

CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN

Supporting Community Action

Stakeholder Bulletin
August 2020



THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

Climate change is one of the most significant risks facing the planet and the way we live.

Our activities are contributing to rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet at an unprecedented rate and threaten how we live, work and play.

A warming planet has a significant impact on a range of climate variables such as temperature, rainfall and sea level. Climate change is already causing impacts on vulnerable areas of the world, including our region, which is becoming hotter and drier, a climate trend likely to continue.'

Globally and regionally, emissions are increasing because of population growth and our dependence on fossil fuels. If emissions continue to increase at the current rate, the Inter-Governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) predicts with a high confidence that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052.

Unless the world can de-couple development from carbon emissions, population growth and consumption will continue to drive up emissions into the foreseeable future. We urgently need to reduce our emissions – this is the 'Mitigation Response'.

At the same time, we must recognise the potential risks posed by climate change and ensure we are ready to adapt to these future changes, this is the 'Adaptation Response'.

A CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP

The City of Greater Geelong is developing a Climate Change Response Plan (the Plan).

The City of Greater Geelong (the City) acknowledges the changing climate is a global emergency and recognises the urgent need to take appropriate action, both mitigation and adaptation. This Plan will identify two groups of actions based on the level of control the City can exert on the outcome:

- Actions the City could take to support community and business emissions reductions and help the community become climate change ready, acknowledging the outcomes are beyond the City's control.
- Actions to help mitigate the City's operational emissions and manage climate change risks to its business activities within its sphere of control

The Plan will:

- build on and integrate various adaptation and mitigation programs, including the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2011), Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy (2017) and Community Zero Carbon Action Plan (2018)
- be consistent with the directions outlined in the City's Sustainability Framework and Environment Strategy
- articulate the City's roles in supporting community and business efforts to reduce emissions and climate change adaptation readiness. It will also provide pathways to achieve the City's emissions reduction targets and manage climate-related risks consistent with the City's Enterprise Risk Framework
- help the City align its efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Climate Action.



The New Joneses "tiny house" Pop Up – 2018

GET INVOLVED

For our region, responding to climate change is everyone's responsibility. The challenge spans all levels of government, the community, businesses and individuals.

The City recognises it has roles in taking direct action and in promoting a collaborative, integrated approach. The City is now seeking to engage with stakeholders who can help inform the community aspects of the Climate Change Response Plan. This will bring different perspectives to the table; help discover new ideas and solutions and build shared commitment to collaborative action.

There will be various opportunities to become involved in the project, which has three stages:

Stage 1 - August 2020

- Inform stakeholders of the project to lay the foundations for participation



Stage 2 - Aug - Sept 2020

- Consult with stakeholders to identify crucial climate related issues and potential community opportunities



Stage 3 - Oct-Nov 2020

- Involve stakeholders in advocacy of priority climate change responses that the City could support

Contact Tim Mordaunt – details on the bottom of this page.



Climate change impacts such as sea level rise could threaten sensitive estuary areas and coasts

PROJECT AIMS AND SCOPE

The City's Environment and Waste Department is leading the preparation of the Climate Change Response Plan. The City has engaged Encader Consulting to help develop the Draft Plan, including facilitating stakeholder engagement.

The external engagement phase will inform the development of the community aspects of the Draft Plan. Engagement will commence in August 2020 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

The scope of these discussions will broadly include:

Mitigation of community emissions

- Options for community emissions targets
- Supporting community and business energy efficiency and renewable energy production
- Supporting the switch to renewable electricity, cleaner fuels and sustainable transport
- Supporting a reduction in non-energy community emissions and increase carbon storage

Community climate change preparedness

- Supporting community awareness and understanding of climate change impacts
- Supporting climate change adaptation in community decision making
- Supporting collaborative community climate change responses



99kW solar system - Leisurelink Aquatic Centre

If you or someone in your organisation would like further information on the Climate Change Response Plan, please contact:

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