

13.2	Climate Emergency Plan Report Card 2021-2022
Directorate	City Development
Director	Kelvin Walsh
Manager	Aidan Mullen
Attachment(s)	1. Climate Emergency Plan – Annual Report Card 2021-2022 [13.2.1 - 6 pages]
Purpose	For noting
For Council to receive the Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan - Annual Report Card 2021-2022, at Attachment 1 .	

Legislation/Council Plan/Policy Context

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategic direction and objective of:

1. People and Community - A welcoming, safe and supported community - An inclusive place for all

- Wellbeing and Belonging - Responsive services that support mental and physical wellbeing

2. Places and Spaces - Liveable and connected neighbourhoods that support healthy and sustainable futures - A green place for all

- Liveable and Connected - Inviting and liveable spaces and facilities, connected so people can get around
- Sustainable and Green - Protect natural environments for current and future generations

3. Opportunity and Prosperity - A future focused, transforming city where all have opportunities to learn and earn - A prosperous place for all

- Growing and Transforming - Optimise community opportunities through infrastructure innovation and investment.

This report complies with the Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025.

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report, have no conflicts of interests to declare.

Issue For Consideration

The Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025 (the Climate Emergency Plan) outlines Council's position and thematic response to the climate emergency. The Climate Emergency Plan sets out Council's pathway to achieve zero-net emissions in its own operations by 2030, and to lead the community to achieve a resilient, zero-net emissions Brimbank municipality by 2040.

The five themes for action under the Climate Emergency Plan are: People Power, 100% Renewable, Resilient Rebuild, Green and Cool and Circular Economy. Success for each theme is evaluated by the response to a 'key evaluation question'.

The Climate Emergency Plan includes a commitment to publish an annual report on implementation progress.

The Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan - Annual Report Card 2021-2022 (the Report Card) is the second report card and is shown at **Attachment 1**. The Report Card

contains information about the achievements over the past year, and an outline of the budget allocated for sustainability related actions in the 2022-23 financial year. If noted by Council, it will be available to the public via Council's website.

Background

Climate change is an immediate, real, all-encompassing threat, and an appropriate science based, coordinated, public policy response is the only responsible course of action. Council's declaration of an ecological and climate emergency was a bold but necessary action that sees 'socially just' climate action as a necessity, to be undertaken at scale and speed.

The Climate Emergency Plan was prepared as a policy umbrella. It outlines the core need to exit fossil fuels, and transition as a matter of urgency to 100% renewable energy. It also identifies four other themes of work necessary to enable the security and freedom of the Brimbank community in the context of a rapidly changing climate.

Consultation

Internal consultation has been undertaken to develop the Report Card.

Analysis

The Report Card shown at **Attachment 1** outlines the significant progress that was made in the second year of Climate Emergency Plan implementation.

A considerable achievement includes the advanced construction of the world leading Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre. The centre is an Australian first all-electric, 100% renewable energy powered facility utilising heat pump technology and 1100 solar panels. The facility has achieved a coveted 6 Star Green Star rating, which identifies it as 'world leading' for sustainability.

Other significant achievements included:

- Commencement of the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), Australia's largest local government sector emissions reduction project. All Brimbank Council buildings, sports grounds, community venues, leisure centres and street lights are now powered by 100% renewable electricity.
- Completion of Council's \$3.4 million main road street lighting upgrade project. Four thousand street lights were upgraded to energy efficient LED lighting. The project is set to save Council \$6 million net over 20 years through reduced energy bills and maintenance charges.
- Installation of over 50 kilowatts of solar PV on community sports pavilions across Brimbank.
- The launch of the 100% Renewable Brimbank program, which connects Brimbank residents and businesses to resources, one-on-one support, and financial incentives to help make the switch to all-electric and renewable energy.
- 44,750 seedlings were planted during the 2021 planting season for the purpose of native revegetation and habitat restoration.
- \$1.96M was invested in seedlings and semi mature trees for local streets and parks.
- The Seedlings in Schools Program distributed vegetable and native plant seedlings to over 30 schools and four Neighbourhood House gardens across the municipality.
- The new stormwater harvesting system at Dempster Park in Sunshine North is now operational, which forms the core of the Dempster Park Oasis project. The system uses water and plants to create a cool and green oasis that can counteract the hotter and drier conditions caused by climate change.

Council's Annual Budget 2022-23 includes a further range of initiatives to continue building a more sustainable Brimbank. The Report Card contains an info-graphic that outlines these initiatives in respect to the five themes in the Climate Emergency Plan.

Resource And Risk Implications

Resource requirements can be met within the Annual Budget 2022/2023.

Environmental: impacts on environmental sustainability, including water/waste management, climate change, and contaminated land

- Yes - Climate change, including both the physical risks and the transition risks that will be encountered as we decarbonise, is included in Council's strategic risk register.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025 – Report Card 2021-2022 at Attachment 1 to this report.



Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025

Annual Report Card 2
1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

Attachment 13.2.1



Introduction

2021/2022 was year two of the implementation of the Brimbank Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025 - Let's Co- Create Our Future (the Plan). Year two of the Plan saw some exciting milestones achieved and these are summarised in this report.

Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 recognised the immediate, all- encompassing threat of climate change. The Plan recognised Council's responsibility to lead a socially just, science-based, coordinated public policy response to the crisis. The Plan set a target of zero-net emissions for Council operations by 2030, and by 2040 for the municipality.

The five themes for action under the Climate Emergency Plan are: People Power, 100% Renewable, Resilient Rebuild, Green and Cool and Circular Economy. Success for each theme is evaluated by the response to a 'key evaluation question'.

Central to overall success is the core task at hand, to 'electrify everything' and use 100% renewable clean electricity for all our energy needs.

'Electrify everything' is the cheapest, fastest route to emissions cuts. Households and businesses must replace petrol and diesel vehicles, gas heaters and hot water systems, and other items with electric alternatives. These changes would be minimally disruptive, but provide large emission reductions, provided that they are powered with 100% renewable electricity from wind, solar, and water.

The good news is, we're making progress:

Council has reduced its own carbon emissions by 70% below our baseline emissions from 2010/2011, meaning we're on track to meet our emissions reduction target of net zero Council operational emissions by 2030!



Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre

Construction is now well underway for the world leading Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre. The centre is an Australian first all-electric facility, 100% renewable energy powered facility utilising heat pump technology and 1100 solar panels. The facility has achieved a coveted 6 Star Green Star rating which identifies it as 'world leading' for sustainability.



Artists impression of the new Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre

People Power: Growing our Voice

Key evaluation question:

What evidence is there that the Brimbank community is more active in organising to respond to the climate emergency locally and more broadly, and that people are able to access quality education and other means to overcome barriers to sustainable living?

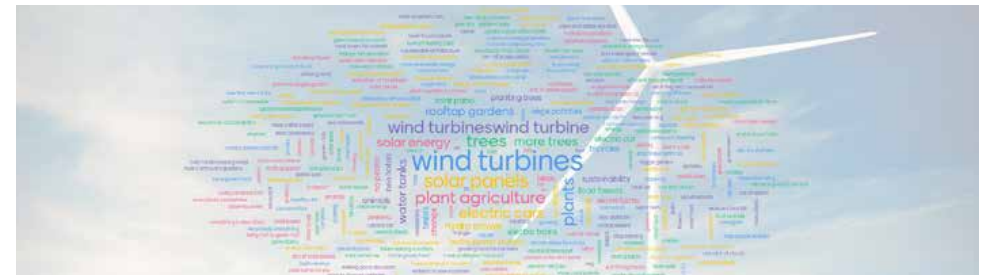
Project wins and milestones



The Climate Action Online School Summit

The Climate Action Online School Summit saw participation from 10 primary schools and a total of 189 students in Brimbank. Students gained knowledge and built resilience to the impacts of climate change and had an opportunity to share their vision for 2040 with the Mayor of Brimbank.

- ✓ Council hosted 12 programs and events about decarbonisation and climate adaptation in 2021/2022, with over 300 community members attending and getting involved!
- ✓ Council launched our 100% Renewable Brimbank program. The program website connects Brimbank residents and businesses to resources, one-on-one support, and financial incentives to help make the switch to be all-electric and renewable energy.
- ✓ Brimbank youth collaboratively developed public messaging as part of the Youth Heatwave Awareness Program. Their work will become part of the messaging used in heat wave events and is set to be formalised in Council's Municipal Heatwave Plan.
- ✓ An updated Traditional Owner statement acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People as the Traditional Owners of the land occupied by the City of Brimbank.
- ✓ The World Food Garden project connected generations and cultures to sharing memories, traditions and authentic recipes from Somalia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Samoa, while promoting locally grown food with a reduced carbon footprint.
- ✓ The Seedlings in Schools Program distributed vegetable and native plant seedlings to over 30 schools and four Neighbourhood House gardens across the municipality.
- ✓ The 2021 Brimbank Youth Environmental Leadership program engaged senior primary and secondary students from three schools in Brimbank. Students built leadership skills through participating in local environmental projects.
- ✓ Council submitted a motion calling on the Federal Government to declare a climate emergency and to invest in renewable energy, the circular economy and conservation initiatives. The motion, presented at the 2021 National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association held in Canberra, was endorsed unanimously.



Word Cloud generated as part of The Climate Action Online School Summit



100% Renewable: Growing our Energy

Key evaluation question:

What evidence is there that Brimbank is moving towards 100% renewable energy by 2030 and is decarbonising to zero net emissions by 2040?

Project wins and milestones



Victorian Energy Collaboration

Council joined the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), Australia's largest local government sector emissions reduction project. All Brimbank Council buildings, sports grounds, community venues, leisure centres and street lights are now powered by 100% renewable electricity!

The Dundonnell Wind Farm will be one of the two major renewable energy facilities providing energy to councils through the VECO contract.



Dundonnell Wind Farm image courtesy of Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd

- ✔ Our \$3.4 million street lighting upgrade project is now complete. Four thousand street lights were upgraded to energy efficient LED lighting. The project is set to save Council \$6 million net over 20 years through reduced energy bills and maintenance charges.
- ✔ In June 2021, the postcode 3020 covering Sunshine, Albion, Sunshine North and Sunshine West boasted the highest number of electric, hydrogen and plug-in hybrid vehicles in the state with 549 registrations¹. Well done 3020!
- ✔ Council received the Aquatics and Recreation Victoria Industry Award for sustainability for the Sunshine Aquatic Centre, recognising active involvement in reducing carbon emissions and water usage. Upgrades include LED lighting and solar panels.
- ✔ Work has continued to electrify Council's fleet by 2030 with the completion of a Fleet Transition Plan and new project focused on implementation.
- ✔ Kororoit Creek Neighborhood House is on it's way to being a model electric facility powered by 100% renewable energy, with installation of an electric hot water system and induction cooking.
- ✔ Council installed over 50 kilowatts of solar PV on community sports pavilions across Brimbank.
- ✔ Council launched the Brimbank Community Solar Program as a council supported supplier for solar panels and renewable energy upgrades for residents and businesses in Brimbank.
- ✔ The new Federal Labor government promised a large community battery for Brimbank that will provide enough storage to support up to 250 local households.

Resilient Rebuild: Growing our Strength

Key evaluation question:

What evidence is there that the resilient rebuild is occurring in Brimbank via sustainability improvements to the built environment, and that people are getting around more easily and often on foot, by bike, or by public transport?

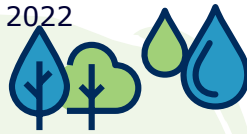
Project wins and milestones

- ✔ Brimbank advocated to the Victorian Government for ongoing ambitious improvements to Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) standards in new buildings through the planning scheme through our partnership with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE).
- ✔ Water reduction savings built into new residential developments in Brimbank have been improving year on year, with new projects reducing their potable water use by an average of 35% in 2021.
- ✔ Average NatHERS star ratings for new residential project developments in Brimbank have been steadily increasing from the 6 star minimum required under building regulation to an average rating of 6.43 for new projects in 2021.
- ✔ Active transport in the municipality of Brimbank got a boost with over five kilometres of shared user paths installed during the 2021/2022 financial year!
- ✔ Brimbank established its Water Sensitive Urban Design 10-Year Asset Management Plan. This includes an ongoing maintenance and repair budget allocation each year to help keep Brimbank's streets green and cool and protect creeks and rivers from stormwater pollution.
- ✔ Brimbank's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 included 'Collaboration with community in addressing climate change and its impacts on health' as one of its five key priorities.
- ✔ Brimbank is partnering in the Jesuit Social Services' Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West project. The project is aimed at organisations who support community health and wellbeing to gain an understanding of community climate risks, vulnerabilities, strengths, and needs for the future, enabling them to take collective climate action.
- ✔ Council adopted a refreshed Transport Priorities Paper, which includes our vision for supporting a sustainable, active transport network that supports the transition to electric vehicles. The Paper also renewed calls for a Victorian Transport Plan and advocated to relevant ministers and local MPs.
- ✔ Council provided a submission to Major Road Projects Victoria regarding their investigatory work on the future Calder Freeway Calder Park Drive interchange. The submission included calls to ensure the project protects biodiversity and supports development of Brimbank's urban forest.



New shared user path at Green Gully Reserve

¹ Cook, H, 'Petrol price surge drives Victoria's electric vehicle boom', The Age, 19 March 2022, www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/petrol-price-surge-drives-victoria-s-electric-vehicle-boom-20220318-p5a5m.html



Green and Cool: Growing our Wellness

Key evaluation question:

What evidence is there the municipality is getting greener and cooler, that habitat for threatened flora and fauna is protected and connected, and that people are adopting a climate and health friendly relationship with food?

Project wins and milestones



Dempster Park Oasis Project

The new stormwater harvesting system at Dempster Park in Sunshine North is now operational. This system forms the core of the Dempster Park Oasis project which uses water and plants to create a cool and green oasis that can counteract the hotter and drier conditions caused by climate change. By cleaning nearby stormwater and using it to irrigate the park, the system is able to save up to 11 million litres of water each year- the same as over four Olympic sized swimming pools! The system's native plant raingarden also provides a valuable semi-aquatic habitat for native wildlife.



New native plant raingarden at Dempster Park

- ✓ 44,750 seedlings were planted for native revegetation and habitat restoration purposes over the 2021 planting season.
- ✓ Stage 1 of the More Trees for a Cooler Greener West saw over 832 trees planted in local streets in 2021.
- ✓ Council spent \$1.96M on seedlings and semi mature trees for local streets and parks in the financial year 2021/2022. The annual contribution is part of our ongoing commitment to increase tree canopy cover under our Urban Forest Strategy.
- ✓ A total of 12% of Council's water use was met through alternative stormwater harvesting for irrigation.
- ✓ The Brimbank Tree Policy was adopted and included provisions for valuing and managing trees on public and private land, best practice maintenance, and community engagement to support our aim for 30% tree canopy cover in Brimbank by 2046.
- ✓ Brimbank's School Pollinator Gardens program is now in its third year. This year we engaged the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre to grow local native wildflower seedlings for local schools to help provide habitat for pollinators.
- ✓ The Saving Seeds, Growing Communities program involved education around indigenous plants and native plant giveaways to the local community.
- ✓ Community engagement commenced for the Creating Streets for People Draft Policy, which is a long term vision to guide how Brimbank's streets should look, function, and support the community in the future.
- ✓ Brimbank supported the development of an interactive online map of local 'Cool Places' and water refilling stations.
- ✓ Brimbank developed three videos about keeping cool during hot weather and heat events, including information on how to stay cool, how to support others and the links between climate change and heatwaves in Brimbank.
- ✓ The Mayor wrote to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change to request an immediate end to logging in our forested drinking water catchments east of Melbourne. Logging has been shown to be reducing the water available equivalent to the needs of 250,000 Melbourneans.



Circular Economy: Growing our Prosperity

Key evaluation question:

What evidence is there that the Brimbank economy is reducing the amount of waste to landfill, and maximising the reuse and recycling of other products?

Project wins and milestones



Recycled materials to build our roads

A sustainable asphalt mix made up of recycled crushed glass and recycled asphalt is being used to construct roads throughout Brimbank as part of a trial in partnership with the Australian Road Research Board, Sustainability Victoria and the Victorian Department of Transport. The mix is made using 34 tonnes of recycled asphalt and 17 tonnes of recycled crushed glass - equivalent to 34,000 glass bottles collected from Brimbank recycling bins. If successful, these materials could pave the way for using recycled glass in road materials and greatly reduce demand for mining new materials for use in road construction. A total of 470 tonnes of asphalt used in road projects this year contained sustainable crushed glass material!

- ✓ Council received funding from Recycling Victoria to conduct a feasibility study as a first step towards developing a new sustainable resource and recovery centre at the proposed Sunshine Energy Park.
- ✓ Over 160 compost bins and worm farms were purchased via Council's Compost Revolution portal in the 2021/2022 financial year.
- ✓ Road projects in Brimbank used 100% recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) yarns produced from disposed plastic bottles as a pavement reinforcement material this year. Every 1kg of recycled PET yarn saves around 4.3kg of CO2 emissions by avoiding use of conventional reinforcement.
- ✓ We're getting Brimbank ready for a new four-bin model that separates waste, recycling, food and garden organics, and glass. We heard your feedback about the new system and received a total of 823 survey responses and had 165 conversations at our shopping centre pop-ups!
- ✓ Over 200 Brimbank households attended Council's Reusable Goods Drop-Off Day, held at Victoria University in Sunshine. West Welcome Wagon collected 5 tonnes of household furniture and appliances to donate to vulnerable families and The Red Cross accepted 701kgs of clothing, bags and books to sell in their opportunity shops.



Figure- Mayor Jasmine Nguyen, West Welcome Wagon chair Chris Scerri and Australian Red Cross merchandise team member Bimo Soeharto at the reusable goods drop off day.

Brimbank City Council's Annual Budget 2022-23 includes a range of initiatives that are building a more sustainable Brimbank.

10.5% of the total budget has been 'green tagged'



People Power



Environment Stewardship
and Community
Empowerment

\$4.1M

Circular Economy



Waste management

\$8.8M

Draft Annual Budget
2022/2023 **\$ 28.5M**

Building a sustainable Brimbank



Cool and Green



Urban design, parks,
integrated water
management, landfill
rehabilitation,
nature

\$10.2M

100% Renewable



Green electricity,
lighting and
appliance upgrades,
solar PV

\$2.2M

Resilient Rebuild



Walking and cycling infrastructure, pedestrian
facilities, city planning

\$3.2M

Attachment 13.2.1

Brimbank City Council

Telephone 9249 4000

Email info@brimbank.vic.gov.au

Post PO Box 70, Sunshine, VIC 3020

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