

# Community Emissions Reduction Plan – Community Consultation FAQs

## What is climate change?

Climate change relates to the build-up of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) in the earth's atmosphere. The build-up of GHG traps heat from the sun and results in a gradual increase in earth's temperatures. A total of 99 per cent of climate scientists agree that human influence has been the leading cause of climate change related global warming, through the production of GHG.

## What are greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)?

Climate change relates to the problem of too many Greenhouse Gases (GHG) in our atmosphere, which traps heat below the atmosphere, warming temperatures across earth.

It is now understood that since the industrial revolution, human activity has significantly increased the amount of these gases being released into the atmosphere, leading to increased warming. The main causes of GHG emissions are the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

We are already starting to feel the effects of this, as evidenced by increasing weather extremes, and in the number, duration and severity of heatwaves (just to name a few effects).

## What are the common greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)?

Common GHGs are Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). As the most common GHG found in the atmosphere is Carbon Dioxide, climate change related emissions are commonly referred to as carbon emissions.

## Why is Council undertaking this project?

To achieve effective action on climate change, everyone needs to play a part. Recognising this, Banyule City Council is committed to working in partnership with the community and other levels of government, to reduce our contribution to climate change.

Banyule has established two key targets of carbon neutrality:

- The Banyule Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan will consider emissions sources within Council's direct control with an aim of carbon neutrality by 2028

- The Community Emissions Reduction Plan will support the community through incentives and advocating to work towards carbon neutrality for the whole municipality

These targets will help us stay on track and ensure we plan now, for zero net emissions and are supported by a \$5M Climate Action Package.

### **What is the \$5M Climate Action Package?**

Council's \$5M Climate Action Package includes:

- Additional solar power across 150 Council owned buildings and facilities
- Energy efficiency enhancements across Council owned buildings
- Additional electric vehicles for Council's fleet
- 10 'Green Collar' internships
- Development of business cases for long term abatement initiatives (i.e. solar farms, wind farms, street light replacement)
- Extra allocation of funds to the Environment Grants to support community projects
- Development of Banyule Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and Community Emissions Reduction Plan using the C40 framework for cities.

### **What is carbon neutrality?**

Carbon neutrality means that there is net zero emissions arising from an organisation or product or service. Carbon neutrality can be achieved by reducing energy consumption, improving energy efficiency and utilising renewable forms of energy.

Where some emissions are unavoidable, an organisation will undertake projects that will remove the equivalent amount of emissions from the atmosphere, such as planting trees, renewable energy projects and energy efficiency projects. These are referred to as offsets.

### **What is meant by 'purchasing carbon offsets'?**

An organisation will typically purchase carbon offsets, as the final step in their process to reduce their emissions to net zero and achieve carbon neutrality.

Carbon offsets are approved projects or activities, which remove the equivalent amount of emissions from the atmosphere.

Council believes that the purchase of offsets should only occur after steps to reduce energy consumption, improve energy efficiency and procure renewable energy has been undertaken.

### **What is C40 Cities and the C40 Framework?**

C40 Cities is a network of cities around the world, committed to taking strong action on climate change. Through C40, member cities can collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.

The C40 Framework is a specific roadmap for cities who are wanting to reduce their emissions to zero.

As a Melbourne Metropolitan Council, with Melbourne being a member city of the C40 network, we are able to use this framework to build our response to Climate Change.

### **In what ways can Council offer support to reduce emissions?**

In December 2018 Council passed a Climate Action resolution ensuring strong, collaborative and urgent action to reduce emissions across Banyule.

Council can offer education, incentives and advocate to other levels of government to support the reduction of emissions in the community. We are now undertaking community engagement to find out what is stopping community from lowering their emissions and how we can better support their efforts.

### **What are some of the strategies that Council has already implemented?**

Council has a long history of acting to reduce our emissions, with the introduction of energy efficient streetlights, solar hot water and solar electricity systems (to name a few).

Most recently, as part of the December 2018 Climate Action resolution, Council has ramped up efforts to improve the energy efficiency of our Council owned buildings with initiatives such as LED light replacement, upgrades to insulation and the introduction of solar hot water systems.

Notably, we are working to roll out solar PV to all Council owned buildings over the short term.

### **What are the strategies Council is looking to implement to work towards a carbon neutral municipality?**

Council has developed a list of goals and the critical actions to work towards carbon neutrality. These have been developed for existing residential and commercial as well as new residential and commercial, transportation and waste. The actions are presented below.

## Existing residential and commercial (actions for residents and businesses / industry)

Goal	Critical actions
Lighting – 100 per cent usage of LED and automatic light controls. On average LEDs consume 80 per cent less energy than other lighting forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Households to replace all incandescent and compact fluorescent (CFL) globes with highly efficient LED alternatives</li> <li>Business and industry to replace all lighting with highly efficient LED alternatives</li> <li>Couple LED replacements with occupancy sensing devices (movement detection) or light switches (in business/commercial buildings) so lights can be switched off when rooms are not in use.</li> </ul>
Appliances – 100 per cent usage of energy star rated and high efficiency appliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade all appliances (fridges, washing machines, cooking appliances, TVs) with high star (8-10) Energy Star rated alternatives</li> </ul>
Home Heating and Cooling - 100 per cent usage of electric heat pumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade all air-conditioning systems to be high efficiency electric reverse-cycle systems to warm and cool indoor spaces</li> </ul>
Water heating – 100 per cent usage of electric heat pumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade all water heaters to electric heat pumps</li> </ul>
Private homes – 100 per cent usage of fully insulated walls and roof and triple glazed windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install roof and wall insulation in households</li> <li>Replace all windows with triple glazed alternatives</li> </ul>
Green Power, residential and commercial solar PV – at least 80 per cent usage across all residents  Green Power is a term used to describe a consumer's ability to ensure the power they buy is accredited as 'green' and will not fund any fossil fuel projects which exacerbate climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install solar PV systems on homes and businesses</li> <li>Resident and businesses to commit to ensuring their energy retailer can provide them with Green Power (50-100 per cent)</li> </ul>

## New residential and commercial (actions for Council to improve planning scheme)

Goal: all new residential and commercial buildings are to have	Critical actions
LED lighting and automatic light controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandate the installation of LED lighting, accompanied by motion control sensors and light switches</li> </ul>
Energy star rated and high efficiency appliances and electronics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local retailers to support and promote the sales of high energy star rated household and commercial appliances (fridges, washing machines, cooking appliances, TVs)</li> </ul>
Electric heat pumps for heating and cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandate the installation of high efficiency electric reverse-cycle heating and cooling systems</li> </ul>

Electric heat pumps for water heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandate the installation of high efficiency electric heat pump water heater</li> </ul>
All new buildings to have advanced wall insulation, advanced roof insulation and triple glazed windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandate the use of insulation in walls and roofs of new buildings</li> </ul>
All new buildings to be orientated to optimise passive solar design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandate the installation of triple glazed windows for new buildings</li> </ul>

### Transportation (actions for Council, residents and businesses / industry)

Goal	Critical actions
Reduce petrol vehicle fuel usage and increase electric vehicle usage by 90 per cent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council to develop infrastructure to accommodate future electric vehicle use</li> <li>• Residents and businesses to replace petrol/diesel/gas vehicles with more efficient hybrid or electric alternatives</li> </ul>
A shift away from private automobile usage and a 30 per cent increase uptake of public and active transport modes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents and businesses to commit to using other modes of transportation (public/active) rather than private automobiles, for short trips in the municipality</li> </ul>

### How were the critical actions developed?

The critical actions were developed by creating a profile of Banyule's municipality-wide emissions and then rating and prioritising these on ease of implementation and amount of emissions reduced if performed.

Council has also considered the information provided through previous engagement by internal stakeholders, community members and environmental groups.

### What information is Council seeking from the community?

Council is seeking to understand how the community would like to participate in the above critical actions to reach emission reduction targets. Council is particularly interested to know what is stopping people from acting on these and what Council can offer to support them.

### How can I get involved?

From 26 August to 22 September 2019 we invite all members of the community to tell us what they think. Please visit the Shaping Banyule webpage to:

- find out more about the project
- complete the survey

- register to attend a focus group.

### **How will the feedback I provide be used?**

The feedback collected through the engagement will be used to understand the way the community want to be involved in achieving the critical actions and how Council can best work in partnership with the community.

### **Where can I find more information?**

Please visit the Shaping Banyule webpage or contact the project team on +61 3 9490 4222 or [enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au). You can also visit us at 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough 3088

### **How can I obtain information in other formats or languages?**

If you would like this information in different format or languages please contact [Environment@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:Environment@banyule.vic.gov.au)