



STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOUR

A GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2021–2022

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



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOUR

A GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

STRATEGIC OUTCOME:

Our actions and priorities aim to protect our community from the worst impacts of climate change.

We will partner with the community, other agencies and all levels of government to prioritise environmental initiatives and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health, strengthen the economy and become a city that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

In 2021–22, we:

- incorporated the Environmentally Sustainability Design (ESD) requirements into our Council building and infrastructure projects, including projects such as the ground floor refurbishment at Town Hall, with old furniture and fittings being sold, donated or recycled rather than taken to landfill. The design also includes finishes such as carpet made from recycled materials and energy efficient appliances;
- developed the *Climate Conversations* program, whereby community members are trained to facilitate conversations with their friends, family and wider community, and motivate them to take action on climate change. Training for community facilitators was conducted in November 2021, and facilitated conversations commenced in March 2022; and
- engaged with the community on our draft *Circular Economy Plan* for Glen Eira. In a circular economy, the materials we use in products would all be recovered, reprocessed and reused in a continuous loop, rather than becoming waste in landfill. Our draft *Circular Economy Plan* sets out how we will lead by example and support our community in the transition to a circular economy.

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Strategic Indicator	Performance Measure	Result
Implementation of priority actions under the 'Our Climate Emergency Response' Strategic Action Plan	Net zero Council greenhouse gas emissions by 2025	Our membership of the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) ensures that 100 per cent of our contestable electricity will now be sourced from renewable sources. VECO is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by Australian local governments, enabling Glen Eira and our 47 partner councils to prevent 260,000 tonnes of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere – the same as taking 90,000 cars off the road.
	80 per cent of Council energy supplied by renewable sources by 2025	Our membership of VECO will ensure that 100 per cent of our electricity will be sourced from renewable sources by 2025. We commissioned the <i>Glen Eira Business Case and Transition Plan for Electric Vehicle Fleets</i> and developed a roadmap for replacing our gas-powered systems with electric alternatives. These will allow us to reduce our emissions each year as the energy needs for these sources are supplied by 100 per cent renewable energy supplied by VECO rather than CO2-emitting fossil fuels.
	Decrease in community greenhouse gas emissions	We continued to support residents reduce their emissions through a range of programs. These included providing residents and businesses with personalised sustainability advice from the Australian Energy Foundation, assistance with purchasing solar panels via the Solar Savers bulk-buy program and support for local sustainability programs conducted by community groups.
	Decrease in on-road transport emissions	We undertook planning for the transition to a zero emissions fleet, including commissioning the <i>Glen Eira Business Case and Transition Plan for Electric Vehicle Fleets</i> from the Institute for Sensible Transport. We now have four electric vehicles in service and have eight more on order with expected delivery in 2022–23.
	Increase in recycled or reused content used in Council operations	Examples of where recycled content is used in our operations include the use of 20 per cent reclaimed asphalt pavement for road resurfacing works in Glen Eira. Recycled content has also been used in other Council projects, such as the Ground Floor Refurbishment at Town Hall where old furniture and fittings were sold, donated or recycled rather than taken to landfill. The design also includes finishes such as carpet made from recycled materials and energy efficient appliances.

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Strategic Indicator	Performance Measure	Result
Frequent and factual communication and engagement on the climate emergency through all channels integrated with all Council services	Increased volume and frequency of communication by Council in relation to building community awareness and action on climate change	<p>The launch of the <i>Glen Eira Climate Conversations</i> program, trains local volunteers to facilitate conversations with other members of the community, educating and motivating them to cut their carbon footprint and take action on climate change.</p> <p>This builds on existing climate change communications and engagement, which continues to be delivered through outlets such as the Sustainability and Gardening e-newsletters, relevant articles in <i>Glen Eira News</i>, social media and supporting local community partners to engage residents and promote action on climate change.</p>
Implementation of the <i>Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy</i>	Environmentally sustainable design requirements considered in all Council building and infrastructure projects	<p>Measures that have been implemented to embed Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) requirements in buildings and infrastructure projects include: developing a guide to support our project teams implement the <i>Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy</i> and providing ongoing support and training for staff to implement these changes.</p> <p>Examples of Council facilities that have incorporated ESD include Murrumbeena Community Hub, which will be all electric with 23.4kW of solar PV panels, two electric vehicle charging stations and solar pathway lighting; and Lord Reserve Pavilion which incorporates passive solar design principles to provide natural light and heat in winter, along with all electric power, 20kW of solar PV panels and a 10,000-litre rainwater tank.</p>
Implementation of agreed actions under the <i>Urban Forest Strategy Action Plan</i>	Increased percentage of tree canopy cover in the public realm	We have been working towards achieving our targets in relation to tree canopy and our biodiversity footprint through the city. Tree planting initiatives delivered in Lord Reserve and Koornang Park have seen a further 170 new canopy trees planted. This will increase tree canopy at both locations by 45 per cent when the trees reach maturity.
	Increased number of trees planted in the municipality (in line with annual targets)	Council planted 1,008 trees in various locations across the municipality, these included streets and parks. The 2021–22 target was to plant 1,000 new trees.
A reduction in the volume of waste directed to landfill	Achievement of 20 per cent reduction in waste to landfill by 2025	With green bins collected every week, the amount of Glen Eira’s waste being recycled or composted has increased to 64 per cent—as a result, the majority of our waste is now saved from landfill. In 2021–22 the total amount sent to landfill decreased by 27 per cent compared to 2020–21. To continue managing waste and resources more sustainably, we are developing a <i>Circular Economy Plan</i> . The <i>Plan</i> shows how we will lead by example and create opportunities for a circular way of living, keeping materials in use for longer, reducing waste and regenerating our natural systems.



STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Strategic Indicator	Performance Measure	Result
A reduction in the volume of waste directed to landfill	Increased volume and frequency of communication by Council in relation to sustainable waste management practices and priorities	Using online, print and in-person communication channels, we regularly updated the community on Glen Eira’s progress in managing waste more sustainably and the development of our draft <i>Circular Economy Plan</i> . This included updates through monthly <i>Glen Eira News</i> articles, a letter from the Mayor, Council’s website, social media accounts, e-newsletters, the Have Your Say platform, pop-up engagement events in each ward, community information sessions and information displayed in Town Hall.
Advocacy and partnerships with governments and agencies to drive stronger action on climate change response	Increased number of targeted workshops, meetings and campaigns designed to advocate to government and other agencies for climate change action	<p>The <i>Climate Conversations</i> program, has trained community volunteers to conduct facilitated conversations with residents to motivate them to take climate action, including the key call to action of speaking to their local Member of Parliament.</p> <p>Much of our climate advocacy has been conducted through multi-agency projects. For example, Glen Eira is one of 31 councils across Victoria collaborating with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment on the Elevating ESD Targets project, we took part in advocacy by Climate Emergency Australia for stronger ESD standards in the National Construction Code and we have supported the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to advocate for stronger action on renewable energy and climate change.</p>
	Increased involvement in Local, State and Federal Government initiatives on climate emergency response	<p>We took part in a number of climate initiatives in 2021–22 involving Local and State Government collaboration. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Victorian Energy Collaboration Program (VECO); - taking part in EAGA initiatives including the Community Net Zero Emissions Strategy and the Adaptation Roadmap, and were the lead council for <i>EAGA’s Electric Vehicle Fleet Transition Business Case</i> project; and - participating in the multi-Council <i>How Well are We Adapting</i> program. <p>We actively promoted a wide range of community-targeted government programs that support sustainable action and behaviour change, such as the Victorian Government’s Solar Victoria program.</p>






STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Strategic Indicator	Performance Measure	Result
<p>Tree canopy and biodiversity footprint on Council managed land achieves targets identified in the <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i></p>	<p>Increased year-on-year numbers of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trees planted in streets, parks and car parks; • square metres of urban biodiversity garden beds prepared for future planting; • trees, shrubs and grasses planted in biodiversity garden beds; and • streetscapes replanted with new avenue planting 	<p>A total of 1,008 trees were planted in various locations throughout the municipality including streets and parks.</p> <p>Over 2,500 square metres of biodiversity garden beds have been created and are almost ready for planting in August/September 2023.</p> <p>To date, 38 new redgums have been planted in Boyd Park Urban Forest that were grown from provenance seed from trees that had been removed for level crossing works.</p> <p>Councils' narrow nature strip tree planting program replaced and enhanced two entire streetscapes (55 trees) in Elsternwick.</p>

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Council Plan Commitment	Major Initiative	Progress Updates as at 30 June 2022	Status
We will increase our tree canopy and expand private and public greening initiatives	We will progress actions and commitments outlined in our newly adopted <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i>	We have been working towards achieving our targets in relation to tree canopy and our biodiversity footprint through the city. Tree planting initiatives delivered in Lord Reserve and Koornang Park in Carnegie have seen a further 170 new canopy trees planted. This will increase tree canopy at both locations by 45 per cent when the trees reach maturity. From a biodiversity perspective, we have prepared over 1,000 square metres of understory biodiversity planting beds that will enhance one of our remnant natural park areas in the southern end of Boyd Park, Murrumbeena.	
We will embed climate change action in everything that we do to support the transition towards zero net emissions from Council by 2025	We will progress actions and commitments outlined in our newly adopted <i>Climate Emergency Strategy</i>	<p>We delivered a wide range of actions outlined in <i>Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021–2025 Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata</i>. Notable achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - moving closer to our goal of net Council emissions by 2025 through our membership of the VECO, which ensures that 100 per cent of Glen Eira’s contestable electricity will come from renewable sources; - making Council-owned buildings safer for our staff and community, by developing a Climate Change Risk Assessment Tool that identifies and prioritises changes that are needed to make critical buildings more climate resilient; - developing and adopting the <i>Glen Eira Integrated Water Management Plan Dhumbali W’urneet Gadhaba</i>, which will guide the sustainable management of water in Glen Eira; and - moving closer to the goal of zero net community emissions by 2030 through supporting local organisations to engage and mobilise their communities, and by launching the <i>Climate Conversations</i> program which trains community volunteers to influence others to take stronger climate action. 	




ANNUAL COMMITMENTS 2021–22

Strategic Priority	Action	Progress Updates as at 30 June 2022	Status
We will embed climate change action in everything that we do to support the transition towards zero net emissions from Council by 2025 Strategic Priority	4.1.1 Develop a climate emergency position statement and advocacy priorities	We actively advocated for funding and policy commitments to support urgent and tangible climate action. In March 2022, Council adopted its priority advocacy projects 2022–23, with climate and sustainability as one of its four priority areas.	
	4.1.2 Incorporate environmentally sustainable design requirements into Council building and infrastructure projects where appropriate	We incorporated Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) requirements in projects such as the permeable footpath trial in Dromana Avenue, Bentleigh East. The footpath is constructed using 50 per cent recycled content aggregate, will decrease storm water runoff, and is light in colour, which will reduce urban heat affects.	
	4.1.3 Consideration of climate change is embedded into integrated strategic planning and reporting processes	Climate change has been included in the <i>Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework</i> process through the Quarterly Services Performance Report, business plans and reporting on the outcomes and achievements of the <i>Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy</i> .	
We will create opportunities for our community to act on climate change to progress towards zero net emissions by 2030	4.2.1 Develop a program to activate the community on climate change	We developed and engaged with 27 community members through the <i>Climate Conversations</i> program, whereby community members are trained to facilitate conversations with their friends, family and wider community, and motivate them to take action on climate change. Training for community facilitators was conducted in November 2021, and facilitated conversations commenced in March 2022.	
	4.2.2 Develop a <i>Circular Economy Plan</i>	Endorsement of the <i>Circular Economy Plan</i> was delayed to ensure appropriate engagement with stakeholders, and community feedback incorporated into the final proposed <i>Plan</i> . Community consultation on the draft <i>Plan</i> was completed in June 2022, and further engagement with internal stakeholders and First Nations people remains ongoing. The <i>Circular Economy Plan 2022–2026</i> is scheduled to be considered at the 20 September 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting.	

ANNUAL COMMITMENTS 2021–22

Strategic Priority	Action	Progress Updates as at 30 June 2022	Status
We will increase our tree canopy and expand private and public greening initiatives	4.3.1 Increase our tree canopy and biodiversity footprint in line with annual targets in the <i>Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy</i>	We are working towards achieving our targets in relation to tree canopy and our biodiversity footprint through the City. Tree planting initiatives delivered in Lord Reserve and Koornang Park in Carnegie have seen a further 170 new canopy trees planted. This will increase tree canopy at both locations by 45 per cent when the trees reach maturity. From a biodiversity perspective, we prepared over 1,000 square metres of understory biodiversity planting beds that will enhance one of our remnant natural park areas in the southern end of Boyd Park.	
	4.3.2 Progress our annual tree planting program and deliver on our 2021–22 planting commitments	<p>Council planted 1,008 new and replacement trees across streets and parks throughout our City in 2021–22. Tree planting was slightly down from last year due to the COVID-19 restrictions and shortages in resource.</p> <p>We have completed two new streetscapes that involved the creation of tree planting pits; these have seen over 50 new trees added into locations that were previously devoid of tree canopy. With current supply issues for tree stock, we have also pro-actively ordered over 1,000 new trees that will be planting by the end of 2022.</p> <p>We also prepared over 2,500 square metres of urban biodiversity garden beds for future planting.</p>	
	4.3.3 Neighbourhood Character Statements are updated to reinforce the importance of vegetation as a core element of preferred neighbourhood character	Existing and Preferred Neighbourhood Statements were prepared as part of the draft <i>Housing Strategy</i> endorsed by Council for consultation in February 2022.	
	4.3.4 Deliver community projects that expand and support plantings on private land, in identified hotspots and areas with limited natural landscape	<p>We are working to identify communities that live in streets and neighbourhoods with a high level of vulnerability to climate impacts such as heatwaves and will engage, educate and support these residents to take proactive action to reduce these impacts, including increasing tree planting on both public and private land. It was anticipated that the initial locations would be identified and engaged in June 2022; this has been delayed due to capacity constraints and communities in pilot locations will now be identified and engaged in the second half of 2022. Learnings from these locations will guide future engagements we undertake elsewhere in Glen Eira.</p> <p>Projects are also currently being developed to engage and support tree planting at schools across Glen Eira.</p>	

ANNUAL COMMITMENTS 2021–22

Strategic Priority	Action	Progress Updates as at 30 June 2022	Status
We will work with our community to understand the human impacts of climate change and the adaptation strategies that may be required to minimise the social, health and economic impacts	4.4.1 Develop partnerships to support vulnerable people in our community to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change	We are liaising with emergency management agencies, and service providers involved in emergency management to identify, engage with and support residents who are vulnerable to climate change impacts. We will expand this engagement through our place-based engagement model to include communities that live in streets and neighbourhoods with a high level of vulnerability to climate impacts.	
	4.4.2 Develop initiatives to support population groups with higher vulnerability to support them to improve their safety during extreme weather	<p>Initiatives to support vulnerable population groups have been developed including: A letter about heatwave / extreme heat was sent to all active Commonwealth Home Support Program and Home and Community Care clients in early December. The letter includes strategies for staying healthy in hot weather, where to get help and includes the Department of Health Human Services Heatwave brochure. Support workers are also provided with copy of the letter and strategies so they can discuss and educate clients during service visits.</p> <p>Support workers also continue to monitor and assess client’s health during all service visits and report any concerns to team leaders to follow up on an ongoing basis.</p>	
	4.4.3 Develop <i>Integrated Water Management Plan</i>	The Glen Eira <i>Integrated Water Management Plan Dhumbali W’urneet Gadhaba</i> was adopted by Council in June 2022. The Plan outlines Council’s approach to water management and the specific actions we will take to manage water in our environment.	



Achieved



Not achieved



Not achieved due to factors outside of Council’s control