

## Attachment A: Progress Report: Implementation of Climate Emergency Plan

### Summary

- Solid progress has been made in the first nine months since the Climate Emergency Plan was adopted in June 2020, with 75% (89 out of 119 actions) either completed, in progress or on-going and embedded into Council's business.
- There were a further 13 actions where progress has been made but further funding is required for full implementation; and 4 actions where implementation has been delayed due to COVID-19 related impacts.
- The remaining 13 actions were not due to start in this period.

<b>Report period:</b>	June – February 2021
<b>20 headline actions</b> (details and status provided over page)	
	2 actions <b>completed</b> and no further action required
	8 actions <b>in progress</b> (and implementation is <b>on-going</b> )
	7 actions <b>in progress</b> (but require <b>funding</b> for full implementation)
	3 actions <b>delayed</b> due to COVID-19
<b>All actions in Climate Emergency Plan</b> (119 actions, including sub-points)	
	5 actions <b>completed</b> and no further action required
	54 actions <b>in progress</b> (and implementation is <b>on-going</b> )
	9 actions <b>in progress</b> (project is <b>discrete</b> not on-going)
	21 actions are <b>on-going</b> (embedded in core business, including advocacy)
	13 actions <b>in progress</b> (but require <b>funding</b> for full implementation)
	4 actions <b>delayed</b> due to COVID-19
	13 actions <b>not due to start</b>

## Implementation of headline actions in the Climate Emergency Plan

### Summary status report: June – February 2021

CEP Action No.	Action summary	Action description (from page 8 in the CEP)	Status	Comment on status
1.1	Community climate programs	Deliver a new climate program to enable the community to act on the climate emergency	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	<p>The new Take Climate Action initiative is under way, including 18 educational events and online resources engaging 1,029 people to date to reduce emissions and push for urgent change.</p> <p>Promoting '100% Renewable Yarra', including a Yarra Solar Program in partnership with Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF); online events and resources to assist residents and businesses to switch to 100% renewable electricity, install solar, create an all-electric home and use less energy.</p> <p>Partnered with other councils to deliver a cross-council webinar series, providing additional learning opportunities for residents and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions.</p> <p>Participant recruitment is under way for a new Community Skills for Climate Action training program to be delivered in 2021.</p>
1.2	Energy efficient home upgrades	Upgrade the homes of vulnerable people to be more energy efficient and climate resilient	Delayed due to COVID-19	Proposal developed to assist older people to upgrade their homes through draft proofing, insulation and efficient lighting. On hold in 2020 due to the pandemic, but will be carried out in 2021.

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1.3	Climate action grants	Commit substantial grant funds to stimulate community-driven climate action	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	Yarra's annual Sustainability Grant stream was modified to focus on Climate Action, with \$38,000 of additional funding (total of \$80,000 in 2021). Through the annual grants this year, 13 community climate action projects were funded, which are estimated to collectively engage more than 20,000 people. Council also supported community-led initiatives through in-kind promotions and small project grants.
1.4	Nature in the Neighbourhood program	Deliver a new 'Nature in the Neighbourhood' initiative to reconnect people with our natural environment	Delayed due to COVID-19	COVID-19 has prevented planned community based activities to date during 2020/21. It is envisaged this project will commence in the remainder of 2020/21 through 'labour only' project planning.
2.2	Community buying renewable energy	Support small businesses and residents to buy renewable energy through retail partnerships / independently reviewing retail options	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	Initial feasibility work has been carried out with the City of Melbourne and Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action to explore a partnership with renewable electricity retailers.
2.3	Power Purchase Agreements for large businesses	Assist large energy users to switch to renewable energy via Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)	In progress (requires funding for full implementation)	Council has been actively engaging with large businesses in Yarra about their energy use, renewable energy targets and determining level of interest in a group Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). There is a strong appetite, including at a regional level with other councils, however this would require some additional resourcing from Council.

CEP Action No.	Action summary	Action description (from page 8 in the CEP)	Status	Comment on status
2.6	Get Council buildings off gas	Transition Council's small sites away from using gas within two years and larger, complex facilities before 2030.	In progress (requires funding for full implementation)	<p>For large sites, the phasing out of gas for co-generation systems at our Leisure Centres has begun, with the Fitzroy Leisure Centre system now turned off. Detailed investigations and engineering design work is in progress for Richmond Town Hall and Fitzroy Town Hall.</p> <p>For small sites, the transition to all-electric operations and cessation of gas usage is under way, including replacing all gas cooktops with electric induction. Works to be funded via annual capital works budgets.</p>
2.8 (point 1)	Zero carbon framework (guidance)	Develop a zero carbon developments framework and work with developers to achieve and promote leading practice	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	<p>A zero carbon development fact sheet is being developed jointly with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE). The fact sheet will provide definitions and guidance, and is expected to be published in early 2021.</p> <p>Examples of zero carbon developments have been published on Council's website and engagement with the planning and development sectors continues.</p>

CEP Action No.	Action summary	Action description (from page 8 in the CEP)	Status	Comment on status
2.8 (point 2)	Zero carbon standards for new developments (YPS amendment)	Introduce zero carbon standards for new commercial and residential developments, working with local and state government partners to amend the planning scheme	In progress (requires funding for full implementation)	<p>Research and strategic justification work is well under way, drawing from best practice in other jurisdictions. Zero carbon standards are being drafted with CASBE member councils and aligned with City of Melbourne's current amendment.</p> <p>Progression of the zero carbon developments work to a planning scheme amendment requires additional budget and allocation of staff resources. The amendment would be approved by Council and then provided to the Planning Minister for consideration.</p> <p>A partnership has been established with the City of Moreland for a joint planning scheme amendment, with other councils looking to join.</p>
2.8 (point 4)	Heritage guidance for solar and waive fees	Seek to waive planning application fees for solar installations and improve guidance to help facilitate installs in heritage areas	Completed	<p>Planning application fees have been waived for applicants proposing to install solar panels on properties in a heritage overlay.</p> <p>Web-based guidance on installing solar in heritage areas is published on the website and has been promoted to the community.</p>
3.1	Tree planting	Accelerate street tree planting guided by Priority Planting Plans, informed by areas most affected by urban heat and social vulnerability	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	Priority Planting Plans have been completed. Street tree planting is based on priority areas identified in these plans and within budget constraints. Annual infill planting also directs planting to priority streets, where possible.

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3.2 (point 1)	Climate resilient streets	Develop options to implement trials or permanent works to enhance streetscapes through increasing tree plantings and permeable surfaces to mitigate heat, wind exposure and flood risk. A first example is Gleadell Street Richmond.	In progress (Requires funding for full implementation)	<p>Design work has been carried out, however a proposed upgrade of Gleadell Street, Richmond is currently not funded and is on hold.</p> <p>A proposed streetscape enhancement at King William/Condell/Young Streets, near Fitzroy Town Hall would increase tree plantings and permeable surfaces to mitigate heat, wind exposure and flood risk and also provide community and play spaces. Current feasibility studies are underway to inform the concept design. (Project was generated from the 'Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan' adopted by Council in 2020).</p>
3.2 (point 3)	Additional green spaces	Create additional pocket parks in high density areas through reclaiming road space	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	<p>Additional open space is being created in Collingwood through an extension of Cambridge Street Reserve and a new park in Otter Street.</p> <p>Design documentation is being prepared for new open space in Reid Street, Fitzroy North; Stephenson Reserve and Gwynne Street, Cremorne.</p> <p>The development of a shared space and public park is being explored along King William Reserve, Fitzroy as an outcome of the Brunswick Street Masterplan.</p> <p>New parks are being created in the Amcor and the Gasworks sites, as part of developer land contributions.</p>

3.5	Stormwater harvesting at Edinburgh Gardens	Expand stormwater harvesting at Edinburgh Gardens to reduce reliance on drinking water for irrigation and improve water quality	Completed	<p>Works have been completed to expand the Edinburgh Gardens stormwater harvesting scheme to treat and store additional water to meet most of the park's irrigation needs, saving 20 million litres of drinking water each year.</p> <p>In addition, the Ramsden Reserve stormwater harvesting project in Clifton Hill is in the design phase and will enable treatment and storage for irrigation, while reducing nutrients and excess flows to the Merri Creek.</p>
4.2	Trial bikes lanes	Use an 'iterative trial' approach to roll out sustainable transport projects quickly to inform permanent upgrades	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	<p>The following trials are under way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separated bike lanes in Elizabeth St, Richmond</li> <li>- Temporary cycling infrastructure, including new pop up bike lane in Park St, Fitzroy North</li> <li>- Heidelberg Road to Collingwood Cycling Corridor.</li> </ul> <p>Other trials are being considered by the state government.</p>
4.4	Electric vehicle charging	Support the installation of public-use electric vehicle charge points	In progress (Requires funding for full implementation)	<p>In early 2020 officers were in the process of investigating possible sites for electric vehicle chargers, however the funding for this project was reallocated to the COVID-19 community relief budget. Funding is needed to progress this project to installation if that is what Council wish to do.</p> <p>Officers have also engaged with electric vehicle charging suppliers to encourage the installation of public chargers at local businesses' car parks, such as shopping centres and supermarkets.</p>
4.1	Integrated Transport Plan	Develop an Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) to facilitate the uptake of sustainable modes of transport and the long-term reduction of private car use.	In progress (Requires funding for full implementation)	<p>Preparatory work for the development of an Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) is under way, however commitment to scope, timeline and funding is required from Council before development of the plan.</p>

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4.5	Electric vehicle fleet	Replace all Council's diesel and petrol powered vehicles with electric vehicles, where practical options are available	In progress (Requires funding for full implementation)	<p>Heavy vehicles: One electric vehicle tipper is in use for hard rubbish collections; a further three tippers are due to be delivered around March 2021 and a further two tippers will be ordered in the 21/22 financial year.</p> <p>Lighter vehicles: Ceased purchase of diesel vehicles until practical electric vehicles or more sustainable alternatives enter the market. Further transition of the fleet to electric vehicles requires investment in a power supply upgrade.</p>
5.1	Single use plastics	Phase out single use plastics across Council's operations and further engage the community to reduce plastics	Delayed due to COVID-19	Due to COVID-19 further roll out of the Proudly Plastic Free program has been delayed and the priority has been implementing the new three-bin kerbside service.
5.2	Four-bin kerbside waste service	Roll out a municipal-wide, four-bin food and organic waste kerbside collection service in 2020/21	In progress (Requires funding for full implementation)	<p>Due to the budget implications of COVID-19, the four-bin collection service will be rolled out in two stages. A three-bin system with a glass only bin is currently being rolled out across the municipality.</p> <p>This change in the kerbside collection service is aimed at fixing the current issues with recycling. The first collection commenced on 23 November. Significant additional budget would be required to the roll out of the fourth food and green bin, but could proceed in 2021.</p>
5.3	Domestic recycling solutions	Facilitate the development of local recycling solutions and markets for recyclables, working with industry and council partners	In progress (implementation is ongoing)	Feasibility work with other councils and state government to explore opportunities for Council-run glass processing facilities and Food Organics and Gardens Organics (FOGO) is to be completed this financial year.