



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2026-2031

Accelerating climate action and
regenerating Greater Bendigo's natural
environment and communities.



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO

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Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung People, the Traditional Owners of the land.

We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

Acknowledgement of First Nations People

The City recognises that there are people from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities living in Greater Bendigo.

We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to all First Nations Peoples who live and reside in Greater Bendigo on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country, and we thank them for their contribution to our community.

Executive Summary

The *Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026* (the Strategy) sets out a long-term vision for a sustainable, thriving environment for Greater Bendigo. The Strategy's 2036 vision and goals are still valid and provide the longer-term aspirations for the organisation and the City.

The 2021-2026 period has now concluded with many of the Strategy's original actions now complete. As such, this document updates the Strategy's actions for the next 5 years. It also updates some of the indicators and targets to ensure they are meaningful and measurable and adds a new Climate Resilience theme in recognition of the importance of providing strategic direction for how the City will support climate adaptation within the organisation and across the community. This updated Strategy also establishes a new date of 2040 to achieve zero net emissions for the organisation.

Implementation of this updated Strategy will support the City's ongoing compliance with ISO 14001 environmental management requirements.

Biodiversity

Goals

- Goal A – City projects regenerate landscapes and ecosystems
- Goal B – Native habitat and areas of important biodiversity are protected for future generations
- Goal C – Connected and flourishing urban and rural landscapes and ecosystems
- Goal D – Strong community connection to, awareness of and care of our ecosystems and biodiversity
- Goal E – Respectful and effective partnerships with Traditional Owners to regenerate ecosystems

Actions 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies plans	1. Develop a Native Vegetation Conservation Roadside Management Plan. 2. Finalise Environmental Management Plans for Riley Street, Ryalls Lane, Crusoe Reservoir & No 7 and Kennington Reserves and prepare management plans for priority City managed Natural Reserves including Victoria Hill, Mickey Mouse Hill, Lake Tom Thumb and the O’Keefe Rail Trail.
Capital projects	N/A
Programs and engagement	3. Deliver internal staff engagement programs to raise awareness of the City’s wildlife and natural assets through Be the Change and internal staff training. 4. Develop a long-term plan for the Huntly and Crosby Native Plantations.
Data and monitoring	5. Conduct baseline condition assessments for priority Natural Reserves in 2026/2027 aligned to the City’s biodiversity monitoring program and repeat these in 2029/2030.
Advocacy	N/A
Community	
Policies, strategies plans	6. Develop a Habitat Connectivity Plan and Prospectus that identifies priority biodiversity corridors for restoration across the municipality. 7. Review internal processes to ensure new developments avoid and minimise loss of native vegetation and enhance biodiversity.
Capital projects	N/A
Programs and engagement	8. Deliver community engagement programs aimed at connecting the community with nature, including through local urban biodiversity programs.

Community	
	9. Support rural landholders to enhance biodiversity on their properties through the farm advisory service, grants and other programs. 10. Develop a Significant Tree Register, progress associated planning scheme overlays and deliver community engagement to raise awareness about the importance of the City's trees 11. Deliver and promote the Bushcare Incentive Program which provides a rate rebate for Trust for Nature covenanted land. 12. Deliver a street tree and public space planting program through implementation of Greening Greater Bendigo.
Data and monitoring	13. Implement the City's annual Biodiversity Monitoring Program focused on select Natural Reserves and threatened species.
Advocacy	14. Advocate for exclusion of fossicking in environmentally sensitive areas.

Indicators for reporting

Goal	Indicators	2036 target
GOAL A – City projects regenerate landscapes and ecosystems	Hectares of native vegetation removed from City operations (permit approved and exempted)	N/A
	Number of native medium and large trees removed from City operations (permit approved and exempted)	N/A
	% of monitoring sites with over 15 bird species present	100%
	% of Tuan specific nestboxes in monitoring sites occupied by Tuans	Increasing
GOAL B – Native habitat and areas of important biodiversity are protected for future generations	Number of cats brought into BARC	Decreasing
	Number of properties with a Trust for Nature covenant	Increasing
	Hectares of native vegetation removed as a part of development (permit approved)	Decreasing
	Number of native medium and large trees removed as a part of development (permitted approved)	Decreasing
GOAL C – Connected and flourishing urban and rural landscapes and ecosystems	Percentage of tree cover in urban areas	28%
GOAL D – Strong community connection to, awareness of and care or	Number of attendees at City-run natural environment events	Increasing
	Number of new participants at natural environment events	Increasing
	Number of school programs and community events about biodiversity	Increasing

Goal	Indicators	2036 target
our ecosystems and biodiversity		
GOAL E – Respectful and effective partnerships with Traditional Owners to regenerate ecosystems	Partnership biodiversity projects	Qualitative reporting

Zero Carbon

Goals

- Goal F: Zero net carbon emissions from City operations by 2040
- Goal G: Zero net carbon emissions across Greater Bendigo community by 2030

Actions for 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies plans	1. Update the Sustainable Buildings Policy to ensure replacement of gas appliances with electric alternatives through maintenance and renewal initiatives. 2. Review and update the Fleet Policy to align with the organisation's <i>Fleet Transition Plan</i>. 3. Develop and seek adoption of a Carbon Offsets Policy that confirms the City's preference for securing offsets through local revegetation based programs. 4. Integrate the costs for the City's transition into the organisation's Long Term Financial Plan
Capital projects	5. Develop a "large sites emissions reduction" retrofitting program prioritising electrification of Faith Leech Aquatic Centre, Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre and the Capital Theatre. 6. Plan to electrify Peter Krenz Leisure Centre as a part of the site's future redevelopment if and when this occurs. 7. Plan for electrification of all or part of Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium) as a part of the site's program of maintenance, renewal and upgrades 8. Undertake the necessary electrical upgrades and trunk infrastructure to enable the progressive installation of electric vehicle chargers at relevant City facilities, prioritising the Adam Street Depot. 9. Investigate integrating energy efficiency upgrades into renewal and electrification projects, subject to favourable cost-benefit assessments.
Programs and engagement	10. Continue to secure future carbon offsets through the North Central CMA's Grow Towards Zero local revegetation based carbon offsetting program in line with the City's to be established Carbon Offsets Policy. 11. Work with community organisations and other lessees of City owned facilities to transition them to 100% renewable electricity contracts. Update leases and licenses with this requirement when they are renewed. 12. In accordance with the Fleet Transition Plan, progressively replace the City's petrol and diesel fleet as suitable electric alternatives become available.

Data and monitoring	13. Work with community organisations and other lessees of City owned facilities to enable reporting on their emissions.
Advocacy	14. Advocate for state and federal government support for electrification of City facilities and fleet in recognition of the financial constraints experienced across the local government sector. 15. Advocate for a state-wide approach to offsetting local government landfill emissions.
Community	
Policies, strategies plans	16. Review the Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap in 2027/2028 in collaboration with Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration partners including a review of the net-zero emission date for the community.
Capital projects	17. Expand the City's public electric vehicle network, including through collaborations with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance councils.
Programs and engagement	18. Continue to host the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration if supported by existing and future partners. 19. Continue to implement the Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap through the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration, prioritizing the following programs: • Beat the Power Bills business program • Home Energy Empowerment Program • Low Incomes Homes Retrofit program • Investigating the establishment of a Climate Community Wealth Fund • Local, place based climate action planning and programs, including through community planning processes as appropriate 20. Explore the use of Environmental Upgrade Agreements to support home and business energy efficiency and renewable energy projects (if a financier becomes available). 21. Review the City's approach to supporting sustainable built form outcomes as a part of new developments and renovations in light of recent changes to planning and building standards.
Data and monitoring	22. Work with the City's major suppliers to improve the organisation's ability to report on its Scope 3 emissions.
Advocacy	23. Develop and implement a Climate Action Advocacy Plan in collaboration with Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration partners.

Indicators for reporting

Goal	Indicator	2040 target
GOAL F: Zero net carbon emissions from City operations by 2040	tCO2e net-emissions from City operations	Zero net emissions
	tCO2e and percentage of emissions across each emissions source (gas, fuel, landfill)	Zero emissions from gas; residual emissions from landfill and heavy plant only
	Number and percentage all electric City owned and managed buildings	100%
	Number and percentage of electric passenger vehicles	100%
	Number and percentage of electric and plug in hybrid heavy fleet vehicles and plant	100% heavy vehicles. 10% plant *
	Percentage of City funds invested with financial institutions that do not lend to fossil fuel industries	60%
GOAL G: Zero carbon across Greater Bendigo community by 2030	tCO2e emissions for the Greater Bendigo community	Decreasing
	Percentage of households with solar PV units	Increasing
	Number of businesses who participate in the City's business emissions reduction program	Increasing
	Number of Victorian Energy Upgrade Certificates created from appliance upgrades	Increasing
	Number of electric hot water units installed to replace gas since January 1, 2018	Increasing
	Number of energy efficient split systems installed since January 1, 2018	Increasing
	Number of attendees at City run climate action engagement events	Increasing
	Number of attendees at City run climate action engagement events who commit to home energy efficiency or electrification actions	Increasing

**meeting this target will be subject to market availability*

Circular Economy

Goals

- Goal H: Zero recoverable waste from City operations
- Goal I: A well-established circular economy with zero recoverable waste to landfill

Actions for 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies plans	1. Review and implement the Circular Economy and Zero Waste Policy. 2. Work with industry to enable use of recycled materials to become “business as usual” for City operations – e.g. for street furniture, bollards, fence posts, bitumen (Tonerplas), concrete (e.g. glass aggregate) and footpaths (e.g. Resin8 from soft plastics). 3. Integrate resource efficiency and waste minimisation directions into the City’s Sustainable Buildings Policy when reviewed.
Capital projects	4. N/A
Programs and engagement	5. Deliver internal waste minimisation and circular economy sessions for City staff through Be the Change.
Data and monitoring	6. Conduct regular waste audits of select City facilities to help monitor disposal and contamination volumes across each waste stream. 7. Investigate options to incorporate a requirement for recycled content into procurement evaluation for relevant City projects.
Advocacy	N/A
Community	
Policies, strategies plans	8. Review the City’s Resource Recovery and Education Code of Practice to explore inclusion of a mandatory requirement for commercial premises to utilise the City’s kerbside collection services unless extenuating circumstances apply.
Capital projects	9. Finalise review of the Eaglehawk Landfill Masterplan to provide guidance for the landfill’s closure and future use.
Programs and engagement	10. Investigate options to increase the functions and materials received at Recycling Centres. 11. Develop an annual Resource Recovery Communications and Engagement Plan that sets out internal, community and business waste minimisation and resource recovery engagement activities. 12. Expand community engagement and education programs to cover waste minimisation topics such as home composting, worm farms, “make it” workshops and reusable cloth nappies and sanitary items.

Community	13. Promote and support community run diversion, share and repair programs – e.g. Share and Repair Shed, toy libraries, “library of things” and Men’s Sheds, and explore opportunities to enhance coordination between these organisations.
	14. Identify opportunities to attract companies that recycle different waste streams either to the City or to the region.
	15. Participate in and support the work of the Loddon Mallee Circular Economy Reference Group.
Data and monitoring	16. Conduct regular waste audits of kerbside bins across residential and commercial properties.
Advocacy	17. Advocate for expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to include additional glass products such as wine and spirit bottles.

Indicators for reporting

Goal	Indicator	2036 target
Goal H: Zero recoverable waste from City operations	Tonnes of waste collected across all waste streams from City facilities	Decreasing
	Tonnes and percentage of City road and footpath projects that use concrete or asphalt with recycled content	Increasing
	Tonnes and percentage of construction waste from City projects which is diverted from landfill	Increasing
Goal I: A well-established circular economy with zero recoverable waste to landfill	Tonnes of waste collected across all waste streams from the community per capita	Decreasing
	Percentage of recoverable waste diverted from landfill	Increasing

Active and Public Travel

Goals

- Goal J: City staff use active, public and low carbon transport
- Goal K: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network
- Goal L: Greater Bendigo community uses active, public and low carbon transport
- Goal M: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network

Actions for 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies, plans	N/A
Capital projects	N/A
Programs and engagement	1. Promote walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles to staff through Be the Change.
Data and monitoring	2. Deliver an Annual Staff Travel Survey
Advocacy	N/A
Community	
Policies, strategies, plans	3. Review the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy and develop a new plan focused on achieving a shift away from car use towards active and public transport.
	4. Ensure future structure plans include initiatives aimed at reducing car use.
	5. Develop integrated transport plans for local areas including the City Centre.
Capital projects	6. Implement priority projects from the Protected Walking and Cycling Network Plan.
Programs and engagement	7. Establish a program to trial traffic calming, walking and cycling interventions.
	8. Investigate and deliver the Modal Filter Planning Project.
	9. Deliver engagement and behaviour change programs targeted at different population groups such as children and young people (through schools) the elderly and women.
Data and monitoring	10. N/A
Advocacy	11. Develop a Transport Advocacy Prospectus with the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration partners that may include:
	• Bendigo Metro • Implementation of the Bendigo Bus Review

- Priority shared paths – e.g. Low Line Stage 2, Myers Street pedestrian operated signals to complete Mundy Street shared path project, Ironbark Gully Stages 2 & 3, Eaglehawk-Long Gully shared path, Mundy Street Level Crossing for Shared Path
12. Advocate for inclusion of Greater Bendigo in the Victorian Government's VISTA survey (Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity).

Indicators for reporting

Goal	Indicator	2036 target
Goal J: City staff use active, public and low carbon transport	Percentage of staff trips to work by walking, cycling, carpooling, electric vehicles or public transport	66%
Goal K: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network	Percentage of homes within 500 metres of the Protected Walking and Cycling Network	Increasing
	Number of priority new footpaths completed	Increasing
	Number of priority separated cycling projects completed	8
Goal L: Greater Bendigo community uses active, public and low carbon transport	tCO2e emissions across the City from transport	Decreasing
	Number and percentage of vehicles registered in the City which are battery electric	Increasing
Goal M: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network	Number of cycling trips on separated/protected trails with counters	Increasing

Priority protected walking and cycling projects:

1. Low Line Stage 1 (underway)
2. Mundy Street (underway)
3. Low Line Stage 2
4. Eaglehawk to Long Gully link (Long Gully to Eaglehawk via Barrell St)
5. Huntly link (Howard St to Waratah Rd)
6. Bendigo Station to Mundy St connection
7. Milroy St link (Bendigo Creek trail/Low Line to Long Gully trail via Milroy St)
8. Vine St link (Bendigo Creek trail to Ironbark Gully trail)

Sustainable Food Systems

Goals

- Goal N: The City is a leader in sustainable food procurement, practices, and policy
- Goal O: Sustainable food production systems are viable, resource efficient and regenerate natural ecosystems
- Goal P: Communities are aware of the resources required to produce food and know how they can influence the food system
- Goal Q: Enable Traditional Owners to grow and harvest indigenous food and fibre plants

Actions 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies, plans	1. Review the City's procurement policies to encourage local, sustainable, healthy food.
Capital projects	N/A
Programs and engagement	2. Deliver staff engagement sessions about sustainable food through the Be the Change program – e.g. food swaps, cooking with food waste etc. 3. Investigate implementation of food swaps and food growing workshops for staff.
Data and monitoring	N/A
Advocacy	N/A
Community	
Policies, strategies plans	4. Complete and implement the Rural Areas Strategy. 5. Implementation of the Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy 2020 – 2030 and development of the next Food System Strategy.
Capital projects	N/A
Programs and engagement	6. Deliver a sustainable land management program and support delivery of the regional Healthy Landscapes Program. 7. Deliver community engagement programs focused on community gardens, composting, food growing at home, wicking beds, seasonal plantings and reduce food waste. 8. Deliver the Rural Regeneration Grant aimed at facilitating sustainable land management by farmers and rural landholders. 9. Support schools and early education centres to incorporate sustainable food education into the curriculum, including kitchen garden programs.

	10. Investigate opportunities to connect local businesses and local producers to encourage more locally sourced produce. 11. Map the resilience of the food system in Bendigo including identifying vulnerabilities and opportunities.
Data and monitoring	N/A
Advocacy	12. Advocate for policies and programs that support local on-farm and small-scale slaughtering to increase slaughtering options for small scale farmers.

Indicators for reporting

Goal	Indicator	2036 target
Goal N: City is a leader in sustainable food procurement, practices, and policy	Reflection of sustainable food procurement in relevant City policies and practices	Qualitative reporting
Goal O: Sustainable food production systems are viable, resource efficient and regenerate natural ecosystems	Percentage of allocated funds granted to private sustainable land management projects through the Rural Regeneration Grants	100%
	Number of City of Greater Bendigo participants in the City's Sustainable Land Management Program and Healthy Landscapes	Increasing
	Number of farm visits	Increasing
Goal P: Communities are aware of the resources required to produce food and know how they can influence the food system	Number of school kitchen garden programs	Increasing
	Number of community gardens	Increasing
	Number of participants in community food engagement programs	Increasing
Goal Q: Enable Traditional Owners to grow and harvest indigenous food and fibre plants	Progress towards alignment with strategic goals and objectives of Traditional Owners	Qualitative reporting

Water Sensitive Bendigo

Goals

- Goal R: City operations are water efficient and utilise diverse water supplies
- Goal S: Flood risk in Greater Bendigo is reduced through flood mitigation infrastructure and planning (relocated to the Climate Resilience theme)
- Goal T: Investment in water projects is secured through collaborative partnerships
- Goal U: Waterways in Bendigo are healthy, connected and nurturing places
- Goal V: Co-managed waterways

Action 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies plans	1. Develop and implement an Integrated Water Management Strategy that guides development of new water quality treatment assets and identifies opportunities for the organisation to diversify its water supply. 2. Develop a Water Efficiency Plan for City operations, including the organisation's response to drought conditions and potential water restrictions.
Capital projects	3. Develop a renewal program for City managed water treatment assets. 4. Explore opportunities in collaboration with Coliban Water to expand the recycled water network to irrigate additional sports fields and open space, prioritising Albert Roy, North Bendigo sports fields, Strauch Reserve.
Programs and engagement	N/A
Data and monitoring	N/A
Advocacy	N/A
Community	
Policies, strategies, plans	5. Update the Water Sensitive Bendigo Implementation Plan in collaboration with the Water Sensitive Bendigo Partnership as needed.
Capital projects	6. Implement the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan in partnership with DJAARA, North Central CMA and the community, including the following priority major projects: • Bendigo Creek Naturalisation – Bay St to Maple St

Community	
	• Back Creek Naturalisation • Long Gully Daylighting
Programs and engagement	N/A
Data and monitoring	7. Finalise a Water Quality Monitoring Program for waterways in the municipality implemented in partnership with DJAARA and North Central CMA.
Advocacy	8. Advocate for continued state and federal investment in waterway health and integrated water management projects.

Indicators for reporting

Goal	Indicator	2036 Target
Goal R: City operations are water efficient and utilise diverse water supplies	Megalitres potable water used in City operations	Decreasing
	Megalitres rural water used in City operations	Decreasing
	Megalitres recycled water used in City operations	Increasing
Goal S: Flood risk in Greater Bendigo is reduced through flood mitigation infrastructure and planning	<i>Relocated to "Climate Resilience" theme</i>	N/A
Goal T: Investment in water projects is secured through collaborative partnerships	Collaborative projects	Qualitative reporting
Goal U: Waterways in Bendigo are healthy, connected and nurturing places	% of waterway monitoring sites with over 15 bird species present	100%
Goal V: Co-managed waterways	Progress towards co-management	Qualitative reporting

Climate Resilience

Goals

- Goal W: The City is resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Goal X: Greater Bendigo community is resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Goal S: Flood risk in Greater Bendigo is reduced through flood mitigation infrastructure and planning (relocated from Water Sensitive Bendigo)

Action 2026 – 2031

City operations	
Policies, strategies, plans	1. Develop and Implement a Heat Action Plan. 2. Regularly review the City's strategic and operational climate risks and mitigation strategies. 3. Integrate actions to address climate risks into the City's risk management reporting framework and/or unit Business Plans.
Capital projects	4. Ensure all facilities used for emergency management functions (e.g. Emergency Relief Centres) are "back up power ready" and have appropriate amenities.
Programs and engagement	5. Deliver internal emergency and resilience planning sessions for staff through Be the Change 6. Identify opportunities to capture the current condition of assets on a regular basis to facilitate reimbursements after events. 7. Continue to act as the coordinating council for the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster if and as supported by participating councils.
Data and monitoring	N/A
Advocacy	8. Advocate for appropriate resourcing for local government to enable it to discharge its emergency management and resilience functions. 9. Advocate for state and federal reimbursements to support betterment of infrastructure where appropriate rather than just like-for-like.
Community	
Policies, strategies, plans	10. Finalise and implement Waterway Flood Mitigation Action Plans for waterways in Heathcote, Junortoun, Epsom and Huntly.

Community	11. Finalise updated flood modelling where needed and implement the flood study and flood priority actions for urban Bendigo, Goornong, Huntly, Heathcote and Junortoun.
Capital projects	12. Investigate opportunities to acquire a mobile resilience and recovery van to support engagement and outreach.
Programs and engagement	13. Undertake increased preventative maintenance on targeted drainage infrastructure prior to severe rain or storm events to reduce the risk of flooding. 14. Support community emergency and resilience planning processes and support their implementation as needed, including through community planning processes as appropriate. 15. Deliver community capacity building programs focused on enhancing community leadership and building knowledge in emergency management processes, preparedness, recovery and resilience, including drought resilience. 16. Continue to enhance urban cooling through implementation of Reimagining Bendigo Creek, the Integrated Water Management Plan (once complete) and Greening Greater Bendigo. 17. Deliver a program of communications and engagement activities aimed at building broad awareness across households and businesses about climate risks and how they can be prepared for emergencies and the impacts of the changing climate.
Data and monitoring	18. Investigate opportunities to measure and map climate resilience maturity across communities.
Advocacy	19. Advocate for state and federal policies and programs to take a holistic approach to addressing and funding climate resilience, rather than designing programs to address individual hazards independently. 20. Advocate for development of a state or federal Climate Resilient Homes Plan which sets out policies and programs aimed at improving the resilience of existing and new housing to extreme weather and disasters.

Indicators used for reporting

Goal	Indicator	2036 target
Goal W: The City is resilient to the impacts of climate change	Number of participants at climate and emergency preparedness engagement sessions	Increasing
	Number of unit Business Plans that include actions to mitigate climate risks	100%
	Percentage of Asset Management Plans with climate adaptation considerations and responses	100%

Goal	Indicator	2036 target
Goal X: Greater Bendigo community is resilient to the impacts of climate change	Number and percentage of communities with a community emergency or climate resilience plan or these topics integrated within their Community Plan	100%
Goal S: Flood risk in Greater Bendigo is reduced through flood mitigation infrastructure and planning	Progress to reduce flood risk through drainage and other flood risk reduction projects	Qualitative reporting

Flagship Projects

Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration

The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration aims to mobilise communities, organisations and agencies within Greater Bendigo to be zero carbon. It brings together key organisations and businesses across the City to enhance, create and fund city-scale collective climate projects guided by the Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap.

Actions relevant to the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration are included under the Zero Carbon theme.

Be the Change

Be the Change is a flagship project to garner and catalyse the expertise of our staff to drive and demonstrate resource circularity, sustainable water, sustainable food, zero carbon, sustainable transport, regeneration and biodiversity. The project will deliver internal education sessions on different topics to support staff to make more sustainable decisions both at work and home.

Actions relevant to Be the Change are included under each theme as appropriate.

Reimagining Bendigo Creek

The Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan sets out a vision to restore the health of the Bendigo Creek and the surrounding catchment. It includes goals to create connections to the creek and celebrate Dja Dja Wurrung and migrant cultural values along the creek. The purpose of this flagship project is implement the Plan that was co-designed by the community, Dja Dja Wurrung, City of Greater Bendigo, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Coliban Water and other agencies.

Implementation of the Plan will continue to be delivered through:

- Delivery of the Yaram Yaram Bayikina project funded by the Australian Government.
- Delivery of progressive waterway restoration works in collaboration with DJAARA as a part of fulfilling joint commitments under the Yilingga Marna Agreement.
- Delivery of other internal or grant funded projects as relevant.

Actions relevant to Reimagining Bendigo Creek are included under the Water theme.

Accelerating Infill Development

The City's *Managed Growth Strategy* includes the goal for 70% of new housing to occur in infill locations. This level of urban consolidation is necessary to achieving the Climate Change and Environment Strategy's transport, emission reduction and biodiversity conservation goals. This flagship project seeks to explore how the City could help accelerate achievement of this target through engagement with the development sector and / or implementation of demonstration or development facilitation initiatives.

Accelerating Infill Development actions

1. Deliver information sessions for landholders about how to progress small scale subdivision or unit developments.
2. Explore whether to design a development facilitation program aimed at supporting medium density housing in areas targeted for this scale of growth.

Healing Country

This flagship project aims to regenerate biodiversity, connect more communities with nature and support the aspirations and self-determination of Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung People to heal Country. The project will contribute to the goals in the Dhelkunya Dja Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan and the Taungurung Land & Waters Council Strategic Plan, and deliver some of the biodiversity, water and sustainable food goals in this strategy.

Actions related to connecting the community to nature are included under the Biodiversity and Regeneration theme.

Healing Country actions

1. Continue to support delivery of:
 - *Dhelkunya Dja Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2024*
 - *Turning 'wrong way' climate, 'right way' Dja Dja Wurrung Climate Change Strategy 2023-2034*
 - *Dhelkunyangu Gatjin – Djaara Gatkin Strategy*
 - *Djandak Wi (Country Fire) Strategy*
 - *Taungurung Land and Waters Council Strategic Plan 2026-2030*
2. Follow the lead of DJAARA and Taungurung Land & Waters Council in engaging about opportunities to transition culturally significant City managed Natural Reserves and waterway reserves to joint or sole management.
3. Support DJAARA and Taungurung Land & Waters Council to conduct on-ground works to heal Country through City contracts and collaborative projects.
4. Support DJAARA and Taungurung Land & Waters Council to practice cultural fire and planting of native species (including bush tucker and medicine plant species) on City managed land.

5. Involve DJAARA and Taungurung Land & Waters Council in the development of plans and strategies where their priorities align with the City's.

Building a Circular Greater Bendigo

This flagship project aimed to develop circular economy solutions for Greater Bendigo. The actions to deliver the flagship project now align with business-as-usual work as the City continues to work towards post-landfill solutions and support circular economy practices within the City.

Actions related to this flagship project will be delivered through the Circular Economy theme instead of as a flagship project.