

# Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap

## Part 1: The Roadmap



### COLLABORATION LEAD



### MAJOR PARTNER



### PREMIUM PARTNERS



### FOUNDING PARTNERS



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## Draft notes:

1. This Roadmap will be released for public comment from 22 May to 30 June.
2. It will soon be accompanied by a longer document with the research and background for each section and an appendix including all the lower priority emission reduction opportunities.

WORKING WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.

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## Acknowledgement of Country

### 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.

## Working with Traditional Owners on climate action

### Dja Dja Wurrung

DJAARA's (Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation) vision, as set out in their Climate Change Strategy (releasing in May 2023), is a sustainable, resilient and equitable future where past injustices of colonialism, mining and pollution are addressed by empowering Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung people) led responses to climate change on Djandak (Dja Dja wurrung country) through self-determination, energy justice and biocultural knowledge. Djaara climate action focuses on healing People, healing Country and healing Climate based on the principle of People-Country-Climate being connected through Spirit.

Applying modern technologies like solar and wind energy, batteries and energy efficiency techniques will support healing. Nyauwi Mutjeka 'to keep the sun' is the Dja Dja wurrung's Renewable Energy Strategy and outlines Djaara's aspirations to partner with companies, government, and others on the clean energy transition and ensure benefits for Djaara and the whole community.

Walking together to heal People, Country and Climate.



## Background

### The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration

The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration (the Collaboration) is designed to bring our city together for three years of climate action, education, planning and projects to put our City on the path to zero emissions by 2030.



In 2018, world-leading environmentalist Paul Hawken visited Bendigo to talk about climate change and its likely impacts. His address ignited a local desire for collective action on climate. Consequently, representatives 20 Bendigo businesses, organisations, community groups and local and state government set about designing, creating and financing the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration. The Collaboration was launched in July 2022.

### Collaboration partners

The Collaboration is being hosted and led by the City of Greater Bendigo. Funding partners are RACV Solar, Agnico Eagle, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, La Trobe University, Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority, CVGT Employment.

Community collaborating partners are the Bendigo Sustainability Group, Bendigo Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), Bike Bendigo and Bendigo Foodshare.

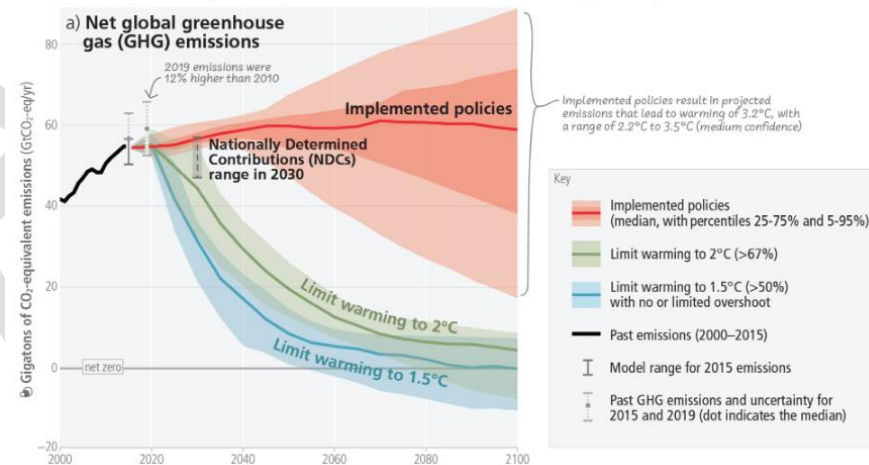
Be.Bendigo, Bendigo Youth Council, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation are supporting the Collaboration on the governance group.

### The climate science

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released its 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report *AR6 – Synthesis Report – Climate Change 2023*. The report clearly states that this decade is our last chance to meet our 1.5-degree target and that we require an immediate, rapid and drastic drop in greenhouse emissions to prevent 3 degrees of warming.

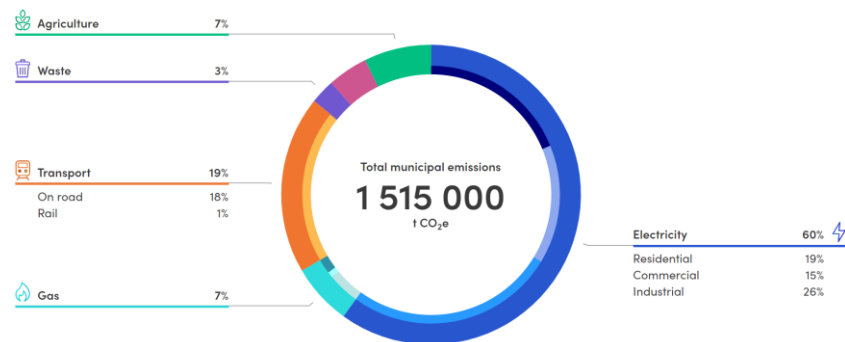
### Limiting warming to 1.5°C and 2°C involves rapid, deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions

Net zero CO<sub>2</sub> and net zero GHG emissions can be achieved through strong reductions across all sectors



## Greater Bendigo municipal emissions profile

The municipality's emissions were approximately 1,515,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021/22. This excludes emissions from our consumption of goods made elsewhere.



**Figure 1:** City of Greater Bendigo municipal emissions 2021/22.  
Source: Snapshot, Ironbark Consulting

Another way to breakdown this emissions profile is as follows:

- Businesses – **44% of emissions (excluding transport)**
- Households – **23% of emissions (excluding transport)**
- Transport – **18% of emissions**

## Community and stakeholder engagement

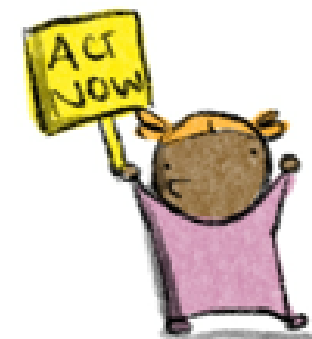
The GBCC launched in July 2022 and has since engaged with over 1000 people at community forums, stakeholder workshops and meetings to find out what the people and organisations of Bendigo think we should do to create a zero emissions city.

### Events held:

- Three workshops in 2019 with a diverse group of Bendigo organisations and stakeholders to codesign the project
- Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration Launch
- Renewable Energy Stakeholder Forum
- Renewable Energy Community Forum
- Transport Stakeholder Forum
- Transport Community Forum
- Regional Zero Emissions Forum
- Circular Economy Workshop
- Interfaith Workshop
- Equity Forum
- Agri-zero Online Forum
- Regional Zero Emissions Forum

### Groups consulted include:

- Business groups
- Health organisations
- Interfaith groups
- Multicultural groups
- Youth organisations
- Sports groups
- Neighbourhood houses
- Community Groups
- Partner organisations



## What's in the Roadmap

The roadmap looks at how we can best transform our city to zero emissions by 2030, in energy, transport, waste, agriculture and natural systems. We looked at what support homes and businesses need, at collective projects we can undertake together as a City and the advocacy positions we will need to take to state and federal government, such as the need to end to all new fossil fuel projects and the phase out current fossil fuel projects ASAP.



### What we found at the Greater Bendigo level is threefold:

- We need a decade of serious collaboration, advocacy and investment: While progress is being made in every sector, we are not progressing fast enough to reach zero emissions by 2030.
- We must focus on an equitable transition: A unanimous view across Greater Bendigo. Transport, energy and food choices need to be available to everyone and these choices can lower the cost of living.
- A zero emissions city is better in every way: It is a social and economic investment in a better future. If we invest now, we will be healthier, happier, more socially connected, more economically prosperous and more able to adapt to climate changes that are already locked in.

This roadmap lays the pathway to a much better Bendigo in a timescale that can help to create a habitable climate. Now to make it happen, together.

**Part 1: The Roadmap**  
Includes the City's 35 priority projects that will be delivered in partnership with many local organisations.

**Part 2: Background Report**  
Includes more detailed analysis of current climate action, research and ideas for other projects that may be needed to achieve zero emissions.

**Resources:** It is assumed that the City of Greater Bendigo will continue to lead the actions listed in the Roadmap through the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration or other relevant departments. It is also assumed that partner organisations will continue to financially support the Climate Collaboration from 2024-2030.

**Funding:** Not all actions are currently funded. Where additional Council funding is required, this will be sought through Council's annual budget process, and state and federal government grants and programs.

**\$:** Requires human and / or financial resources up to \$100,000.

**\$\$:** Requires human and / or financial resources of \$100,000 to \$500,000.

**\$\$\$:** Requires human and / or financial resources of over \$500,000.

## Working together

### The community wants...

- Action across government, industries and sectors.
- Support for community led action.
- Organisations to work together, including with Traditional Owners.
- The scale of actions to increase commensurate with climate science targets



### What's happening already

- A number of active community organisations focused on environmental action including Bendigo Sustainability Group, Bike Bendigo, Bendigo Climate Alliance, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) – Bendigo Branch, Bendigo and District Environment Council and numerous Landcare and Friends groups.
- Local coordination and collaboration through the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration.
- Regional coordination and collaboration facilitated through development of the Regional Zero Emissions Roadmap.

### The problem

- Collaboration takes time and resources.
- Community organisations are often under-resourced and susceptible to burn out.

### The strategy

- **Maintain an active culture of collaboration across organisations and sectors.**

## Actions to reach zero emissions

| Themes           | Priority actions   | Resources     |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| Working together | <b>#1. Continue the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration</b><br>Continue to work with partner organisations and stakeholders to continue the Collaboration and seek collective funding for projects as needed.  | \$\$ annually |
|                  | <b>#2. Partnerships</b><br>Continue to actively seek out opportunities to collaborate with other agencies and organisations and to collectively resource organisations such as the Bendigo Sustainability Group and DJAARA deliver programs that progress shared priorities. | Existing      |
|                  | <b>#3. Local community leadership and action</b><br>Support neighbourhood and township scale climate action planning across the City to foster local, community led climate action either as a part of existing community planning processes or separately as relevant.      | \$            |
|                  | <b>#4. Regional Zero Emissions Roadmap</b><br>Continue to work with the CVGA and other stakeholders to finalise and implement the Regional Zero Emissions Roadmap currently in development.  | Existing      |
|                  | <b>#5. Dja Dja Wurrung self determination</b><br>Support and help resource DJAARA to deliver their Climate Change Strategy and Renewable Energy Strategy and to participate fully in climate action on Djandak, including in participating in the actions in this Roadmap.   | TBC           |

\$ = up to \$100k; \$\$ = \$100k to \$500k; \$\$\$ = over \$500k.

## Energy

### Current targets

- National: 80% renewable energy by 2030.
- State: 95% renewable energy by 2035.
- Local: 50% renewable energy, no new gas connections, 40% of households and businesses have solar by 2026.



### The community wants...

- Equitable outcomes, including funding mechanisms to support low-income households.
- Support for households and businesses to transition – i.e. education, support with grants and financial incentives.
- Changes to existing regulations which can be a barrier to innovation.
- The end to tax breaks and government funding for fossil fuel industries.
- Businesses powered by renewable energy, including potentially through small scale solar farms.

### What is happening already

- Reinstatement of the State Electricity Commission.
- Investment in large scale offshore wind and high-capacity transmission lines – i.e. Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West.
- Federal election promise to fund solar gardens and community batteries.
- Bendigo Sustainability Group revolving energy fund and [Giving Power](#) program to fund retrofits of low income homes.
- Bendigo Sustainability Festival run by the Bendigo Sustainability Group.

- Electrify Everything movement is demonstrating that installing solar and electric appliances will save the average home \$3000 a year by 2030.
- In the 2023/4 Federal Budget \$1.6 billion in funding was announced for electrification for low-income homes, energy upgrades for social housing and business incentives for electrification.
- DJAARA *Climate Change Strategy* (in development) and *Renewable Energy Strategy*.

### The problem

- Around 60% of Australian homes are over 20 years old. The average Nationwide House Energy Ratings score for these homes is only 1.5 out of a possible 10 stars.
- Only 28.2% dwellings have rooftop solar.
- There are 44,000 homes in Bendigo, most of which need upgrading to reach zero emissions.
- 13,211 households (1/3) are on “low incomes”. Of these, 10,840 are rented where residents need to negotiate upgrades with landlords and 1,747 are social housing.
- Existing grant programs can be difficult to navigate.
- Many households want to transition, however they do not have time or the upfront funds to take action now.
- Emissions from industry are spread relatively evenly amongst across over 8,200 businesses.



### The strategy

1. Accelerate the rate of the transition to renewable energy and electrification for all businesses and homes.
2. Leave no one behind.

## Actions to reach zero emissions

| Themes          | Priority actions   | Resources   |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Electrify homes | <b>#6. Community engagement</b><br>Deliver an engagement program in collaboration with the Bendigo Sustainability Group that builds awareness of how to electrify homes and access renewable energy.   | \$ annually |
|                 | <b>#7. Sustainable Design Advisory Service</b><br>Refocus existing Council resources on providing sustainable design advice to residents planning on building or renovating outside of the planning permit application process.  | Existing    |
|                 | <b>#8. Funding mechanisms</b><br>Work with lenders to develop and promote low and no interest loans, mortgage-based products and other financial mechanisms to help fund retrofitting initiatives.   | Existing    |
|                 | <b>#9. Low-income homes electrification and retrofitting</b><br>Codesign and deliver a financially sustainable, ongoing program with welfare agencies to electrify and retrofit low-income homes.  | TBC         |
|                 | <b>#10. Home Energy Efficiency and Resilience Service</b><br>Investigate implementation of a pilot project working with the CVGA, Bendigo Sustainability Group, neighbourhood houses, Bendigo TAFE, DJAARA and Mens Sheds to retrofit homes for energy efficiency and climate resilience | \$\$        |

| Themes                    | Priority actions   | Resources   |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| Electrify homes           | while building skills in energy assessments and trades.  |             |
|                           | <b>#11. Bulk buy programs</b><br>Work with the CVGA and / or the Bendigo Sustainability Group to implement a bulk buy program for renewable energy and / or electric appliances prioritising programs that deliver savings to residents. | \$          |
| Electrify businesses      | <b>#12. Business support program</b><br>Support businesses to create and implement their own zero carbon action plans to install solar, electrify and become energy efficient.   | \$ annually |
|                           | <b>#13. Big business collaboration</b><br>Bring together Bendigo's big businesses to collaborate on large scale solar and power purchase agreements.   | Existing    |
| Building community wealth | <b>#14. Community Wealth Fund</b><br>Investigate establishing an independently managed fund to receive and democratically allocate funds from partners and donors.   | Existing    |
|                           | <b>#15. Community Benefit Sharing Policy</b><br>Establish a policy that sets out Council and the community's expectations for benefit sharing outcomes from renewable energy developments.   | Existing    |
| Electricity network       | <b>#16. Collaboration with Powercor</b><br>Seek to develop a collaborative relationship with Powercor to enable Council and the community to help overcome constraints in the City's electricity network                                 | Existing    |

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## **We will advocate for...**

### Electricity network and regulations

- Upgrades to the state and local distribution and transmission networks to cater for the City's generation capacity and growing electricity needs.
- Changes to regulations to enable businesses and households to set up microgrids to share power with neighbours (front of the meter energy sharing).
- Allow businesses to install larger inverters to export more power to the grid.

### Fossil fuels

- Remove all tax incentives for fossil fuels and establish taxation structures that discourage fossil fuel use and encourage renewable energy.
- No new fossil fuel projects to be built in Australia.
- Phase out existing fossil fuel projects by 2050.

### Building and planning regulations

- Advocate to State Government for minimum energy efficiency standards for all current homes before sale or lease. Current homes to achieve a 5-star rating by 2030 and a 7.5-star rating by 2040.
- Elevated sustainable design requirements in the planning scheme for houses and businesses (all electric, solar powered etc) and additional sustainable design advisors to support the change.

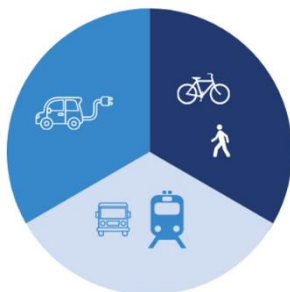
### Low income and social housing

- Electrification of all social housing by 2040, including solar PV, energy efficiency and electrification of heating and appliances.
- Funding to support electrification of low-income households.

## Transport

### Current targets

- National: N/A
- State: 50% of new light vehicles will be electric by 2030, all new public bus purchases will be zero emissions by 2025, active transport will make up 25% of trips by 2030.
- Local: 1/3 trips are by active transport, 1/3 by public transport and 1/3 by electric vehicles by 2030.



### The community wants...

- Integrated walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicle infrastructure.
- A City that is walking and cycling friendly.
- Cycling lanes that are connected and separated.
- A new bus network that is cheap (or free), fit for purpose, direct, safe, frequent and appealing.
- More frequent trains in and around Greater Bendigo.
- More electric vehicle charging stations.
- An electric vehicle bulk buy.
- Removal of the electric vehicle road tax.

### What's happening already

- [National Electric Vehicle Strategy](#) in development. Vehicle emissions standards will be enacted at the end of 2023.
- Victorian Government [Transport sector emissions reduction pledge](#).
- Delivery of the *Walk Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy and 10-year Infrastructure Plan* underway
- The Bike Bendigo community group are advocating effectively for cycling infrastructure and behaviour change.

### The problem

- The City is dominated by large, fast roads which are difficult to cross and feel unsafe for cyclists.
- Without intervention, the number of cars in the City could double. Electric or not, this would cause social, environmental, health and economic issues.
- 95% of trips to work are by car. This equates to 24,000 car trips to and from the City Centre every day.
- Residents are habituated to driving which requires culture change.
- 62% of school children are driven to school, resulting in around 14,000 car trips in peak times. 86% of school children would like to walk or ride. Around one third of the traffic at peak times is for school trips and danger from cars is the number one reason why parents do not want their children walking or riding to school.
- Funding the City's priority separated cycling network will be a challenge - costed at approximately \$130M.
- The public transport network does not meet the community's needs – it does not allow the numbers of people to travel where they need to go in the timeframes and at the times they need to travel.
- The number one impediment to employment for job seekers in the City is lack of access to good public transport.

- Electric vehicles are currently too expensive for most residents.
- Achieving the Victorian Government’s active travel target will be a challenge unless suitable funding is allocated.
- Fit for purpose zero emissions heavy vehicles are still in development and are not cost effective yet.
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is lagging behind demand.
- Many of Bendigo’s suburbs are low density which does not support walking, cycling or cost effective delivery of public transport. Developing medium density housing in established areas is not financially feasible in many cases.



### The strategy

1. **Change the City** – Footpaths and cycling paths everywhere, not just in priority locations. Electric vehicle charging at homes, offices and in strategic public locations.
2. **Change the services** - revolutionise the bus system and increase train services.
3. **Change what’s normal** – normalise active and public travel and electric vehicles. Ensure everyone has transport choices
4. **Resource the change at the scale required**

### Actions to reach zero emissions

| Themes            | Priority actions  | Resources |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
| Active travel     | <b>#17. Cycling revolution</b><br>Accelerate implementation of the City’s separated cycling network and develop an approach to filling in the network with a suite of temporary and permanent on-road paths, “greenways” and end of trip and bicycle parking facilities.                                    | \$\$\$    |
|                   | <b>#18. Walking revolution</b><br>Accelerate the City’s program of walking infrastructure, including footpaths, crossings and traffic calming interventions, that transform car dominated roads into pedestrian prioritised and friendly streets. Special focus on pedestrian priority around every school. | \$\$\$    |
| Public transport  | <b>#19. Bus revolution</b><br>Advocate for an overhaul of the City’s bus services with the aim of delivering a rapid transit system that is direct, frequent, safe, electric and connected.   | See #24   |
|                   | <b>#20. Metro rail commute</b><br>Advocate for a Bendigo metro rail commuter service an hour each side and inside Greater Bendigo.  | See #24   |
| Electric vehicles | <b>#21. Electric vehicle charging</b><br>Develop a policy that establishes Council’s approach to supporting installation of charging infrastructure in strategic locations. Consider installing Council owned charging infrastructure if and when the business case is favourable.                          | Existing  |

| Themes    | Priority actions   | Resources   |
|-----------|--|-------------|
|           | <b>#22. Electric vehicle bulk buy</b><br>Investigate delivery of a bulk buy program for the community in collaboration with the CVGA, the Bendigo Sustainability Group and other stakeholders.                         | Existing    |
|           | <b>#23. Fleet and logistics collaboration</b><br>Bring organisations in the city together to investigate opportunities for collaboration relating to the purchase and sharing of fleet, plant and commercial vehicles. | Existing    |
| Resources | <b>#24. Integrated Sustainable Transport Planner and Programs Officer</b><br>Establish a role in Council to lead strategic action, integrated transport planning, advocacy and behaviour change programs.              | \$ annually |

\$ = up to \$100k; \$\$ = \$100k to \$500k; \$\$\$ = over \$500k.

## We will advocate for...

### Active travel

- National and state funding to implement the *Greater Bendigo Walking and Cycling Strategy*.

### Public Transport

- A complete overhaul of the City's bus services – i.e. a review of the approach, the routes and timetables – to facilitate a dramatic increase in bus patronage, especially for commuting.
- Increased train services that support commuter use.

### Electric Vehicles

- Removal of the Victorian Government's electric vehicle tax.
- Improved national fuel emissions standards.
- Introduction of a target for all new passenger vehicles sold to be electric by 2040.
- All fleet vehicles from all levels of government to be electric by 2030.
- Support for businesses to transition to electric or zero emissions trucks for long haul and last mile delivery.

## Food and agriculture

### Current targets

- National: Australia has signed the United Nations “Methane Pledge” to reduce methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
- State: N/A
- Local: N/A
- Meat and Livestock Australia: Carbon neutral by 2030.



### The community wants...

- Extension officers to support farmers to emission reductions, implement regenerative practices and access the carbon market.
- Advice from neutral and trustworthy sources.
- Opportunities for Traditional Owner growing.
- Long term funding.

### What’s happening already

- [Victorian Government Agriculture Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge](#)
- [Healthy Landscapes: Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities Program](#) delivered across Bendigo, Hepburn and Macedon councils.
- [Greater Bendigo Food Systems Strategy 2020-2030](#)
- Numerous regenerative agriculture groups active across Central Victoria.
- Bendigo Foodshare food redistribution organisation
- Community of Practice and sector-based pilot emission profiles being developed by Agriculture Victoria
- Grow it Local Platform delivered locally by Healthy Loddon Campaspe.

- Increasing consumer access to local foods in several forms, and at several price points, including the Grower Market (Old Church on the Hill and Bendigo Food Share), Farmers Market, several community supported agricultural enterprises and locally owned butchers, fruiterers, green grocers and bakeries.

### The problem

- Farmers are not sure how to account for their emissions and do not know which sources of information to trust.
- Regenerative practices are increasing, however mainly amongst small scale livestock farmers. There is less take up amongst large scale farmers and cropping and horticulture industries.
- Communities are disconnected from food production.
- Farmers markets and other local and urban food suppliers are small scale, are less affordable and accessible than supermarkets who do not necessarily source their fresh food locally.
- Land owners are disconnected from sustainable traditional owner approaches to managing land that heals Country.

### The strategy

- **Scale up and expand take up of regenerative and urban agriculture.**
- **Provide integrated support to farmers** - collaborate with other agencies on programs that foster sustainable land management, emission reductions and access to carbon markets.
- **Increase the community’s connection to where their food comes from.**

## Actions to reach zero emissions

| Themes      | Priority Projects  | Resources    |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| Agriculture | <b>#25. Regenerative agriculture extension</b><br>Continue and expand the Healthy Landscapes program to cropping and horticulture industries and explore expansion of the program to other neighbouring councils, including a partnership with DJAARA and employing additional extension officers. | \$ annually  |
|             | <b>#26. Sustainable Land Management Grants</b><br>Provide small grants to farmers to implement regenerative farming techniques.  | \$ annually* |
|             | <b>#27. Zero carbon farms program</b><br>Work with Agriculture Victoria and other stakeholders to expand their Community of Practice and deliver an advisory service to support farmers account for and reduce their emissions.  | \$ annually  |
|             | <b>#28. Agribusiness Officer</b><br>Maintain Council's Agribusiness Officer role to run capacity building programs and provide the conduit for information to farmers and the community.   | \$ annually  |
| Urban food  | <b>#29. Food waste business programs</b><br>Deliver a food waste reduction program targeting businesses including farms, retail and hospitality.   | \$\$         |
|             | <b>#30. Urban food production</b><br>Support and promote existing programs that increase local food growing and food literacy, such as community gardens, food redistribution programs,  | \$\$         |

| Themes | Priority Projects                                    | Resources |
|--------|--|-----------|
|        | backyard and communal growing and school engagement. |           |

\$ = up to \$100k; \$\$ = \$100k to \$500k; \$\$\$ = over \$500k.  
 \*proposed for funding in Council's draft 2023/24 budget.

### We will advocate for...

- Additional funding for extension officers to work directly with farmers and farmer capacity building programs and networks.
- Additional funding for an facilitator to support the growth of urban food growing initiatives.
- Peak bodies to provide leadership on climate action including the promotion of regenerative agriculture, zero emissions farming, farm energy efficiency, farm electrification, zero emissions food processing and distribution.
- Government organisations to buy local, regeneratively produced food.

## Nature

### Current targets

- National: N/A
- State: Net gain in the overall extent and condition of habitats
- Local: Increase in tree cover by 35% from 2016 baseline by 2036 no patch of native vegetation over 20ha is fragmented.



### The community wants ...

- Protection of our current trees and forests as carbon stores.
- Increased tree cover.
- Biodiversity corridors and links, including on nature strips
- Local carbon offsets that are legitimate and have integrity

### What's happening already

- [Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030](#)
- [Protecting Victoria's Environment Biodiversity 2037](#)
- [North Central Regional Catchment Strategy](#)
- [Galk-galk Dheikunya, DJAARA Forest Gardening Strategy](#)
- Victorian BushBank program which proposes to restore 20,000 hectares of private land.
- *Greater Bendigo Biodiversity Strategy 2023*
- North Central Catchment Management Authority carbon exchange and local carbon offsets program.
- Undertaking substantial tree planning as a part of implementation of Greening Greater Bendigo

### The problem

- A number of carbon offset projects and accreditation schemes have been discredited.
- Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund is difficult to engage with and is not fit for purpose.

- Carbon offsets are often purchased in place of emissions reduction.

### The strategy

- **Protect the remnant native vegetation we have left.**
- **Offset emissions as a last resort.**
- **Keep carbon offsets local.**

### Actions to reach zero emissions

| Themes         | Priority projects   | Resources   |
|----------------|---|---|
| Carbon offsets | <b>#31. Local carbon offsets program</b><br>Work with the NCCMA and other partners such as DJAARA, to establish a local carbon offsetting program that achieves local biodiversity, cultural and economic outcomes. | \$\$  |
| Biodiversity   | <b>#32. Greater Bendigo Biodiversity Strategy</b><br>Finalise and implement the Greater Bendigo Biodiversity Strategy that seeks to protect and enhance native vegetation across the City.                          | Existing and as outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy |

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### We will advocate for...

- Changes to the Emissions Reduction Fund to ensure it has integrity, is accessible and easy to engage with and supports projects that achieve urban greening and biodiversity co-benefits.
- Protection, enhancement and extension of conservation areas including covenanted land and state and national parks.
- Other organisations to invest in local revegetation programs to offset emissions that cannot be eliminated.

## Circular economy

### Current targets

- National: Reduce waste by 10% per person by 2030; recover 80% of waste by 2030; phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025; reduce organic waste to landfill by 50% by 2030.
- State: Reduce waste by 15% per person by 2025; reduce organic waste to landfill by 50% by 2030; divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2025.
- Local: Zero recoverable resources sent to landfill by 2036.



### The community wants...

- Increased waste education programs, including programs for CALD communities.
- Support for community waste reduction initiatives.
- Organics collections for hospitality venues.
- Education programs that encourage reduced consumption
- Circular economy industries.

### What's happening already

- [National Waste Policy and Action Plan](#)
- [National Plastics Plan](#)
- [Recycling Victoria: A new economy](#)
- Victorian Government [Waste sector emissions reduction pledge](#)
- [Circular Economy \(Waste Reduction and Recycling\) Act 2021](#)
- Victorian Container Deposit Scheme – commencing in 2023

- City of Greater Bendigo [Circular Economy and Zero Waste Policy](#)
- Circular Greater Bendigo - tenders for recycling different waste streams and establishment of a Circular Economy Hub
- Gas recovery at Eaglehawk Landfill to generate electricity.
- Recycle Shop at Eaglehawk Landfill and various community enterprises such as the Bendigo Repair Café, Bendigo Toy Library and the Neighbourhood Collective Australia enterprises; the Old Church on the Hill Community Pantry and the Civic Wardrobe.

### The problem

- Embedded emissions in products we consume are “hidden” and not well understood by consumers.
- Community organisations are under-resourced to scale up their circular economy programs.
- Legacy emissions from landfill can be reduced, but not eliminated.

### The strategy

- **Establish Circular Economy Hubs for commercial and community enterprises.**
- **Reinforce the waste hierarchy – reduce, reuse, recycle**

## Actions to reach zero emissions

| Themes           | Priority projects  | Resources |
|------------------|--|-----------|
| Circular Economy | <b>#33. Support community enterprises</b><br>Support local community circular economy enterprises with small grants and in kind support to help them scale their impact.                         | \$        |
|                  | <b>#34. Greater Bendigo Circular Economy Hub</b><br>Establish a Circular Economy Hub to collect, sort and reprocess waste resources.   | \$\$\$    |
|                  | <b>#35. Waste Education Action Plan</b><br>Develop and implement a Waste Education Action Plan that sets out a suite of priority actions to support the community to minimise waste to landfill. | Existing  |

\$ = up to \$100k; \$\$ = \$100k to \$500k; \$\$\$ = over \$500k.

## We will advocate for ...

- Allocation of the Sustainability Fund which receives money from landfill levies to circular economy projects in each municipality and / or local carbon offset projects that assist with offsetting residual landfill emissions that cannot be eliminated.
- Changes to taxation structures to disincentivise virgin/primary materials and incentivise recycled materials/products
- Government at all levels to commit to buying 'reused or recycled first' to create demand for recycled products.
- Phasing out of single use items, including single use plastics.

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## Climate change adaption

This Roadmap focuses on emission reduction initiatives that will help the City achieve zero emissions by 2030. In the meantime, the climate is already changing. Building the City's resilience and adaptive capacity will be critical to the health and wellbeing of the community and environment. This section provides a brief overview of the City's approach to supporting climate adaptation while acknowledging that more detailed planning and community engagement is required on this topic to inform future action planning.

### What's happening already

- [National Climate Resilience and Adaption Strategy](#)
- [Building Victoria's Climate Change Resilience](#)
- Victorian Government [Adaption Action Plans](#)
- [ADAPT Loddon Mallee](#)
- [Victorian Drought Resilience and Innovation Hub](#)
- [Regional Climate Leadership Program](#).
- DJAARA Climate Change Strategy.
- City of Greater Bendigo Climate Change Risk Assessment for the organisation.
- [Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2019](#)
- [Healthy Landscapes: Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities Program](#) which seeks to build farmer resilience to climatic changes.



### The problem

- There are record levels of ocean temperatures, sea ice loss, land ice loss, land temperatures, extreme weather events and sea level rise. All of these measures will rise further.
- More frequent and severe natural disasters and extreme weather including bushfires, droughts, floods and heatwaves impacting the health and wellbeing of communities across the City.
- Generally hotter and drier conditions will impact agriculture and liveability.
- Increased waterborne, vector and zoonotic borne diseases.
- Lack of climate ready housing and infrastructure resulting in increased energy costs and government expenditure on disaster relief and recovery.

### The strategy

- **Local climate action planning** that addresses adaptation as well as mitigation
- **Programs with co-benefits** – i.e. that achieve mitigation and adaptation outcomes.
- **Adaptive emergency response and recovery processes**
- **Integration of first nations approaches** into climate resilience programs.