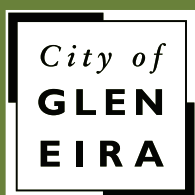


GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

Draft Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025–2029



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH, BENTLEIGH EAST, BRIGHTON EAST, CARNEGIE, CAULFIELD, ELSTERNWICK,
GARDENVALE, GLEN HUNTLY, MCKINNON, MURRUMBEENA, ORMOND, ST KILDA EAST

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council honours the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognises and values the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in enriching our community. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to a *Reconciliation Action Plan* which is underpinned by the principles of self-determination. We work towards improved outcomes and long-term generational change, and to consolidate Glen Eira as a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live healthy and prosperous lives and to improve life outcomes for current and future generations.

Glen Eira resides on country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Message from the Mayor

When we declared a climate emergency in 2021, we made a promise to act — and to do so with urgency. With our *Climate Emergency Response Strategy*, we're deepening that promise and reaffirming our commitment to a cleaner, greener Glen Eira.

This isn't just a Council document — it's a reflection of what our community told us matters most. Through recent engagement, you asked us to take stronger action to cut emissions, protect trees and green space, and ensure our neighbourhoods stay safe and liveable as our climate changes. We've listened, and we've built this *Strategy* with those priorities at the centre.

We know climate change can feel overwhelming. But there's so much we can do — together. From shifting to renewable energy, reducing waste, and planting more trees, to supporting local community groups and sustainable businesses, every step makes a difference. We will keep leading the way, but your role is just as important. Every household, every small action — it all adds up.

This is about more than just emissions. It's about our health, our economy, our environment — and the kind of Glen Eira we want to pass on to future generations. I'm proud of the work we're doing, and even more proud to be part of a community that cares deeply about the future.



Cr Simone Zmood
Mayor of Glen Eira

Foreword from Chief Executive Officer

This *Climate Emergency Response Strategy* is a key step in how we embed climate action into everything we do at Glen Eira.

We've already made strong progress — one hundred per cent of our corporate operations now run on 100% renewable electricity, and we're on track to eliminate all emissions under our direct control by 2031. But we know we need to go further. This updated *Strategy* maps out how we'll support the wider community to reduce their emissions, with a strong focus on practical, place-based action.

Throughout many engagements, we have heard how much this issue matters to you. Residents told us they want local leadership, smarter use of resources, more trees and shade, support for people most vulnerable to climate impacts, and real action. This feedback shaped everything in the plan, from emissions targets to the types of programs and partnerships we'll prioritise.

Our approach now is clear: we're integrating climate thinking into planning, infrastructure, procurement, and community services. We're also building stronger partnerships — with other councils, local businesses, traditional owners, and climate groups — because lasting change happens when we work together.



Lucy Roffey

Chief Executive Officer

Glen Eira City Council

Executive summary

Addressing climate change is one of the most important ethical responsibilities of our generation. The science is abundantly clear: human activities, such as the excess production of greenhouse gas emissions, are driving global climate change, and tackling this requires a coordinated community and government-wide response through meaningful action.

Recognising this, we declared a climate emergency in May 2020. Over the past five years, Glen Eira has been actively advancing climate action. By focusing on emissions reduction, we are turning our focus to addressing the root causes of climate change head-on. This means we will be increasing our energy efficiency, adopting renewable energy sources and embracing innovative technologies in our buildings, facilities and operations to reach the ambitious target of reducing all emissions under our direct control to zero by 2031. This investment is instrumental in helping us achieve our *Glen Eira Community Vision* — a thriving community of empowered citizens working together for an inclusive and sustainable future — but there is still much more we can do. Less than one per cent of total emissions come from our operations within the municipality; empowering our community to take proactive steps towards climate action is critical to achieving meaningful emission reductions.

While climate change presents challenges, we are beginning to see positive progress. In Australia, more than 100 jurisdictions representing nine million people — over one-third of the population — have declared a climate emergency. In 2022, Victoria's net greenhouse gas emissions were 31.3% lower than 2005 levels and, here in Glen Eira, we are now powering all our buildings and infrastructure with 100 per cent renewable energy.

In this Strategy, we are committed to deliver actions that help deliver six of the strategic objectives in the *Glen Eira Council Plan 2025-2029*:

- 1.5** Our community benefits from the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of harm and ill-health
- 3.1** Our urban greenery and biodiversity are enhanced
- 3.2** Our air and waterways are healthy
- 3.3** Council and community emissions are reduced
- 3.4** Waste to landfill is reduced
- 3.5.** The community is actively engaged in Caring for Country and the natural environment

To maximise our impact, we will focus on five key innovation areas:

- **Exploring indigenous ecological knowledge:** in partnership with Traditional Owners, we will explore knowledge of climate and climate change to inform our response, while considering the impacts on First Nations people's health, livelihoods, community, and connection to Country.
- **Applying the climate lens:** we will embed climate action into our daily work, communicating openly about impacts and solutions, and working with our community to amplify action.
- **Leadership by example:** we will reduce emissions, using renewable energy, improving efficiency, and applying circular economy principles, while being transparent to inspire others to act.

- **Public health impacts of climate change: we will** collaborate with our partners to understand and respond to the health impacts of climate change, protecting wellbeing and building a safer, more resilient Glen Eira.
- **Empowering everyone to take action on climate change: we will** work with our diverse community to ensure everyone can participate in climate action by removing barriers, tailoring engagement, and co-designing solutions for a fair and sustainable future.

Together with our community, we are committed to taking meaningful action on climate change. This *Strategy* continues to outline our path forward from the previous *Strategy*— *Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021-2025 | Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata* — by strengthening resilience, reducing emissions, protecting our natural environment, and supporting the health and wellbeing of our community. By embedding climate action across all areas of Council and working in partnership with residents, businesses, Traditional Owners, and other levels of government, we aim to create a more sustainable, liveable, and climate-ready Glen Eira for current and future generations.

Introduction to climate change in Glen Eira

Glen Eira is located in Melbourne's south-east, just 10 kilometres from the CBD. We're a proudly diverse municipality, home to more than 156,000 people, with a rich mix of cultural backgrounds, life experiences and community connections. The area rests on the traditional lands of the Boonwurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation.

Our suburbs include Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Carnegie, Caulfield, Caulfield East, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Gardenvale, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Murrumbeena and Ormond, and parts of the suburbs of Brighton East and St Kilda East — each with their own unique identity and local character.

Glen Eira, like much of Victoria, is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate. Our climate has warmed by at least 1.2 degrees Celsius since records began in 1910, with hotter days, more frequent heatwaves, and changing rainfall patterns now part of our lived experience. These changes are driven by global greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels and land-use changes. If greenhouse gas emissions keep rising without action, the risks to Glen Eira's community, infrastructure, and environment are expected to intensify.

This *Strategy* builds on the work completed to date and supersedes our *Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021–2025 | Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata*. It helps deliver the *Glen Eira 2040 Community Vision* and as climate change has a direct and indirect impact across our operations, it is a tier one strategy that sits directly under the *Council Plan 2025–2029* in Council's *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework*.

The implementation of this *Strategy* is supported by an *Action Plan* with specific timebound actions, with further detail available in the *Our Action Plan* section.

Introduction to integrated planning

Our strategic plans all work toward a common goal: building a thriving, inclusive and sustainable City where everyone has the opportunity to live well.

Whether we're planning for health and wellbeing, managing assets, responding to climate change or supporting our growing population, our role is to help shape a future where people and place can flourish together.

Our role is broad. We:

- deliver services that support the health, wellbeing and everyday needs of our residents
- maintain public assets and infrastructure — including parks, roads, footpaths and community facilities
- plan and regulate the built environment, ensuring development supports community needs and sustainability goals
- work in partnership with community groups, service providers and other levels of government
- advocate on behalf of our community to influence decisions and secure resources
- inform and empower our residents to make decisions that benefit them and their communities.

This means that our strategies and plans connect and support each other. They are all part of a shared commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for our community. This introduction provides context for all our strategic documents — connecting our shared vision, values and planning approach across the organisation.

Our planning approach

2040 Community Vision

We take an integrated approach to planning, guided by the *Glen Eira 2040 Community Vision*. This *Vision* reflects what our community values most — inclusivity, sustainability, wellbeing, creativity and connectedness — and what people want Glen Eira to become over time.

Our strategic priorities for 2025–2029

Our *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework* also guides our work and ensures that all our strategies and plans align to this *Vision* and to our *Council Plan 2025–2029*, which sets out the strategic directions and priorities for the current four-year term of Council.

We know that effective planning must also be:

- **community-informed** — shaped by what matters most to our residents and stakeholders
- **evidence-based** — drawing on data, research and expert insight
- **place-based** — tailored to the diverse needs and identities of local communities across Glen Eira
- **resource-aware** — aligned to available budgets, assets, and workforce capability
- **adaptable** — ready to respond to emerging risks, challenges and opportunities.

These principles guide how we approach every strategic plan — whether it’s about climate, assets, biodiversity or finance.



Fig 1. This document is a strategic tier one plan that is reviewed annually

Health and wellbeing for Glen Eira

Health and wellbeing are central to every aspect of our work — not just in our *Council Plan*, but across all our strategic planning. Access to green spaces, housing, transport, safety, and social inclusion all shape people’s wellbeing.

That’s why every strategic plan considers the impact it will have on community health and equity. We work closely with community organisations, local Traditional Owners, health services and other partners to make sure our strategies promote fairness, opportunity and long-term wellbeing for all.

Staying accountable

We are committed to being transparent about our progress and staying connected to our community’s needs. Each year, we set specific actions, measure our impact, and report back to the community through our *Service Performance Reports* and *Annual Reports*.

All our plans are living documents — regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing conditions, emerging evidence, and what we continue to learn through engagement and delivery.

All our strategies share a common foundation: they are shaped by community values, built on strong evidence, and guided by a long-term vision for a more inclusive, sustainable and connected future.

Equity, inclusion and climate justice

We recognise that the impacts of climate change are not experienced equally across our community. Factors such as gender, age, disability, cultural background, income, housing status and caring roles shape people's exposure to climate risks and their capacity to adapt.

Women, gender-diverse people, First Nations people, people with disabilities, older people, renters and low-income households often face greater barriers to participating in climate solutions and to accessing the benefits of climate action.

We are committed to embedding an intersectional gender lens across this *Climate Emergency Response Strategy*, consistent with its obligations under the *Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic)* and its broader commitment to social justice, equity and human rights.

We will:

- collect and use gender-disaggregated and intersectional data to inform decision making
- engage inclusively with diverse communities and voices
- foster diverse leadership in climate governance and action
- monitor and evaluate progress toward equitable outcomes

By doing so, we aim to build a climate-resilient Glen Eira in which everyone can thrive and where no one is left behind in the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable future.

Discussion

Shared responsibility: local, State and Federal government roles

Addressing the challenges — and realising the opportunities — created by climate change demands bold action from all levels of government to reduce their emissions and support us and our community to take the steps we need to reduce our climate footprint and adapt to climate impacts.




Federal government

The Australian Government has the greatest opportunity, and power, to effectively influence and set the national direction and cross jurisdictional agreements to help tackle climate change, build a climate-proof economy and a safe future.

The Australian Government has committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. While Australia is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, emissions are projected to be 42.6 per cent below 2005 levels in 2030, just below the agreed-upon 43 per cent target.

Recent assessments indicate that the nation is not currently on track to meet these targets without significant acceleration in emissions reductions. Australia's greenhouse gas emissions were 467 million tonnes in the year ending June 2023, an increase of four million tonnes on the previous year. Without strong and urgent action at the Federal level, reaching net zero community emissions will be nearly impossible. We need the Australian Government to act accordingly.

National impacts of climate change

		Example
 <p>HEALTH AND COMMUNITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More stress on health and emergency services • More heat-related deaths, particularly among the elderly and disadvantaged • Mental health effects • Changes in disease occurrence • Increased respiratory conditions associated with poor air quality 	<p>During the 2014 heatwave, Melbourne experienced four consecutive days above 41°C. This left parts of Melbourne without electricity, thousands of commuters stuck and an estimated 167 excess deaths.</p>
 <p>ENVIRONMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplification of existing threats to flora and fauna • Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation • Altered disturbance regimes • Changing dynamics of invasive species • Bushfires and smoke haze • Altered rainfall patterns 	<p>The 2020 Royal Bushfire Commission found that climate change is already increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate systems.</p>
 <p>INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased flood damage • Increased maintenance costs • Extreme heat impacts • Increased disruption to services 	<p>According to a new <i>Climate Change Authority Report</i>, back-to-back disasters have cost the Australian economy \$2.2 billion in the first half of 2025 alone. The cost is projected to rise to \$8.7 billion annually by 2050 without strong action.</p>
 <p>PRIMARY PRODUCTIO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier flowering and planting times • Changed distribution of pests and diseases • Farm businesses affected by bushfire • Reduced water security 	<p>An assessment conducted by the NSW Government found that climate change is already leading to a wide range of impacts on local farmers, including lower rainfall in winter and spring when it is most needed by food crops, floods washing away plants and the soil they depend on, higher risk of bushfires and attracting new agricultural pests.</p>

State Government

In 2017, the Victorian Parliament passed a new *Climate Change Act 2017*, positioning Victoria as a leader in climate action. The *Act* sets a clear policy framework and a pathway to a climate resilient community and a net zero emissions economy. In May 2023, the Victorian Government set an emissions reduction target of 75-80 per cent by 2035 and brought forward their net zero emissions target by five years to 2045.

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The Victorian Government needs to continue to invest heavily in climate action and make climate change a priority for all elements of Government business — legislation, regulation, budgets, programs and services.

(CASE STUDY) Keeping it below 1.5 degrees of warming in Victoria

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense. Victoria has experienced significant changes in heatwave patterns since the 1950s, with these events now occurring more often, lasting longer, and beginning earlier in the season. Their intensity has also steadily increased over time. Average annual rainfall may have decreased, but extreme rainfall events, leading to localized flooding, are becoming more intense.

The unequivocal driver of climate change is the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The atmosphere can hold about seven per cent more water vapour for each degree of warming, and an atmosphere with more moisture can produce more intense precipitation events. Global warming between two degrees Celsius and four degrees Celsius will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades. This requires every part of our society to immediately reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and transition to an all-electric future.

Local government

The remit and powers available to Victorian local governments are defined by the *Local Government Act 2020*, with recent changes introducing a new overarching governance principle of planning for climate change risk.

We have statutory obligations to consider climate change in everything we do and a strong capacity to implement change. Council has a demonstrated capacity to also drive change through collaboration and advocacy. In Victoria, councils have made significant progress in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and supporting their communities to do the same. The services and infrastructure councils provide to their communities are vulnerable to a range of climate hazards. Because of their local knowledge and close connection to the community, councils are well placed to help their local communities and work with the Victorian Government to reduce risks and adapt to climate change.

Across Victoria, councils have formed alliances, built partnerships and delivered shared projects to scale up action. We need to continue working with other councils on regional, state and national priorities. By working together, we can reduce the duplication of effort and resources, play to our strengths, learn from each other and speak with a shared, stronger voice.

Adapting to a changing climate in Glen Eira

Locally in Glen Eira, the most immediate and serious risks of climate change include more extreme heat, worsening urban heat island effects, and increased pressure on public health, particularly for vulnerable residents. Heatwaves are one of Glen Eira's deadliest natural hazards, contributing to higher rates of heat-related illness, hospital admissions, and fatalities.

Hotter conditions will also put more pressure on infrastructure like roads and buildings and make it harder for trees and green spaces to cope with extended periods of prolonged heat.

Climate change is also affecting rainfall patterns, contributing to periods of drought interspersed with intense rainfall events, which increases the risk of flash flooding in parts of Glen Eira's urban catchment. Additionally, the impacts of climate change can intersect with broader social and economic pressures, contributing to risks such as food insecurity, rising insurance costs, and exacerbating existing inequalities.

Without urgent and large-scale action, these risks will continue to impact all facets of our lives with increasing severity.

In Glen Eira, the key climate risks include:

- 1) More frequent and intense heavy downpours, leading to localised flash flooding
- 2) Higher temperatures year-round and more frequent and extreme heat waves, contributing to the urban heat island effect
- 3) Lower average rainfall, exacerbating water scarcity and contributing to droughts
- 4) Reductions in air quality, especially as bushfires become more frequent
- 5) Decline in urban biodiversity and canopy cover due to heat stress
- 6) Rising sea levels and the increased frequency and height of extreme sea level events will push seawater from the Bay into our drainage system, which reduces the capacity of these drainage systems during major flooding events

A resilient and well-adapted community is prepared to face the economic, social, and environmental shocks expected from climate change and can recover quickly when challenges arise. Access to reliable information, strong social connections, and a sense of agency are key ingredients for building resilience, all of which can be fostered and supported within Glen Eira.

Citizen science programs such as the *City Nature Challenge*, *Great Southern BioBlitz*, biodiversity walks and talks, and *My Smart Garden* sessions, foster strong community engagement. Capacity-building workshops also help stakeholders work together to strengthen climate resilience and ensure services continue during extreme weather events.

Work towards these adaptation goals will be supported by the *Open Space Strategy*, *Asset Management Strategy*, *Integrated Transport Strategy*, *Biodiversity Implementation Plan*, the *Glen Eira Planning Scheme*, *Procurement Policy* and the *Urban Forest Strategy*.

Impacts in Glen Eira

The health, mobility and prosperity of our community will be impacted by climate change.

Impacts may include the following:

1. Rising cost of food, particularly essential fresh fruit and vegetables
2. Increased insurance premiums for some homes and businesses (and the possibility of some properties becoming uninsurable)
3. Financial pressure associated with property damage from extreme rainfall events

4. Transportation challenges associated with flood and heat events, including disruption to public transport
5. People with existing mobility issues will find travel even more challenging during extreme weather
6. 7,730 local residents have a disability requiring daily assistance with life tasks and must access critical services which are likely to be disrupted during extreme weather
7. 16,468 local carers of the elderly and people with disabilities are likely to see an increase in their workloads due to events such as heatwaves
8. Our young people will be more exposed to climate change impacts over their lifetime. The psychological impact — often referred to as climate anxiety — is prevalent in Australia's youth
9. 21.4% of our population are aged 60 or over, they will become more susceptible to climate risks, particularly heat stress
10. Low-income and homeless segments of our community will be exposed to additional pressures such as rising energy costs and consequently have less ability to protect themselves from extreme heat and other weather events
11. 53,149 local residents living in rental properties have little control over the thermal performance of their home, leaving them more vulnerable to heat events

The health, mobility and prosperity of *our operations* will be impacted by climate change.

Impacts may include the following:

1. Repair costs to our buildings and assets (currently valued at \$2.7 billion) associated with damage from extreme weather events could be a risk to our financial sustainability
2. Disruption and increasing workloads on community service staff during extreme weather events
3. An increased demand for our emergency services, such as relief centres and temporary accommodation
4. Threats to staff health and wellbeing during extreme weather
5. The necessity of increased investment to water and maintain open space
6. Tree and habitat decline due to a lack of water and/or heat stress
7. Increased insurance costs on Council-owned buildings
8. Pressure to invest in and deliver new services in response to changing community needs

Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Glen Eira

Glen Eira has two very clear, ambitious and science-based goals of mitigating emissions for our operations and supporting our community to reduce their emissions. We will take the lead in this space, paving the way for strong action across Glen Eira.

We are currently responsible for between 8000–11,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. We have reduced emissions by 27 per cent over the last six years and are well on track to achieve zero

direct emissions by 2031 with the implementation of this *Strategy*. Our buildings, assets and infrastructure will be efficient and powered by renewables.

We will minimise consumption and waste while maximising our ability to recycle. We will invest in active and sustainable transport and take a proactive approach to managing our procurement and supply chain. By prioritising recycled materials, we will aim to achieve the best possible carbon outcomes.

In a climate-friendly municipality, the Glen Eira community will have access to the information, products and services that they need to make sure their homes, businesses, schools and community organisations are efficient, comfortable and powered by renewable energy. They will be able to travel efficiently and sustainably through a connected and active transport system. They will consume wisely and produce little to no waste within a circular economy.

In 2022, Glen Eira’s community was responsible for more than 921,000 tonnes of carbon emissions (see Figure 2). While we have very little direct control over emissions generated by the community, there are significant opportunities for us to lead actions that will support the goal of pursuing and accelerating net zero community emissions by 2030.

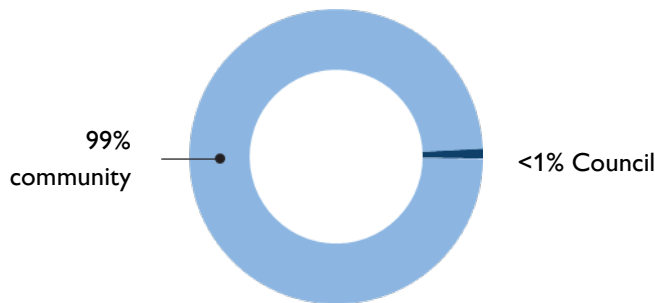


FIG 2: Glen Eira City Council’s greenhouse gas emissions

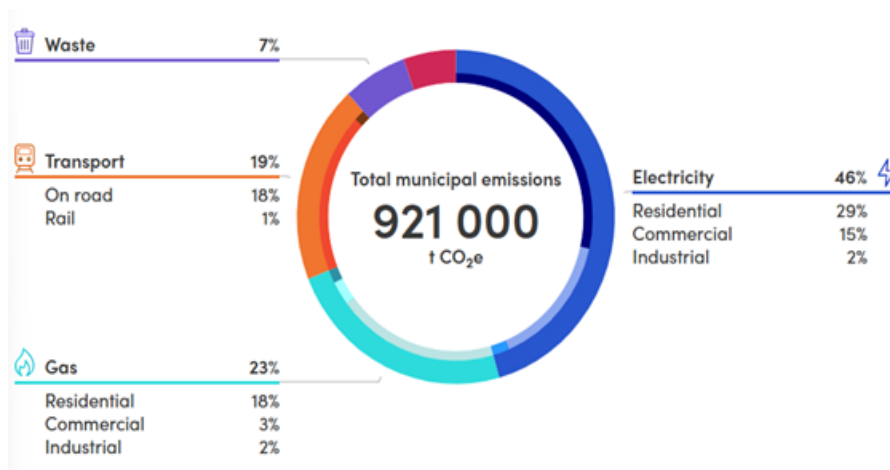


FIG 3: Glen Eira community greenhouse gas emissions 2022–2023

Our climate emergency response in action

2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to a local government <i>Power Purchase Agreement</i> to move to 100 per cent renewable energy from 2021 Adopted <i>Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021u2025 Dhumbali Wurrungibiik Parbin-ata</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon emissions from our operations by 18%, when compared with 2019/20 standards
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted the <i>Glen Eira Circular Economy Plan 2022u2026</i>, a commitment to work with the community to transition towards a zero-waste system • Approved the <i>Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy</i>, which aims to increase the municipal tree canopy cover from 12.5 per cent to 22 per cent by 2040 — from 2022 onwards, we will plant 2,000 trees every financial year, increasing our urban forest canopy • Adopted the <i>Glen Eira Integrated Water Management Plan / Dhumbali W'urmeet Cadhaba</i> which directs us on how to manage water in our environment • Collaborated with 23 other Victorian councils to propose a <i>Planning Scheme Amendment</i> to the State Government, strengthening environmentally sustainable developments (ESDs), aiming to reduce emissions from new buildings
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the inaugural <i>Sustainability Champions</i> program, a free 10-session initiative designed to empower residents to develop and implement local environmental projects • Updated our Nature Strip Planting Guidelines to make it easier for residents to personalise these important public green spaces and plant native species • Launched our <i>Electrify Everything</i> campaign, which promotes the transition from gas to renewable energy, provides direct links to government rebates and supports residents to create a personalised Go Electric Plan for their household • 21 vehicles in our fleet are fully electric, including lawnmowers and leaf blowers • Led <i>The Nappy Project</i>, which included the use of reusable nappies, and saw 80% of participating families incorporate cloth nappies into their daily lives (either full or part time) by the end of the program
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted the Bentleigh Senior Citizens Building to a fully electric building • Launched the Library of Things at each Glen Eira library, providing a sustainable way to borrow non-traditional library items • Held the first repair cafés in Glen Eira, where over 167 kg of materials were repurposed and saved from entering landfill • Trialled a reusables service at <i>Groove and Graze</i>, which resulted in the avoidance of 2,897 items of single-use packaging • Installed a food waste dehydrator at Warrawee Community and since installation, the dehydrator has processed 8.4 tonnes of food waste into fertiliser

2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secured a \$2.5 million grant to electrify Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC), which will remove 1,810 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year• Adopted the first <i>Glen Eira Biodiversity Plan 2025u29</i>, which aims to protect and enhance existing biodiversity hotspots and strengthen the urban forest of Glen Eira• Celebrated the recognition of the Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool with a 6 Star Green Star Design Stage certification• Have held three repair cafés so far, where 112 kg of material were repurposed from landfill
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(CASE STUDY) Reducing our emissions: our buildings, assets and infrastructure

We manage a diverse range of community assets across Glen Eira, including parks, roads, bike paths, buildings, leisure centres, libraries, childcare and health facilities, community halls, and sports pavilions. Demonstrating leadership on climate action across these assets is essential.

Between 2021 and 2024, we installed solar panels across 48 Council-owned sites, generating over 2,902 MWh of renewable electricity. This 1,244 kW of installed solar capacity has reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 2,292 tonnes of carbon emissions (CO₂e) over the period.

Electrifying our owned assets supports our broader commitment to phase out gas and power all operations with 100% renewable energy. Investing in solar not only cuts long-term operating costs but also reduces emissions. It's a key step on our pathway to achieving zero operational emissions by 2031.

Key challenges

Glen Eira faces a number of key challenges, many of which are shared with Greater Melbourne and other local governments.

1. Urban heat and the loss of tree canopy

Glen Eira is one of Melbourne's most heat-vulnerable municipalities due to a combination of high urban density, low tree canopy cover, and an ageing population. It is predominantly eight to 12 degrees Celsius hotter than surrounding non-urban areas.

With less than 14% canopy cover, among the lowest in metropolitan Melbourne, the area experiences intense heat retention in built-up areas, leading to the 'urban heat island' effect. This exacerbates health risks, especially for elderly residents, people with pre-existing health conditions, and low-income households unable to afford cooling. As summers become hotter and longer, and heatwaves more frequent, this issue is compounding.

Tree loss from private development, pruning for infrastructure, and climate stress on existing vegetation are key contributors. Cooling the city requires a major uplift in green infrastructure, but limited space and competing land uses present challenges.

Without urgent action to increase canopy, especially in vulnerable neighbourhoods, Glen Eira risks more extreme localised heat and poorer liveability. To combat some of these issues (particularly the loss of vegetative cover), we adopted the *Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy* in June 2021, which presents a clear and pragmatic implementation plan aimed at achieving a turnaround in the current trajectory of canopy loss.

2. Ageing and heat vulnerable housing

Many of Glen Eira's homes were built before modern energy efficiency standards and are ill-equipped to handle the impacts of a changing climate. Brick veneer homes with little insulation and single-glazed windows trap heat in summer and lose warmth in winter, increasing energy use and bills.

Renters and low-income households are disproportionately affected, often having limited control over the energy performance of their homes and few resources to make upgrades. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, placing vulnerable residents, particularly older adults and people with chronic illnesses, at even greater risk. Retrofitting existing homes for energy efficiency and passive cooling is a critical adaptation and mitigation measure.

However, barriers such as high costs, limited community awareness, and a lack of access to reliable advice or financial incentives slows implementation. We have already started to adapt to our changing climate by investing in building upgrades, water efficiency, green space, increased vegetation and biodiversity.

The *Solar Savers* program has been designed to help households and businesses future proof their homes from rising energy costs and increasing temperatures by providing easy access to rooftop solar. Our *Energy Savers* program is helping the business community to become energy efficient in their operations and save money on their energy bills by providing cheaper and efficient appliances.

3. Transport emissions, congestion and infrastructure gaps

How people travel in our municipality is closely tied to the climate emergency. Based off 2022–23 data, 19 per cent of local emissions come from transport. Historically, our cities were designed to prioritise cars, trucks and buses, but with population growth, it is becoming mathematically impossible to fit more vehicles on our fixed road network and still get around easily and efficiently.

Prioritising infrastructure that makes walking, cycling, and public transport safer, faster, and more convenient is vital for Glen Eira's future. For example, we recently installed a raised platform with two priority crossings at Royal Avenue and Woodville Avenue in Glen Huntly to prioritise cycling and walking.

In addition, we are embracing electric vehicles, aiming for zero emissions under our direct control by 2031. Our fleet is going electric, but our cars and trucks produce less than one per cent of vehicle emissions in Glen Eira. We are actively expanding its electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to support the growing number of EV users in the municipality. As of early 2025, there are several publicly accessible EV charging stations across Glen Eira, including a station at the newly built Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool.

4. Mobilising a diverse community for climate action

Glen Eira is home to a highly diverse population, which makes community mobilisation both vital and complex. While many residents are deeply concerned about climate change and eager to act, they can face barriers such as language, limited access to reliable information, affordability, or a sense that individual efforts won't make a difference. Without understanding how climate change will impact them, the community cannot play an effective role in preparing their homes and businesses for impacts that are already upon us and will become increasingly severe.

In 2022, Glen Eira's community was responsible for more than 921,000 tonnes of carbon emissions (see Figure 2). While we have very little direct control over emissions generated by the community, there are significant opportunities for us to lead actions that will support the ultimate goal of pursuing and accelerating net zero community emissions by 2030.

We have already started this work, delivering a range of programs such as *Solar Savers*, the *Business Renewable Buying Group* and *Energy Savers*, in partnership with Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and community education such as sustainable living webinars and the *Sustainability Champions* program.

Events, workshops, and communications are often well-attended by already-engaged residents, but harder-to-reach groups, such as renters, international students, seniors, and low-income households, may not see themselves represented in mainstream campaigns.

While Glen Eira has a passionate and connected community, local mobilisation around climate change is not yet at the scale required to drive local emissions to net zero and increase pressure on State and Federal Governments to urgently scale up climate action. This lack of mobilisation also has implications for adaptation.

5. The limits of local powers and the need for State and Federal action

Glen Eira City Council is committed to bold climate action and supporting the community to accelerate progress towards zero emissions. However, the levers Council directly controls, such as tree planting, and waste education, only influence a small share of local emissions.

The majority arise from electricity generation, transport infrastructure, and broader community consumption patterns, areas primarily regulated and funded by State and Federal Governments.

Council cannot mandate fuel efficiency standards, decarbonise the grid, or redesign public transport networks, yet these structural reforms are vital for large-scale emissions reduction.

This presents a key challenge: we must continue driving local initiatives while strongly advocating for systemic change beyond our control. Councils also have a role in clarifying responsibilities, so the community understands where change must occur and who can deliver it.

We will lead by example, build partnerships, and amplify the community's voice to ensure higher-level action matches local ambition.

Key opportunities

Research by external consultants identified strengths and opportunities that can be leveraged to deliver our climate emergency response:

1. Rekindling Indigenous culture and knowledge

Engagement with the Traditional Owners on development of this *Strategy* has highlighted the opportunity to learn from and integrate Indigenous ecological knowledge and experience of dramatic environmental change into our land, water and biodiversity management practices. We can explore new ways to empower, include and support First Nations Peoples in Glen Eira's climate emergency response.

2. Leadership in circular economy

Having delivered food waste recycling for our residents, we've continued to promote reuse, repair, and recycling within Glen Eira. With a new food waste dehydrator at Warrawee Community, we've turned 8.4 tonnes of food waste into fertiliser.

Our series of six repair cafés has seen the repair of 180 items, and our new reusables service has avoided 5,800 single-use bowls, plates, and cups at our major events. We've incorporated greater circularity into our major waste contracts, and we've continued to equip our community with information and resources to reduce waste. Looking forward, there are many great opportunities to build on these successes and further foster our local circular economy.

3. Investing now

Investing in climate action today delivers long-term benefits, avoiding costly damage, reducing risk, and generating social, environmental, and economic returns. The Global Commission on Adaptation estimates that climate-resilient infrastructure costs just 3% more upfront but delivers \$4 in benefits for every \$1 spent.

Glen Eira's investment in electric vehicles demonstrates this principle: while purchase costs are higher, the total cost of ownership over the life of the vehicle is significantly lower. With reduced fuel and maintenance expenses, EVs are far cheaper per kilometre than petrol or diesel vehicles. Early, strategic investment is economically smart.

4. Leveraging our channels to communicate the climate emergency

As a trusted local authority, we play a vital role in communicating the climate emergency and empowering our community to act. We're in a strong position to share accurate, relevant, and practical information that helps our community make informed decisions.

Through our wide range of communication channels, including content on social media, online newsletters, the Glen Eira News, in-person and online events and webinars, workshops, signage in parks and nature reserves and partnerships with schools and community groups, we can reach diverse audiences across the municipality. By using these channels strategically, we can build climate literacy, highlight local action, and create a sense of shared purpose.

5. Leading by example through our operations

We are committed to taking bold climate action across our own operations. Our buildings are increasingly powered by 100% renewable electricity, we're transitioning our fleet to fully electric

vehicles, and we continue to improve energy efficiency across our facilities. By leading with integrity and transparency, we are building trust, credibility, and momentum in the local council sector, which allows us to influence beyond our direct control.

Glen Eira’s sphere of influence may be limited in contrast with the State and Federal government, but through visible leadership, we can inspire local households, schools, businesses, and even other levels of government to act, amplifying impact across the municipality and beyond.

(CASE STUDY) Invest now: upgrading our fleet to all-electric





We have been actively promoting electric vehicle (EV) adoption as part of our commitment to achieving zero direct emissions from our operations by 2031.

As of 2025, we have 19 passenger cars, 15 light commercial vehicles, two trucks and two ride-on mowers as part of our electric fleet, with more on order. In 2022, we transferred all electricity accounts to the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), which provides 100% renewable energy, meaning all of the electricity used to power our EVs is sourced from renewable energy sources.

Although up-front costs may be higher, the total cost of ownership is much lower over the vehicle’s life. With significantly lower operating and maintenance costs, electric vehicles are significantly cheaper per kilometre than cars that rely on petrol or diesel.

Roles in climate action

Responding to climate change is a global challenge. We all have a critical role to play through the ways we live, work, play and govern.

UPWARDS	SIDEWAYS	OUTWARDS	INWARDS
			
<p>Advocate to State and Federal Governments to adopt and resource a climate emergency response</p>	<p>Collaborate with and support other councils to implement a climate emergency response</p>	<p>Work in partnership with the residents, businesses and Traditional Owners to initiate local community education, mobilisation and resilience building</p>	<p>Ensure Councillors, Executive and Council staff understand and act on their roles in a climate emergency response</p>

Working in partnership with our community represents one of the biggest opportunities to reduce the effect of climate change in our municipality. Key focus areas include:

Business and industry

In 2022, business and industry accounted for over 30 per cent of Glen Eira's carbon emissions from electricity and gas use. We need business and industry to:

- support the community transition to net zero carbon emissions by focusing on their own operations and using their experience to influence their customers and supply chains
- adapt their business models to encompass a circular economy
- use their voice to advocate on climate issues to the Federal and State Governments
- work with us to build local economic resilience to help our community withstand future climate-related shocks.

While most local businesses recognise the need to respond to climate change, there are significant barriers to action, including a lack of time, money, resources or knowledge, and policy uncertainty at State and Federal levels.

Large corporate businesses are increasingly following the lead of local governments in taking action on climate change. Some of Australia's largest businesses, like Woolworths and Bunnings, have set ambitious 100 per cent renewable energy targets. Others are moving towards carbon neutral or net zero emissions targets. Locally, Monash University is aiming for net zero emission campuses by 2030.

We have a role in celebrating these achievements and will work proactively with local businesses and representative organisations (e.g. traders' associations) to reduce the impact of their operations and supply chains.

Households

Residential households accounted for 81% of gas use in 2022. We need households to work with us to take the action on all fronts of climate action, especially electrification. Collectively we have the power to make a big and positive difference.

Households can:

- switch to all-electric and zero carbon energy
- buy less, recycle and re-use more to create low waste households
- reduce energy use
- improve homes to make them sustainable and climate-resilient
- switch to more sustainable transport like walking, cycling, ride sharing and electric vehicles
- support the natural environment by planting gardens
- buy local, and build resilience into our local economy
- connect with, support and share information with networks — friends, neighbours, colleagues and family
- advocate for stronger climate change action by State and Federal Governments

We will be developing a range of ways to support households and individuals to take various forms of climate action.

Schools, community organisations and groups

Schools, community organisations and groups are a critical part of our social fabric, with deep networks and local connections. They have the power to be climate messengers, helping their communities to understand climate change, mobilise action and celebrate wins. Schools, community organisations, community gardens and other groups can also lead by example, reducing their own carbon footprint, working toward zero waste, saving water, encouraging active transport, growing food and increasing vegetation cover.

Local schools, groups, and organisations play a vital role in climate action by connecting people and strengthening social networks that build community resilience to extreme weather. These networks also enable shared projects, support collective economies and empower communities to advocate for stronger climate action.

We will work with schools, community gardens, groups and organisations to amplify climate messages and connect their communities to local climate programs. Examples of community organisations taking climate action in Glen Eira include, but are not limited to, Glen Eira Emergency Climate Action Network, Jewish Climate Network, 'Friends of' groups, Environment Victoria and the Port Phillip Eco Centre.

Innovation areas for our Action Plan

Five innovation areas have been identified to deliver strongly on community priorities and build on our current strengths. These areas will guide our focus as we develop practical, collaborative and forward-looking responses to the challenges of climate change.

1. Exploring Indigenous ecological knowledge

Much cultural knowledge has been lost, but there are still imprints and memories that can be rekindled for the benefit of the whole community. In partnership with local Traditional Owners, we will explore how Boonwurrung knowledge of climate and climate change allow us to respond to the climate emergency. We will ask what the impacts of the climate emergency will be on local First Nations people — on their health and livelihoods, their connection to community, and their connection to Country.

2. Applying the climate lens

We will make changes to our systems so that climate action is embedded into the way we work every day. This means reducing emissions, using renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and applying circular economy principles in how we build, buy and operate. We will share what we learn with our community and help them to use a climate lens in their own businesses, homes and communities.

3. Leadership by example

We have demonstrated strong leadership through our climate emergency declaration and emissions goals, and the actions that we have taken to reduce our greenhouse impact. Our community has asked us to strengthen this leadership and invite everyone to participate, so we will continue to lead

by example by being transparent about our actions and progress, and helping to inspire and empower others to take meaningful climate action.

4. Public health impacts of climate change

Climate change is a health issue. Rising temperatures, heatwaves, air pollution, and extreme weather increase risks to physical and mental health, especially for vulnerable people. We will work with health services, community organisations, and emergency management to understand and respond to these risks. By planning for climate-related health impacts now, we can protect wellbeing and build a safer, more resilient Glen Eira.

5. Empowering everyone to take action on climate change

Climate action must include everyone. We will engage with our diverse community, across cultures, ages, abilities, and incomes, to ensure all voices are heard and supported. This means tailoring communication, removing barriers to participation, and co-designing solutions with those most affected by climate change. By working together, we can build a more just, informed, and empowered Glen Eira, where everyone can take part in shaping a sustainable future.

Our strategic objectives

The urgency of the climate emergency requires all of us to do as much as we each can, as individuals, organisations, governments and communities to respond by rapidly reducing emissions and strengthening our resilience to the growing impacts.

Without a clear strategy, our staff, partners, and community lack direction; they don't know where we're heading, how we'll get there, or how we'll stay on track. Without this clarity, they cannot fully engage or contribute effectively to our shared targets.

Embedding the following strategic objectives from the *Glen Eira Council Plan*, can prioritise, resource, communicate and evaluate our response to the climate emergency. These objectives encourage community-wide collaboration to tackle climate change from every angle, creating a powerful and lasting impact far beyond what any one effort could achieve alone.

Delivering on these objectives and regularly evaluating our progress will ensure we stay on track. These strategic objectives (and the subsequent goals) are clearly defined to both guide our operations and demonstrate how we can help to accelerate net zero community emissions.

Strategic Objective 1.5: Our community benefits from the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of harm and ill-health

Goal 1: Our buildings and infrastructure are resilient and safe for our staff and community

Goal 2: Our community is protected from the worst impacts of climate change

The effects of climate change are already being felt in our community, from highly visible impacts such as heatwaves and other extreme weather events to more unexpected but equally dangerous issues such food insecurity, increases in family violence after emergencies and the capacity of community health and service providers to assist residents in need.

For the purposes of our plans and strategies, the broader aspects of our community's health and wellbeing are addressed in our *Council Plan*, while this *Strategy* will address more immediate — but still far reaching — climate impacts and ways in which we can protect and support our community.

For our operations, the focus is on adapting our buildings, assets and infrastructure to ensure that they are future proofed against growing environmental and financial impacts of climate change and are safe for all users.

We will also support our community to adapt to climate change by working closely with residents, particularly those most vulnerable to its impacts, to understand their needs and the barriers they face. This will help us provide targeted support and build resilience across the community.

We will continue to strengthen local resilience and adaptive capacity, both within our own operations and in partnership with the broader community. From our position, this means investing in urban greening and biodiversity to enhance natural capital, and ensuring our buildings, infrastructure and assets are climate-ready, safe, and able to withstand increasing environmental and financial pressures.

Strategic Objective 3.1: Our urban greenery and biodiversity are enhanced

Goal 1: Continue to grow, maintain and protect our urban forest

Goal 2: Maintain, improve and protect Glen Eira's Biodiversity

Glen Eira's urban forest includes all trees, shrubs, understory plants, grasses and ground covers across the municipality. It delivers a wide range of benefits, providing shade, storing carbon, supporting biodiversity, improving air quality, enhancing neighbourhood character, and helping to manage stormwater.

The shade provided by our urban forest is becoming increasingly important in the context of climate change. Metropolitan areas such as Glen Eira are vulnerable to the urban heat island effect, where the modification of land, dense development, transport and hard surfaces act together to trap heat.

On hot days, parts of Glen Eira can be eight to 12 degrees hotter than surrounding non-urban areas — a difference that can be life-threatening during heatwaves. Increasing green space and adding tree cover on both public and private land is one of the most effective ways to counteract the urban heat island effect and help protect our community.

Building our urban forest also supports our local biodiversity. Glen Eira is home to at least 139 species of vertebrates (animals with a backbone) and more than 150 species of plants. These include the critically endangered swift parrot, the Murray River turtle, the intermediate egret, and the nationally endangered gang-gang Cockatoo.

By enhancing habitat and supporting biodiversity, we can make Glen Eira a more welcoming place for important native species, while also enriching the lives of our community through increased opportunities for recreation, connection with nature and local enjoyment.

Strategic Objective 3.2: Our air and waterways are healthy

Goal 1: Our community is engaged, supported and empowered to improve air quality

Goal 2: Council work with and advocate to other levels of government to understand the sources of pollution and improve air quality

Goal 3: Aquatic ecosystems and habitats are protected

Goal 4: Our community is engaged, supported and empowered to protect our waterways

Goal 5: Integrated Water Management (IWM) is embedded in our planning and operations

Caring for our air and waterways is vital to maintaining a healthy and liveable Glen Eira. Air and water quality affect everyone in our community, so we have an important responsibility to protect and care for these vital environments.

Air pollution poses serious health risks, particularly for children, older adults and those with existing health conditions. It can cause respiratory health issues, degrade natural environments, and contributes directly to a changing climate. Council will continue to work with the community and other levels of government to improve air quality across Glen Eira. This includes encouraging a reduction in pollution sources such as petrol- and diesel-powered vehicles and wood heaters and exploring further opportunities to reduce emissions by understanding local air quality.

Water is all around us in Glen Eira, even if we can't always see it. When it rains, the stormwater travels through our pipes and canals along the Elster Creek or Gardiners Creek catchments before eventually emptying into Port Phillip Bay. As this water flows downstream, it can carry pollution and litter that harms marine habitats and reduces the health and amenity of the Bay. Upstream, in Caulfield Park Lake, we see how healthy urban vegetation and clean waterways support land-based and aquatic biodiversity.

We will continue implementing an IWM approach at Glen Eira. We will focus on improving the health of our waterways, and downstream environments such as Port Phillip Bay. With Glen Eira being entirely upstream of our main water bodies, we will continue to play a role in reducing the quantity of litter and pollution that flows from our municipality.

Strategic Objective 3.3: Council and community emissions are reduced

Goal 1: We embed climate change action in everything that we do

Goal 2: Our community is active and mobilised on climate action

Goal 3: Zero direct Council emissions by 2031

Goal 4: Accelerate net zero community emission progress by 2030

To protect our community from climate change, we need to tackle the problem at its source by reducing emissions from our operations, supporting our community to cut their emissions, and demonstrating leadership to other councils and communities across Australia.

The Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) enables us to source 100% of our electricity from renewable sources. We are transitioning our buildings and vehicles away from greenhouse-emitting

gas, petrol and diesel and towards renewable electricity provided by VECO. We will continue to advance these programs through the life of this *Strategy*.

We will also continue to support our community to reduce their greenhouse impact, by providing them with the information, products and services that they need to make their homes, businesses, schools, transport and community organisations efficient, comfortable and powered by clean renewable energy. Building on the success of initiatives like the *Glen Eira Sustainability Champions* program, we will support community members to become climate leaders and inspire others both within and beyond Glen Eira to take climate action.

Strategic Objective 3.4: Waste to landfill is reduced

Goal 1: Our community increases their involvement and participation in the circular economy

Goal 2: We, and our community, increase material circularity and resource recovery

The circular economy holds immense potential to combat climate change by changing the way we design, produce, use and dispose of products. Similar to natural, closed-loop systems, a circular economy is one in which waste is designed out from the beginning and materials can be endlessly reused, remaining at their highest possible value for as long as possible.

Circularity is achieved by:

- eliminating waste and pollution
- circulating products and materials at their highest value for as long as possible
- regenerating nature.

For example, in landfill, food organics and garden organics (FOGO) generates methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas. Instead, food scraps and garden waste can be recycled to create compost that can be used on farms and gardens. Diverting FOGO is one of the simplest ways our community can participate in the circular economy and help reduce emissions.

This is why the *Action Plan* commits to the continued investment in FOGO recycling and builds upon our initiatives to increase FOGO recycling and reduce waste to landfill.

With the adoption of the *Circular Economy Plan 2022–2026*, we made a commitment to work with the community in reusing materials and avoiding waste. As laid out in the *Plan*, we are supporting reuse through our programs, procurement, and advocacy, whilst working closely with residents, businesses, Traditional Owners, neighbouring councils, and State and Federal Governments to best foster our local circular economy.

Strategic Objective 3.5: The community is actively engaged in Caring for Country and the natural environment

The content for this objective is currently being addressed through collaboration with First Nations organisations

OUR ACTION PLAN

The Strategy is supported by our four-year Action Plan, which sets out actions to be undertaken over its life to achieve identified goals and objectives. The actions are listed under relevant Council Strategic Objectives that address all climate-related actions and capture a wide range of specific actions, programs and projects Council will undertake over the four years. The actions are integrated into annual work plans right across Council to ensure climate change action is truly integrated into everything we do.

Updating the strategy and action plan

Our Action Plan will be updated annually (as required), to reflect changing needs and opportunities and respond to monitoring evaluation findings. A new, four-year Strategy and associated Action Plan will be developed in 2029.

Strategic Objective 1.5: Our community benefits from the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of harm and ill-health

Please note: Actions in white are ongoing from the current strategy, some have been adjusted to account for changes over the past four years. Those in green are new actions developed from consultation for the 2025-29 strategy refresh.

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 1: Council-owned buildings and infrastructure are resilient and safe for our staff and community					
1.5.1 Implement Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy. Measure improvements and operational savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy Reporting of operational savings 	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.5.2 Conduct a climate change risk assessment of Council buildings and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include climate risk hazard ratings for all our assets to produce a list of assets at high risk from climate 			✓	✓
1.5.3 Drawing on climate change risk assessment findings, prioritise and implement upgrades through Council's Asset Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation of upgrades based on outcomes of risk assessment 			✓	✓
1.5.4 Continue work with partners to implement the Elster Creek Flood Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing implementation of Elster Creek Flood Management Plan 	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.5.5 Apply best-practice approaches across Council infrastructure and planning to protect our community from climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i> Address the urban heat island effect through planting trees, and strategies such as the creation of urban green spaces and community gardens. Implementation of natural solutions such as wetlands and permeable pavements to manage stormwater. The design and building of new assets, and the renovation of existing assets, maximises climate resilience and mitigates climate hazards Investigate measures to insulate our community from climate impacts to community infrastructure (e.g. disruptions to transport and electricity distribution during heatwaves) and implement these where appropriate 	✓	✓	✓	✓

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 2: Our community is protected from the worst impacts of climate change					
1.5.6 Include climate change education into staff and councillor induction and training to support climate smart decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue mandatory training provided to Council staff who are in contact with our community, to provide them with the skills and knowledge to support at-risk community members to prepare for and respond to climate impacts. • Integrate climate adaptation and our climate emergency response into Councillor induction. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.5.7 Understand local population segments who are vulnerable/ exposed to climate change risks, their needs and barriers to action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessment, including climate data, future climate projections, and local geography, demographics and individuals and sectors of our community under greater climate risk (e.g. geographic and demographic communities whose homes are most likely to be impacted by extreme heat, and least able to afford cooling systems) • Identification of the needs / barriers that impact Glen Eira residents to prepare for or adapt to climate change (e.g. infrastructure, housing, access to finance, council and community services) and actions for Council to respond • Apply inclusive / intersectional approach to at risk communities and identify their needs, and barriers faced when taking action to prepare, respond and recover from climate impacts. 	✓	✓		
1.5.8 Engage and educate residents and business owners to empower them to take action to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted engagement of at-risk community members • Develop the capacity of community leaders to support their communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate impacts • Engagement with businesses to build their knowledge of climate impacts and the actions they can take to protect themselves. • Inform residents how they can make their homes resilient to climate impacts, and support them to make these changes through access to our programs (e.g. <i>Solar Savers</i>) and information on funding and support provided by other levels of government. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.5.9 Continue to support local health and community service providers, to support the community vulnerable to extreme weather events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local networks of health and community service providers • Conduct programs for health and community service providers to enable community support during and after extreme weather events and other climate impacts (e.g. capacity development or delivery of community resilience projects). 	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.5.10 Protect our community from the public health impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research new and upcoming public health impacts of climate change (e.g. vector-borne diseases, poor air quality) • Incorporate knowledge and recommendations from research into Council programs and services 	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.5.11 Support our community during and after climate-induced events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with emergency response agencies and organisations involved in emergency management, and explore our community's needs can be incorporated into emergency management arrangements (e.g. Municipal Emergency Management Plan) • Build and strengthen family violence prevention and responses in Council's emergency recovery planning • Support residents, businesses and organisations to access adaptation-related funding and programs. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the potential for Council and community facilities as refuges for at-risk community members during climate-related emergencies (e.g. heatwaves, air pollution caused by bushfire smoke) and promote suitable facilities when needed. 				
1.5.12 Strengthen Council's understanding and delivery of best practice in climate adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and report on a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plan Identification of learnings from climate adaptation initiatives conducted by other councils, and government and non-government organisations. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Objective 3.1: Our urban greenery and biodiversity are enhanced

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 1: We continue to grow, maintain and protect our urban forest					
3.1.1 Implement Urban Forest Strategy to maximise greening on public land, to cool the city, and increase biodiversity, ensuring locals reap the health and wellbeing benefits of nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five-year review of the Urban Forest Strategy Update the Urban Forest Strategy and related Council activities where necessary based on the outcomes of the review 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.2 Through implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy, ensure the Planning Policy helps protect established trees and significant vegetation, encouraging additional planting on private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of strategic and statutory planning processes to ensure they effectively protect and promote biodiversity and urban greening Update strategic and statutory planning processes are updated based on the findings of the review. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.3 Plant appropriate trees and vegetation on our land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant new trees, midstory and understory vegetation are planted on our land Replace existing trees and vegetation at the end of their useful life Select new trees and vegetation from climatically appropriate/resilient species. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.4 Ensure our plans, policies and strategies make a positive contribution to urban greening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider urban greening during the updates, review and implementation of all Council plans and strategies 		✓	✓	✓
3.1.5 Collaborate with our community to generate positive action that protects existing trees and vegetation, and contributes to urban greening on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of ongoing education campaigns Establish a Gardens for Wildlife program to encourage residents to create biodiverse backyards Develop and promote further guidance around nature strip gardens to inspire residents to add greenery to Glen Eira's streets. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.6 Prioritise the protection and enhancement of significant biodiversity values during the design and management of our open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify parks and reserves with significant biodiversity values (e.g. biodiversity hotspots, or biodiversity corridors where species require food, habitat or shelter) Prepare management plans for these parks and reserves, detailing actions that need to be taken to protect and enhance biodiversity values (e.g. utilising specific shrubs or grasses to provide food, habitat or shelter for significant species) Embed biodiversity actions into our park master plans. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 2: We maintain, improve and protect Glen Eira’s biodiversity					
3.1.7 Improve our understanding of Glen Eira’s biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct surveys conducted of flora, fauna and other significant organisms (e.g. fungi) in Glen Eira. • Identify locations in Glen Eira where actions will have the maximum impact on local and regional biodiversity. • Commission research to investigate impacts of climate change on Glen Eira’s biodiversity plan and actions taken in response. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.8 Identify, maintain, improve and protect biodiversity on our land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare management plans for locations with high biodiversity significance • Increase local biodiversity through targeted planting or other environmental works on our land • Collaboration with other councils, levels of government and our community to promote and protect biodiversity. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.9 Engage with our community to enhance and protect Glen Eira’s biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use our communications and engagement channels to educate our community about biodiversity • Delivery of community engagement programs that generate action to protect and promote biodiversity. • Ensure that biodiversity planning, delivery and engagement is inclusive of Glen Eira’s diverse community. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Objective 3.2: Our air and waterways are healthy

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 1: We engage, support and empower our community to improve air quality					
3.2.1 Raise community awareness and involvement in air quality issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of communications and engagement to a broad range of residents to raise awareness on air quality issues • Promote alternative technologies and solutions to improve air pollution (e.g. electric heat pumps, zero-emissions vehicles etc.) • Communicate Council’s actions to improve air quality • Citizen science programs identified and promoted • Promote alternative solutions that minimise air pollution (e.g. electric heat pumps, zero-emissions vehicles, active travel). 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Goal 2: We work with and advocate to other levels of government to understand the sources of pollution and improve air quality

3.2.2 Collaborate with governments and agencies to understand and improve air quality issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with EPA to generate and share air quality education materials • Share our resources to ensure air quality information is available to our community • Collaboration with EPA to explore opportunities for real-time air quality monitoring stations in Glen Eira 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.2.3 Commission research into impacts of air quality in Glen Eira, and actions we can take to address them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission a study into sources of air pollution • Make recommendations on actions that can be taken to improve air quality in Glen Eira 	✓	✓		
3.2.4 Advocate to other levels of government to improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advocate for greater action on wood heaters, and to support policies that promote cleaner heating alternatives • Advocate to State and Federal Governments to implement relevant recommendations from air quality study (see Action 3.2.3). 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Goal 3: We protect our aquatic ecosystems and habitats

3.2.5 Build our understanding and that of the regarding threats to aquatic ecosystems and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a water-quality monitoring program to track pollutants including litter and nutrient levels • Establish improved biodiversity indicators in aquatic habitats (e.g. species counts, habitat condition assessments) • Implement a monitoring program to determine the prevalence and types of litter within the Elster Creek Catchment • Promote citizen science programs to our community, and allow them to inform water management 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.2.6 Address the impact that actions can have on human health and regional waterways (e.g. by preventing aquatic pollution into Port Phillip Bay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement programs to collect litter and prevent it from washing into waterways • Investigation of existing litter management practices, including bin placement, at pollution and litter hotspots to identify opportunities to reduce litter entering waterways • Educate and support businesses to reduce the generation of litter and other pollution. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Goal 4: We engage, support and empower our community to protect our waterways

3.2.7 Deliver communication and engagement programs to raise awareness about aquatic ecosystems and inspire community-led action to protect and care for local waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate water-related articles and messaging into our communications • Delivery of engagement to a broad range of audiences 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.2.8 Engage with communities to encourage their connection to local catchments and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and delivery of communications that highlight the identity of our local waterways, and the importance of protecting them • Targeted engagement of communities near waterways that are identified as having high natural or cultural significance. 				

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 5: We embed integrated water management (IWM) in our planning and operations					
3.2.9 Refresh the Glen Eira Integrated Water Management Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh and present Glen Eira's new Integrated Water Management Action Plan for Council for endorsement 		✓		
3.2.10 As per our IWM commitments, we continue to build our capacity to embed IWM into our planning and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver IWM training to our business units whose work can positively or negatively impact water quality Incorporation of IWM and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) into relevant capital works and infrastructure projects 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.2.11 Review and amend strategic and statutory planning processes to ensure they are effective at protecting our waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review conduct of planning processes Effectively enforce planning decisions and commitments to prevent water pollution and other impacts on our waterways Reinforce planning processes with new learning and best practices 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Objective 3.3: Council and community emissions are reduced

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 1: We embed climate change action in everything that we do					
3.3.1 Update our Procurement Policy and system to address climate change impacts from Council and contractors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement embeds emissions standards, requiring suppliers and contractors to deliver low emission practices and products. All projects consider ways to purchase goods and services that result in improved social, economic and environmental outcomes. Report on the impact as part of quarterly reporting 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.2 Update our project planning and reporting templates to ensure climate and sustainability impacts are reported, positive impacts improved, and negative impacts minimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We tracks emissions with annual public reports on reduction progress. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.3 Update our Investment Policy to increase financial investments with non-fossil fuel financial institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure our investments are environmentally responsible, with funds redirected from fossil fuels to sustainable sources. Inform/support staff to choose sustainable options for work-related investments (eg vehicle leases and superannuation) 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.4 Collaborate with universities and communities to drive sustainable energy innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with universities and community organisations to identify key research priorities in advancing sustainable energy technologies. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.5 Demonstrate leadership to other councils and levels of government by sharing our climate/sustainability practices and achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive sharing of our achievements and learnings through networks and forums utilised by other councils and levels of government (e.g. EAGA, conference presentations). 	✓	✓	✓	✓

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3.3.6 Act as a trusted source of climate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We provide accurate, accessible information on electrification, renewable energy and local opportunities through targeted online/traditional media campaigns. • Target messaging to specific segments (e.g. strata, renters, small businesses) that can have the biggest impact in reducing overall community emissions. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.7 Engage and inspire our community by embedding best-practice climate and sustainability approaches across our operations and actively communicating these actions and achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and engagement highlight links between our services and climate action (e.g. GESAC electrification) to the community • Rollout of a communications campaign to share the actions that we are taking with our community and other stakeholders. 				

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
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Goal 2: Our community is active and mobilised on climate action

3.3.8 Support our community to raise their voice and mobilise in support of climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Sustainability Champions program to include a youth equivalent • Recognise climate action through community and business awards • Work with local sustainability leaders to build a shared sense of climate responsibility. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.9 Make it easier for residents, businesses and organisations to access climate change-related rebates, incentives and programs delivered by other levels of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve net zero pathways and connect residents to government rebates/subsidies in easy-to-access programs. • Explore possibilities of providing small financial incentives to encourage residents towards other sustainable approaches. • Facilitate businesses to participate in the circular economy through training and connecting them to grants and other incentives from other levels of government • Support local businesses with targeted climate-focused events and programs. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.10 Use <i>Community Grants</i> program to support local groups to implement sustainability projects in Glen Eira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote <i>Community Grants</i> program to our community, and to local organisations who wish to fund sustainability projects. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Goal 3: Achieve zero direct emissions by 2031

3.3.11 Continue to roll-out energy efficiency measures across all our buildings, prioritising higher emissions buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency improves, and emissions decrease in our buildings through targeted upgrades and system optimisation. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.12 Continue to install solar and where feasible, solar batteries on our buildings and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued installation of PV systems on our buildings and infrastructure.. • Investigate suitable sites to install solar batteries for our use. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.13 Continue to improve the efficiency of all public lighting through upgrades and smart dimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve improved energy efficiency and reduced emissions through upgraded public lighting and integrated smart dimming technology. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

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3.3.14 Continue to implement our Sustainable Transport program, to deliver a zero emissions fleet and encourage staff to walk, cycle and use public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce our workforce travel emissions by supporting staff to transition to sustainable transport options, including public and active transport. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.15 Transition our buildings off gas by replacing systems with all-electric alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition GESAC from gas to 100% renewable electricity • Progressively transition all our other buildings off gas 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.16 Design new and upgrade existing assets to minimise embodied and operational carbon through design solutions that reduce the amount and carbon intensity of materials, passive and energy efficient design and renewable energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new Council buildings (and significant retrofits) meet or exceed best-practice energy efficiency standards (e.g. Green Star) 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 4: Accelerate net-zero community emission progress by 2030					
3.3.17 Create and promote a net zero, fossil fuel-free pathway for each segment of our community, and connect to programs and incentives offered by other levels of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly identify key pathways to achieving net zero community, with the roles of Council, the community, businesses, and other levels of government articulated and publicly communicated. • The community can take meaningful climate action, supported by clear pathways and accessible resources. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.18 Focus Council's investment in delivering programs and services for community sectors with the least capacity to reduce emissions independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus direct investment on those with the least financial capacity to take climate action (e.g. social housing, low-income households and small businesses) • Advocate support for apartments, low-income and rental households • Advocate to other levels of government for inclusive electrification policies 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.19 Investigate opportunities to encourage and incentivise the development of sustainable and zero emissions buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide education to all residents to improve the thermal efficiency of dwellings with insulation, external blinds, sealing windows and doors, etc. • Investigate opportunities to embed innovation in our buildings and facilities (e.g. solar car parks, community batteries and virtual energy networks) and integrate into our building infrastructure wherever possible 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.2.20 Implement the Integrated Transport Strategy to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport trips, and support the uptake of electric vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing implementation of our <i>Integrated Transport Strategy</i> including infrastructure improvements, advocacy and behaviour-change programs. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.21 Facilitate the installation of public charging stations in appropriate off-street locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential charging locations • Advertising of tender for providers to install EV chargers at identified locations 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.22 Through implementation of the Integrated Transport Strategy, improve infrastructure to facilitate community uptake of walking and bike riding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver infrastructure projects to improve the safety of people riding bikes and walking in Glen Eira in alignment with our Capital Works Program including safety improvements to the Frankston Rail Trail and through the Better Streets, Better Places program. • Deliver safety improvements around schools in Glen Eira to encourage families to choose active travel options • Advocate to the Victorian Government for improved bus, train and tram services for our community including service frequency and reliability and better infrastructure to improve accessibility. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

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3.3.23 Through education, planning mechanisms and other initiatives, encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and active travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of community events and programs to educate our community about EVs and active travel including working with local schools and community groups. • Require developers to provide EV charging infrastructure and bike parking. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.24 Investigate methods for measuring and tracking community emissions in Glen Eira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with energy providers and organisations with climate change expertise, to investigate methods of sourcing data on sources of community emissions (e.g. electricity, gas, vehicles, wood fired heaters) • Publish data on community emissions and their sources, once these are sourced and verified. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3.25 Develop specific measures and targets to guide and measure Glen Eira's progress in reducing community emissions, based on the emissions reduction pathway (see action 3.3.17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop measures/targets for community segments, emissions sources and/or types of action based on the Emissions Reduction Pathway • Communicate measures/targets to the community • Collect data and regularly reported on each measure/target. 	✓	✓		
3.3.26 Support community led initiatives to reduce emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate community led initiatives and support where appropriate (e.g. investigate Community Power Purchase agreements). 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Objective 3.4: Waste to landfill is reduced

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Goal 1: Our community increases their involvement and participation in the circular economy					
3.4.1 Empower our community to become active members of the circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community programs that keep good condition items in circulation such as repair cafes and resource recovery shops. Continue to build our communication and engagement to increase community awareness of the circular economy. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 2: Increase Council and community material circularity and resource recovery					
3.4.2 Lead the circular economy transition by example and use our purchasing power to stimulate the circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh the Glen Eira <i>Circular Economy Plan</i>. Embed circular economy principles into our procurement processes and supply chains. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.4.3 Build on our previous work to divert food organics and garden organics (FOGO) from landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to invest in education and behaviour change programs to support food organics and garden organics (FOGO) uptake and keep contamination low Investigate feasibility of introducing new FOGO services for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) without our current waste service. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.4.4 Develop pathways to improve waste reduction / waste diversion in small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and large multi-unit dwellings (MUDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and trial new waste services for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and large multi-unit dwellings (MUDs). Review and update our approach to waste management plans to increase equitable and easy access to all waste streams. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.4.5 Support community to improve material circularity in bulky waste streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and trial new services that keep items in good condition in circulation. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.4.6 Advocate to other levels of government to support our and the community's transition to a circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the Victorian Government to improve waste diversion and transparency in the commercial waste sector. Advocate to the Victorian and Australian Governments to expand product stewardship schemes including the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Victoria. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Objective 3.5: The community is actively engaged in Caring for Country and the natural environment

ACTION	MEASURES	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
<p>The actions for this objective are currently being addressed through collaboration with First Nations organisations</p>					

PLAN APPENDICES

Engaging our community on climate action and sustainability

Nearly **1,600 Glen Eira residents** — from children to older adults, local businesses, and community groups — shared their hopes and priorities through *Our Place, Our Plan*, a four-phase engagement shaping our city’s future.

These conversations directly informed our four-year plans, including the **Climate Emergency Response Strategy**, with strong community support for environmental stewardship.

The following insights reflect the community’s aspirations for climate action, gathered through our Community Vision check-in, broad engagement activities, and our Community Priorities Panel.

Community Vision engagement findings (August 2024)

While **88 per cent** of respondents agreed that the Community Vision developed in 2021 still reflects their aspirations, many also identified areas they felt were missing — particularly around climate emergency, green spaces, and biodiversity, which emerged as the most common theme.

More specifically community feedback revealed strong aspirations for a greener, climate-ready Glen Eira as the top theme that was missing in the community’s visions including:



Calls for **stronger** efforts to reduce emissions—particularly from domestic sources — and transition infrastructure and the local economy to net zero.



Strong requests for more green spaces and biodiversity including more trees, greener streets, and revitalised public spaces through native and indigenous plantings.



Requests for advocacy for sustainable development including ecologically sustainable planning, asset renewal, pollution reduction, and greater public awareness of climate issues.

Broad engagement results (February to March 2025)

What matters most to our community

The



Top priority: Parks, gardens, playgrounds, and open spaces.



Why it matters: Green spaces help people feel more connected to their neighbourhoods.






Community wants: More trees, greener spaces, and investment in nature.

communities view on how Councils should take action on climate change





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The community's priority themes and suggestions for climate action from open ended survey questions

Priority themes	Community suggestions
<p>Education and awareness are the foundation for climate action</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on children and youth. • Educate on tree canopy, biodiversity, sustainable transport, energy use, recycling, waste reduction, littering, circular economy, and household emissions • Use signage, media, and events to spark action. • Share success stories and communications to inspire action.
<p>Support transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy that extends to buildings, businesses and homes</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives for solar panels, batteries, and electrification (with rebates or bulk-buy programs). • Advocate for higher building and energy-efficient standards and upgrades (e.g. insulation, passive design). • Support community batteries and microgrids. • Simplify planning processes for upgrades and retrofits.
<p>Improve sustainable urban planning and green spaces</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and increase tree canopy • Promote urban forests, biodiversity, community gardens, micro parks, urban agriculture, indigenous plantings, nature strip planting and living lawns. • Require green infrastructure in new developments • Encourage tree planting on private property • Encourage community involvement in planting and caring for green spaces.
<p>Support active and sustainable transport by reducing car dependence and promoting active transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety and design of bike lanes, footpaths, pedestrian connectivity and public transport access. • Provide electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, community buses, and e-share cars. • Advocate for public transport improvements and incentives.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design walkable communities with accessible services.
<p>Improve waste management and the circular economy through education and services especially in dense housing areas</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand recycling options (e.g. soft plastics, e-waste). • Provide communal composting and green waste bins for apartments. • Enforce correct bin use and provide clear guides. • Support composting, repair cafes, and reuse initiatives. • Ban or restrict single-use plastics and promote circular economy.
<p>Collaborate and empower the community</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local environmental groups, citizen-led initiatives, schools and environmental champions. • Work with local experts, community groups, and businesses. • Host inclusive events, forums, and working groups. • Offer grants, discounts, and recognition for sustainable actions. • Celebrate achievements and local action through events.
<p>Lead by example and advocate for broader change</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to use clean energy, electric vehicles, and sustainable practices in operations. • Install solar panels and improve waste systems in Council buildings. • Collaborate with other councils and governments. • Focus on practical, community-aligned initiatives with transparency.

Community Priority Panel’s recommendations (April 2025)

In considering the Council Plan priority theme on environmental stewardship, the Panel made the following recommendations.

Panel’s priorities	Panel’s recommendations	Panel consensus %
Reduce waste at the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a ‘library of things’ • Provide communal green bins for those that cannot fit in a green bin in their properties. • Provide sustainable community activities such as clothes-swaps, repair cafes, community gardens, information sessions on pro-active sustainability. • Work with food businesses to introduce a reusable take-away scheme. 	90%
Lobby with other councils for community energy solutions	Work with other councils and lobby state government and energy providers to update the network for a community-based battery/micro-grid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86%

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Prioritise trees and biodiversity in kerbside and parking policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a kerbside and parking policy that incorporates increased tree canopy and layers to increase biodiversity. 	86%
Explore shared mobility and electric vehicle infrastructure in street design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore shared mobility opportunities and EV infrastructure partnerships for inclusion in street redevelopment plans. • Prioritise canopy coverage, shared mobility scheme access and EV charging provision over retention of car parking spaces. 	84%
Create a physical sustainability hub to discuss sustainability options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a 'sustainability-hub' facilitating face-to-face opportunities to discuss sustainability options, services, and questions. 	80%
Implement EV charging in all Council car parks by 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide incremental changes for EV infrastructure in Council car parks over four years. 	78%
Continue to promote active transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore shared micromobility schemes. • Prioritise accessible pedestrian access from public transport. • Provide well maintained walkways. • Advocate for a flexi-bus or similar. • Promote share car schemes. 	Left off poll but strongly supported.

Integrated planning processes

Our place-based approach to engagement

Our City is made up of many communities, each with its own strengths, challenges and priorities. That's why we take a place-based approach in our planning. This means engaging with people locally, understanding the unique character of each neighbourhood, and delivering solutions that reflect community needs on the ground.

This approach is essential for ensuring that our work is inclusive, meaningful and effective across all parts of Glen Eira.

Planning approach

Our planning is built on meaningful engagement with our community. Over a 12-month period, we delivered our largest ever conversation with the Glen Eira community through a dedicated engagement program called *Our Place, Our Plan*.

This integrated, multi-phased program invited residents, stakeholders and partners to help shape the future of our City. It was delivered across the consult and collaborate levels of the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum, using a place-based lens to ensure local voices were heard in local contexts.

We connected with the community through a wide range of activities — both online and face-to-face — including pop-ups, drop-in sessions, focus groups, intercept surveys, interviews and stakeholder workshops. The engagement was designed to reach people across all Glen Eira suburbs and demographic groups, with targeted efforts to involve children and young people, people with disability, multicultural communities and other underrepresented groups.

A key component of this process was the establishment of a representative Community Priorities Panel — a deliberative citizen panel of 39 residents who worked together to provide us with informed recommendations on the priorities that matter most.

Each phase of engagement gathered insights on community values, needs and aspirations — helping us understand what outcomes people want to see over the next four years. These insights directly informed the development of *Our Council Plan* — shaping Glen Eira together and highlighting strategic priorities.

Reports from all engagement phases are available at haveyoursaygleneira.com.au/OPOP

Monitoring and reporting

An annual *Climate Emergency Response Strategy Report* will be published to track and share our progress with the Glen Eira community and partners.

Legislation that supports this Strategy

Local Government Act 2020: This *Act* requires councils to follow the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* while performing a function or duty or exercising a power under this *Act*. The *Local Government Act 2020* also strengthens the mandate for councils to act on climate change, by reinforcing the role of a council in providing good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of its community. “Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.”

For more details, visit www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/local-government-act-2020

Climate Action Act 2017: This *Act* sets a target of net zero emissions by 2045 for the State Government. It gives a clear signal to all sectors of the Victorian economy to reduce emissions. The *Act* also requires sector pledges to reduce emissions from local councils to meet those targets.

For more details, visit <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/climate-change-act-2017/011>

Environment Protection Act 2017: This *Act* places a General Environmental Duty (GED) on councils, requiring them to take all reasonably practicable steps to prevent harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste. This duty applies to the management of council assets, services, and operations, including waste, stormwater, contaminated land, and construction activities.

For more details, visit <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/environment-protection-act-2017/005>

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988: This *Act* was introduced “to guarantee that all taxa of Victoria’s flora and fauna, other than taxa specified in the Excluded List, can persist and improve in the wild and retain their capacity to adapt to environmental change.”

For more details, visit <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988/049>

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999: This *Act* provides a legal framework to protect and manage unique plants, animals, habitats and places, including creating and updating lists of nationally threatened species, listed ecological communities and significant migratory species.

For more details, visit <https://www.dceew.gov.au/environment/epbc>

Gender Equality Act 2020: This *Act* requires councils to embed gender equality, diversity, and inclusion considerations into their policies, programs, and services. It strengthens the requirement for councils to advance gender equality through their strategic planning, decision-making, and leadership. We are committed to embedding an intersectional gender lens across this *Climate Emergency Response Strategy*, consistent with its obligations under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and its broader commitment to social justice, equity, and human rights.

For more details, visit <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/gender-equality-act-2020>

Definitions / abbreviations

Adaptation: Imagine you're on a ship that's sinking because of a leak. If you want to stay afloat, you've got to act. You grab a bucket and pour water out as it gushes through the hole. This response is adaptation — addressing the effect (the water in the boat), but not the cause of the problem (the hole). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as “the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects.” It's doing what we can to live with and minimise the destruction and suffering from climate change.

Carbon emissions: Greenhouse gas emissions released by the process of consuming fossil fuels and the production of materials. These include a range of different gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, and are usually measured in terms of the total amount of carbon dioxide that would lead to that level of warming expressed as the term CO₂ equivalent (CO₂-e)

Carbon neutrality: Carbon neutrality is achieved when the net greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organisation's activities, products, services and events are equal to zero.

Circular economy: A system in which all resources are highly valued and remain in the system through re-use, re-purposing and recycling.

Citizen science: The practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research to increase scientific knowledge.

Climate change: Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.

Climate emergency: The catastrophic changes to the climate brought about by human activity that pose a dangerous threat to all life on the planet.

Drawdown: The removal of excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere with the aim of restoring a safe climate.

Emissions: Shorthand for carbon emissions (see entry on carbon emissions).

Emissions reduction: Also known as mitigation (see glossary entry on mitigation below).

Fossil fuels: Any of a class of hydrocarbon-containing materials of biological origin occurring within Earth's crust that can be used as a source of energy (e.g. coal and oil).

Greenhouse gases (GHGs): There are six GHGs which are considered to be key contributors to global warming. These are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). Carbon dioxide is considered the most significant GHG due to its increasing prevalence within the atmosphere.

(Climate change) Impacts: These are the subsequent consequences, or effects on natural and human systems from climate change.

Mitigation (emissions reduction): Imagine you're on a ship that's sinking because of a leak. Sealing the leak to stop more water coming in is mitigation. In other words, it's addressing the root cause of the problem rather than dealing with its effects. The IPCC describes mitigation as “human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases”.

Net zero emissions: Also referred to as 'zero carbon', this is the process of achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.

Net zero pathway: A process that an organisation or community will take to reduce and offset its carbon emissions in order to reach net zero emissions or carbon neutrality. A net zero pathway will often be unique to each organisation and community and is determined by rigorous assessment of their operating context.

Renewable energy (also called 'clean energy'): comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished such as solar, wind and water (hydro).

Resilience: the capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses, communities and systems to adapt, survive and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

Safe climate: Refers to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment accessible by all global citizens.

Sharing economy: a peer-to-peer based mechanism for acquiring, providing, or sharing access to goods and services. Examples include toy libraries, online buy-swap-sell platforms and community gardens.

Stationary energy: the energy we use to power our buildings and infrastructure — electricity, mains gas and LPG bottled gas.

(Climate) Vulnerability: Propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

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National Relay Service

If you are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired, we ask that you call us via the National Relay Service and then ask for (03) 9524 3333.

Online: <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au>
Teletypewriter (TTY): 13 36 77
Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727

Social media

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