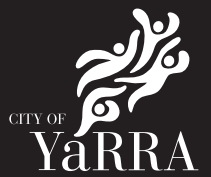


Climate Emergency Plan Annual Report

2024–2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past and present.

Background

Yarra City Council's Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 (CEP) was adopted by Council in July 2024.

This plan builds on Council's first Climate Emergency Plan and was developed based on extensive consultation with our community and local organisations, including with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Council's CEP recognises the scale of ambition required to appropriately respond to the climate emergency. Guided by five key perspectives — centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, fostering social justice and equity, protecting the rights of young people and future generations, recognising the rights of nature, and delivering a commensurate climate emergency response — the CEP sets out seven interconnected transformations aimed at realising our vision of a climate-safe, sustainable and just society. These are:

1. In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency.
2. In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience.
3. Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response.
4. Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city.
5. Yarra is Caring for Country. Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature.

6. In Yarra, everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure.
7. In Yarra, we are transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling more and sending less waste to landfill.

The Council's new Plan for 2025–2029 aligns closely with the Climate Emergency Plan (CEP), reinforcing a shared vision of a resilient, adaptable community committed to climate action. Implementation of the CEP Action Plan actively supports the Council Plan's goals and performance metrics.

Monitoring and evaluation approach

In the CEP, Council committed to transparently monitoring and reporting on:

- Progress against the Action Plan. The Action Plan includes 237 actions to be undertaken over three years (2024-2027). The Action Plan is monitored in Council's internal reporting system, allowing Executive oversight of delivery. Council reports on the progress and delivery of actions in the Action Plan through Council's quarterly community reports.
- Outcomes under the seven transformations, and the impact of our work, are measured through indicators. The indicators are reported annually. This first year of reporting will establish baseline data for many indicators and identify areas where data collection needs to be improved. Council is building its capability in monitoring and reporting on our climate action and expects that the quality of data available will improve allowing us to make better decisions, report more effectively and better evaluate the impact of action.

Progress to date

The Action Plan includes 237 actions, with 184 of these programmed for delivery in Year 1 (2024-25).

At Q4 2024-25, 141 of these actions were reported as on track.

The outcomes and impact of our work, as measured through indicators, are detailed throughout the report and in the table on the final pages.



Transformation 1

In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency.

An effective response to the climate emergency requires us to think and act differently. Embedding proactive climate action into how we live, work and govern will have a huge impact; this is true for Council and the community. Our individual and collective choices and behaviours reduce emissions, conserve resources, and build climate resilience.

1.1 Our individual and collective choices and behaviours reduce emissions, conserve resources, and build climate resilience

Progress

Council's 'Big Ways to Take Climate Action' program featured community events aimed at encouraging climate action. Activities covered topics like sustainable food choices, renewable energy, and electric appliances, and included outreach at local festivals. The program offered practical tools and information to help reduce emissions, with some events tailored for specific cultural groups and supported by language services.

Council continues to collect and use data to guide decision-making in relation to car use in Yarra. This includes participating in Bicycle Network's 'Super Tuesday' cycling counts and collecting car parking data to inform the upcoming Kerbside & Parking Strategy.

Council is overseeing a 30km/hr speed limit trial in Fitzroy and Collingwood, which will extend into the 2025/26 financial year. A recent review of the Victorian Government's Speed Zoning Policy may lead to permanent 30km/hr zones and will guide Council's decision on whether to make the trial permanent or expand it to other areas in Yarra.

Council continues to advocate to the State Government for increased availability and accessibility of public transport infrastructure, as per the Yarra Transport Strategy. Successes this year include the State Government agreeing to extend the route 603 bus to Burnley Railway Station and implementing significant upgrades to the route 546 bus servicing Fairfield, Alphington and Clifton Hill, including the Alphington Paper Mill site, which are both items nominated in the Yarra Transport Strategy.

Outcomes

Over 3,000 people took part in climate emergency events run by the Sustainability team, including 980 attendees of the 'Big Ways to Take Climate Action' program.

Survey responses showed high satisfaction, with two-thirds rating the events 9 out of 10. As a result of participating, 55% shared climate action ideas with others, and 33% engaged in advocacy efforts. Due to limitations in the survey method, some participants may have been counted more than once, leading to an estimated climate action impact range of 55% to 88%. This points to a need for improved survey design and distribution.

1.2 Every Council decision and action responds to the climate emergency

Progress

Council is taking comprehensive action to address climate risks and build resilience across its community and operations.

Climate risk is treated as a strategic priority, with regular reporting to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), which will conduct an independent audit in 2025–26 to assess and improve climate adaptation practices.

Regionally, Council is collaborating on the Resilient Asset Management and Investment (RAMI) project with M9 Councils, supported by \$2 million from the Victorian Government, to develop tools for climate-resilient infrastructure planning.

To guide data-driven decisions, Council is creating a Climate Emergency Indicators Database with six key metrics—such as canopy cover, heat vulnerability, and access to nature—integrated into its GIS platform for ongoing monitoring.

Recent data acquisitions, including temperature and socioeconomic insights, allow for targeted climate risk analysis and interventions. Climate considerations are

being embedded into all new strategies, policies, and laws, including updates to procurement and asset management planning.

Council is also enhancing climate resilience in facilities and events through revised lease agreements and sustainable event practices, which will be formalised in 2025–26. A new Service Planning Framework, launching in early 2026, will ensure climate responsibilities are integrated into every role, reinforcing the principle that “every job is a climate job.”

Outcomes

As noted above, Council is commencing its Service Planning process in the 2026-27 financial year. Council teams will be required to include their climate emergency role statement and actions in their service planning for each financial year.

Council has embedded climate emergency responsibilities into all staff position descriptions, with every position now requiring employees to contribute to the organisation’s climate response. Additionally, the Performance Development Review process includes a section for staff to reflect on how their work supports climate action, reinforcing the commitment that “every job is a climate job.”





Transformation 2

In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience.

In Yarra, people's diverse ages, abilities, housing situations, health literacy, and cultural backgrounds mean that climate change is experienced in different ways across our community.

Our community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme weather is shaped by their connectedness to each other and their access to information, resources, and services. The network of services which support our community – delivered by Council and a wide range of community organisations – are critical to resilience in the face of worsening climate impacts.

Council plays a role in advocating for systemic economic and social changes to prevent disadvantage and marginalisation, while also supporting communities to strengthen their resilience to the climate emergency.

2.1 Understand and support the diverse needs of our community to bolster their climate resilience

Progress

Council is working to support self-determination for the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other First Peoples, particularly in addressing the climate emergency. This involves co-developing initiatives to strengthen climate resilience. While the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is actively involved in a Council-led Sub-Committee on climate resilience, broader progress has been slowed by ongoing discussions around engagement priorities and protocols.

Council has introduced The Adaptation Game (TAG) to help residents understand and prepare for climate risks. TAG promotes awareness of global and local climate impacts and encourages practical strategies for resilience and community connection. It will be the main engagement tool in the upcoming Resilient Streets/Neighbourhoods program.

So far, six TAG sessions have been held with groups like the Carlton Community Network and Friends of the Earth, involving 88 participants and training 7 facilitators.

Council's bicultural liaison officers (BLOs) have actively engaged multicultural communities on climate emergency initiatives by promoting workshops, Climate Safe Rooms, and the Yarra Home Energy Upgrades pilot. Tailored events—such as plant-based cooking classes and culturally themed 'Walk, Talk, Swim Birrarung' activities—fostered dialogue around the environmental and cultural importance of the Yarra River. BLOs used social media and personal networks to boost participation, leading to strong turnout from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups. Draughtproofing workshops with Vietnamese and Somali translators also drew 30 and 15 attendees, respectively.

Council is enhancing local food security by promoting fair and healthy food systems. It encourages developers to use the Green Factor tool to include food gardens in new projects. Through support for the Yarra Food Network (YFN), Council fosters collaboration among organisations via shared resources and events. It also provides public access to food relief information, including the 'Ask Izzy' website and a food relief map, with these initiatives promoted through networks like YFN and the Yarra Multicultural Services Network, and backed by the Community Grants program.

Outcomes

The Social Impacts Survey (SIS) from November 2024 found that 60% of Yarra residents felt confident about handling extreme weather events. Confidence levels were lower among at-risk groups: 42% of those struggling to pay bills, 57% of people with disabilities, 56% of those living alone, and 77% of residents over 65. Only 31% of residents overall knew of community organisations they could rely on during such events, with similar figures among vulnerable groups.

To support these residents, Council continues to run targeted programs. In 2024–25, reported rough sleeping sites rose from 204 to 268, peaking at 60 in January. Leisure centres issued 42 free shower passes throughout the year to assist those in need.

2.2 Council works collaboratively with community organisations that service those at greater risk from climate impacts

Progress

Council is expanding its network of cool spaces to support the community during heatwaves. Last summer, libraries extended hours and added staff during extreme heat events. This season, more resources will go toward increasing cool space availability at Council sites, including leisure centres. Plans also include improved communication and distribution of heat safety information and kits.

Yarra Council is actively supporting neighborhood houses in implementing their climate plans by providing \$1,000 in funding to each in 2024-25. This funding has been used for infrastructure improvements, such as recycling access, draughtproofing, and split system installations, as well as community events like food swaps. Additionally, Council funded 26 sustainability workshops across nine neighborhood houses, covering topics from energy savings to plant-based cooking. With 332 attendees and a return of \$2.30 for every \$1 invested, the program demonstrated strong value and impact in fostering community resilience and climate action.

Council hosted the Climate Emergency Resilience Forum, leading to the creation of the Climate Risk and Resilience Sub-committee. Approved by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee in June 2025, the sub-committee will enhance community resilience to climate impacts through advocacy, coordination, and collaborative local initiatives.

Outcomes

Establishment of the Climate Risk and Resilience Sub-committee facilitates Community Service Organisations (including neighbourhood houses and community health organisations) implementing climate resilience planning in 2025-26.

2.3 Climate resilience is embedded across Council services

Progress

Work to develop the climate resilience of Council services will be developed based on the findings of the climate adaptation audit which the ARC committed to in early 2026. Audit recommendations will inform actions to ensure that critical services underpinning community resilience are not disrupted by climate change and are able to meet diverse and changing community needs.

Outcomes

Climate resilient service level standards will be established through the climate risk and resilience work program to be developed based on audit findings.



2.4 Council advocates for policies and programs which facilitate climate resilience among community members at greater risk

Progress

Council continues to advocate for community resilience and wellbeing, as outlined in Yarra's Advocacy Action Plan (Nov 2023). Through 2024-25, submissions were made on:

- Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Climate Resilience
- Victorian Government consultation on Proposed Regulations for New Minimum Standards for Rental Properties and Rooming Houses
- Victorian Government Building Electrification Regulatory Impact Statement
- Victoria's 2026-2030 Climate Change Strategy
- Victoria's Draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy 2025-2055.

Outcomes

The Victorian Legislative Council's Climate Resilience Inquiry Final Report (August 2025) cited Yarra Council's concerns about state planning laws that shift climate risk to local governments and lack provisions for mandatory climate adaptation, especially at the precinct level. This can lead to developments that worsen risks like flooding and heat islands. Additionally, new Residential Tenancies Regulations (effective July 2025) adopted several Council recommendations, introducing improved energy efficiency standards in rental properties to lower energy costs, support renters, and boost climate resilience.





Transformation 3

Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response.

Each year brings worsening storms, frequent floods, devastating bushfires, and prolonged heat. The impacts on our community are intensifying, including on people's mental and physical health, homes, wellbeing and quality of life. The landscapes and wildlife we cherish are also suffering. Natural ecosystems are at risk of collapse due to the scale and speed of climatic changes, and the consequent extreme weather events, as well as land clearing and habitat loss.

Given the unprecedented challenge that the climate emergency poses, it is imperative that we join with others to advocate for stronger climate policies, targets and actions, and an equitable future for all.

Council is also supporting our community to develop the civic knowledge and advocacy skills to participate in a movement of people demanding stronger climate policies, targets, and actions.

3.1 Our community is actively and consistently leading and participating in collective climate action

Progress

Council is fostering grassroots climate action by supporting residents and community groups to raise their voices. Over the past year, Council partnered with the Yarra Climate Action Alliance to host events and promoted these efforts through the Yarra Environment News. Council continues to encourage public involvement through group participation, campaigns, and storytelling, helping build a strong, community-led response to the climate crisis.

Outcomes

Readership of the Yarra Environment News has increased 6% over the 2024-25 financial year and now totals 2,850 subscribers.

3.2 Council, community, and other partners are advocating on climate emergency issues together

Progress

Council is empowering underrepresented communities to speak up about issues that

matter to them through initiatives like the Climate Voices program—a free, ten-week course that builds advocacy skills and supports participants in leading their own climate-related campaigns.

In 2024–25, four cohorts of Yarra Council's Climate Voices program engaged 70 participants who launched diverse climate campaigns, including affordable public transport, greening public land, fossil fuel divestment, disability-inclusive advocacy, a climate resilience fund, and banning single-use plastics. To support continued momentum, Council and the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre established the Climate Voices Campaign Hub, offering ongoing mentoring and campaign development through December 2025.

Outcomes

The Climate Voices program has enabled 70 people to take collective action and build campaigns related to the environmental change they want to see in their communities.

3.3 Young people are supported to engage in democratic processes and decision making

Progress

Yarra Council is empowering young people through the 'Yarra Youth: Can't Vote, Can Campaign' program, which teaches climate science, civics, and campaigning skills to Year 9 students at three local high schools. Students created and presented climate-related campaign speeches, with some sharing their ideas directly with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Council also promotes climate action resources in schools, including linking initiatives like the Peddle Power Cinema to broader student networks.

Outcomes

Council's 'Yarra Youth: Can't Vote, Can Campaign' program reached 275 Year 9 students across Fitzroy High, Richmond High, and Princes Hill Secondary. Survey feedback showed strong impact: 48% felt more likely to engage in democracy, nearly 70% gained confidence in contacting government representatives, and 70% improved their understanding of climate justice. Additionally, 60% felt more confident discussing climate change, 56% intended to share their learnings beyond the classroom, and 63% rated the program at least 3 out of 5.



Transformation 4

Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city.

To achieve Yarra's net zero ambitions and play our role in meeting Victoria's accelerated renewable energy target of 95% renewable energy by 2035, Council is committed to delivering programs that reduce energy use and support the transition to all-electric homes, businesses, industry and transport.

To ensure the transition to a zero emissions future is fair and just, with an equitable distribution of the benefits of the transition across our community. Council will provide targeted support for those in our community most at-risk from climate impacts and with fewer resources to respond.

Council envisages Yarra as a hub for zero emissions and climate-focused businesses, offering opportunities for local enterprises to thrive in a circular economy. The vision includes building a skilled workforce to support and drive this transition.

4.1 Zero emissions homes

Progress

Yarra Council is actively developing and implementing programs to support the transition to energy-efficient, electric, and zero-emissions homes.

In 2024–25, the Climate Safe Rooms (CSR) and Yarra Home Energy Upgrades (YHEU) programs were piloted to assist low-income households vulnerable to climate impacts through energy retrofits. These programs offered financial incentives for energy upgrades such as solar installation, electrification, and energy efficiency improvements. The YHEU program provided subsidies of up to \$3,000 to 40 eligible concession card holders, enabling upgrades that improved thermal comfort and supported the shift to renewable energy. The CSR program increased climate resilience for 14 concession card holders with medical conditions worsened by extreme temperatures, retrofitting one room in each home to maintain a safe and comfortable indoor climate affordably.

Council has expanded access to energy resources and support through initiatives like the Solar Saver program, Solar Victoria's rebate for apartments, and Electrify Yarra's workshops for renters with interpreter support. Council also partnered on research to improve energy efficiency in rental housing and promoted tools like the SunSpot solar calculator. Events such as Sustainable House Day 2025 and sessions on electric living further engaged the community.

A \$400,000 Victorian Government grant funded battery installations at four community sites to model scalable local energy storage, with solar panels installed in June 2025 and batteries due by September. Additionally, Council and the Yarra Energy Foundation launched Wired for Tomorrow, an interactive vision for an all-electric Yarra, highlighting clean energy-powered homes, streets, and transport.

Outcomes

The pilot programs were fully subscribed with 14 CSR and 40 YHEU participants. One hundred and seventy-four energy upgrades occurred with participants noting their improved thermal comfort, increased ability to cope in extreme temperatures, and improved energy efficiency. Quality assurance audits of 5% of installations by product type were completed and showed that all installations were complete satisfactorily. These pilot programs have demonstrated strong demand for direct support and evidence of improved health and wellbeing outcomes for participants, therefore providing a basis for continuing this work in 2025-26.

Council is aiming to double installed municipal solar capacity from the 2023 baseline of 23,948kW. As of 31 March 2025 (latest data available), Yarra's installed municipal solar capacity was 28,000 kW including residential (16,139 kW) and commercial (11,861 kW) sites. In Yarra 3,739 residences have solar installed out of an estimated 24,425 homes in the municipality which are 'solar feasible', meaning we have reached 15.3% of potential installed solar capacity. There are also 267 solar installations on commercial premises with potential commercial solar capacity not known.

4.2 Zero emissions businesses

Progress

Council is advancing Yarra's transition to net zero by supporting local businesses through three key initiatives in 2024–25. These include the upcoming launch of the Greening Our Business Platform to help small and medium enterprises assess their sustainability performance. The Business Renewables Buying Group shifted energy usage equivalent to 8,000 homes to renewables and was nominated for a 2024 LG Pro Collaboration Award, with a third round planned. Council also hosted five sustainability events with 124 attendees and grew the Sustainable Business Yarra newsletter to over 320 subscribers.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

4.3 Zero emissions transport

Progress

Council is working to cut transport emissions and promote an inclusive shift to zero-emissions mobility. As part of the 2025–29 Council Plan, 20 pole-mounted EV chargers will be installed in 2025–26, enabling charging at up to 40 on-street parking bays. Council is partnering with providers, assessing locations, and collaborating with other councils. It's also exploring home-to-street charging solutions and potential law updates to support private EV charging. Additionally, leases have been secured for eight fast-charging bays at Richmond Library and Piedimontes Supermarket.

As at the 2021 census, 1.8% of vehicles registered in Yarra were battery electric vehicles. The CEP aims to increase that to 25%.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

4.4 Zero emissions organisation

Progress

Council is transitioning its buildings away from fossil gas, having electrified several facilities in 2024–25, including the Djerring Centre and Old Richmond Police Station. Three more sites have replaced gas equipment with electric alternatives. Electrification is also underway at Collingwood Leisure Centre, with plans for efficient heat pumps and a new management system. An audit of tenanted sites has been completed to identify remaining gas infrastructure, supporting Council's commitment to energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

Thermal and acoustic improvements have been made at Yarraberg Children's Centre, Richmond Kindergarten, Dill-De-Bin Kindergarten and Malcolm Graham Pavilion.

Council is advancing its zero-emissions transport goals by commissioning two electric buses and installing EV chargers at Clifton Hill Depot and Collingwood Town Hall in 2024–25. To promote sustainable commuting, it supports events like National Ride to Work Day and offers free bike checks and e-bike training.

Council also maintains carbon neutrality through carbon offsets and collaborates with the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action to refine its net-zero strategy.

Outcomes

In 2024–25, Council-owned buildings used 27,596 GJ of fossil gas, producing around 1,532 tonnes of CO₂—down from 30,697 GJ and 1,704 tonnes the previous year. This reduction highlights Council's continued progress in decarbonising its operations.

Council's fleet now includes 19 zero emissions vehicles—15% of its 122 total—comprising cars, trucks, vans, buses, and an electric excavator, reflecting its commitment to cutting transport emissions. The contract fleet adds another eight zero emissions vehicles, including general vehicles, an electric street sweeper, and ride-on mowers.



Transformation 5

Yarra is Caring for Country. Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener, and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature.

An adequate climate emergency response means rethinking our relationship with nature. It means facing up to the harms caused to Country since colonisation and working towards remedying these harms with the knowledge and support of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people. It means providing ample habitat for biodiversity to thrive and ecosystems to heal, prioritising climate-resilient indigenous and native trees, grasses and ground covers. It means ensuring that everyone in our community feels connected to the natural environment, has access to cool, green spaces and waterways, and is protected from extreme heat through nature-based interventions.



5.1 Collaborate with Traditional Owners as decision-makers and partners in Caring for Country

Progress

Council is supporting Wurundjeri cultural land management through the Narrap Team Ranger Trainee Initiative, delivered with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Collingwood Children's Farm. In 2024–25, trainees contributed over 204 hours to ecological restoration, fostering knowledge exchange with Council's Open Space Services. Officers shared expertise in maintenance, auditing, and vegetation planning. These efforts are further strengthened by Council's role in the 'Greening the Birrarung' project, aligning with the CEP commitment to build a shared climate and biodiversity data system with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung.

Council plays a key role in implementing the Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarmoo (BBBU) Yarra Strategic Plan 2022–32. This includes participating in regular workshops and meetings, and developing a 'Birrarung Relationship Statement' in 2024–25. As a member of the Yarra Collaborative Committee under the Yarra River Protection Act, Council works closely with the Victorian Government and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to protect and manage the Birrarung as a unified, living entity

Council is working to decolonise and restore Yarra's landscapes in alignment with Wurundjeri heritage through the 'Bringing Nature Back to Yarra' Program. In 2024–25, 81,110 native plants were planted across the Birrarung and Merri Merri catchments, and 8,677.2 m² of grassland was prepared for bushland conversion at sites like Halls Reserve and Fairfield Park, totaling 2.1 hectares restored. To improve open space management, Council is also trialing growth suppressants to reduce mowing, fertilising, and watering, with potential for broader application if successful.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

5.2 Expand opportunities to access biodiverse, natural spaces in and around the places we live, work and play

Progress

Council is enhancing access to nature and biodiversity across Yarra by accelerating the planting of climate-resilient indigenous and native species, guided by state and national ecological restoration standards. In 2024–25, 892 tall native trees were planted, and 100 advanced Ballarat-native trees were ordered for their climate adaptability, to be planted in 2025–26 as part of the Bringing Nature Back (BNB) program.

Efforts also focus on tree equity, prioritising plantings in underserved areas to reduce urban heat, improve air quality, and support public health. Council is strengthening wildlife corridors through habitat enhancement, converting 2.1 hectares of open space to ecological value and linking vegetation classes to Merri Merri and Birrarung Country.

Cultural collaboration continues through research on Wurundjeri totem species and partnerships with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, including cultural mapping and a guide on traditional plant use. Council supports the proposed Birrarung Valley Walk to celebrate First Nations culture and the natural environment.

Community engagement programs like Walk, Talk, Swim Birrarung and Nature Connection have reached over 1,300 participants, fostering environmental awareness, stewardship, and advocacy. Participants reported high satisfaction and increased nature engagement and activism following these experiences.

Outcomes

See both 5.3 outcomes section below and CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

5.3 Invest in a climate-resilient natural environment which mitigates climate impacts and improves biodiversity and urban agriculture outcomes

Progress

Council is strengthening Yarra's connection with nature through a range of green infrastructure and urban greening initiatives. The reintroduction of the Embedding Green Infrastructure Best Practice Toolkit supports staff in enhancing the natural environment. As part of the 2025 Capital Works Program, new street tree cutouts and garden beds are being installed, and existing tree squares enlarged to improve tree health and canopy coverage.

Biodiversity is being prioritised in open space planning, with native plantings and habitat connectivity integrated into projects like Smiths Reserve, Golden Square, Quarries Park playground, and Fairfield Park. Council is also trialing permeable paving in Clifton Hill to replace asphalt and improve surface permeability.

In 2025, 80 m² of asphalt was removed to create new street gardens in Princes Hill, Carlton North, Clifton Hill, and Richmond. The Street Tree Program targets areas with low canopy coverage and urban heat, with over 50 trees planted in 2024–25 across Abbotsford, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fitzroy, and Richmond. Additional plantings are scheduled for high-priority streets between July and October 2025.

Outcomes

Yarra's canopy cover is steadily increasing, with public realm coverage rising from 23% to 24.4% between 2016 and 2021—most notably across streetscapes, which saw a 6% gain. The overall municipal canopy rate was 17.7% in 2021 and will be reassessed in 2026.

In 2024–25, Council continued its goal of ensuring 75% of plantings are native or indigenous species. This included 1,280 advanced trees (with a 4.2% loss rate, half from vandalism), 81,110 tubestock in bushland, 9,780 native plants in park garden beds, 889 in Smith Reserve, and 182 indigenous groundcovers/shrubs at Bendigo TAFE's temporary park.

Additionally, Council exceeded its CEP goal of planting 200 trees for the threatened Grey Headed Flying Fox, planting 696 trees to support winter foraging.



5.4 Council advocates for policies and programs which improve outcomes for nature, within and beyond Yarra

Progress

Council continues to empower the community to advocate for nature through a range of climate emergency engagement programs and events. Initiatives such as 'Walk, Talk, Swim Birrarung', 'Nature Connection', and 'Big Ways to Take Climate Action' encourage participants to take personal action at home, collaborate with others, and advocate for broader systemic change around environmental issues.

To amplify these efforts, Council actively promotes local nature groups, campaigns, and events through its monthly Yarra Environment News. This newsletter highlights the work of climate and environment-focused organisations, helping to build awareness and foster community involvement in biodiversity protection.

Council offers a diverse array of opportunities for residents to engage with and influence the protection of the city's unique natural values. These include Gardens 4 Wildlife Program, WaterWatch Program, My Smart Garden Program, representation on the Merri Creek and Darebin Management Committees, and participation in the Yarra Environmental Advisory Committee (YEAC).

Further support is provided through annual grants under the climate action stream,

community planting activities, and Riverfest events. These initiatives not only raise awareness but also contribute to the restoration of Birrarung Country, reinforcing Council's commitment to ecological stewardship and community-led action.

In addition, Council has introduced the Urban Forest Dashboard which is a live online tool that provides insights into how our 36,000+ street and park trees are managed and shows new planting locations scheduled across the city.

Council is empowering the community to advocate for nature through climate emergency programs like Walk, Talk, Swim Birrarung, Nature Connection, and Big Ways to Take Climate Action, which inspire personal and collective environmental action. The monthly Yarra Environment News promotes local nature groups and campaigns, boosting awareness and engagement.

Residents can participate in initiatives such as Gardens 4 Wildlife, WaterWatch, My Smart Garden, and advisory committees, while annual grants, planting events, and Riverfest further support community-led restoration of Birrarung Country. Council also launched the Urban Forest Dashboard, an online tool tracking the management and planting of over 36,000 street and park trees across Yarra.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.





Transformation 6

In Yarra, everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure.

To prepare for a climate-ravaged future, we must ensure that homes, public infrastructure, and shared spaces are safe and comfortable, especially for vulnerable groups such as those in poor housing, with health conditions, the elderly, young children, and low-income residents. Recent climate hazards like heatwaves, bushfire smoke, and flash floods have already threatened safety and wellbeing.

Improving building quality and resilience is essential to prevent worsening impacts. Public infrastructure plays a critical role in maintaining access to water, energy, communication, food, and healthcare, but it is increasingly at risk. To avoid repeated damage and service disruptions, we must proactively design, build, and retrofit infrastructure to meet evolving community needs in a changing climate. 6.1 Yarra's homes and workplaces are climate-safe, resilient and thermally comfortable.

6.1 Yarra's homes and workplaces are climate-safe, resilient and thermally comfortable

Progress

Council is accelerating the transition to climate-resilient, energy-efficient homes through a range of initiatives in 2024–25. These include lending thermal cameras via libraries, hosting energy efficiency sessions for renters and landlords, and supporting apartment residents at the High Life Expo 2025. Council also collaborated with other Melbourne councils on workshops to support low-income households and delivered pilot programs like Climate Safe Rooms and Yarra Home Energy Upgrades.

Efforts extend to promoting climate-adaptive development, publishing retrofit guidance for heritage buildings, and showcasing zero-carbon building case studies. Through the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), Yarra is participating in an industry partnership to elevate Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) standards and developing a pilot for ESD compliance champions.

Council continues to advocate for the Elevating ESD Targets Planning Policy Amendment to strengthen sustainability requirements for new developments. Planning Scheme improvements aim to support local living, active transport, and adaptable commercial spaces, with amendments underway for Bridge Road, Victoria Street, Cremorne, Fitzroy, and Collingwood.

The November 2024 Social Impacts Survey found that 47% of respondents felt their homes were adequately insulated for comfort. Among people with a disability, this figure was slightly lower at 44%, while 69% of those aged over 65 reported their homes maintained a comfortable temperature, indicating better outcomes for older residents. 6.2 Yarra is building, upgrading and maintaining safe and resilient public infrastructure.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

6.2 Yarra is building, upgrading and maintaining safe and resilient public infrastructure

Progress

Council continues to invest in action to reduce climate risk associated with Council assets, such as upgrades to 21 Council-managed stormwater and drainage systems to reduce flood risk and improve the climate resilience and performance of the drainage system.

Outcomes

Council has pledged to set baselines and 2030 targets by 2027 for key climate impact indicators. These include tracking annual flooding incidents and their locations, weather-related closures of Council buildings, claims from infrastructure-related weather damage, spending on critical repairs due to such damage, and the proportion of insurance premiums used for weather-related property claims.

6.3 Yarra’s public spaces and streetscapes are connected, climate resilient and create and enabling environment for climate conscious living

Progress

Council is enhancing walkability and active transport in a hotter climate by creating cool routes and green spaces. In May 2025, Council restructured operations to consolidate open space planning, design, maintenance, biodiversity, and tree planting under the City Works branch, improving coordination and integration of greenery into projects.

Successful integration has occurred in projects like Quarries Park dog off-leash upgrades, Golden Square Playground design, and alignment between footpath works and tree planting. Council continues to advocate for ambitious planting in transport projects, supported by its involvement in the New Deal for Cycling working group.

Efforts to map and promote shady corridors are underway, with funding allocated in the 2025/26 budget to implement recommendations from the New Deal for Walking Audit. Council has completed 2024/25 actions under the New Deal programs for Schools, Walking, and Cycling, aiming to build a safe, green, and climate-resilient transport network.

Outcomes

Australian Urban Observatory data shows that most Yarra residents live within 750m of a supermarket or greengrocer, though distances are greater in parts of Cremorne and Alphington (1–1.5km). While Yarra generally has strong access to social infrastructure—such as cultural, community, and educational facilities—areas like upper Alphington, Clifton Hill, Cremorne, Burnley, and Richmond score lower on social infrastructure indices.





Transformation 7

Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, repairing, sharing, and repurposing more, and sending less waste to landfill.

Moving to a circular economy is critical to acting on the climate emergency. A circular economy revolutionizes our current 'make-use-dispose' model, instead seeing resources, materials and products as designed to last, and be shared, repaired, reused and recycled. This model mirrors natural systems, reduces emissions, avoids use of unnecessary materials, and reduces waste and new inputs needed.

7.1 Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by demanding circular design, buying less, borrowing, reusing, repairing, repurposing and recycling more

Progress

Council has completed a feasibility study to transform the Clifton Hill Recycling Centre into a circular center focused on reuse, repair, and recycling, including a resale program to divert hard waste from landfill. Community feedback will inform a new waste and recycling strategy.

Council is considering a reuse program featuring a walking trail of second-hand clothing shops in southern Yarra, to be added

to the Circular Economy Map. The popular Library of Things program is expanding, offering items like thermal cameras and energy kits, with 87 loans recorded this year.

Waste education efforts have centered on the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service, using diverse communication channels. Council also received a \$92,000 grant through Sustainability Victoria's Circular Economy Leadership Development Program, supporting initiatives like a Material Flow Analysis and the creation of a Circular Leaders network to drive broader systemic change.

Outcomes
The volume of waste produced annually across the municipality has reduced substantially since 2021. The CEP committed Council to a 15% reduction on the 2024-25 baseline, and future reporting will be in comparison to this baseline. Additionally, Council committed to diverting 80% of waste from landfill by 2030.

Prior to this year's introduction of the FOGO service, diversion rates from the kerbside service averaged 32%. With the addition of the FOGO collection, the diversion rate from kerbside waste has improved to 42.24%.

Council's previous hard waste diversion rate averaged 32%, however this year saw an improvement as that rate increased to 38%.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Domestic kerbside garbage (tonnes)	14,103.68	13,105.89	13,066.04	11,874.48
Kerbside recycling and glass (tonnes)	6,707.83	6,008.71	5,819.78	5,675.03
Kerbside FOGO (tonnes)				3,007.12
Housing estate - Landfill only (tonnes)	1,306	1,198	1,248	1,292
Hard waste (tonnes) (includes dumped waste and recycling center drop-off)	2,901.53	2,820.95	2,395.55	2,415.71

7.2 Waste to landfill and recycling contamination are eliminated

Progress

Council is updating its Food Waste Challenge to include more content, broaden its appeal, and align with the national campaign The Great Unwaste. A \$49,900 grant from Sustainability Victoria supported the new FOGO service, enabling Council to purchase 20m³ of compost from RepurposelT for use in local food-growing sites like planter boxes, gardens, schools, and childcare centers.

An accompanying education program emphasized keeping FOGO material clean and reducing food waste. Over 100 people attended workshops focused on food preservation and seasonal cooking.

Outcomes

As part of the CEP, Council has committed to halving food waste. A recent waste audit—the first since adopting the 4-stream system—found food waste levels at 24.25% in rubbish bins and 26.25% in FOGO bins, establishing a baseline for future progress.

Council also aims to cut recycling contamination by 5%. Current contamination rates are 4% in FOGO bins, 0.75% in glass bins, and 10.5% in recycling bins, with the highest contamination rates in apartments and commercial settings. The audit revealed that over half of landfill waste could have been recycled, highlighting opportunities for improvement.7.3 Council and local businesses are implementing circular economy principles across supply chains.

7.3 Council and local businesses are implementing circular economy principles across supply chains

Progress

Council is piloting a Circular Economy platform to repurpose surplus and unwanted materials across its divisions or share them with external partners. Items may include building and transport materials, landscaping supplies, tools, machinery, furniture, and drainage pipes, supporting reuse and waste reduction.

Outcomes

The CEP committed Council to a 10% reduction in raw material use. Council is exploring better procurement methods to improve data tracking and cut material usage.7.4 We are advocating to government and key stakeholders to embed circular economy principles in the design and manufacture of goods and services.

7.4 We are advocating to government and key stakeholders to embed circular economy principles in the design and manufacture of goods and services

Progress

Council is advancing recycling innovation by partnering with manufacturers to develop technologies that repurpose soft plastics into food packaging and liquid paperboard into building materials—set to be operational within 6 to 12 months. Council continues to advocate for a circular economy through national forums, promoting better packaging design, product reparability with ten-year warranties, recycled-content procurement, and clearer recycling labels.

Internally, Council is embedding circular economy principles into new kerbside waste service contracts, which are currently open for submissions, to enhance its own sustainability performance.

Outcomes

See the CEP indicators table at the end of this report for additional data.

CEP indicator reporting

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
1	1.1	Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then take steps to reduce household emissions	75%	Of the climate emergency engagements which focused on emissions (plant-based events, draught-proofing and home electrification events), 41% of attendees who responded to the survey indicated they would take action to reduce household emissions.	In progress.
2	1.1	Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then act on climate change	No target	<p>3,007 people attended climate emergency events and programs delivered by the Climate Emergency Team. An additional 54 people participated in the Climate Safe Rooms and Yarra Home Energy Upgrades grant programs.</p> <p>Of those who completed post-event and program surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% shared their learnings with friends and family members • 33% advocated for stronger climate action or policies 	Between 55% and 88% of people attending climate emergency events and programs delivered by the Climate Emergency Team took action on climate change.
3	1.1	Annual number of people participating in Council climate emergency engagements who have never participated before	1,000 new people per year	Of the 182 people who answered post-event and program surveys in which they were asked about their attendance, 132 indicated that this was their first time attending a Council climate emergency event. This represents 72% of survey respondents. Assuming the rate of new attendees among survey responses is reflective of all participants, this suggests we attracted 2,165 new attendees to climate emergency events and engagements.	<p>Target met.</p> <p>Up to 2,165 new people in 2024-25</p>

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
4	1.1	Uptake of active and public transport, reported every three years	<p>In accordance with the Transport Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2027 • 40% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2032 • 40% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport by 2032 • 35% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport to work by 2026 • 40% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2032 • 30% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2026 • 25% increase in commuters travelling to Plan work by active transport by 2030. 	<p>Nil data</p> <p>DTP bike counters in Yarra have been unavailable since June 2024. This is due to a communications error that DTP is resolving.</p> <p>New VISTA data has been released but for 2022 and 2024 and the Strategic Transport team have commenced reviewing this</p>	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
5	1.1, 7.1, 7.3	Annual volume of rubbish produced per capita	15% reduction on baseline established through the June 2024 audit	<p>497.5kg of kerbside waste per household in 2024-25. This is made up of a total 21,848.63 tonnes of residential waste across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic kerbside garbage- 11,874.48t • Kerbside recycling and glass - 5675.03t • Kerbside FOGO - 3007.12t • Housing estate (landfill only) - 1,292t <p>55.1 kg of hard waste per property in the council waste service in 2024-25. This is made up of 2,415.71 tonnes of hard waste including dumped waste and recycling center drop-offs.</p>	In progress. The numbers from the June 2024 audit will form the baseline and be used to track future progress
6	1.1, 7.1, 7.3	Annual percentage waste diverted from landfill	80%	<p>42.24% diversion rate of kerbside waste in 2024-2025</p> <p>38.18% diversion rate of hard waste in 2024-2025</p>	In progress. This is an increase in diversion rate from 34.98% in 2023-2024 and represents a total increase of 7.26%
7	1.1, 7.2	Annual food waste per capita	50% reduction on baseline established through the June 2024 audit	<p>Food waste represented an average of 24.25% of waste in garbage bins across SUDs, MUDs and Commercial</p> <p>Food waste represented an average of 26.25% in FOGO bins across SUDs, MUDs and Commercial</p>	In progress. The numbers from the June 2024 audit will form the baseline and be used to track future progress.

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
8	1.1, 7.2	Annual recycling contamination rates	5% reduction on baseline established through the June 2024 audit	<p>Based on the June 2024 audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4% average contamination of FOGO across SUDs, MUDs and Commercial • 0.75% average contamination of glass across SUDs, MUDs and Commercial • 10.5% average contamination of recycling across SUDs, MUDs and Commercial <p>Commercial contamination was considerably higher than residential across all categories of reclaimed waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUDs 0.44% • MUDs 3.61% • Commercial 8.17% 	In progress. The numbers from the June 2024 audit will form the baseline and be used to track future progress.
9	1.2	Annual progress against Council's operational and strategic climate risks reported to Audit and Risk Committee	No target	Strategic climate risks are reported to the ARC quarterly	N/A
10	1.2	Council progress on Climate Emergency Plan actions, reported in the Quarterly Community Report	No target	Action plan delivery highlights reported quarterly.	Council progress on Climate Emergency Plan actions has been reported regularly in Quarterly Community Report since the adoption of the CEP
11	1.2	Service Units have Climate Emergency actions in their work plans, in line with their Climate Emergency role	All Service Units act on delivering their Climate Emergency role statement	Planned for implementation in early 2026	In progress. Included in Service Planning commencing early 2026

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
12	2.1	Annual number of at-risk community members indicating confidence preparing for and coping with climate impacts	All	<p>The Social Indicator Survey (SIS) undertaken in November 2024 showed the percentage of Yarra residents overall who indicated confidence dealing with extreme weather was 60%. The percentage of residents in at-risk sub-groups who indicated confidence were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42% of residents have trouble paying a bill • 57% of residents with a disability • 56% of those who live along • 77% of those older than 65. 	In progress
13	2.1	Annual number of at-risk community members indicating they have community members or organisations they can rely on for support during emergencies	All	<p>The SIS showed the percentage of Yarra residents who knew of organisations they could reach out to for support was 31%. The percentage of residents in at-risk sub-groups who had such support was comparable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29% of residents with a disability • 36% of residents over 65 • 37% of residents living alone. 	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
14	2.1	The frequency with which Council uses bi-cultural workers/ interpreters to ensure information is available regarding climate impacts.	Interpreters and/or bi-cultural workers are used in all in-person interactions with multicultural communities about climate impacts.	<p>Seven interpreters booked for six climate engagement with multicultural communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk Talk Birrarung (for Vietnamese community) • Walk Talk Swim Birrarung (for Mandarin speaking community) • Plant-based cooking demo (for Vietnamese community) • Draught proofing workshop (Vietnamese) • Draught proofing workshop (Somali) • Climate resilience enquiry submissions (Vietnamese and Mandarin interpreters booked) <p>Bi-cultural liaison officers were engaged for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Climate Emergency workshops to CALD communities • Promotion to Climate Safe Rooms Pilot program and Yarra Home Energy Upgrades Pilot • AVWA plant-based event • Birrarung and Banh Mi event • Birrarung and Tai Chi event • Draughtproofing workshops in Vietnamese and Somali (May) were promoted by BLOs • Vietnamese speaking BLO engaged to conduct phone surveys of previous participants to workshops to elicit feedback. 	Target met

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
15	2.1	Availability and comprehensibility of translated material, assessed annually Written translations are available for all climate impact information, with translations reviewed for accuracy and comprehensibility.	<p>'Big Ways to Take Climate Action' and 'Go Electric Plan' flyers translated into Vietnamese, Mandarin and Arabic. These have been distributed at various community events.</p> <p>Information on climate impacts is made available to CALD communities through programs including Climate Safe Rooms, Climate Voices and Draught-proofing for Renters.</p>	<p>'Big Ways to Take Climate Action' and 'Go Electric Plan' flyers translated into Vietnamese, Mandarin and Arabic. These have been distributed at various community events.</p> <p>Information on climate impacts is made available to CALD communities through programs including Climate Safe Rooms, Climate Voices and Draught-proofing for Renters.</p>	Target met
16	2.1	Accessibility of climate-related communications and resources, assessed annually	<p>Digital and hard-copy information is always available, particularly at known places of low digital access (e.g. public housing estates).</p> <p>Hard-copy information is always available at libraries and neighbourhood houses.</p>	<p>'Big Ways to Take Climate Action' and 'Go Electric Plan' flyers translated into Vietnamese, Mandarin and Arabic. These have been distributed at various community events.</p> <p>Information on climate impacts is made available to CALD communities through programs including Climate Safe Rooms, Climate Voices and Draught-proofing for Renters.</p>	Target met
17	2.1	Number and location of rough sleepers in Yarra, as a basis for understanding socioeconomic vulnerability and exposure to extreme weather.	No target	During 2024-25, the number of reported rough sleeping sites in Yarra increased from 204 to 268. The number of sites reported each month ranged from 36 to 60, with January 2025 being the peak (60 sites).	N/A

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
18	2.1	Annual dissemination of vouchers to community members experiencing homelessness to access pools and showers, cool places, and groceries.	Vouchers (for leisure centres, cool places, and/or groceries) are available during all periods of extreme weather to community members experiencing homelessness	42 Free Shower passes processed in 2024-25; these were spread relatively consistently throughout the year. Launch Housing outreach staff distributed 110 \$10 Coles vouchers.	Target met
19	2.1	Reasonable efforts made to ensure all community members experiencing homelessness are aware of which cool places are available during periods of extreme heat	Information on cool places is shared in a coordinated effort through our network of service providers	Information on cool spaces is shared with service providers	In progress
20	2.1	Annual number of businesses providing water and cool spaces to delivery riders during periods of extreme heat	All businesses which deliver food through food delivery services provide water and cool spaces (where feasible) to delivery riders	Nil data	This work will commence this 25/26 financial year.
21	2.1	Annual number of at-risk residents engaged through Yarra home and support services, who have undertaken emergency preparedness planning	All at-risk residents engaged through Yarra home and support services have undertaken emergency preparedness planning	Nil data	Recommend that this indicator be retired as Council has transitioned its home care services to another provider.
22	2.1, 2.2	Number of cool places available to community members experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme heat	20 cool places available to community members experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme heat	Nil data	In progress. In the 24/25 summer, 7 cool spaces were open (including 3 Council and 4 community sites) and in the 25/26 summer, Council expects that 8 cool spaces will be open (including 5 Council and 3 community sites).

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
23	2.1, 2.2	Annual number of people seeking food relief and the capacity of food agencies to meet this demand	Surveys (or other mechanisms) undertaken regularly to determine demand for food relief in Yarra, and food agencies capacity to meet this demand	<p>The SIS (November 2024) found that 46% of participants had experienced food access or security issues over the previous 12 months, and that these were most prevalent among lower income households. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11% indicated worry that they would not have food to feed themselves and their family • 9% indicated there had been times when they had run out of food and could not afford to buy more. 	In progress
24	2.2	Number of Community Service Organisations (including neighbourhood houses and community health organisations) which have implemented climate resilience planning annually	All partner Community Service Organisations have developed and implemented climate resilience planning	None in 2024-25	In progress
25	2.3	Annual climate-related disruptions to critical Council services in excess of service-level standards	No disruptions outside of the service-level standard to critical Council services due to the physical and transition impacts of climate change	No disruptions to Council services in 2024-25 due to climate impacts	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
26	2.4	Annual submissions to government inquiries related to the climate resilience of Yarra community members	Yarra makes a submission to all relevant government inquiries (where feasible) advocating for resilience on behalf of community members at greatest risk of climate impacts	Submissions were made on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Climate Resilience • Victorian Government consultation on Proposed Regulations for New Minimum Standards for Rental Properties and Rooming Houses • Victorian Government Building Electrification Regulatory Impact Statement • Victoria's 2026-2030 Climate Change Strategy • Victoria's Draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy 2025-2055 	Target met
27	3.1	Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then join with others to take collective action	75%	Of the 247 completed post-event surveys received, 11 participants, or 5% of the total, indicated that they would be joining with others to take collective action.	Unknown
28	3.1	Readership of the Yarra Environment News	No target	Readership has increased 6% over the 2024-25 financial year and now totals 2,850 subscribers	No target was set however readership has increased.
29	3.2	Annual increase in community and partner organisation participation in Council-lead submissions and campaigns	No target	Ran two sessions at neighbourhood houses to support (predominantly public housing) residents to make a submission to the Victorian Inquiry into Climate Resilience	No target was set however Council supported community and partner organisation participation in Council-lead submissions and campaigns

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
30	3.2	<p>Yarra participates in all relevant opportunities to influence State and Federal Government policies and commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being members of Government Advisory Committees and Working Groups • Submissions / input to all relevant Parliamentary Inquiries and formal Policy consultation/ participation • Seeking to meet at a minimum twice yearly with relevant Ministers and advisors • Grant applications to all schemes of relevance, including those that provide funding for additional open and green space. 	No target	<p>Submissions were made on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Climate Resilience • Victorian Government consultation on Proposed Regulations for New Minimum Standards for Rental Properties and Rooming Houses • Victorian Government Building Electrification Regulatory Impact Statement • Victoria's 2026-2030 Climate Change Strategy. • Victoria's Draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy 2025-2055 <p>Grant applications submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Thriving Suburbs Program 2024 for Coburg Leisure Centre Electrification - awarded \$2.91M • Federal Community Energy Upgrades Fund Grant for electrification of Collingwood Leisure Centre – awarded \$2.5M but declined because Yarra received the Thriving Suburbs grant • Victorian Government 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Grant – awarded \$297,881 • Federal Disaster Ready Fund for Climate Ready Homes – unsuccessful. 	No target was set however Council participated in all relevant opportunities to influence State and Federal Government policies and commitments
31	3.3	Number of schools in Yarra that Council is delivering climate engagement programs with annually	No target	Fitzroy High, Richmond High, and Princes Hill Secondary participated in Council climate engagement programs which reached 275 students	No target was set however Council invited all high schools to participate in the 'Yarra Youth: Can't Vote, Can Campaign' program

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
32	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	Annual municipal greenhouse gas emissions	Net zero emissions by 2035 (*Noting that this ambition relies on significant acceleration of action from state and federal governments)	Nil data. Reliant on external data providers from whom the latest available data is for 2022-23.	Unknown
33	4.1	Annual household fossil gas usage	A reduction of 40% from 2023 usage (124,000 tCO2e)	Nil data. Reliant on external data providers from whom the latest available data is for 2022-23.	Unknown
34	4.1.1, 4.1.2.1, 6.1.2	Annual number of residents provided with a climate safe room or home energy upgrade	No target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Safe Rooms – 14 households Yarra Home Energy Upgrades – 40 households 	No target was set however Council supported as many households as possible with the budget available
35	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	Annual installed municipal solar capacity	A doubling of installed municipal solar capacity from 2023 (23,948kW)	28,000 kW composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential - 16,139 kW Commercial- 11,861 kW 	In progress. Currently at 15.3% of potential installed solar capacity
36	4.2	Annual business (commercial and industrial) fossil gas usage	A reduction of 20% from 2023 usage (98,000 tCO2e)	Nil data. Reliant on external data providers from whom the latest available data is for 2022-23.	Unknown
37	4.3	Annual percentage of vehicles registered in Yarra that are zero emissions vehicles	25%	As at the 2021 census, 1.8% of vehicles registered in Yarra were battery electric vehicles	In progress
38	4.4	Annual fossil gas usage in Council-owned buildings	No fossil gas usage in Council-owned buildings by 2035	27,596 GJ equivalent to 1,532.03 tCO2	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
39	4.4	Annual percentage of Council-owned and contractor vehicles and equipment that is zero emissions	100% (where feasible and fit for purpose)	15% of the Yarra fleet is zero emissions vehicles (19 out of 122 vehicles owned by Yarra) Contractor fleet includes 8 zero emissions vehicles. The percentage this represents of the total contractor fleet is unknown.	In progress
40	5.2, 5.3	Percentage of space allocated to canopy cover in the public realm, assessed annually	Annual increase	Canopy cover in the public realm (roads and parks) increased by 4.5% across the municipality from 23.3 % 2016 to 24.4% in 2021.	Mature tree planting in 2024–25 has contributed to increased canopy cover; however, as canopy cover is measured only every five years, Council cannot yet quantify the extent of this annual growth.
41	5.2, 5.3	Native biodiversity in Council-managed natural spaces (based on annual biodiversity audits), assessed annually	Annual increase in the health of biodiversity in Class 1 and 2 vegetation sites managed as bushland (assessed via annual audits)	Biodiversity in the four most common EVCs in Yarra has remained healthy	Target met
42	5.2, 5.3	Annual percentage and distribution of canopy cover across Yarra	A healthy urban forest enhances Yarra’s liveability and mitigation of UHI risks. The Urban Forest Strategy (207-2026) set a target of 21.25% total canopy cover by 2040. Yarra’s canopy cover rate was last measured in 2021 at 17.7% and will be re-measured early 2026. The strategy will be reviewed in 2027.	17.7% of Yarra was covered by canopy in 2021	Mature tree planting in 2024–25 has contributed to increased canopy cover; however, as canopy cover is measured only every five years, Council cannot yet quantify the extent of this annual growth.

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
43	5.2, 5.3	Annual percentage and equitable distribution of shaded routes to essential services, schools, active and public transport	Annual improvement	16.65% of routes to essential services in Yarra are shaded	Mature tree planting in 2024–25 has enhanced canopy cover and shade; however, as canopy cover is measured only every five years, Council cannot yet determine the extent of increased shading along walking routes.
44	5.2, 5.3	Annual percentage and distribution of urban heat islands	Annual reduction	5.2°C average urban heat across Yarra (compared to average vegetated, non-urban areas in Yarra). Collingwood and Cremore have the highest urban heat values at 6.3°C and 6°C respectively, while Fairfield has the lowest at 3.6°C.	Mature tree planting in 2024–25 has enhanced canopy cover and shade; however, as canopy cover is measured only every five years, Council cannot yet determine the extent of reduced urban heat islands.
45	5.2, 5.3	Equitable access to nature for all Yarra residents	Annual improvement	75% of Yarra residents are within the catchment are able to access some form of nature and open space in Yarra	Mature tree planting in 2024–25 has enhanced canopy cover and shade; however, as canopy cover is measured only every five years, Council cannot yet determine the extent of increased access to nature for all.
46	5.2, 5.3	Amount of open space managed for biodiversity, assessed annually	Increase of 5% annually (currently have approx. 40ha, 5% is approx. 2ha, or 20,000m ²)	2.1ha were added to open space managed for biodiversity through the BNB program	Target met

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
47	5.2, 5.3	Annual number of plantings in open space areas (noting number of indigenous, Victorian native, Australian native)	100,000 plantings per year (for a range of purposes including shade/cooling, biodiversity, habitat, pollination).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 692 advanced indigenous trees and 588 advanced Australian native (non-indigenous) trees in open spaces and streets. 81,110 local native ground storey, shrub, and tree tubestock planted in bushland areas 49,780 native and indigenous plants across our park garden beds 17 native trees and 872 native shrubs, grasses, ground covers, climbers planted in Smith Reserve 182 groundcover/shrubs indigenous plants planted in the temporary park at the Bendigo TAFE campus in Cremorne 	Target met
48	5.2, 5.3	Number of advanced trees, ground and understory species planted that are local native, Victorian native and Australian native, in line with DEECA 'Biodiversity revegetation with provenance mixing for climate change adaptation guidelines', assessed annually	75%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78% of the 1,646 advanced trees planted in open spaces and streets were native or indigenous, made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 692 advanced indigenous trees - 588 advanced Australian native (non-indigenous) trees 100% of the understory plants planted through the BNB were indigenous and Australian native 	Target met for advanced trees in open spaces and streets and for Bringing Nature Back program.
49	5.2, 5.3	Annual number of local native trees planted specifically to provide winter foraging opportunities for threatened Grey Headed Flying Fox	200 annually	696 trees that support the winter foraging needs of the Grey Headed Flying Fox	Target met

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
50	5.2, 5.3	Annual number new local extinctions of flora or fauna; and number vulnerable or near-threatened species that have become endangered	0	0	Target met
51	5.2, 5.3	Annual stormwater nutrient loads into the Birrarung (Yarra)	1.6mg/L nitrogen and 0.05mg/L for phosphorous in line with the ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality	Nil data	Unknown
52	6.1	Elevating ESD Targets Amendment gazetted in Planning Scheme	By 2026	Amendment with Minister	In progress
53	6.1	Percentage of people reporting that their homes are adequately insulated, heated, and cooled	Increase on baseline established in 2024	47% of participants in the SIS (November 2024) agreed or strongly agreed that their home was sufficiently insulated to maintain a comfortable temperature. This forms the baseline for future reporting.	In progress. The numbers from the SIS will form the baseline and be used to track future progress.
54	6.2	Annual number of incidents and geographic locations of flooding, flash flooding and water over road incidents from weather events which Council is called to respond to	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target	Nil data	In progress
55	6.2	Annual Council buildings closures due to weather-related events	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target	Nil data	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
56	6.2	Annual number and value of claims against Council from weather damage due to Council infrastructure failures	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target	Nil data	In progress
57	6.2	Annual spending on critical repairs to Council built assets due to weather-related damage	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target	Nil data	In progress
58	6.2	Annual percentage of insurance premiums spent on Council property damage from weather events	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target	Nil data	In progress
59	6.3	Average annual walking time to food and other essential services	Annual reduction	From Australian Urban Observatory data, that majority of Yarra residents live within 750m of a supermarket or greengrocer. In some areas (e.g. lower Cremorne and upper Alphington), that distance increased to 1-1.5km. The majority of Yarra is also well served with social infrastructure, including cultural, community and educational infrastructure. Again, localised areas of upper Alphington and Clifton Hill, Cremorne, Burnley and Richmond show lower social infrastructure indices.	In progress
60	6.3	Three-yearly change in the quantity of hard, sealed surfaces vs. permeable surfaces (assessed through GIS imagery)	Three-yearly change reduction in hard, sealed surfaces Three-yearly change increase in permeable surfaces	14,764,699m ² impermeable surfaces 5,770,555 m ² permeable surfaces	In progress

No.	Objectives	Indicator	Target	2024-25 report	Progress against target
61	1.2, 7.3	Annual use of raw material in Council operations	10% reduction	Nil data	Unknown at this stage – further work required
62	1.2, 7.3	Annual proportion of second-hand, repair, reuse and recycled content in material used in Council capital works	One third	Nil data	Unknown at this stage – further work required.

