

## Action Status Update

### Pathway 1 - Community Empowerment & Local Action

1.1.1	<p><b><u>Support the community to better understand the need and ability to act more sustainably and overcome cultural norms surrounding consumption</u></b></p> <p>Significant work was undertaken to shape and support sustainable consumption activities through Council. With the support of a Working Group made up of internal and external representatives, this very broad theme was refined to focus on the Sharing Economy. Council provided ongoing limited promotion and support for this action within existing resources, focussing on utilising Council communications channels to further promote sustainable consumption and sharing options within Yarra.</p> <p>Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A potential project was scoped and supported and developed as a New Initiative budget bid for rollout in 2015/16. This was not funded.</li><li>-A 'MapJam' was held at the Fitzroy Town Hall in 2015, in partnership with InfoExchange and Share Melbourne, to establish sharing opportunities in Yarra and to provide a forum for 'sharing advocates' to network and foster projects.</li><li>- Council Website was updated with a Share Yarra webpage which displays the interactive MapJam Map.</li><li>- The annual Council Community Grants - Environment Stream was modified to incorporate project options which could be focused on sustainable consumption and/or the sharing economy.</li></ul>	
1.1.2	<p><b><u>Develop a network of local hubs to disseminate sustainability information and support</u></b></p> <p>Staff across Sustainability, Waste Minimisation and Urban Agriculture, and Yarra Libraries have worked with Neighbourhood Houses to assist in enhancing their sustainability offerings and build their ability to act as centres for sustainability outreach in their community.</p> <p>Two neighbourhood houses participated in Council's In Your Patch project (Alphington Community Centre and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre). Additionally, sustainability actions at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House identified through Council's "<i>In Your Patch</i>" project were supported separately. Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre was able to secure further funding to expand their capacity as a social enterprise hub.</p> <p>The more holistic plan for creation of development of 'Sustainability Hubs' has been developed, expanding waste, compost and garden infrastructure and connecting with Food Know How through hosting workshops and planning support for future ambitions in sustainability outreach. This plan provides possibilities for common branding and promotion to increase the profile of these community centres in terms of what they can do support local action for sustainability. New Initiative funding was not successful, but a modified version will proceed in 2018.</p>	
1.2.1	<p><b><u>Support and connect neighbours to take collective action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles</u></b></p> <p>This action was funded by Council, and rebranded as 'In Your Patch, delivering the Year 1 and 2 actions. In your Patch brought together the delivery of actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1, &amp; 1.4.1.</p> <p>In Your Patch successfully catalysed and supported a number of neighbourhood-based projects, particularly Solar Neighbourhoods and Alphington Community Centre's Compost Hub and Sustainability Suitcase. These projects were highly successful at connecting residents and local businesses, groups and organisations within specific local areas and mobilising effective action. Solar Neighbourhoods particularly validated the effectiveness of neighbour-to-neighbour recruitment for a community-led solar bulk buy.</p> <p>The In Your Patch project has now ceased as a stand alone project. Lessons were however integrated in the Sustainability Stream of Yarra's Annual Grants, including the creation of a new sub-category - Partnering for Sustainability - which brings a stronger partnership approach to our support of community sustainability projects. This approach has been a success and has provided for improved project outcomes.</p>	

1.2.2	<p><b><u>Strengthen the Urban Agriculture program</u></b></p> <p>Yarra is a national leader in supporting local food growing activities through our Urban Agriculture program. The Urban Agriculture Strategy has guided this work. The highlights have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community growing spaces program currently has 162 planter boxes on the street</li> <li>• A set of guidelines has been developed and adopted by Council (May 2015) for the development of “pop up Laneway Gardens”. Similar to the community growing spaces program, intake for applications for “pop up laneways” will occur twice annually with each applicant required to attend an information and training session before submitting their application. The first such session was held late 2016. There are three laneway gardens in Yarra.</li> <li>• A number of free workshop sessions including the care and maintenance of bees, fruit tree pruning, gardening in small spaces and composting have been held throughout Yarra. A workshop was held in September 2016 at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre which provided 19 gardeners with an extensive one day workshop to build their gardening skills. They shared their skills with their local community, building skills across Council as well as supporting and building leadership in the group.</li> <li>• Rushall Community garden has been supported to bring their garden beds up to current standards for soil health and protection from contamination. All the beds have been reconstructed to incorporate geo tech fabric to isolate the site soil from the new garden soil.</li> <li>• Trialling a Food Squad Program in partnership with Richmond Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The aim of the program is to harvest excess fruit, improving community cohesion and reducing food wastage in Burnley; to enable skill sharing between householders and volunteers, and fostering social connections and inclusion.</li> <li>• The urban agriculture team works closely with a cross council group to assess and approve each community growing spaces and pop up laneway garden application. This group meets regularly when applications for new gardens have been promoted.</li> <li>• A collaboration with Waste Minimisation has resulted in the inclusion in the Food Know How program sessions on the building of gardening skills and awareness of the importance of growing ones own food.</li> </ul>	
1.3.1	<p><b><u>Support local sustainability community groups to be effective</u></b></p> <p>Council supports community sustainability groups both through strategic partnerships and by being responsive to emerging and ad hoc needs.</p> <p>Some examples of Council support provided includes to: Livewell Yarra, Yarra Energy Foundation, Environment Victoria's Future Powered Families project, the Victorian National Parks Association's Wild Families project, grants applicants (whether successful or not), neighbourhood houses, along with other community projects, over the life of the Yarra Environment Strategy. Council's support added value, credibility, and practical resources to these initiatives, assisting them to be more effective and thereby delivering more outcomes in Yarra.</p>	
1.3.2	<p><b><u>Support community groups to access funding and support</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to promote and provide advice on funding opportunities to community groups and organisations through specific communications, the Environment E-news, and through Council's own grants program.</p>	
1.3.3	<p><b><u>Enhance community group collaboration of sustainability via the Yarra Environmental Sustainability Network (YESN)</u></b></p> <p>Council successfully delivered YES Network meetings on specific topics through to June 2015. During 2014-2015 a review on the function and delivery of the YES Network was undertaken, from this the decision was made to discontinue the regular face-to-face meetings from June 2015 and opt for a more efficient email network forum. Continued review on the effectiveness of this approach was conducted in conjunction with broader communication evaluation. The YES Network email network forum was then consolidated with additional Yarra email networks to maximise communication efficiency for purpose.</p>	

1.4.1	<p><b><u>Develop tailored program to increase participation in Council's sustainability programs of groups with specific needs</u></b></p> <p>This action was funded by Council, and rebranded as 'In Your Patch, delivering the Year 1 and 2 actions. In your Patch brought together the delivery of actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1, &amp; 1.4.1.</p> <p>In Your Patch successfully catalysed and supported a number of neighbourhood-based projects, particularly Solar Neighbourhoods and Alphington Community Centre's Compost Hub and Sustainability Suitcase. Both of these projects were highly successful at connecting residents and local businesses, groups and organisations within specific local areas and mobilising effective action. Solar Neighbourhoods particularly validated the effectiveness of neighbour-to-neighbour recruitment for a community-led solar bulk buy.</p> <p>The In Your Patch project and has now ceased as a stand alone project. Lessons were however integrated in the Sustainability Stream of Yarra's Annual Grants, including the creation of a new sub-category - Partnering for Sustainability - which brings a stronger partnership approach to our support of community sustainability projects. This approach has been a success and has provided for improved project outcomes.</p>	
1.4.2	<p><b><u>Supporting Sustainable Schools</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to support schools by integrating recycling and litter reduction into everything the students and teachers do. The education program we help to deliver includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit bins and litter in schools.</li> <li>• Ensure recycling bins have stickers with clear up to date information</li> <li>• Educate and engage students around recycling right, and the effects of littering</li> <li>• Involve students in making art or puppets from recycling so they see a value in the materials, and a personal reward in creating something.</li> <li>• Link in with education activities from Waterwatch, where practical.</li> <li>• Follow up with activities tailored to each school,</li> <li>• Support them in Clean Up Australia Day.</li> <li>• Link in with food recycling, composting and kitchen gardens where possible.</li> </ul> <p>Fifteen schools have engaged in this program.</p>	
1.4.3	<p><b><u>Integrate sustainability into Council services to the community</u></b></p> <p>Throughout the life of the strategy, Sustainability staff supported diverse actions aimed at integrating sustainability into other Council work areas, within existing resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering with different areas on paperless projects (saving over 49,000 sheets of paper annually),</li> <li>• supporting many sustainability-themed events for the community via Yarra Libraries.</li> <li>• Partnering with Aged and Disability Services to train Home Maintenance staff and contractors in draught-proofing, and integrating this into the services provided by Council to the most vulnerable Home Maintenance clients (<i>Home for All Seasons</i>)</li> </ul>	
1.5.1	<p><b><u>Disseminate key sustainability information to our community</u></b></p> <p>Council has refined a comprehensive suite of communication channels to better share sustainability information on local environmental projects, activities, news and events to the Yarra Community. This includes review and updating of new Council sustainability website pages, revision of the Environment e-news - including switch to monthly edition fit for purpose, and utilisation of shared social media resources (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).</p> <p>Regular review and improvement of communication channels has also been integrated in to a dedicated officer role to ensure communication opportunities are identified and shared with other stakeholders.</p>	

1.5.2	<p><b><u>Increase community input to Council programs, processes, and services</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to facilitate Council-community committees including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC)</li> <li>• Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC); and</li> <li>• Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee.</li> </ul> <p>Council also established the new Waste and Recycling Working Group as a subcommittee of the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee.</p>	
1.6.1	<p><b><u>Develop Yarra Sustainability Survey and measure Yarra's environmental Footprint</u></b></p> <p>The Community Sustainability survey was completed as scheduled in 2013/14 and updated in 2017.</p> <p>In 2014 a review was undertaken of steps for compiling an Ecological Footprint for the City of Yarra, and the benefits of this. This included discussions with 'One Planet and Sydney University who offer calculation services. It was decided that, at this stage, EcoFootprinting for the City of Yarra was cost prohibitive and did not offer the data or communications benefits anticipated.</p>	
1.6.2	<p><b><u>Yarra Sustainability Awards</u></b></p> <p>The Yarra Sustainability Awards held in 2014, 2015, and 2016. For 2017 it was agreed to have a break year and no Sustainability Awards were held.</p> <p>The Yarra Sustainability Awards continued to be a very successful and important event on the community sustainability calendar.</p>	
<p><b><u>Pathway 2 - Urban Ecology &amp; Natural Environment</u></b></p>		
2.1.1	<p><b><u>Establish Yarra River environs awareness campaign</u></b></p> <p>Discussion regarding development of this campaign occurred, looking into opportunities to link into other activities to create synergies rather than as a stand alone action. The concept was agreed as valid, but was seen as a big initiative requiring funding and ongoing support.</p> <p>The Merri Creek Management Committee was successful in undertaking projects of a similar nature via Council Grants. This initiative could be reviewed following completion of MCMC projects.</p>	
2.1.2	<p><b><u>Build community understanding of activities to improve local air quality</u></b></p> <p>A review of air quality in Yarra was completed in 2014/15, based on EPA data, and the Council webpage 'Air Quality in Yarra' was updated.</p> <p>The review found little value-add in Council re-casting the EPA data, and has since simply directed the community to the EPA site to access the most up to date EPA data.</p>	
2.2.1	<p><b><u>Support and enhance existing natural resource management programs/ actions</u></b></p> <p>Street tree planting, garden bed planting and bushland (revegetation) planting has continued though the life of this strategy, with additional weed management at sites of high ecological value.</p>	
2.2.2	<p><b><u>Develop and undertake local biodiversity and ecosystem health Survey</u></b></p> <p>The Biodiversity Health Survey is complete.</p>	
2.2.3	<p><b><u>Develop Yarra Biodiversity Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Following on from the completion of the Biodiversity Health Survey, the project brief for the biodiversity strategy is complete, and the strategy will be completed in the first half of 2018.</p>	

2.2.4	<p><b><u>Accelerating Water Sensitive Urban Design for water treatment through Council operations</u></b></p> <p>The WSUD policy was adopted in 2016</p> <p>Existing WSUD projects of note include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Church St Park WSUD</li> <li>- Derby St Sediment trap and planted outstands</li> <li>- Passive irrigation of planted outstands</li> </ul> <p>No significant new projects are planned</p>	
2.3.1	<p><b><u>Support wildlife-friendly, native indigenous, and biodiversity focused gardening at home</u></b></p> <p>'The popular 'Gardening with Native Plants in Yarra' Booklet was developed into a more accessible online resource, which can be freely downloaded via the Council Website. The "Removing Weeds In Yarra" booklet remains freely available from the Richmond Town Hall &amp; VINC nursery, Yarra Bend Rd, Fairfield.</p> <p>Discussions between Open Space and Sustainability teams have confirmed that to be successful a Backyard Biodiversity project should first be scoped and integrated into the Biodiversity Strategy or Urban Forest Strategy, or otherwise receive significant external funding if a source comes available. The Urban Forest Strategy has been completed, but the Biodiversity Strategy is still under development.</p>	
2.3.2	<p><b><u>Incorporating Stormwater Management in the Planning Process</u></b></p> <p>This action was fully implemented. The WSUD Local Planning Policy (Amendment C117) was approved and gazetted on 13 March 2014. Training to support this has not been required. WSUD from private developers in the public realm will continue to be assessed on an as needs basis.</p>	
2.3.3	<p><b><u>Improve setback controls to protect land along the Yarra River</u></b></p> <p>The Yarra River Corridor Strategy (for the City of Yarra) was completed and was presented to Council in June 2015. Council prepared a planning scheme amendment that would introduce more stringent planning controls along the Yarra River to protect the river corridor from overdevelopment.</p> <p>The Minister for Planning approved Amendment GC48 24 February 2017 which implements interim planning controls to protect the Yarra River from inappropriate development. These changes to Planning Schemes apply from Punt Road, Cremorne to Warrandyte and are part of a wider set of initiatives to protect the Yarra River and its landscape. Council both supported and advocated for these initiatives.</p>	
2.4.1	<p><b><u>Build alliances and partnerships to advocate and ensure a clean Yarra River</u></b></p> <p>Council built alliances and worked in partnerships to advocate and ensure a clean Yarra River, including with Melbourne Water and via IMAP</p>	
2.4.2	<p><b><u>Supporting reduction in litter loads to Yarra's waterways through business and community action</u></b></p> <p>Council has made litter a key part of the education program with schools, supported groups on Clean Up Australia Day and in commercial shopping strips.</p>	
2.4.3	<p><b><u>Develop Water Sensitive City Plan</u></b></p> <p>The WSUD Policy was updated and adopted. The potential for development of an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) is being re-evaluated along with Council's broader water management direction.</p>	
<p><b><u>Pathway 3 - Sustainable City Infrastructure &amp; Lifestyles</u></b></p>		
3.1.1.1	<p><b><u>Develop Sustainable Transport Behaviour Change Campaign Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to work with the community to encourage a shift to use non-car modes of transport. Work has continued via existing channels rather than via establishing a new community Sustainable Transport Behaviour Change Campaign as such.</p>	

3.1.2.1	<p><b><u>Accelerating cycling and walking in Yarra</u></b></p> <p>Significant work has been undertaken, including a refresh of the Bicycle Strategy. A priority list of bike projects is identified for delivery in 2017/18 reflecting existing capital and operational resources. Work is ongoing with VicRoads regarding strategic cycling corridors</p>	
3.1.2.2	<p><b><u>Support public transport use in Yarra</u></b></p> <p>Numerous actions to improve public transport in Yarra have been completed, most recently :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work on DDA compliant tram stops on route 96</li> <li>- Work is continuing on transport aspects of the planning scheme update</li> <li>- Work is on going with VicRoads at Chandler Highway which includes advocacy for improved bus services in the area</li> <li>- Work is on going with VicRoads regarding improved public transport along Hoddle Street</li> </ul>	
3.1.3.1	<p><b><u>Advocate and work with key stakeholders to support sustainable transport</u></b></p> <p>Significant advocacy activities have been completed, most recently including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submissions to Infrastructure Australia regarding transport needs in Yarra</li> <li>- Meetings with State Government officers and CEO's regarding the need for new tram stops on Bridge Road</li> <li>- Ongoing advocacy regarding transport needs for Yarra/Manningham</li> </ul> <p>Notably, a trial of a 30km speed limit is occurring, a direct outcome of the Yarra Environment Strategy and this action.</p>	
3.2.1.1	<p><b><u>Strengthening partnerships and support for sustainable business operations</u></b></p> <p>The Economic Development Strategy was updated and endorsed by Council in November 2014, and strongly incorporated Sustainability in its development, with the Vision being <i>"A local business community engaged and empowered to implement sustainable business practices" to be achieved via:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote participation in Yarra Energy Foundation and City Switch;</li> <li>• Continue to recognise green business practice through the Yarra Sustainability Awards, and promote business achievements and success stories through a range of mediums;</li> <li>• Engage with industry bodies to disseminate industry specific advice on sustainable business practices; and</li> <li>• Monitor trends in the sustainability sector to identify opportunities to attract green businesses to Yarra.</li> </ul> <p>Specific activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council has provided significant support and assistance to businesses in Yarra to become more sustainable via our website and ebulletin. Yarra's Business e-bulletin featured articles on topics including, energy assessment grants, recycling, sustainability awards program and ride2work. Council profiled at least two local businesses every fortnight in the Business e-bulletin promoting supply and buy local.</li> <li>- Council built a strong collaborative working relationship with Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) to support sustainable business. In March 2015 Council ran the Economic Development Expo held at the Abbotsford Convent which included sustainable business information and featured YEF. Council also partnered with YEF to deliver a series of workshops promoting energy efficiency and purchasing green power. YEF themselves run many activities and projects supporting sustainable business in Yarra.</li> <li>- In 2014/15 The Economic Development Unit decided to choose a business with a sustainability focus to put forward for Northern Business Achievement Awards. GIW Environmental Solutions was selected, and won the Northern Business Achievement - Sustainability and Environment - Award.</li> <li>- Council partnered with traders to produce local directories promoting buy local.</li> <li>- Council supported green economy practices in Yarra such as featuring Cosharing as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week and ongoing investigations into potential for Environmental Upgrade Agreements</li> </ul>	

3.2.2.1	<p><b><u>Review opportunities for Growing the Green Economy in Yarra</u></b></p> <p>This action was fully actioned. In the development of the Economic Development Strategy, consultants were engaged to review "Opportunities for Growing the Green Economy in Yarra". This resulted in a Background Report which outlined Yarra's comparative advantages as a green business location and the opportunities for green business and job attraction. These themes were then incorporated into the final Economic Development Strategy, endorsed November 2014.</p>	
3.3.1.1	<p><b><u>Planning Scheme Improvements to support sustainable outcomes</u></b></p> <p>The ESD Local policy was formally gazetted into the Planning Scheme in 19th November 2015. Successful implementation continues with all developments of 2 dwellings or larger required to demonstrate best practice in ESD.</p> <p>Any development with an additional floor area of &gt; 50m2 must meet stormwater and WSUD best practice standards.</p> <p>ESD is systematically incorporated in the current Yarra Planning Scheme review and is incorporated into all design and development overlays, incorporated plans and master plans.</p> <p>Yarra takes a leadership role in the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) , supporting the consistent and widespread adoption of our ESD Local Policy, the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool and our ESD best practice standards, currently rolling out over 21 Victorian Councils. Council continues to work with DELWP and the State Government to develop a state-wide ESD policy.</p>	
3.3.1.2	<p><b><u>Support sustainable development within the Planning processes</u></b></p> <p>Yarra supported the development of an Environmentally Efficient Design Local Policy (Amendment 133) with five other Councils, endorsed by the Minister of Planning in 2015.</p> <p>The SDAPP program continues and supports applicants with planning scheme requirements, a growing ESD Fact Sheet Suite, the BESS tool and other online resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) incorporates a consistent set of best practice standards in ESD for all development types and scales and has been adopted by 21 councils across Victoria. Over 500 development applications have used the BESS tool in Yarra to date. A total of nearly 11,000 development projects have used the BESS tool across Victoria.</li> <li>- Ongoing program monitoring is gathering overarching ESD performance standards and other application details, that are regularly reported internally as well as to DELWP and Council.</li> <li>- Small developments do not trigger the ESD Policy, however assessment of small development will remain voluntary with negotiated ESD improvements for the time being. Projects of 50m2 or more do trigger the WSUD requirements.</li> <li>- Work continues in conjunction with the VBA, CASBE and other government agencies on verification and compliance of ESD in the built environment, from planning through to final built stage.</li> <li>- Ongoing ESD Case Studies and site visits to verify and document ESD standards.</li> <li>- There are currently 16 SDAPP Fact Sheets published and available, with consistent best practice standards across Victoria. 5 additional fact sheets are currently in development.</li> </ul>	
3.3.2.1	<p><b><u>Support green facades and roofs</u></b></p> <p>The Growing Green Guide was completed and is now regularly used by development applicants and Council staff across Yarra. Green walls, roofs and facades are now commonly proposed by private development within Yarra. The IMAP SDAPP Fact Sheet team has developed a Fact Sheet which incorporated green roofs, walls and facade, and they are encouraged in the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool.</p> <p>Green facades and roofs are considered but are not specifically required by the ESD Buildings Policy for Council buildings, however they are one option for buildings to meet the ESD Buildings Policy requirements. Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library is one example of where vegetation and landscaping has improved the sustainability of our building stock, achieving an overall 6 Star Green Star rating.</p>	

3.3.2.2	<p><b><u>Existing building sustainability</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to work closely with the Yarra Energy Foundation by providing support and advice about a range of different activities such as the commercial solar project. Council and YEF are also investigating the opportunities in providing Environment Upgrade Agreement (EUA's) in Yarra if/when they become a strong value proposition.</p> <p>Council also continued to represent its municipality at a regional scale, particularly through its ongoing membership and involvement in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) and its associated activities that often have a building focus. Council and YEF have continued to support the SmartBlocks program</p>	
3.3.3.1	<p><b><u>Enhancing Open Space</u></b></p> <p>The expansion of Yarra's open space has been a strong success as an outcome of the Yarra Environment Strategy, resulting in 6 new 'pop-up' parks over the life of this Strategy. Further funding is available for the construction of a new small park at Charles and Mollison Streets in Abbotsford., with construction to commence in early 2018.</p> <p>The review and update of the Open Space Strategy has commenced.</p>	
3.4.1.1	<p><b><u>Support the Yarra Energy Foundation</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to support the Yarra Energy Foundation in 2014/15 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Financial contribution;</li> <li>- Monthly meetings held between YEF and Yarra;</li> <li>- Quarterly briefings to Council; and</li> <li>- Six monthly reports from YEF to Council.</li> </ul> <p>In 2017 Council and YEF co-ran an integrated Household Battery and Solar PV seminar. This was very well attended (over 70 people) and showed the power of collaboration and targeted events.</p>	
3.4.1.2	<p><b><u>Support existing and new partnerships and joint activities</u></b></p> <p>Council, together with YEF, continue to keep on top of opportunities to support partnerships aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions in our community. Some opportunities being supported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council involvement with Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA);</li> <li>- Negotiating with YEF, Sustainable Melbourne Fund, and NAGA, towards scoping future potential to support Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's) in Yarra;</li> <li>- Supporting Yarra Climate Action Now to progress a Community Solar project; and</li> <li>- Council supported Livewell Yarra to develop local groups of community members aimed at supporting reduction of greenhouse emissions.</li> </ul>	
3.4.2.1	<p><b><u>Greenhouse Advocacy</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to support the greenhouse and climate change mitigation advocacy throughout the year, especially via involvement in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action who advocate on behalf of member Councils.</p>	



3.5.1.1	<p><b><u>Develop a new Waste Management Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Council successfully delivered the priority actions in the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Food Know How:</b> The Food Know How program has evolved into a 5 week Challenge which guides households and the community on the steps of good food planning, shopping, storage, preparation, and composting.</li> <li>- <b>Recycle Us:</b> Council's bin inspection program, Recycle Us, educates and encourage residents to recycle right by giving them direct relevant feedback about what is in their recycling and rubbish bin. On average the program has reduced contamination in recycle bins by 20% and reduced resource loss by 10% in the rubbish bin.</li> <li>- <b>MUD Recycling Program:</b> Council's program for multi-unit developments produced a new way to engage with buildings and residents with the development of waste and recycling posters that are free for residents to access and download on our website. The program directly engaged with 20 locations per year, ranging in size and scale, from units at Richmond Department of Housing to 500 unit high rise towers.</li> <li>- <b>Yarra's Community Resource Recovery Hubs:</b> Three large outdoor and four indoor hubs (in libraries and neighbourhood houses) have been successfully implemented throughout the municipality. These Hubs collect clothes, textiles, homewares, and small electrical items. We have consistently diverted just over 100 tonnes of material per year.</li> <li>- <b>Commercial Shop Recycling Project:</b> Engagement and education around recycling and managing waste better is now integrated into an education program. The engagement package included one-on-one talks, information sheets, internal recycling bins, and stickers for external recycling bins.</li> </ul>	
3.5.2.1	<p><b><u>Focus on reduction of food waste to landfill</u></b></p> <p>Council has taken the next step to introduce a new kerbside collection service to Yarra residents to recover food waste. This is a 3 year project being delivered in two distinct phases in conjunction with a grant from the Sustainability Victoria Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>Phase One runs from November 2017 – December 2018 and will involve up to 500 households with the collected material being taken for composting at Veolia NRS Dandenong.</p> <p>Phase Two runs from January 2019 – March 2020 and will involve an additional 4500 households and include the procurement of an in-vessel composting unit to be housed and operational within Yarra.</p>	
3.5.3.1	<p><b><u>Regional waste minimisation action and partnerships</u></b></p> <p>Council undertook many actions in partnership with other Councils including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acting as Project Coordinator of a five Council project - to expand the Food Know How program, targeting residents around using less food, and composting leftovers to reduce food going to landfill. This is funded by the Metropolitan Waste &amp; Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG).</li> <li>- Yarra is a participant in the MWRRG funded the Bright Sparks project trialling the collection of small second hand electrical appliances, which can be then repaired and given to the needy, or sold, rather than going to landfill. This project is run in conjunction with Moreland, Boorondara, Darebin, and Whittlesea councils. Trial collection bins are being set up at Collingwood Town Hall, Holden St Neighbourhood House and Richmond Library.</li> <li>- Yarra and Melbourne Councils are working collaboratively on a project to improve recycling and reduce waste in Multi-Unit Developments(MUDs), funded through the MWRRG.</li> </ul>	
3.6.1.1	<p><b><u>Community promotion of reduced use of potable water</u></b></p> <p>Council provided limited promotion and communication of community water reduction opportunities, with support of water authorities where possible. This included updating webpages with information supporting community water reductions. Educational signage has been provided at parks, and water reduction seminars were held at Yarra Libraries.</p>	
3.7.1.1	<p><b><u>Develop and implement an Urban Forest Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The Urban Forest Strategy was endorsed by Council in Sept 2017. Significant work was undertaken to obtain relevant data, and develop a comprehensive based on local evidence. Much internal and external consultation occurred to ensure there was significant buy in and integration.</p>	

3.7.1.2	<p><b><u>Develop a Yarra Food Policy</u></b></p> <p>Council officers continue to support the intent behind the action, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- liaison with the Local Government Urban Agriculture Network;</li> <li>- meet with the Fair Food Alliance to explore possibilities for collaboration;</li> <li>- signed the 'Food Declaration'; and</li> <li>- meetings with other Councils, such as City of Melbourne to gain insight into the development of their food policy.</li> </ul>	
3.7.2.1	<p><b><u>Disseminate climate change adaptation-related information to the Yarra community</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to work with our community, individually and with the Yarra Energy Foundation, to communicate the need to act to reduce emissions. Communications also occur in relation to adapting to climate change, generally more specific to target groups and largely focused around coping with heatwaves.</p>	
3.7.3.1	<p><b><u>Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Plan</u></b></p> <p>The Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been implemented and integrated into Council processes.</p> <p>The initiation and implementation of the multi-council Embedding Adaptation project with the City of Geelong developed simple and effective mechanisms to incorporate climate change adaptation into the Council processes to improve outcomes, winning the National 2017 UN Association of Australia Local Government Sustainability Award.</p>	
4.1.1.1	<p><b><u>Pathway 4 - Sustainable Council Operations</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Embed and promote sustainability as core to Yarra's identity</u></b></p> <p>Across the life of this Environment Strategy, Council further cemented its identity as one of Australia's most sustainable cities. This occurs due to support from all levels and the many diverse actions from across Council.</p> <p>In support of this action in seeking to benchmark and seek independent certification of Council's sustainable credentials, in August 2014, Council became the first Certified One Planet Council in Australia. 'One Planet Living' is an internationally recognised benchmark bestowed on regions around the world, for being exemplars of sustainable living. Council's sustainability performance was audited against ten principles that allow communities to live and work within their fair share of the earth's resources.</p> <p>Council continues to promote sustainability to our community, and receive local and national recognition for our work.</p>	
4.1.1.2	<p><b><u>Sustainability measurement and reporting</u></b></p> <p>Sustainability has been integrated into Council's Annual Report. Work on expanding this and potentially using external, third-party defined and certified, program metrics has not occurred.</p>	
4.1.2.1	<p><b><u>Develop Sustainability decision-making tools and support</u></b></p> <p>From 2014-17 Council undertook the State Government funded 'Embedding Adaptation' project which looked at how to incorporate climate adaptation thinking into council practices as business as usual. A key outcomes was a "Quadruple Bottom Line Tool' QBL for staff to use when applying for a New Initiative Bid to highlight the TBL plus Adaptation impacts of the project under consideration. This was effectively deployed in 2016 and saw Council winning a national Local Government Sustainability Award based on its innovative approach.</p>	
4.1.2.2	<p><b><u>Enhance sustainable procurement activities</u></b></p> <p>Sustainable Procurement activities continued to improve over the life of the Strategy, being further incorporated as business as usual. Across 2016-17 a cross council group was convened around Green Procurement reviewing and updating Council policy, developing training and tools, and promoting sustainable procurement across the organisation.</p>	

4.1.2.3	<p><b><u>Review ESD Building Policy for Sustainability in Council buildings</u></b></p> <p>The ESD Buildings Policy was updated in 2014, and continues to be used to create more sustainable outcomes. Many other Councils have sought out Yarra's Policy as an example of cutting edge.</p>	
4.1.3.1	<p><b><u>Strengthen the Yarra Staff Green Team</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to support staff to operate sustainably at work via their role and daily activities, including via a long standing Green Team.</p> <p>A key change which occurred was the establishment of a 'GreenCORE Group' to focus on organisational development projects that have significant cross-council sustainability integration and outcomes. In 2016/17 a Successful Sustainable Procurement Green Core group was run.</p>	
4.1.3.2	<p><b><u>Embed Organisational Sustainability into People Processes and Policies</u></b></p> <p>Council has successfully integrated sustainability practices into people, policies and processes. People and Culture, One Yarra Project and Environmental Management has developed a strong working relationship and collectively supported various activities towards achievement of this action.</p> <p>Some highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewed Recruitment Policies to include consideration of sustainability and sustainable workplace practices, with further work to occur in areas of induction and on-boarding processes;</li> <li>- Identification of Sustainability as CORE Value, including representation in award category in the staff recognition Applause Awards; and</li> <li>- Sustainability Unit were represented on Values, Leadership, and Innovation CORE groups.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, strong relationships with the Sustainability Unit have been forged across the organisation to further build workplace sustainability in practice by all staff, including the organisation wide Keep Cup usage (1 in 3 staff) and an increase of targeted internal communication promotions (including power saving and waste minimisation focuses)</p>	
4.1.4.1	<p><b><u>Promote Council experience and advice, and participate in key regional networks and partnerships</u></b></p> <p>Council continues to be a Leading Sustainable city, not only in the actions we take individually, but also the partnerships we support and steps we take to share lessons with others.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Richmond Library has been created as a Demonstration Site with information on technologies and current energy used presented to site visitors in an interactive way.</li> <li>- Yarra Council presented at the ICLEI World Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea (2015) Conference of Parties (COP) 23 in Bonn (2017), and many other local conferences and presentations.</li> <li>- Active participation in groups such as the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, Resilient Melbourne, IMAP</li> </ul>	
4.1.4.2	<p><b><u>Increase staff sustainable transport</u></b></p> <p>Work continues to improve fleet sustainability, including incorporation of sustainability into a holistic fleet review, and development of a specific sustainable fleet plan. This work is complex and strategic, but is progressing.</p>	
4.1.4.3	<p><b><u>Sustainable Catering and Events</u></b></p> <p>Sustainable catering and events was identified as a possible topic for a GreenCORE Group strategic project (2015) however Green Procurement was selected by the Executive Group as the first topic of focus. The holistic vision of Green Procurement allowed for crossover with ordering for catering and events. Additionally, the 2017 tender process for Council catering services included a specific reference to sustainability, including environmental sustainability, with a dedicated sustainability officer sitting on the evaluation panel to ensure sustainability outcomes were achieved through the process.</p>	

4.2.1.1	<p><b><u>Carbon reduction and renewable energy generation action plan and implementation</u></b></p> <p>Council completed the implementation of its largest program to reduce emissions in its building assets via an Energy Performance Contract. This included over 80 individual actions across 18 buildings. Council has also undertaken the measurement and verification phase for years 1 and 2, showing financial savings of over \$200,000 per annum, and greenhouse gas reductions of around 2,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per annum.</p> <p>Council has also implemented many solar PV installations on Council buildings and other actions to improve efficiency and reduce emissions. With greenhouse gas emissions down by a sector leading 40% this highlights the effectiveness of Council's work.</p> <p>With the completion of the Energy Performance Contract, and solar PV now covering most available Council roof space, a key future strategy will be optimisation of the existing plant to ensure full efficiency gains are being made.</p>	
4.2.1.2	<p><b><u>Best Practice Carbon Neutral Council</u></b></p> <p>Council continued to be innovative and operate as a best practice Carbon Neutral Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to be a certified carbon neutral organisation under the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) program;</li> <li>• Continuing to improve its processes to increase the accuracy of its carbon calculations;</li> <li>• Participating in the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project with 13 other partners, to source 100% of council's electricity needs as local renewable electricity for 10 years, and establish a model for other organisations to follow; and</li> <li>• Council has presented at many conferences and seminars, and continues to share knowledge with other Councils and businesses to follow Yarra's lead.</li> </ul>	
4.2.2.1	<p><b><u>Develop Yarra Fossil Fuel Transition Plan</u></b></p> <p>Council has invested heavily in solar PV on Councils own buildings over the term of this Yarra Environment Strategy. This has included significant solar PV at the Richmond Recreation Centre and Collingwood Leisure Centre which will reduce the need to run the cogeneration plant and reduce gas usage. The Energy Performance Contract has cut the use of natural gas by the organisation, especially at leisure centres, and works are currently being undertaken looking at opportunities for more sustainable Council fleet vehicles.</p>	
4.2.3.1	<p><b><u>Scope and develop / implement plan to reduce Council's whole of life emissions</u></b></p> <p>Council includes all emissions sources required to meet Carbon Neutral Certification. Priority have been focused on collection and ensuring accuracy of all direct emissions, and calculation any necessary indirect emissions, rather than expanding further at this stage.</p>	
4.3.1.1	<p><b><u>Waste Wise Council infrastructure and staff education</u></b></p> <p>Council actions which have continued to support Waste Wise principles included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food waste, recycling and landfill bins in all Council bins;</li> <li>- signage reviewed and updated at all Council owned buildings where required; and</li> <li>- Staff participated in a fun/engaging theatre style education program about recycling right.</li> </ul>	
4.4.1.1	<p><b><u>Incorporate water conservation into Stormwater Plan &amp; Drainage Asset Management Plan's</u></b></p> <p>The Drainage Asset Management Plan has been completed and is in Draft for internal review</p>	
4.4.2.1	<p><b><u>Update and develop new Yarra Water Action Plan</u></b></p> <p>A new Yarra Water Action Plan has not been developed.</p> <p>A new park in Church St Richmond was constructed in 2014/15, with WSUD and stormwater harvesting for irrigation of the park. New Large-Scale Stormwater harvesting opportunities are still being explored, but are expensive and are subject to external funding.</p>	
4.4.1.2.	<p><b><u>Individual water harvesting opportunities</u></b></p> <p>The Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) has not been developed. Council is currently reviewing its ongoing water strategy.</p>	