

Boroondara Council Climate Priorities and Actions

Kooyong Climate Change Alliance

March 2021

This paper outlines key climate priorities and related actions identified by the KCCA which we believe should be pursued by the Boroondara Council. It expands on our paper on climate priorities (dated November 2020) previously provided to Councillors and officers.

Core priorities for the Council's Climate Action Plan should include:

- Strong Council leadership on the climate, including the immediate declaration of a climate emergency
- Ambitious emissions reduction targets for Council operations and the Boroondara community
- A comprehensive plan of action to deliver emissions reductions and support community adaptation to climate change
- Sufficient resources and appropriate expertise for preparation and implementation of the plan.

More detailed priorities and suggested actions are described below in five categories:

1. Leadership and advocacy
2. Council operations
3. Community emissions
4. Community adaptation
5. Governance.

Most of the actions are described at a relatively high level, and may require modification in the light of more detailed analysis. The lists of actions for each priority are not intended to be exhaustive, and Council should be aiming to develop creative new initiatives for inclusion in the plan. Similarly, the examples of actions and targets from other Councils are intended to provide context, and do not necessarily represent an appropriate level of ambition.

1. Leadership and advocacy

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
Establish the Council as a leader in driving a strong response to the climate emergency in Boroondara.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly acknowledge the seriousness of the climate crisis by declaring a climate emergency. Commit to a climate emergency response (covering Council operations and wider community action) consistent with limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5° C. Publicly celebrate Council and community achievements in addressing the climate crisis. 	<p>97 Australian Councils and the ACT have declared a climate emergency, including 32 Councils in Victoria. 4 of the 6 Councils adjacent to Boroondara have declared an emergency.</p> <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the need for ‘transformational change’ that is ‘fair and equitable’, with large scale action across all levels of government and the community. <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to become a ‘regional leader in climate change action’ and to ‘enable and inspire others’.
Advocate for strong climate action within the Boroondara community and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for an emergency response to the climate crisis by the State and Federal governments, including adoption of ambitious emissions reduction targets. Collaborate with other Councils and local government organisations to increase the effectiveness of Council’s advocacy. Build community alliances and work with non-government organisations (local, national and international) to advocate for strong climate action. 	<p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with other Councils and organisations to mobilise State and Federal governments to act on the climate emergency. Build local engagement on climate action broadly and deeply. <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with others in the climate movement to increase impact. <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a Climate Advocacy Plan Review biennially.

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Ensure an assessment of climate impacts is an integral part of all Council decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Councillor and officer education and training, covering the urgency of climate action, the role of local government, opportunities for each department and the key deliverables in the Council’s Climate Action Plan. • Review the climate impacts of Council practices and procedures and implement changes to maximise positive effects on the climate. • Ensure implementation of the Climate Action Plan is a priority for all Council departments. 	<p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for climate emergency action will be shared across the entire organisation and community, led by a Climate Oversight Group.
<p>Finalise a Climate Action Plan which includes ambitious targets and initiatives that rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Boroondara and plots a clear path to net zero emissions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Councillors and senior executives provide clear leadership in driving the development of an ambitious plan. • Ensure adequate resources and expertise are available to enable timely completion of the plan. 	<p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support innovation that can be scaled up. • Develop a drawdown plan to remove the community’s ‘fair share’ of excess CO₂.
<p>Develop a substantial budget to support implementation of the Climate Action Plan, commensurate with the magnitude of the climate threat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear budget lines with adequate funding to deliver Council’s climate commitments. • Prioritise funding and implementation of cost effective initiatives with high impact. • Where possible, direct COVID recovery expenditure to initiatives with positive climate and environmental results. 	<p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Build back better’ as part of the recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic. • Provide substantial grant funds to stimulate community-driven climate action.

2. Council operations

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
Set an ambitious target to achieve zero emissions from Council operations (earlier than 2025).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a target of net zero emissions from Council operations before 2025, with minimal use of off-sets. • Explore the feasibility of more timely emissions reporting (with minimum lag). • Obtain independent certification of emissions reporting and net zero status. 	<p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon-neutral in 2012 <p>City of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon neutral in 2011-12 <p>City of Moreland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Carbon Climate Emergency Plan adopted in 2019
Further develop programs to increase the energy efficiency and reduce emissions of existing Council facilities, with the aim of achieving zero emissions as soon as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Council facilities to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions, and implement continuing improvements in energy efficiency to minimise energy use. • Procure all Council electricity from 100% renewable sources of generation. • Install solar panels wherever feasible on all Council facilities. • As soon as feasible, phase out natural gas use at all Council facilities and replace with (renewable) electric power, prioritizing facilities which use the most gas. • Ensure all new Council facilities are designed for zero carbon emissions. 	<p>City of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP) developed by Council supplies itself and some other major commercial users with 100% renewable electricity <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council’s electricity is 100% renewable • All municipal buildings to transition from gas to entirely renewable electricity by 2030 <p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new council buildings to be gas free <p>City of Moreland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 5 years lift its electricity generation from PV solar panels from 3MW to 11MW

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
Convert the Council fleet to electric vehicles as soon as is practicable, and introduce a similar requirement for all Council service providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a detailed plan for the replacement of all Council petrol/diesel vehicles in all categories by electric vehicles, with all new vehicle purchases from 2021-22 to be electric (or if necessary hybrid) where a suitable vehicle is available. • As part of the plan, require all contractors/service providers to convert to electric vehicles as soon as possible. 	<p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car fleet to be 100% electric by 2025
Complete conversion of public lighting to LEDs, including those jointly owned by VicRoads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise agreement with VicRoads on conversion of jointly owned lights to LED and complete the conversion as soon as possible. • Convert all other public lighting to LED. 	
Review and update all Council procedures and practices to ensure that they take into account potential climate impacts and promote emissions reductions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update procurement procedures and practices to ensure that due weight is given to suppliers' commitment to reducing emissions and sustainability. • Adopt contracting standards to ensure that all service providers and suppliers are carbon neutral. • Where feasible, use carbon neutral building materials. 	<p>City of Moreland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability criteria in Procurement Policy include energy/climate change (energy efficiency, emissions reduction).

3. Community emissions

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Set an ambitious target for net zero community emissions from all sources across Boroondara (no later than 2040).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a target of net zero community emissions from Boroondara no later than 2040, with minimal use of off-sets. • Establish a process for reliable annual measurement of community emissions and report publicly (with the minimum feasible time lag). • Obtain independent certification of community emissions reporting and net zero status. 	<p>Community emissions targets:</p> <p>Net Zero by 2040 City of Melbourne City of Moreland</p> <p>Net Zero by 2030 City of Glen Eira City of Yarra</p> <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula 30% reduction by 2025 65% by 2030 80% by 2035 Net Zero by 2040</p>
<p>Strengthen and develop engagement with residents and community groups to promote and support climate action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop educational and other information programs to increase community awareness of the climate crisis and to engage and assist community members in taking action to reduce emissions. • Enhance promotion of Council programs facilitating community climate action and public reporting of outcomes. • Establish a community ‘environment hub’ to provide a local focus for climate and broader environmental activities and a resource for school groups. • Promote community involvement in Council planning and implementation of climate initiatives. • Develop partnerships with local organisations to encourage grass roots climate initiatives and where appropriate support them with funding. 	<p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire to participate in at least 50% of community led climate events. <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Connectors Program using 200 community “influencers”. • By 2024 engage 10,000 people to take action on the climate emergency. • New climate action stream for Council grants. <p>City of Moreland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Carbon Moreland website. <p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote switching from gas to electricity and promote divestment awareness. <p>City of Glen Eira & City of Banyule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established youth climate action groups.

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Introduce financial incentives for residents to reduce household emissions by improving energy efficiency, installing solar panels, transitioning from natural gas or purchasing green energy. Incentive programs should cover single dwellings, units and apartment buildings, and have a particular focus on low income households. Options for delivering incentives could include direct assistance, financing with re-payment via rates (including Environmental Upgrade Finance) or facilitation of group purchases at reduced cost.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide residents with access to finance for household sustainability improvements (including improved energy efficiency, installation of solar panels etc.) via Environmental Upgrade Finance or other mechanisms. • Provide up-front interest free finance for low income/pensioner households to install solar panels, energy efficiency measures etc. • Expand the current energy advice scheme to provide full household energy audits at no cost (possibly via rate reductions) conditional on adoption of some of the recommended improvements by the householder, and giving preference to low income households and vulnerable residents. • Facilitate residential solar installations by selecting endorsed suppliers and negotiating bulk deals for residents (possibly via the Solar Savers scheme). • Encourage and facilitate energy agreements for apartment buildings, particularly solar panel installation. • Facilitate and, where appropriate, financially support community energy initiatives including micro grids, virtual power plants, community batteries and group renewable power purchasing agreements. • Establish a program to promote transition from natural gas, including financial support for low income households. • Establish an active Council outreach campaign to advise residents (including tenants and landlords) on options to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions, including information on relevant Council programs (education, audits, bulk buy, financial assistance etc.). 	<p>36 Councils offer Environmental Upgrade Finance: https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-a-business/finance-energy-upgrades-in-you-business/environmental-upgrade-finance-for-business/councils-and-financiers-that-offer-environmental-upgrade-finance</p> <p>The Solar Savers program led by the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) and Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) helps households install affordable rooftop solar. Currently participating Victorian Councils include Banyule, Nillumbik, Glen Eira, Monash, Yarra Ranges, Knox, Maribyrnong and Maroondah. https://solarsavers.org.au/about-solar-savers/</p> <p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double residential rooftop solar in 5 years. • Program for solar installation, with a bulk buy stream for all residents and a rates stream for low income households with 10 year interest free payback. <p>City of Yarra & City of Moreland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double residential rooftop solar by 2024 <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of all buildings in the LGA to have solar by 2030. <p>City of Banyule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program of free home energy audits based on the Victorian Energy Efficiency Scorecard.

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a household survey to identify the obstacles to improving energy efficiency and moving to 100% renewable energy and develop additional programs (including financial assistance) to help overcome them, with a particular focus on vulnerable people and low income households. 	
<p>Further engage with local businesses of all sizes to encourage and assist them to reduce their emissions, for example by providing advice, facilitating group purchase arrangements and assisting them to access Environmental Upgrade Finance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish education and information programs for local businesses to increase awareness of the climate crisis and to engage and assist businesses in taking action to reduce emissions; include an active outreach campaign to advise business of options and promote Council climate programs. Identify the major emitters in Boroondara and establish close working relationships to facilitate and support them to reduce their emissions. Provide businesses with access to finance for sustainability improvements (including improved energy efficiency, installation of solar panels etc.) via Environmental Upgrade Finance. Facilitate energy audits for business. Facilitate business solar installations by selecting endorsed suppliers and negotiating bulk deals where relevant. Encourage and facilitate energy agreements for multi-occupancy commercial buildings, particularly solar panel installation. Facilitate business energy initiatives including micro grids, virtual power plants, community batteries and group renewable power purchasing agreements. Establish a program to promote transition by local businesses from natural gas, possibly including financial incentives. 	<p>City of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melbourne Renewable Energy Project 2 PPA for business. <p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiency and Sustainability Health Checks and Green Business Directory. <p>36 Councils offer Environmental Upgrade Finance: https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-a-business/finance-energy-upgrades-in-you-business/environmental-upgrade-finance-for-business/councils-and-financiers-that-offer-environmental-upgrade-finance</p>

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Promote and provide incentives for the use of electric vehicles/personal transport, for example through installation of public charging points or parking concessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert public car parks to ‘solar carparks’ where feasible by installing vehicle charging stations, solar panels and batteries. • Facilitate or install charging stations at other locations, especially adjacent to shopping strips and Council buildings. • Introduce parking concessions for electric vehicles, including dedicated spaces. • Work with commercial car park providers to establish solar carparks, equipped with solar panels, batteries and electric vehicle charging points. • Facilitate provision of vehicle charging points at apartment buildings, multi-dwelling developments and shared commercial facilities. • Pilot a trial of suitable e-scooter and other electric mobility devices within the municipality. • Investigate/sponsor an affordable electric bike share scheme. • Provide more scooter and bike/electric bike Council parking spaces (on and off-street) close to major shops. 	<p>City of Bayside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Emergency Plan includes theme: ‘Move to zero carbon transport’. • Investigating charging sites and installing where possible by June 2021. • Exploring options to reduce rates for residential parking permits for electric vehicles by June 2021.
<p>Encourage greater use of active transport options (cycling, walking) as an alternative to private cars, for example by further infrastructure improvements and parking restrictions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Walking Strategy and update the Bicycle Strategy as part of an overarching Integrated Transport Strategy for Boroondara (replacing the outdated 2006 strategy), with clear links to the Climate Action Plan; see also the following Priority. • Install (or advocate for installation of) physically protected bicycle lanes on appropriate major roads. • Undertake ‘bike friendly’ upgrades of appropriate minor roads to improve safety and route connectivity, including measures to reduce vehicle traffic volumes and speeds, and safe bike lanes. 	<p>City of Moreland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their Integrated Transport Strategy 2019 includes continued implementation of 40 km/h speed limit on all local streets, with trial of 30 km/h in two areas. <p>26 Councils (including Boroondara) belong to the Metropolitan Transport Forum; obtaining funding for the Victorian Cycling Strategy is a priority in the Forum’s Strategic Directions 2021-22.</p> <p>Examples of good practice case studies from</p>

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety by separating walking and bike paths along busy portions of trails (e.g. by relocating commuter cycling traffic to safe and direct on-road routes). • Support (contribute funding for) construction of the Box Hill to Hawthorn shared trail and advocate for/support completion of the Anniversary Trail (bridge at Toorak Road). • Work with the Metropolitan Transport Forum and other Councils to secure State Government funding to implement the Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28 (including liaison with the Department of Transport’s Active Transport Unit). • Upgrade footpaths, bike lanes and shared paths to be fully accessible for people with disabilities, older people and other disadvantaged groups. • Advocate for VicRoads/State Government to install more safe pedestrian/bike crossings on major roads, and for a change in traffic signal focus to reliability for all users, rather than traffic speed. • Work with the State Government to reduce speed limits on local roads to 40 kmh, and explore the option for a further reduction to 30 kmh. • Prioritise pedestrian, cyclist and public transport movements over cars in assessing or approving Traffic Management Plans and Construction Traffic Management Plans. • Develop a comprehensive program to increase the proportion of school children travelling by active transport, working with schools and the Victorian Government (e.g. to improve cycling routes and facilities, as per the Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28). • Convert more car parking in shopping strips to pedestrian and outdoor dining use with better bike 	<p>Europe/UK: Handbook of good practice case studies for promotion of walking and cycling</p>

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
	<p>access, through dialogue with local traders and including review of parking time limits to increase the number of potential customers per time period.</p>	
<p>Help reduce private car usage by promoting public transport and ride share/car share options and creating disincentives for private car use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set targets for mode shift from private cars to public transport and active transport, and advocate (with the Metropolitan Transport Forum) for the State Government to adopt more ambitious targets. • Include initiatives to encourage public transport use and ride sharing/car sharing in a new Integrated Transport Strategy for Boroondara (see also the previous Priority). • Identify gaps in public transport services, accessibility and connectivity in Boroondara, and advocate for improvements (including better bus connections at train stations). • Include bus advocacy in routine liaison with MPs, Department of Transport and other agencies, and indicate support for the Victorian Government’s patronage target (as per the Metropolitan Transport Forum’s <i>Strategic Directions</i> plan). • Upgrade relevant Council infrastructure to improve safety, access, shelter etc. for public transport users, particularly women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. • Advocate for additional accessible tram stops to provide safe and viable transport options for vulnerable members of the community. • Review, update and promote the Council’s 2013 car share policy, and extend it to include Council facilitation of ride share options for the community. • Introduce incentives for Boroondara Council staff 	<p>26 Councils (including Boroondara) belong to the Metropolitan Transport Forum; the Forum’s <i>Strategic Directions 2021-22</i> includes strategies for bus advocacy and increasing State targets for active and public transport mode share.</p>

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
	<p>to travel to and from work using public transport, walking and cycling, and discontinue free parking for Council staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose plans for new or upgraded freeways, in concert with other Councils and local government organisations where possible. • Advocate for the State Government to undertake an anti-idling education campaign for car and truck drivers (if possible with the Metropolitan Transport Forum and other Councils). 	
<p>Advocate for policies and projects to reduce carbon emissions from freight transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the State Government to pursue strategies to reduce truck traffic on the freeways and roads in Boroondara, including freight rail and freight consolidation centres. • Advocate for the State Government to introduce incentives to promote electric trucks (e.g. reduced registration fees, curfew exemptions). • Promote a focus on urban freight emissions in the Metropolitan Transport Forum. 	<p>Example from US Climate Action Plans Urban Goods Movement and Local Climate Action Plans: Assessing Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Urban Freight Transportation</p>
<p>Promote circular economy principles and move towards zero community waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the recent FOGO rollout by expediting the implementation of the State government's <i>Beyond Zero Waste Strategy</i> in Boroondara, drawing on State government grants where possible. • Further develop community awareness and sustainability education programs to promote circular economy principles. • Collaborate with other Councils to advocate for State and Federal governments to further develop waste reduction and recycling strategies, including exploration of new technologies, incentives etc. 	

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Join with other Councils to advocate for changes in the planning scheme and National Construction Code with the ultimate aim of mandating net zero emissions for new building development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE). • Work with CASBE, MAV and other local government bodies to advocate for the State Government to change the planning scheme to mandate net zero emissions in all new buildings and developments. • Work with CASBE and other local government bodies to advocate for net zero emissions requirements in the National Construction Code. 	<p>30 Councils are members of CASBE, including Banyule, Manningham, Stonnington, Whitehorse & Yarra: https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/environment-water/casbe/about-casbe/casbe-membership</p> <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with ‘local and State government partners to amend the planning scheme’ to introduce ‘zero carbon standards’ for new developments.

4. Community adaptation

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Expand Council programs to improve the community’s capacity to cope with the impact of climate change, especially extreme temperatures, drought and flooding. Special attention should be paid to vulnerable people (the elderly, the chronically ill, low income households etc.), including provision of financial help where appropriate (e.g. for housing upgrades or repairs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive Boroondara Climate Adaptation Plan, covering Council infrastructure, open space and the community more broadly. • Ensure relevant Council staff and service providers give priority to identifying residents vulnerable to climate change impacts (and have the necessary skills to do so). • Regularly review and update the advice provided to residents identified as vulnerable to climate change impacts. • Develop a program (possibly in partnership with aged care and community care providers) to assist upgrading the homes of low income and vulnerable residents to improve their climate resilience (e.g. improved insulation, door and window seals, fans, blinds). • Support climate adaptation upgrades at rental properties and multi-unit developments by facilitating agreements between tenants, owners and property managers. • Educate all sectors of the community on climate change risks and encourage preparedness. • Conduct an education program on climate change health impacts and coping strategies for health practitioners, in collaboration with key stakeholders. 	<p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance upgrades to improve the energy efficiency and climate resilience of the homes of the most vulnerable community members; target 60 homes in the first year (2020), increasing over time. <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a ‘Climate Change Adaptation Plan’ to address the full range of climate related health impacts, including risks to specific population cohorts, assessing any gaps in service provision and advocating for action. • By 2021, develop a robust and measurable ‘Social Impact Assessment’ report card to set a baseline for the Mornington Peninsula to measure social resilience to climate change. • Review the Victorian Heat Health Plan and develop an ‘Extreme Weather Health Plan’ that addresses heat waves and extreme cold.

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Set an ambitious target to increase canopy tree cover in the municipality and develop a program of increased tree planting by Council, preservation of existing cover on private land and incentives to promote further private planting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the existing Tree Strategy and Tree Strategy Action Plan, expanding their scope to include tree cover on private as well as public land, making climate change mitigation and adaptation a key theme/priority and including detailed canopy cover targets. • Identify areas requiring increased tree canopy and potential maximum tree coverage across the municipality using urban heat island hot spots for guidance. Based on this identification use a precinct planning and engagement approach to maximise outcomes. • Ensure planting selection guides prioritise climate-change resilience, longevity, biodiversity and canopy coverage maturity. • Increase support for community groups to plant and maintain trees in parks and potential nature reserves. • Use best practice when developing and supporting growing trees, including passive watering. • Prioritise canopy cover in all strategic documents including car parking and transport strategies. • Encourage planting on private land consistent with the above advice on plant selection and consider introducing incentives for private planting, including supply of seedlings. • Advocate for more effective penalties for illegal tree removal and develop creative deterrence strategies. 	<p>City of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double canopy cover from 22% to 40% by 2040. <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2040, increase tree canopy cover for municipality to 25% (from 17% in 2014). <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2020 and 2030, 1 million tonnes of atmospheric carbon to be sequestered on the Peninsula through terrestrial and aquatic plantings and improved soil conditions. • By 2030, vegetation to be in place to increase shade to 45% in urban public spaces. <p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow urban forest by 7,600 trees to increase tree coverage on public land by 15%.

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Preserve existing green open space and explore opportunities to increase its extent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Open Space Strategy 2013, making climate adaptation a key priority and setting targets for the extent of and access to green open space. • Ensure all new developments include provision for access to local green open space. 	<p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to open space within 500m of residents, and within 300m of residents in densely populated areas; to be achieved through creation of a Darebin Nature Trust, capitalised with \$10 million. • Increase the public open space levy to create more open space, particularly in urban renewal areas. <p>WHO standard of minimum 10m² per person and 15 minutes' walk from nearest green space</p> <p>The Fishermans Bend Public Spaces Report recommends access to open space in safe walking distance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District (5-15Ha -15 minutes) • Precinct (1.2-5Ha - 10 minutes) • Neighborhood (500m²-1.2Ha -5 minutes) • Pocket Parks (200-400m² - 2-5 minutes) • Linear Parks (200 m²).
<p>Further develop storm water harvesting to reduce reliance on mains water for open space irrigation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and add to the targets in the Integrated Water Management Strategy 2014-2024. • Continue to improve water management, including further initiatives for water efficiency, recycling, stormwater harvesting, water gardens, rainwater tanks, de-paving and increasing water permeability. • Ensure all public open spaces maximise use of stormwater for irrigation. 	<p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2024, 15% of total water consumption by Council to come from alternative sources (e.g. harvested rainwater and stormwater). • Set targets for improved water quality through an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) <p>City of Darebin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Council's use of water from non-drinking water sources by 30 megalitres by 2025.

5. Governance

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
<p>Establish a standing Community Advisory Committee on the environment, with a specific brief to oversee the implementation and further development of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate resourcing for the new Community Advisory Committee on the environment, giving it the power to establish working groups and consult relevant experts. 	<p>City of Banyule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Banyule Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC) helps Council develop and implement long-term environmental policy, goals and strategies. <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC) is a community committee representing interests pertaining to climate change and other local environmental issues to provide advice to Council on action towards these issues.
<p>Enhance the monitoring and public reporting of climate related performance measures and actions as part of the Climate Action Plan implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission a study to ensure that robust baseline data on municipality-wide emissions is available. • Investigate the feasibility of improving the timeliness of community and Council specific emissions reporting. • Establish reliable mechanisms to track the impact of Council’s climate initiatives to enable timely reporting of progress against targets. • Introduce a quarterly CEO report to the Council on climate action progress. • Provide (as a minimum) a detailed annual public report on the Climate Action Plan implementation, including results for all performance measures. • In addition, provide regular public progress reports on the plan (at least quarterly) in the Council newsletter and website. 	<p>City of Banyule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually monitor impact and effectiveness of plan actions and publicly report via website and annual State of the Environment Report. <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly report on key actions via Council’s annual corporate reporting and a range of communications channels (website, newsletter etc.) <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation and progress against target reported in Annual Report and Quarterly Community reports.

Priorities	Actions	What other Councils are doing – some examples
Strengthen internal Council processes to ensure that climate action becomes a priority throughout the organisation and in all its dealings with the public, business and other government bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint dedicated (additional) staff to oversee/facilitate the Climate Action Plan implementation with the authority to drive the implementation across the organisation. • Ensure all staff are aware that climate action is a key priority for the Council, and that climate implications should be considered in all Council activities. • Include Climate Action Plan deliverables in the CEO's and Directors' annual KPI's. • Adopt as standard procedure the consideration of climate impacts in all Council decision making. 	<p>City of Banyule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the thinking behind the CAP and climate adaptation into all strategic documents. <p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed climate resilience into all Council work. • Support staff to understand the climate emergency and deliver climate responses as part of their roles. <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed climate emergency priorities into all Shire decisions, programs, policies, strategies and actions.
Ensure Council investments are not supporting the fossil fuel industry or major emitters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise a Council ethical investment policy which would prevent Council from investing in fossil fuel companies or major emitters, including via superannuation funds and banks which finance the fossil fuel industry. 	<p>City of Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divest from banks and other institutions that invest in fossil fuel industries. <p>Shire of Mornington Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divest from activities that cause or promote environmental harm.

Other Council Climate Plans consulted included:

City of Bayside: <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/climate-emergency-your-questions-answered>

City of Banyule: <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Waste-environment/Environment-sustainability/Climate-action>

City of Darebin: <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Your-Say/Advocacy/Climate-Emergency#What-Council-is-doing-to-take-action>

City of Moreland: <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/environment-bins/environment/climate-change/climate-emergency/>

City of Yarra: <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/news/2020/06/15/yarra-council-commits-to-ambitious-climate-emergency-plan>

Shire of Mornington Peninsula: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Strategies-Plans-Policies/Strategy-Plan-Listing/Climate-Emergency-Plan>