



**Brimbank**  
City Council



# **Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025**

**Annual Report Card 1**  
**1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021**

2020/2021 saw implementation of year one of the Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025 - Let's co-create our future.

The Emergency Plan outlines the need for, and urgency of, an ambitious transformation of Brimbank.

Together we must work to free our community from fossil fuel pollution, and become resilient to climate change.

In Brimbank, equity, energy, infrastructure, the natural environment, and the material economy are core challenges of climate change.

These five areas translate to our five themes for action in the Emergency Plan: People Power, 100% Renewable, Resilient Rebuild, Green and Cool, and Circular Economy.

Taking urgent action on climate will enable our security, and thus our freedom.

In the year from July 2020 to June 2021, Council has made significant progress towards the fundamental objective of the Plan: to stop pouring pollution into our atmosphere.

Securing over \$1.5M in funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to enable the Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre aquatic facilities to be all electric powered - with an Australian first heat-pump system - was the highlight.

This project highlights the core task at hand.



We must 'electrify everything', and use 100% renewable clean electricity for all our energy needs.



## People Power: Growing our Voice



### People power is about following the optimistic impulse for positive change together, leaving no one behind.

- ✓ Council's new Community Engagement Policy 2021 established an engagement framework with a set of principles to guide best practice engagement and enable meaningful and genuine opportunities for community involvement in decision making processes.
- ✓ Council held the North West Communities for Climate Action Conference in collaboration with six other municipalities. Sessions included emergency services experiences and Aboriginal land management skills.
- ✓ Council's Young Environmental Leaders training program was established and commenced in collaboration with the Brimbank Community Leadership Program.
- ✓ Council continued our hosting of and strong collaboration with the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA).
- ✓ Council received significant community input into the draft annual budget consultations, advocating for strong action on climate change.
- ✓ Council adopted updated formal statements acknowledging Traditional Owners, and Traditional Owner corporation spatial borders were determined.
- ✓ Council submitted its Emergency Plan as its pledge to the Victorian Government and advocated for them to declare a climate emergency, put a price on carbon emissions, and target 100% renewable energy by 2030. The Victorian Government released emission reduction targets for 2025 and 2030, and Victoria's Climate Change Strategy.



## 100% Renewable: Growing our Energy

**100% Renewable is about using clean renewable energy for all our needs, including to heat and light buildings, transport people and goods, and to undertake industrial processes.**

- ✔ Council contracted the development of a municipal emissions pathway, targeting the industrial and commercial sectors that make up circa 70% of Brimbank emissions.
- ✔ Council worked with WAGA and with 46 Victorian councils to finalise contracts for the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) power purchase agreement to provide councils with 100% renewable electricity from 1 July 2021.
- ✔ Council assessed the feasibility of electric alternatives to gas heating and cooling at the Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre and secured an ARENA grant of over \$1.5M to go all electric!
- ✔ Council explored the feasibility of developing a community solar farm at the old Sunshine landfill, and advocated to the Victorian Government for special conditions for community energy projects to make it financially viable.
- ✔ Council installed electric vehicle charging infrastructure for its fleet at the Sunshine multi-deck carpark, and at Council's operations depot.
- ✔ Council installed solar PV at multiple sites including a significant system at the Sunshine Leisure Centre.
- ✔ Council advocated for, and applauded the Victorian Government decision to power the metropolitan train network with 100% renewable energy.
- ✔ Council commenced work on a 100% Renewable Brimbank community campaign to be launched in 2021/22.





## Resilient Rebuild: Growing our Strength

**The Resilient Rebuild is about smarter, more thermally comfortable and sustainable buildings, and making safe connections for low emission transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling, and electric bikes and vehicles.**

- ✓ Through the Creating Better Streets for People program Council's streets designs are changing to be walking and cycling friendly corridors that include high levels of tree shading, and water sensitive urban design features such as raingardens.
- ✓ Council adopted a new parking permit policy, together with car park management plans for Sunshine and St Albans, to provide a framework for effectively and fairly managing parking across the municipality.
- ✓ Council continued to support staff to use sustainable transport solutions such as public transport and cycling.
- ✓ Council advocated to the Victorian Government for a high-level of sustainable design and construction to be included in major projects such as the Melbourne Airport Rail Link.
- ✓ Council continued to utilise its environmentally sustainable design framework to guide the design and construction of its own new buildings including the new sports pavilion at Errington Reserve in St Albans.
- ✓ Council applauded the Victorian Government's budget funding of significant new social housing, and of rebates for heating and cooling infrastructure (energy efficient reverse cycle split systems) for low-income households.
- ✓ Council commenced a project, in collaboration with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), to consider the next phase of improvements to the Victorian planning system needed to enable all-electric precincts and buildings.
- ✓ The Victorian Government announced its policy support for the transition to EVs and electrified transport.





## Green and Cool: Growing our Wellness

**Green and cool is about embracing nature as our ally, caring for biodiversity as our privilege and responsibility, and being aware that what we eat has a huge impact on us and on the planet.**

- ✓ Council's urban ecology projects included distributing native plants to schools.
- ✓ Brimbank's urban canopy cover has increased from 6% to 10% as part of the implementation of Council's Urban Forest Strategy.
- ✓ Council continued its active involvement in the Greening the West initiative, and welcomed the launch of the GTW Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and Victorian Government funding of \$5M for tree planting in the western suburbs.
- ✓ The Brimbank Oasis concept of cool and green parks hit its stride with the commencement of the Dempster Park Oasis Project attracting \$1.5M in funding from the Victorian Government, and Sunvale Community Park winning three industry awards.
- ✓ Council progressed and promoted plant-rich diets through the provision of vegetable seedlings to 32 schools and the launch of A Guide to Community Gardening in Brimbank.
- ✓ Council communicated on social media about the need to reduce food waste.
- ✓ Council raised awareness in the communities where we planted nature-strip trees about the important benefits of increasing our tree canopy cover, including how they cool homes in summer.
- ✓ Council continued its work with IPC Health to promote heatwave awareness.
- ✓ Council urban design projects such as the upper Stony Creek wetland and projects on the Hampshire Road upgrade continued to cool and green the municipality.
- ✓ Brimbank's precious 'Friends of' groups and Council's temporary Working for Victoria staff, and own conservation team did a power of work to protect and restore our natural assets including our living and wonderful waterways.





## Circular Economy: Growing our Prosperity

**The Circular Economy is about recognising that the goods and services we use have a big impact, and so we need to choose wisely, design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems.**

- ✓ Council developed a new Social Procurement Policy to provide support for social outcomes when we are purchasing goods and services.
- ✓ Council welcomed the final report by the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry for Disadvantaged Job Seekers, which has considered and responded to Council's submission for greater support and pathways to assist local job seekers.
- ✓ Council's Compost Revolution program was a hit during lockdowns with hundreds of compost bins and worm farms arriving at residents' doors.
- ✓ Council worked with traders in the St Albans and Sunshine activity centres to understand their waste management issues so that we can assist them and improve public amenity.
- ✓ Council collaborated with other councils on a project to better understand how we can achieve better recycling outcomes at multi-unit dwellings.
- ✓ Council trialled high recycled content asphalt on a road upgrade project.
- ✓ Council has been actively working to prepare for the implementation of the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy commitments: including the move to a four bin kerbside collection system, the introduction of a container deposit scheme, and the banning of single use plastics.



# Brimbank City Council's Annual Budget 2021-22 includes a range of initiatives that are building a more sustainable Brimbank.

## Circular Economy



Kerbside Green Waste Service	<b>3M</b>
Kerbside Recycling Service	<b>3.7M</b>
Recycling and waste education	<b>190K</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.89M</b>

## People Power



Conservation Land Management and Education	<b>960K</b>
Climate Emergency Plan	<b>130K</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.09M</b>

### Annual Budget

..... 2021/2022 .....

**\$ 31.17M**

## Cool & Green



Park upgrades	<b>7.3M</b>
Tree Planting	<b>2M</b>
Suffolk Road Local Activity Centre, Greening and water sensitive urban design features	<b>120K</b>
Warm Season Grass Conversion - to reduce reliance on drinking water	<b>80K</b>
Nature Places to improve public access	<b>40K</b>
Gould Street Greening Improvements	<b>20K</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.56M</b>

## Building a sustainable Brimbank

Brimbank Council has allocated \$31.17 million in the 2021/22 Annual Budget on sustainability projects.

This budget is focused on investing in key sustainability initiatives that support our community today, while building a more sustainable Brimbank for our future.

Take a look at the snapshot of sustainability projects we're planning to deliver across Brimbank.



## 100% Renewable



Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre - carbon neutral aquatic centre	<b>5.6M</b>
100% Carbon Neutral Renewable Electricity Supply for all buildings, facilities and streetlights	<b>1.6M</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.2M</b>

## Resilient Rebuild



Bike / pedestrian / shared user pathways	<b>3.6M</b>	Rain Gardens within Road Rehabilitation Works	<b>100K</b>
Street lighting upgrade	<b>1.2M</b>	Gould Street Pedestrian Improvements	<b>80K</b>
Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre - Green Star	<b>978K</b>	Alfrieda Street Masterplan	<b>50K</b>
Kororoit Creek Stormwater Pollutant Trap	<b>250K</b>	Creating Streets for People Policy	<b>25K</b>
Environmentally Sustainable Design Standards for Council buildings	<b>149K</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6.43M</b>

# Brimbank City Council

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