in Australia. The remainder of emissions come from non-energy sources such as industrial processes, product use, agriculture, waste and land use.

Humanity must exit fossil fuels and transition as a matter of urgency to safe, clean 100% renewable energy for all power needs, including for heating and transport. This is the lion's share of the task and is very achievable.

Victoria is saturated in renewable energy resources. There is no technical impediment to a 100% renewable energy powered Victoria as we already have the technology. Transitioning to clean electricity will unlock emission reductions in buildings and in transport, allowing us to focus on the more difficult non-energy sectors of the economy.

Sunshine, as the capital of Melbourne's booming west, and as the name suggests, is the natural home for a solar energy business cluster.

Risks

The scientific evidence on climate change is clear. It tells us:

- The scale and level of risk - it threatens civilisation
- The scale of change required - the transformation of the global economy
- The speed with which this transformation must be delivered - largely within the next decade
- That the impacts of climate change are felt first and foremost by those already most vulnerable in our community - the elderly, the very young, the poor and homeless, and those with existing medical and mental health conditions.

Brimbank is significantly vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate. This vulnerability is a product of our place and our people.

Our place is located on a landscape ecosystem known as the Victorian Volcanic Plains. This rocky landscape is drier and hotter than other parts of Melbourne. The ecology has adapted. Grassland flourishes, tree canopy and shade is low, and unique animals call it home. Due to human activities, the Victorian Volcanic Plains is now a highly fragmented, critically endangered ecological community. The biodiversity extinction crisis is happening right here and now.

The urban environment that overlays this ecosystem is subject to the urban heat island effect that influences all urban areas. In addition, specific and concerning 'hotspots', that are the combined product of our built and natural environment, exist in our municipality. These hotspots often coincide with areas of socio-economic vulnerability, and during heatwaves can be several degrees above the surrounding areas, worsening health risks.

Our people comprise one of the most culturally diverse municipalities in Australia – with almost half of our residents born overseas, from around 160 nations. This diversity brings strength, but also makes communication and developing cultural norms more challenging.

This Brimbank specific vulnerability of place and people means we need to respond as quickly as possible; and even quicker than many other municipalities. Council, to deliver on its purpose, must do all that it can to help our community respond.

Heatwaves are our biggest risk. The impact of an ongoing and compounding hotter and drier trend will be significant. Events such as bushfires and associated smoke will contribute to heatwave impacts. This makes efforts to cool our community vital, for example, by drastically increasing tree canopy cover and retaining water in the landscape.

Water is the biggest general issue for Brimbank. An important insight is that, whereas climate change is caused by excess greenhouse gas, water is the principal medium through which climate change will be felt. This includes severe drought and violent storms. How we manage water, and waterway and catchment health, is critical.

Of note, Australia's central bank, the Reserve Bank, has delivered a clear warning that climate change is exposing the financial system to significant risks that will rise over time. Financial risk is a significant supporting reason for climate action at scale and speed.

Opportunities

Strong and effective local action on climate change is in Brimbank's best interests. This action will deliver on our principles such as intergenerational equity and social justice, and in terms of other measures including health and sustainable economic development.

Our key challenge is to transition rapidly between a fossil-fuelled economy that has stopped working to our benefit and a new clean economy that is 100% renewable – solar, wind, water – energy powered.

At the same time, whether we like it or not, we will have to transition from our current climate to a different climate. Building resilience in the face of changing climate will require wholesale adaptation, and changes to the way we live, work and connect with each other. For example, greater use of public transport and working from home.

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, rapid and far-reaching transitions are required in community behaviour, energy, land use, urban form and infrastructure, and in industrial production and material use systems.

These issues map the five themes of action in this Plan. Taking action across these five themes presents opportunities for positive environmental, social and economic uplift.

We need to consider this urgent crisis as an opportunity – an opportunity to create a better, fairer, more prosperous and liveable Brimbank.

For example, major capital projects in the Sunshine Priority Precinct will drive growth and opportunity. Investment in the Sunshine Hospital will see health and care services expand in the precinct. Education will follow this lead, and metro, regional and airport rail connections will bring thousands of people to Sunshine daily.

Council's 2020 Transforming Brimbank - Environmental Agenda outlines the opportunities to help make Brimbank a more green, sustainable and more environmentally friendly place as part of these investments.

'The transformation of a city has opportunities to simultaneously improve its inhabitants' quality of life, amplify the conditions for social creativity and innovation, create livelihoods and opportunities for all, and regenerate ecological diversity and vitality. The challenges facing us today require nothing less than a re-conceptualisation of the city in all its dimensions.'

Visions and Pathways 2040.

The Global Policy Context

The main global forum for climate change negotiations is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to 'stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system.' That is, to provide a safe climate. Convention members, including Australia, meet annually at the Conference of the Parties.

In 2015 at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP21), Australia, along with nearly two hundred other nations, agreed by means of an international accord (the Paris Agreement) to 'hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change'.

To achieve this commitment much larger cuts to carbon emissions will be required than the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to emission reductions agreed to in Paris. Current pledges globally are consistent with warming of circa 3 °C. Accordingly, the signatory nations have agreed to review their individual targets every five years with the aim of strengthening action over time.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) is the inter-governmental body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change. The UN IPCC works by assessing published literature, and then releasing reports.

In 2018 the UN IPCC released a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C (IPCC SR1.5) above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening

the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. Their analysis found that there are significant differences in the impacts between 1.5°C of warming and 2°C. For example, double the number of people would suffer from water scarcity with warming of 2°C. Further, if the world is successful in limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, many of the worst projected impacts of climate change could be avoided and adaptation needs and costs will be lower.

Of note, the IPCC SR1.5 interpretation of the Paris Agreement commitment to 'pursuing efforts' to limit warming to 1.5 °C uses a carbon budget based on a 50% probability of reaching this target - which is a toss of the coin chance.

The UN IPCC advises:

'Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems (high confidence).

These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed, and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options.'

Emission Reduction Analysis and Pathway

Australia and Victoria

Australia adopted a 26-28% reduction below its 2005 emissions levels by 2030 as its target for Paris. In the lead up to the meeting Australia's legislated and independent climate policy advisory body, the Climate Change Authority, advised that Australia needs to reduce emissions in the order of between 45-63% below 2005 by 2030 to be in line with the climate science. In short, Australia's current emission reduction commitment is roughly less than half of what is needed.

The Victorian Government, as part of implementing the *Climate Change Act 2017*, sought independent expert advice (the Combet Report) on interim emissions reduction targets for 2025 and 2030, to set Victoria on a path to achieving zero net emissions by 2050. This advice took into consideration the aforementioned IPCC SR1.5 report and Climate Change Authority advisory target for Australia.

The Combet Report recommended targets for Victoria are:

- 32-39% below 2005 levels in 2025
- 45-60% below 2005 levels in 2030

The Combet Report states that if Victoria is to do its share to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C (interpreted as a 50/50 chance of achievement) an emission target is required of 67% below 2005 by 2030.

In short, the Combet Report's recommendations fail to comply with the Paris Agreement commitment to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C.

Brimbank

Brimbank's total annual community emissions have been calculated (2017 data) as approximately 2.44 million tonnes of carbon pollution per annum (2,438kt CO₂-e, noting that ongoing improvements are being made to the data used to arrive at total municipal emissions: see snapshotclimate.com.au).

The largest source of community emissions by sector in Brimbank is stationary energy, which comprises electricity and gas consumed by buildings and facilities. This accounts for 74% of total municipal emissions. Industry is responsible for the majority of this consumption (circa 40 percentage points), followed by residential buildings (circa 22 percentage points) and commercial buildings (circa 12 percentage points).

Meanwhile, on-road transportation contributes 23% of emissions, while emissions from waste account for 3%.

It is important to note that while this profile is compliant with the international standard (Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories), and covers emissions from the entire community, Council only has a limited amount of control and influence over many of the emissions sources.

While Council's own greenhouse emissions only contribute approximately 2% of the emissions of the Brimbank municipality as a whole, this small proportion is not standing in the way of Council leadership.

Council, through the Brimbank Greenhouse Reduction Strategy 2013-2023, has committed to reducing its greenhouse emissions by 50% by 2023. Since adoption of the Strategy, Council has achieved a 32% reduction in greenhouse emissions based on 2011 levels and is on course to exceed its 50% by 2023 emission reduction target.

To date, Council's primary approach for achieving emissions reductions has been through energy efficiency and rooftop solar projects, which are otherwise known as 'behind the meter' projects.

Whilst these projects have proven very effective in reducing Council's energy costs and emissions, achieving the 50% reduction target requires a decarbonisation of Council's grid sourced electricity supply.

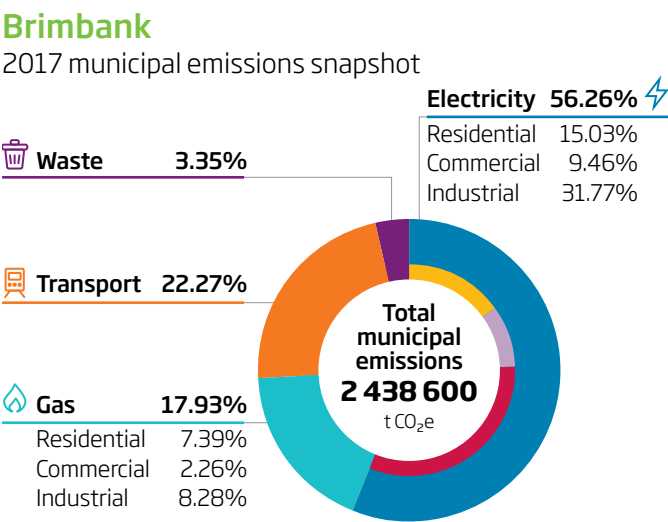
In this context, the decarbonisation of energy contracts (e.g. by moving to 100% renewable electricity) was a key action proposed following a review of the Brimbank Greenhouse Gas Reductions Strategy in 2018.

Accordingly, Council is planning to move to 100% renewable electricity in its own operations by 2021 as part of a collaborative power purchase agreement with other Victorian councils.

While Council can continue to undertake its own actions, and to partner and advocate to the broader community for positive change, a cross-sectoral approach - with residents, business and industry - is required for substantial emissions reductions throughout the municipality. To this end, as this is the first plan we have prepared for municipal emissions:

A key action in this Plan is to prepare a zero net emissions pathway and program for Council and for our municipality as a whole.

This pathway will tell us specifically where we need to focus as a community, sector by sector, to reduce emissions. Equitable solutions must be a priority if there is to be sustainable development.



Source: snapshotclimate.com.au



Plan Development and Pledge

In June 2019, Council, in response to community advocacy, declared a climate emergency and committed to develop a climate emergency plan.

Council, in developing this Plan, has undertaken engagement across community life stages and has sought general public comment.

Council will submit this Plan to the Victorian Government as a pledge in accordance with the provisions of the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017*.

The pledge must include a description of the actions to be undertaken by Council over the next five years that are reasonably expected to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions caused or otherwise influenced by Council.

It must also include a 'reasonable estimate' of the total level of GHG reductions expected to result from the implementation of those actions.

In preparing the pledge Council must consider the policy objectives, and the guiding principles set out in the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* and provide a copy of the pledge to the responsible Minister as soon as practicable after its preparation.

Key Advocacy Goals

Australia has lost valuable time in starting the 'decarbonisation' task in earnest.

A national climate policy such as a carbon price with a more ambitious renewable energy policy would have enabled broad and deep progress - but this has not occurred.

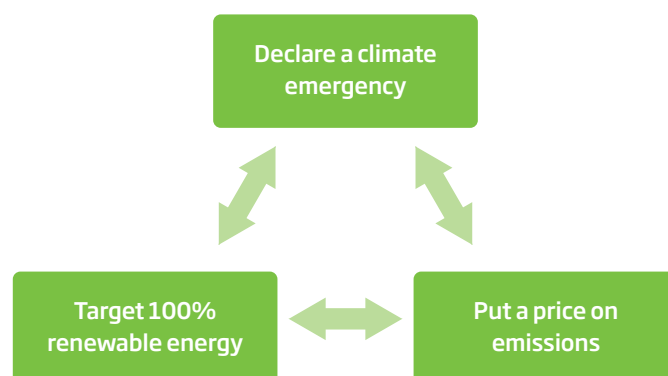
In lieu of Australian Government leadership, the heavy lifting is now with state and territory governments, local government, businesses, community groups, industries, individuals, and households. Cities, such as Brimbank, have been climate leaders and will continue that position with this Plan.

Council wants to create a Plan for our community that is easy to understand. We don't want everyone to become experts in emission accounting...we want a safe climate for all.

Three policy advocacy goals, targeting the Victorian Government, complement each other and are our advocacy goals to 2025:

- **Victoria to declare a climate emergency immediately**
- **Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 100% for 2030**
- **Victoria to implement a price on carbon pollution, preferably the Australian Carbon Dividend Plan, as soon as possible but not later than 2022**

Implementation in Victoria of a meaningful and popular price on carbon pollution (see auscarbondividend.com), coupled with a 100% renewable energy target, would significantly reduce emissions whilst kick starting the industrial revolution required. The declaration of a climate emergency would send a clear signal to the community about the scale and speed of change required.



Themes for Action

In Brimbank, equity, energy, infrastructure, the natural environment, and the material economy are the core areas that will be most affected by climate change, and by the responsive transition to the new economy.

Accordingly, five themes for action orientate transformation.

The five themes for action have conceptual appeal and allow creative engagement with the process of re-inventing our city through co-creation. They provide a multi-dimensional and systemic framework for actioning the position statement.

People Power:

Growing our Voice

People Power is about following the optimistic impulse for positive change together, leaving no one behind

100% Renewable:

Growing our Energy

100% Renewable is about using clean renewable energy for all our needs, including to heat and light buildings, transport people and goods, and to undertake industrial processes

Resilient Rebuild:

Growing our Strength

The Resilient Rebuild is about smarter, more thermally comfortable and sustainable buildings, and making safe connections for low emission transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling, and electric bikes and vehicles

Green and Cool:

Growing our Wellness

Green and Cool is about embracing nature as an ally, caring for biodiversity as our privilege and responsibility, and being aware that what we eat has a huge impact on us and on the planet

Circular Economy:

Growing our Prosperity

The Circular Economy is about recognising that the goods and services we use have a big environmental impact, and so we need to choose wisely, design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems

People Power: Growing our Voice

To fix climate change at the pace and scale required, 'people power' must take new meaning and importance. Individual action is critical across the board. We have a shared interest and responsibility.

Council is committed to sharing robust scientific advice on climate change and to enabling the community to mobilise to respond to the climate emergency.

Strong policies to address climate change are needed at every level of government. However, rather than pushing for more politics, we need to de-politicise climate change and advocate solutions that are accepted by and benefit the vast majority of citizens.

Council will use its leadership and resources to empower all residents, particularly those most impacted by the climate emergency, including our young people and those most vulnerable, to lead and fully participate in the climate emergency response.

To this end, Council will establish a citizens' assembly on the climate emergency. The work of this group will be based around 'environmental equity' - a concept that considers the unity of environmental, social, and economic factors of climate change - and how this must inform our co-creation of a zero net emissions, resilient city.

Council will partner with other councils, the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action and others including the community and emergency services sectors, to amplify community voice and to undertake collective advocacy and action.

Importantly, the transition task requires a profound reorientation of our relationship to our local environment and the earth. A transformation of consciousness from seeing the world as an object to exploit, to knowing and living with mindfulness of our profound interconnection with all things. In this task of connecting to and caring for Country, our Traditional Owners will be our guide.

Community engagement strategies to build cultural capital will consider the different cultural, language and linguistic, and learning style needs of Brimbank's diverse community.

People Power Messages

Key Message

- Equity and advocacy: People power matters

Key Objective

- Broad community mobilisation

Key Concepts

- Accept the science
- Learn and teach
- Be inclusive

Key Targets

- Brimbank Climate Emergency Citizen Assembly established and informing action

Key Tools

- Community strength and effort through the collective action of individuals
- Government support
- Private and philanthropic input

Key Evaluation Question

- What evidence is there that the Brimbank community is more active in organising to respond to the climate emergency locally and more broadly, and that people are able to access quality education and other means to overcome barriers to sustainable living?

What can you do?

- Make changes in your control
- Advocate for a safe climate
- Get involved in local resilience
- Assist the less fortunate
- Connect with others

100% Renewable: Growing our Energy

We need to stop using the dirty, such as coal and gas, and rapidly ramp up the clean, such as solar and wind.

For our municipality to go 100% renewable (and electric) for 100% of people we will need to make many changes. These include switching to active and electric transport, and efficient electric systems for hot water and cooking, and for building heating.

Council's priority will be to advocate for renewable energy solutions that deliver immediate and long-term cost savings for our community.

Reducing emissions can be done most efficiently through a high-level pollution pricing solution. The Australian Carbon Dividend Plan is a comprehensive 'fee and dividend' market-based approach to making energy in Australia more affordable and reliable, whilst ensuring that the social cost of energy use is considered. Council will advocate for this, or an equally community first progressive policy to be implemented.

Council will also advocate for a Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 100% for 2030, following the lead of South Australia, Tasmania (200% by 2040) and the ACT. If all Victoria achieves by 2030 is decarbonisation of its electricity sector, it will likely achieve a circa 60% reduction on its 2005 emissions.

Finally, we must also advocate for no new fossil fuel energy projects anywhere in Australia as per the request of our Pacific Island neighbours, and for the well-planned 'just transition' of employees in the fossil fuel sector to new opportunities.

Council, in its own operations, will investigate divestment options and not building new fossil fuel burning infrastructure.

The increased uptake of renewable electricity and transition to zero net emissions - by 2030 for Council operations and 2040 for the municipality - will create jobs and opportunities.

Council will move to 100% renewable electricity in its own operations in 2021.

100% Renewable Messages

Key Message

- Climate and energy: 100% renewable energy is critical and achievable

Key Objective

- 100% renewable energy for 100% of people

Key Concepts

- Use clean green energy
- Act on climate
- We have the technology

Key Targets

- Legislated Victoria Renewable Energy Target of 100% for 2030
- Zero-net emissions for Council operations by 2030
- Zero-net emissions for the municipality by 2040; 70% by 2030

Key Tools

- Policy and planning
- Investment

Key Evaluation Question

- What evidence is there that Brimbank is moving towards 100% renewable energy by 2030 and is decarbonising to zero net emissions by 2040?

What can you do?

- Find out where your energy comes from and switch to 100% GreenPower
- Save energy wherever you can, and target efficiency in new appliances
- Install solar PV (and batteries) if you can
- Use electricity for everything - create an 'all electric' home
- Switch to sustainable transport as soon as possible e.g. an electric bike or car

Resilient Rebuild: Growing our Strength

As extreme weather events increase in severity and regularity, we need to strengthen our infrastructure to cope with the anticipated impacts.

We need a stronger, smarter, built environment. This includes our homes, workplaces, and social spaces - and the public, active and other transport connections in-between.

Taking action involves confronting the barriers embedded in the built environment - physically in terms of building and urban form, and technologically for example in terms of energy and transport systems.

New buildings need to be built to higher environmental standards, and existing buildings need to be retrofitted en masse, while taking account of the need to preserve important heritage buildings and precincts.

We must aim towards energy positive buildings that produce more energy than they consume, and that can easily be taken apart at their end of life so that the materials can be reused.

Housing needs to be built for the future climate context, including for the most vulnerable. At risk groups include the very young and old, the unwell, those with limited financial means, different physical abilities and limited access to transport, culturally and linguistically diverse community members, and the socially isolated. Homelessness needs to become a thing of the past.

Smart-cities, the internet-of-things, autonomous vehicles, the sharing economy, and 3D printing are things we need to consider as part of the resilient rebuild.

We also need to consider how to meet basic needs, including in times of crisis. We need to ensure that all people have access to the necessities - food, water, sanitation, energy, shelter, and physical and mental health services - and how they will be provided.

Transport must also change rapidly, with the goal that for most people most of what they need to do can be achieved in less than twenty minutes travel.

Council will expand its existing commitment to facilitating safe walking and bicycle travel, as preferential forms of transportation, noting that there is considerable community support for this investment.

Major projects, such as the Sunshine Super Hub station redevelopment will be the testing ground for the Resilient Rebuild.

Resilient Rebuild Messages

Key Message

- Cities and mobility: Infrastructure must be stronger, smarter, and sustainable

Key Objectives

- Build the resilience of infrastructure and its contribution to net zero

Key Concepts

- 20 minute city: enabling people to get most of what they need locally
- Intelligent urban design that integrates our heritage

Key Target

- Affordable 'climate resilient' housing
- Climate neutral transport choices

Key Tools

- Resilient housing, industry and business
- Construction standards that are 'climate compatible'

Key Evaluation Question

- What evidence is there that the resilient rebuild is occurring in Brimbank via sustainability improvements to the built environment, and that people are getting around more easily and often on foot, by bike, or by public transport?

What can you do?

- Learn about, and take part in, local planning and project decisions
- Prepare for emergencies
- Get to know your neighbours and welcome new people
- Demand safe and good quality public transport and walking and cycling paths
- Build or rent resilient, or retrofit

Green and Cool: Growing our Wellness

Climate change is placing significant stress on native animals and plants. At the same time, extreme weather events such as heatwaves are affecting human health.

We need to improve significantly the wellness of our natural world, and ourselves. We need to care for Country. We need more natural environment and green areas, and for these to be better connected with vegetated corridors. We need a fair, just and regenerative food system that includes urban agriculture.

Plants are the answer. Plants and the biodiversity they support and which supports them are fundamental to our existence. They provide our food either directly or indirectly, many building materials, and fibres and medicines. They produce oxygen, tie up carbon, cool our climate, are habitat for animals... the list can go on.

Protecting and restoring nature, and funding natural climate solutions will aid biodiversity during this extinction crisis.

Valuable green infrastructure includes street trees, nature strips, parks, waterways, water catchments, and remnant and protected natural areas. Urban forestry and ecology will come to the fore as we green and cool our municipality.

As food waste and animal agriculture are two of the big contributors to climate change, and poor diet is the number one health risk, a healthy low waste plant-rich diet is a key pathway to respond simultaneously to climate change and to improve our wellness.

The benefits of a low waste, plant-rich diet can fundamentally shift our impact on animal welfare, biodiversity and deforestation, and water security, as well as workers' rights and local food security.

Finally, we must 'drawdown' emissions by improving land management, including by the protection of ecosystems on public land. These forests, grasslands and wetlands are home to threatened biodiversity and deliver multiple benefits. Importantly, they drawdown carbon from the atmosphere to build our ecosystem carbon stocks.

The positive impacts of greening and cooling extend from the biophysical - reducing the impacts of heatwaves and improving air quality - to the social, psychological and emotional benefits of liveability.

Within Brimbank, we aim to realise a city full of native plants and animals, with protected grasslands, urban forests, urban food production, healthy waterways, and green and connected open spaces and oases.

Council has been leading the transformation to a greener city since the release of Greening the West (GTW) in 2013, which established a partnership approach to greening the western suburbs. GTW is a collaboration amongst Melbourne's western councils and other major public landowners with the aim to mitigate the impacts of heatwaves through increasing tree canopy cover and the utilisation of urban storm water. This collaboration is the first of its kind in Australia focusing on delivering green infrastructure projects. GTW has generated around \$40 million worth of green infrastructure projects and has won six industry awards.

Green and Cool Messages

Key Message

- Green and cool: Plants can help heal the planet

Key Objective

- Embrace and promote plant-based solutions

Key Concepts

- Brimbank Oases: sustainable precincts based around green and cool open space
- Love and respect nature
- No local species extinctions
- Eat plants
- Plant plants

Key Target

- Increase the extent and condition of natural habitat across the municipality

Key Tools

- Plant-rich, low-waste eating
- Collaborative nature conservation
- Urban forestry/ecology and Greening the West

Key Evaluation Question

- What evidence is there the municipality is getting greener and cooler, that habitat for threatened flora and fauna is protected and connected, and that people are adopting a climate and health friendly relationship with food?

What can you do?

- Join a Brimbank 'Friends of group' and protect/restore natural areas
- Enjoy more fruits & vegetables - especially from organic farms
- Don't waste food!
- Speak up for and fund the protection of threatened ecosystems
- Put the nature back into your nature strip

Circular Economy: Growing our Prosperity

A circular economy looks beyond the current take-make-waste extractive industrial model. It aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It involves gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system.

While approaches like renewable energy are critical to the climate response, it is sometimes less clear that the materials we buy and sell have a climate cost of their own. For example, the climate impact of the fashion industry is bigger than that of the airline industry.

To have a chance to reach the Paris Agreement targets we need to address our use of materials. The circular economy sits alongside 'de-growth' as a new paradigm for exploring a post-consumerist future. This is a future where resource extraction and economic growth decelerate in a planned manner, giving way to new social, political, and economic systems that are more harmonious with nature and the earth's finite resources.

Shrinking material demand is a prerequisite for a circular economy that functions within the Earth's limits. Concurrently, wealthy countries such as Australia will need to stop outsourcing a significant amount of our pollution to developing countries.

In Brimbank, we can consider the new economic opportunities on offer, for example, by working with local partners to support access to circular economy training and employment. Brimbank and Melbourne's west are well placed to support emerging circular economy specific industry and business.

Brimbank has long suffered from environmental equity issues such as the stockpiling and landfilling of waste. The circular economy provides us with the opportunity to be part of a positive paradigm change.

Going forward Council will explore ways for its procurement investments to contribute to the circular economy, and to connected issues such as social procurement. Council will also actively support and deliver waste and circular economy education.

Circular Economy Messages

Key Message

- Materials and management: Use less, choose wisely, quality pays for itself

Key Objectives

- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use
- Regenerate natural systems

Key Concepts

- Rethink/Think circular
- Share

Key Target

- Towards zero waste to landfill

Key tools

- Integrated waste management
- Product stewardship
- Local reuse solutions

Key evaluation question

- What evidence is there that the Brimbank economy is reducing the amount of waste to landfill, and maximising the reuse and recycling of other products?

What can you do?

- Rethink, reuse, repair, recycle, share, borrow and donate
- Buy ethically
- Support local businesses
- Collect friends and experiences, not just things
- Use less materials

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

Environmental equity refers to the myriad of environmental issues currently being experienced by local communities across Victoria. It covers the issues of climate change, legacy contamination, and the protection of biodiversity.

The increasing proliferation of these environmental issues affecting Brimbank and other local government areas provides the opportunity for councils to begin working together, and with the Victorian Government and others to address them in a collaborative and strategic manner.

The climate emergency provides a policy umbrella.

Council's implementation approach for the climate emergency will include:

Lens: the climate emergency will be a lens for all Council service provision

Embed: to embed the new lens across Council structural and cultural change will be undertaken

Building and delivering different things: implementation will lead to different priorities

The actions listed in this Plan seek to reflect the scale and speed of the task ahead.

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on Council and community progress towards achieving the position statement within this Plan is critical. In addition to annual reporting to Council on progress, reporting frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiative will be investigated to identify a preferred, whole-of-Council sustainability reporting approach.



Action Plan

The list of actions below is in addition to those actions endorsed through Council's existing strategies such as the Greenhouse Reduction Strategy, Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy, Climate Change Adaptation Framework, Biodiversity Strategy, Habitat Connectivity Plan, Walking and Cycling Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy.

Key

(I) Immediate, Year 1

(S) Short, Years 2-5 years

(O) Ongoing

* Actions that will be referred for budgetary consideration.

People Power Actions		
Action		
Control		
1	Establish a representative Brimbank Climate Emergency Citizens Assembly.	I
2	Establish a dedicated Brimbank Community Grants Program climate emergency stream.*	S
3	Actively and directly, involve youth in climate leadership roles, projects and training through existing youth programs and other opportunities.	O
4	Incorporate climate emergency leadership into the Brimbank Community Leadership Program.	S
5	Work with Brimbank schools and service providers through the Brimbank Teachers Environmental Network to support climate change education in classrooms and in events for children and youth.	O
6	Work with local emergency services and agencies to update Brimbank's emergency response preparedness to include the specific climate change risks and responses for heatwaves, fires, extreme rainfall weather, and other emergency events that will escalate during the climate emergency.	I
7	Collaborate with other councils and related networks and alliances, including the Western Greenhouse Alliance and the Climate Emergency Australia Network, to develop and run targeted and visible climate emergency advocacy campaigns that inspire our community and deliver results.	S
8	Embed climate related financial disclosure in Council reporting processes, relating to governance, strategy and risk management. (Using Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures framework)	S
Partner		
9	Foster an ethic of caring for Country (land, water, air and all living beings) as the necessary ethical foundation for the future, including through ongoing consultation and collaboration with Traditional Owners, and through the development and inclusion of a formal statement to be included in Council documents, meetings and ceremonies.	I
10	In partnership with Brimbank climate groups, develop resident climate emergency response templates and engagement and education programs to foster the widespread adoption of sustainable living behaviours and technologies.	S
11	Develop and deliver a decarbonisation program targeting large industrial emitters.*	S
12	Share climate emergency knowledge and information with local business associations as they work to improve business sustainability outcomes and profitability.	S

Advocacy

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 13 | Advocate to the Victorian and Australian governments, other local governments including those in Melbourne's west, to declare a climate emergency and to act in accordance with climate science. | I |
| 14 | Build on the Brimbank Social Justice Charter and 2020 Transforming Brimbank Environmental Equity Agenda to partner with community sector organisations to understand and respond to the needs of vulnerable groups, and advocate for a 'just transition' for local people affected by the transition to the new economy. | S |
| 15 | Advocate for the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability to report on climate action goals as part of the Victorian State of the Environment Report 2023, noting the report structure will be based around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. | S |

100% Renewable Actions

Action

Control

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 16 | Develop a Brimbank municipal emissions pathway to 'decarbonise' to zero net emissions in accordance with a 1.5 degree trajectory.* Target zero net emissions by 2030 for Council (certified carbon neutral) operations, and 2040 for the municipality. | I |
| 17 | Review Council programs including the capital works program to ensure emission reduction and adaptation opportunities are maximised.* | I |
| 18 | Enter a municipal power purchase agreement to procure 100% clean renewable electricity for all of Council's electricity and street lighting needs by 2021.* | I |
| 19 | Assess the feasibility of electric alternatives to building new, or upgrading old, gas infrastructure in Council buildings. | O |
| 20 | Commission a report on a pathway for Council divestment from financial interests related to fossil fuels.* | S |

Partner

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 21 | Seek opportunities to participate in innovative and emerging renewable energy projects such as micro-grids, virtual power plants, and environmental upgrade finance to residential properties. | O |
| 22 | Develop a 100% Renewable Brimbank campaign that promotes and, where possible, incentivises business and community uptake of grid renewable and distributed electricity resources (e.g. rooftop solar, batteries). | S |
| 23 | Actively seek, foster, and support opportunities for community renewable energy projects such as 'solar gardens'. Consider undertaking these projects on Council owned sites such as former landfills, and collaborate with the Victorian Government and others actions to promote community energy. | S |
| 24 | Investigate mechanisms to support community uptake of electric vehicles:

Measures may include advocating for electric vehicle charging infrastructure within or adjacent to new public and private developments; collaborating with car share/subscription/leasing/sales businesses to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles within Brimbank; and investigating options for Council to support the uptake of electric vehicles in Brimbank, including charging infrastructure.* | S |

Advocacy

25	Advocate to the Victorian Government for:	S
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable grid renewable energy, through price regulation such as the Victorian Default Offer. Affordable solar PV for renters living on low incomes e.g. by having no tenant co-payment under the Victorian Solar Homes program. Philanthropic 'solar giving' to be enabled, whereby excess residential and business rooftop energy can be donated to those in need. Enable gas free, climate friendly buildings and precincts through the Victorian planning system. Introduce a statewide planning provision for environmentally sustainable designed 'all electric homes'. 	
26	Advocate to the Australian Government to support the phase-out of fossil fuel vehicles leading to the implementation of a ban on sales from 2030 or earlier:	S
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures may include stringent minimum vehicle emissions standards for new vehicles. Provide tax incentives for lowest emissions vehicles and remove tax incentives that encourage unnecessary driving and vehicle purchase. Develop an electric and autonomous vehicle strategy to embed positive social and environmental outcomes. 	
27	Advocate to the Victorian Government to:	I
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Australian Carbon Dividend Plan or other carbon price approach through Victorian legislation as soon as possible and no later than the end of 2022. 	
28	Advocate to the Victorian Government to:	I
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a Victorian 100% Renewable Energy Target for 2030 through Victorian legislation and include a 'community energy project' percentage component. 	
29	Advocate to the Australian Government to align policies and targets to climate science:	O
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Australia's targets under the Paris Climate Agreement to align with a 1.5 degree trajectory and introduce climate change legislation inclusive of a zero net emissions target. 	
30	Advocate for no new fossil fuel projects in Victoria, and the 'just transition' of the fossil fuel based energy industry and/or other industry sectors such as forestry that will change as a result of addressing the ecological and climate emergency.	O
31	Advocate to the Victorian Government for:	S
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved service levels for public transport especially in areas where social disadvantage is prevalent. Metropolitan trains and buses to be 100% renewable energy powered as soon as possible (as per the tram network) and to more accepting of bikes. New regional trains to be hybrid powered so that they run on the electric network when in the city to reduce diesel pollution impacts on Brimbank residents. 	

Resilient Rebuild Actions		
Action		
Control		
32	Participate in place-based research to understand the health risks and likely impacts of climate change on services and communities e.g. heat mapping.*	S
33	Through the better streets program, investigate opportunities to redesign key streets to be walking and cycling friendly corridors that include high levels of shade trees, vegetation and water sensitive design infrastructure such as raingardens.	S
34	Undertake strategic work to support the potential for reduced parking rates in activity centres that are well served by public transport and local services with a focus on the Sunshine and St Albans Town Centres.	S
35	Renew the sustainable transport plan for Council staff and trial electric bikes.	I
36	Develop an urban design manual that specifies climate positive and sustainable products for open space and streetscape upgrades.	S
37	Develop a hold point in the design process of urban design projects to ensure sustainability targets are met.	S
38	Utilise Council's ESD principles to assess the design and specification of urban design projects prior to tendering.	I
Advocate		
39	Advocate that State and Federal infrastructure projects in Brimbank, such as the Sunshine Super Hub, maximise sustainability inclusions (e.g. as per Council endorsed urban design principles and developing biodiversity sensitive urban design principles), such as maximising vegetation, use of recycled materials and onsite renewable energy.	I
40	Advocate to the Australian Government for energy performance improvements to the National Construction Code, above the 6-star requirement, to enable the rapid transition to zero net emission and energy-positive buildings.	I
41	Advocate to the Victorian Government for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to make all Brimbank homes 'healthy homes' via energy efficiency retrofits, and for houses to be given an efficiency rating when sold or leased. Ongoing ambitious improvements to the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) planning standards in new homes and commercial and industrial developments to move towards zero carbon buildings and precincts. 	I
42	Advocate to the Australian Government to increase funding for health and emergency services, habitat restoration and wildlife care, and infrastructure to respond to heatwaves, droughts, bushfires and floods.	O
43	Advocate to the Victorian Government to develop an Integrated Transport Strategy as required by the <i>Transport Integration Act 2010</i> , to transition the way we move around the State to be zero emissions and predominantly based on public transport.	I

Green and Cool Actions		
Action		
Control		
44	Undertake urban ecology projects including through street tree planting, connecting habitat and putting the nature back into nature strips.	S
45	Provide guidance information for large tree management on private property.	S
46	Increase the use of local and environmentally friendly caterers for Council meetings and civic events, avoiding packaging waste and prioritising seasonal and plant-rich cuisine.	S
47	Undertake a research project with the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities and other partner agencies to analyse how to implement the Brimbank Oasis concept.	I
Partner		
48	Promote the environmental and health benefits of a low-waste plant-rich diet, including through support for community food growing and sharing initiatives such as community gardens, farmers markets and school food growing and cooking programs.	O
49	Undertake food waste reduction campaigns and promote the diversion of food and garden waste away from landfill.	O
50	Raise awareness with the local community about cooling using plants on private property.	S
51	Partner with the health and community sector to champion actions to address the health impacts of climate change such as heatwaves, and promote co-benefits such as reduced energy bills.	S
Advocate		
52	Advocate for the Victorian Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately end native forest logging in Melbourne's drinking water supply catchments. Develop a plan to increase Victorian ecosystem carbon stocks to a good status as measured in the Victorian State of the Environment Report. 	I
53	Advocate for the Victorian Government to: Request that the Victorian Environment Assessment Council undertake an investigation into the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representative of the protected area system for the Victorian Volcanic Plains including Brimbank.	I
54	Advocate to relevant authorities for increased resourcing and funding for the protection and or maintenance of Crown land containing significant biodiversity values or forming part of an identified habitat corridor within Brimbank.	O
55	Develop a targeted habitat gardening program to increase the overall quantity of indigenous vegetation and habitat features on private land.	S

Circular Economy Actions		
Action		
Control		
56	Review Council's procurement systems and processes to ensure they are consistent with best practice sustainable and ethical, circular and social procurement.	S
57	Set percentage-based targets for Council purchasing of recycled and recycled content products and accelerate changes to procurement guidelines.	S
58	Ensure Council events, festivals and offices are 'waste wise' and ensure plant-based food selections are available.	S
59	Develop a community education campaign about the move to the circular economy including individual's role e.g. using the correct kerbside bin.	I
60	Continue to support home composting and other measures that reduce waste to landfill and pollution and litter.	O
61	Develop an options paper to collaborate with local business to stimulate circular economy solutions to organic waste streams including food, cardboard and cooking oil.	I
Partner		
62	Collaborate with the higher education sector, research organisations and industries, to investigate ways of transforming reclaimed waste resources to engineered materials. For example, pilot using recycled plastic in the construction of bike paths as a replacement for steel reinforcement.	I
63	Promote the establishment of and participation in local sharing economy and reuse groups such as 'repair cafes' and 'tool libraries', and peer to peer sharing.	S
64	Actively promote food waste avoidance and re-use businesses.	S
Advocacy		
65	Advocate to the Australian Government for mandatory product stewardship requirements for all toxic and other relevant products to lower their lifecycle impacts, and begin the push for a lifecycle plan for all products and packaging.	I

Caring for Country



Brimbank City Council

Telephone 9249 4000

Email info@brimbank.vic.gov.au

Post PO Box 70, Sunshine, VIC 3020

Hearing or speech impaired?

- TTY dial **133 677**
- Speak & Listen **1300 555 727**
- www.relayservice.gov.au, then enter **03 9249 4000**



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

 www.facebook.com/brimbankcouncil

 www.twitter.com/brimbankcouncil

 www.youtube.com/brimbankcitycouncil



131 450

Local call costs apply



Brimbank Chat

brimbank.vic.gov.au

www.brimbank.vic.gov.au

