



Image: Kevin Shyman

Climate Emergency Response

Short Term Corporate Action Plan

Introduction

We recognise, both globally and locally, a more significant and urgent climate change response is required. A warming climate is already increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and this will worsen if global greenhouse gas emissions continue on the current trajectory. Leading climate scientists recognise the need for an emergency response to both rapidly slow the rate of global warming and adapt to the impacts we are already experiencing. At least 85 Councils in Australia and 1317 governments internationally have declared a climate emergency committing them to take stronger action.

In 2019 Council received petitions with more than 1000 signatures from community members seeking leadership on climate change. Council subsequently declared a climate emergency at its 27 August 2019 Council Meeting. This commits Council to develop a Climate Emergency Response and reaffirms its commitment to set corporate environmental sustainability targets. This includes the adoption of the One Planet Living principles to guide corporate responses to climate change. The Climate Emergency Response will complement Council's work to establish and pursue its corporate environmental targets for energy, emissions, waste, water, land use and biodiversity.

Council's Climate Emergency Response will be delivered in four parts:

- **Part 1** - A Short Term Corporate Action Plan that identifies initiatives across the organisation that can be implemented quickly and within existing resources.
- **Part 2** - A Long Term Corporate Action Plan that identifies initiatives across the organisation requiring implementation over a longer timeframe and potentially requiring additional resources.
- **Part 3** – Develop an approach for, and define Council's role in, community focussed action in the Climate Emergency Response.
- **Part 4** - Develop a community focussed response plan in partnership with the community.

This Short Term Corporate Action Plan is the first part of Council's Climate Emergency Response. It demonstrates our commitment to immediate action within our existing frameworks and budgets. Our Long Term Corporate Action Plan will propose actions that require larger scale systemic changes and budget commitments. The Short Term Plan provides a snapshot of how Council is currently using resources to respond to the climate emergency, including existing projects that will have a positive impact, along with newly identified actions that can be implemented quickly. It serves as a brief precursor to, and will inform, the Long Term Corporate Action Plan, due to be delivered by 30 June 2020.

The actions in this plan are grouped under three key directions:

1. Reduce emissions

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that occur from our operations and decisions, with a focus on renewable energy, transport and emissions from our landfill

2. Adapt to the changing climate

Adapt, by increasing resilience, to our priority climate change vulnerabilities, with a focus on extreme weather

3. Engage and mobilise people

Empower our people in the shaping of our organisation's response to the climate emergency and actively engage the community

A more detailed discussion of the key directions, climate emergency context, Council's current greenhouse gas profile and greater analysis of the impact of identified actions, will be provided in the Long Term Corporate Action Plan. Similarly, a more detailed discussion of community responses to the climate emergency, and Council's role in supporting them, will be provided in parts three and four of our Climate Emergency Response.

Short Term Corporate Actions

The actions listed in this plan will be delivered within existing resources and by 30 June 2020. They will inform the development of the Long Term Corporate Action Plan and provide a basis on which to build. The actions detailed below describe the work to be done, the area of Council responsible for delivery, and an indication of what corporate targets and/or One Plant Living principle the action aligns with. Although many of the actions listed below apply to more than one of the three key directions they are listed under the direction for which they will provide the primary benefit.

Reduce emissions

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that occur from our operations and decisions, with a focus on renewable energy, transport and emissions from our landfill

Action	Lead and supporting Council units
Establish Council's Greenhouse Gas Emission baseline in line with the global Greenhouse Gas Emission Protocol carbon accounting methodology and commit to ongoing emissions reporting.	Lead: Environmental Sustainability Support: Waste Management
Explore opportunities for offsetting emissions on land within the shire.	Lead: Environment Support: Environmental Sustainability
Continue the installation of solar PV on Council buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the current projects of 135kW across four sites by 30 June 2020; and • Identify the priority council buildings on which to install solar PV next financial year and submit a budget bid. 	Lead: Environmental Sustainability Support: Project Management Office
Establish a solar PV audit and maintenance program to ensure the ongoing efficient operation of Council's existing solar PV assets.	Lead: Facilities Management Support: Environmental Sustainability
Undertake a fleet assessment, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure requirements for the short, mid and long term, to inform the development of a 10 year fleet transition plan to zero emissions.	Lead: Fleet Support: Environmental Sustainability
Implement the shire wide kerbside waste collection reforms including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food organics waste collection to divert residential organic waste from landfill • introduction of a fourth bin for greater source separation and improved recycling outcomes • education and community engagement for waste reduction and improved recycling behaviours. 	Lead: Waste Management Support: Environmental Sustainability, Project Management Office
Continue to be open to possibilities for energy recovery from Anglesea Landfill methane gas flare.	Lead: Waste Management Support: Environmental Sustainability
Investigate options for recycling of glass locally.	Lead: Waste Management
Continue the work of the Renewable Energy Taskforce with a focus on engaging the commercial sector to take up renewable energy.	Lead: Environmental Sustainability Support: Economic Development
Raise the profile of Council's Local Food Program in the context of the climate emergency, with a focus on encouraging low carbon diets,	Lead: Environmental Sustainability

<p>eliminating food waste and adapting local food systems in a warming climate.</p> <p>Establish a working group and begin the development of a Climate Adapted Policy for Council Buildings.</p>	<p>Support: Economic Development, Community Health and Development</p> <p>Lead: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Support: Emergency Management, Recreation and Open Space, Facilities and Open Space, Project Management Office, Procurement</p>
<p>Integrate climate emergency considerations with Council's Pathway Strategy review to identify and elevate the priority of active transport opportunities.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for installation of bicycle racks at bus shelters to improve active transport connections.</p> <p>Build on the Walk to School Program to improve active transport at the shire's schools.</p>	<p>Lead: Engineering Services, Design and Traffic</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Lead: Design and Traffic</p> <p>Support: Community Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Lead: Community Health and Development</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p>
<p>Review the Infrastructure Design Manual Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines and their potential application to our shire.</p> <p>Review upcoming contracts to include options for use of recycled materials for asphalt and spray seals in 2020/21.</p> <p>Identify local providers of recycled materials for use in infrastructure projects, including options to incorporate use of recycled materials into construction activities that use crushed rock, sand, pipes and concrete.</p>	<p>Lead: Infrastructure Development</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Lead: Strategic Asset Management</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Lead: Strategic Asset Management</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p>
<p>Explore divestment options within Council's Investment Policy, with the aim to actively invest with fossil fuel free financial institutions.</p> <p>Continue to work with DEWLP on the Distinctive Areas Landscape project to prioritise the protection of biodiversity assets in our Shire as they come under increasing pressure from climate impacts.</p> <p>Review the existing controls within the Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme that relate to climate change and raise awareness of them.</p>	<p>Lead: Finance</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Lead: Strategic Planning</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Lead: Statutory Planning</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability</p>

Adapt to the changing climate

Adapt, by increasing resilience, to our priority climate change vulnerabilities, with a focus on extreme weather

Action	Lead and supporting Council units
<p>Raise the priority of emergency management within the organisation and commence review of our emergency management arrangements/programs in the context of the climate emergency and the devastating fires experienced across the country this summer.</p>	<p>Lead: Emergency Management</p> <p>Support: Environmental Sustainability, Environment, Planning</p>
<p>Review Council's Draft Climate Adaptation Plan in readiness to adopt by the end of 2020.</p>	<p>Lead: Environment and Community Safety</p> <p>Support: Governance and Risk</p>
<p>Investigate opportunities to increase recycled water usage in Council's operational activities with the aim of reducing corporate potable water usage.</p>	<p>Lead: Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Support: Civil Works/Engineering Services</p>

Commence the development of a Stormwater Management Strategy with a key focus on adapting to climate change impacts including increased risk and severity of flooding and waterway degradation.	Lead: Design and Traffic Support: Environmental Sustainability, Emergency Management, Strategic Asset Management, Development Engineering
Develop and implement maintenance and asset rectification programs for Council managed Water Sensitive Urban Design assets, such as wetlands, sediment ponds and rain gardens.	Lead: Strategic Asset Management Support: Environmental Sustainability
Develop a street tree revegetation project for the township of Winchelsea to reduce heat island effect and enhance biodiversity and submit a budget bid.	Lead: Facilities and Open Space Support: Environment
Build local evidence base on the impacts of climate change on health in readiness to integrate climate change with Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan	Lead: Community Health and Development Support: Environmental Sustainability

Engage and mobilise people

Empower our people in the shaping of our organisation's response to the climate emergency and actively engage the community

Action	Lead and supporting Council units
Allocate the Towards Environmental Leadership Program funding in the short term to the development of both corporate and community focussed climate emergency responses.	Lead: Environmental Sustainability
Mobilise staff across the organisation through climate emergency education, engage them in the response and continue to develop corporate knowledge about the climate emergency.	Lead: Environmental Sustainability Support: Executive Management Team and Leadership Group
Launch Council's redeveloped Towards Environmental Leadership website as a key platform for communicating, reporting and engaging on the climate emergency.	Lead: Environmental Sustainability Support: Communications and Engagement, Project Management Office
Commit to ongoing communication about our climate emergency response including demonstrating our commitments in this plan and our achievements and challenges in its delivery.	Lead: Environmental Sustainability Support: Communications and Engagement
Engage with businesses during the development of the Economic Development Strategy to discuss and capture climate emergency responses.	Lead: Economic Development Support: Environmental Sustainability
Include climate emergency in Council's advocacy priorities and continue to respond to important advocacy opportunities as they arise. For example, input into government policies or developments that may support or undermine a climate emergency response.	Lead: Community Relations Support: Environmental Sustainability
Provide guidance to Council report authors on how their recommendations relate to Council's climate emergency by including a link to a 'Climate Emergency Guide' document in the 'Environment' section of the Council Report Template.	Lead: Environment and Community Safety Support: Governance
Establish a youth climate awareness network as part of the Our Living Futures Project.	Lead: Youth Development Support: Environmental Sustainability
Review Early Years Sustainability Policy and create work instructions with more direction on climate emergency response.	Lead: Early Years and Youth Support: Environmental Sustainability

Embed climate emergency consideration in Council's Casuarina Program (community leadership and place based community development program) and encourage environmental projects	Lead: Community Health and Development Support: Environmental Sustainability
Actively encourage climate emergency response projects for Council's small grants program.	Lead: Community Health and Development Support: Environmental Sustainability
Direct the Arts Development Seed Fund to grants for 'Creative Action for the Climate Emergency'	Lead: Arts Development Support: Environmental Sustainability
Incorporate a climate emergency module into the Learning and Development and induction program.	Lead: Learning and Development Support: Environmental Sustainability
Review the project management framework and charter template to integrate climate emergency considerations.	Lead: Project Management Office Support: Environmental Sustainability