

* Climate Emergency + Community Target	AROUND THE REGIONS Aug – Feb 2024	Corporate Strategy, Pledges & Targets
ALPINE*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle has moved roles within Council into Project Management so we are down to a team of 1. Upside is Michelle will be managing sustainability projects such as the tip shop at Myrtleford transfer station and will advocate for sustainable procurement initiatives within the engineering and assets team. Hoping to start recruiting for a replacement soon. - EV Fleet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now have 3 EVs in our fleet – two Nissan Leafs and one BYD - Community Sustainability ASC looking for a Michelle replacement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Community Climate Action Plan Roadmap – was endorsed at the October OCM • Providing a LOS to Indigo Power in their application to the ARENA Community Battery grant funding Round 1 application for 4 facilities across our shire. • Indigo Power’s Community Energy and EV Charging Prospectus is basically finished, they are just getting the ARENA grant applications in before returning their attention to finalising the prospectus and presenting to Councillors • FOGO rollout post implementation market pop-ups have indicated that the general community sentiment is very positive, even some residents who were vocal in their opinions of not needing the service have indicated that they are converted and love it. • School Education Sessions about our home energy kits and invasive species were a great success - Corporate Climate Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant work to finalise recommendations for insetting/ofsetting FY22/23 and 23/24 is nearing completion to meet our commitment to Net zero by 2023 from scope 1 and 2 corporate GHG emissions • Annual emissions calculations for 22/23 shows our scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions have reduced by 75% since baseline year of 18/19 • Corporate Climate Action Plan expires in 2024, revised plan will hopefully include scope 3 emissions 	<p>Corp Net Zero by 2023. 22/23 569 tonnes CO2-e. 75% reduction on baseline of 18/19. Residual to be retrospectively inset/offset this FY</p>
ALPINE RESORTS VICTORIA Mt Buller Mt Stirling Mt Hotham Falls Creek Mt Baw Baw Lake Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencing ARV (all-Resorts) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (due for completion end of 2024) • Developing Integrated Water Management Plans for each Resort; will follow with Integrated Energy Management Plans from 2025 • Continuing to work on waste transition and associated education • Updating Threatened Species Management plans for Mountain Pygmy-possum and Leadbeater’s possum during 2024 • Falls Creek participating in NBI project, Lake Mountain partially solar-powered, Mt Stirling powered by micro-hydro • Electric buses in use on Mt Buller (Village shuttle and snowplay coach from Mirimbah) • 6500 sq m rehabilitated/revegetated across the Resorts in 2023 	
BENALLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed corporate emissions report which has informed the completed Net Zero Action Plan. • Finalizing the Climate and Environment Strategy and hoping to get it adopted before the financial year's end. • Council is reviewing and updating the Hollands Bio link Masterplan, including consulting with the adjoining land holders, in preparation to begin work in the next two stages of the corridor. • Secured funding to add further rooftop solar to Council buildings. • Undertaking cost analysis to consider joining VECO 2.0. 	

CAMPASPE

- Munciple wide roadside native veg and weed survey completed:
 - Increase in existing weed populations, 4 new species not observed previously (Hardheads, Prairie Ground Cherry, Slender Thistle, Tufted Honeyflower). Total of 24 noxious weeds with most common being Spear Thistle (Cirsium vulgare) (4,969 records), followed by Horehound (Marrubium vulgare) (2,376), African Boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum) (2,138) and Variegated Thistle (Silybum marianum) (1,882)
 - Total of 294 roadside sections had declined in value while 255 sections had increased. Primary reasons for decline are invasion by exotic grasses, weed invasion, herbicide use, cultivation, cropping, slashing, roadside widening and the planting of exotic vegetation.
- RWPP 23 – 26 control plan has been endorsed by AgVic and includes the additional species that were observed in the Nov 23 survey.
- Echuca Moama Flood Study progressing was open for public consultation in November. Should go before Council in March.
- Recruiting for Enviromental Projects Officer – Conservation, should be completed by March 23.

DEECA Hume

Team update: Hume Region DEECA, now includes the Community and Partnerships Priority Projects team. This team is comprised of Chelsea Cherry (Program Manager), Amy Northwood and Louisa Marston (Program Officers).

ENERGY

Community Energy Congress

Myself and Lindsey, Regional Engagement Sustainability Victoria, are coordinating a regional hub to stream to Community Energy Congress (Sydney) in Wangaratta. Please share with your community group networks. More details to come. Shared on CEN, and planned for NERSA. If by next Wednesday, places are not filled, Council officers are more than welcome. Max 20 people.

New Energy Engagement officer

DEECA Hume have a new Engagement and Partnership Officer- Renewable Energy, Josh Lee. If you have any projects related to building Energy Literacy or have some key Renewable Energy Transition updates/questions please reach out to him here:

- josh.lee@delwp.vic.gov.au or 0417 362 840

Environmental Volunteering

The regional environmental volunteering coordination trial has now concluded.

There is a resource hub for environmental volunteers and an interactive map of volunteering opportunities.

- We encourage any groups working on volunteering for the environment to regularly check out the resources, as new ones are being added: [Resources hub for environmental volunteers and landcarers](#), and check their group is listed on the interactive map: [Getting involved and grants available \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](#). You can also sign up for the Environmental Volunteers and Landcarers newsletter via emailing environmental.volunteering@delwp.vic.gov.au

OPPORTUNITIES

100 Neighbourhood Batteries- Advanced Course (DEECA)

- DEECA has engaged the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) to provide a two-day Advanced Course on the 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Initiative. Attendees will hear from expert guest speakers, including those who have delivered neighbourhood batteries, and hear perspectives from Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs).

The Future of Victorian Energy Transmission (VIC Grid)

Victoria is undergoing a transition to renewable energy.

- **Attend one of the upcoming [Community Workshops](#)**, in March this year. Dates to be confirmed. Find out more by visiting Developing the first Victorian Transmission Plan | Engage Victoria, calling 1800 418 341 or emailing rezdevelopment@delwp.vic.gov.au.
- Locally you can reach out to Jill Croome jill.croome@delpw.vic.gov.au
- More information: [Developing the first Victorian Transmission Plan | Engage Victoria](#)

GRANTS

COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND- ROUND 1 (DCCEEW)

The Australian Government is partnering with local governments to deliver the Community Energy Upgrades program (CEUF).

- **Grant applications close:** 30th April, 2024.
- More information: [Community Energy Upgrades Fund Program - DCCEEW](#)

DEECA GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

In February 2022, the DELWP Executive Board endorsed the DELWP 2025 net zero action plan which provides detail for how net zero emissions will be achieved by 2025 over five main categories. The scope of current annual reported emissions is largely determined by FRD24 annual reporting. This scope could change moving forward with both proposed updates to FRD24 and the possibility of net zero accreditation for the department.

Emissions category	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2014-15 (baseline)
1. Building electricity emissions	0	6,557	9,180	17,290
2. Building gas / LPG emissions	513	687	746	768
3. Passenger vehicle emissions	309	222	776	876
4. Operational vehicles emissions	5,488	6,160	8,496	6,326
5. Air travel, building waste and paper purchasing emissions	64	57	195	1,061
Total reported emissions (tonnes CO_{2-e})	6,374	13,683	19,393	26,321

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	<p>In other news, a new Hume region waste wise alliance is forming, comprising community volunteer groups working towards reducing waste. If you would like to be involved please contact Kay.blore@gmail.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter: The best place to get the latest news in Climate Change and Renewable Energy for the Hume Region is through our monthly Climate Ready Hume newsletter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're not already subscribed: climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au to get the latest updates straight to your inbox. 	
GB CMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GB CMA is supporting the Climate Adaptation Workshop on 22 February in Shepparton. The workshop is part of an international research program and will be run by researchers from Melbourne and Monash universities and will build on an earlier workshop in Euroa in 2022. The workshop will bring together a diverse range of people to discuss climate impacts, what is already underway (or not underway) and how we might prioritise local actions and how we can work together to address these impacts. • The 'Driving a circular economy in the Goulburn Murray' is complete and available online at GBCMA Driving-A-Circular-Economy REPORT.pdf. • The draft Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan 2050 will be out for public consultation in February – March via Engage Victoria. • The GMID Land and Water Use Mapping Fact Sheets were approved by DEECA and publicly released on 1 December. The fact sheets can be found on our website at: www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/publications/published_documents/catchment_community_and_economy • GB CMA has announced 2024 as the 'Year of the Wing', showcasing some of the amazing woodland birds, microbats and megabats of the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Each month a different bird or bat will be highlighted with information on how to best look after our winged critters and to be involved in activities around the catchment. Check out our Facebook page for more information and great pictures, https://www.facebook.com/gbcma • The GB CMA are coordinating the Regulated Diversions Land Use and Water Mapping project in partnership with GMW who completed data collection in November and Ag Vic undertook data collation and analysis in December. The draft report is under review by the technical working group and community engagement will be occur soon. 	Home Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (rcs.vic.gov.au)
INDIGO*	<p>STAFFING: Isla Fitridge has been appointed as our Climate Change & Environment Officer (PT, 3 days/week). Welcome Isla!</p> <p>OUR CLIMATE ACTION (Kausal): Council's 'Our climate action' platform was launched in June 2023, and has had 2,600 unique visitors to date. The most frequented pages include Public EV chargers and Community Sustainability Grants Program. The platform is a project management and communications tool that is embedded in Council's website. Find out more at https://climateaction.indigoshire.vic.gov.au</p> <p>COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS: Our 2023/24 Community Sustainability Grants Program has awarded \$20,850 to five projects. Find out more at: https://climateaction.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/actions/37</p> <p>EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council partnered with Evie Network to install a 50kW public EV charger in Beechworth, in September 2023. Two more chargers are being installed before 30 June 2024 at Chiltern and Rutherglen. • We have also installed six (of seven) 22kW chargers at Council's offices and depots via our successful Victorian Government's 'EV Charging for Council Fleets' grant. The last charger is awaiting a planning permit and will be installed by 30 June 2024. Find out more at https://climateaction.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/actions/38 <p>NATURALLY COOLER INDIGO PROJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Naturally Cooler Indigo Project aims to fast-track urban tree canopies in Indigo Shire's towns. This 2-year project is being co-funded through a \$160,000 grant via Emergency Management Victoria's Risk and Resilience Grants Program. • Year 1 of the project has seen the planting of over 500 street and park trees. Species selection was strongly informed by the climate-ready species list produced by the GMCA's Naturally Cooler Towns project. We've also conducted a tree canopy gap analysis of Indigo's main towns, which has identified 2,000+ street tree gaps. • We have engaged Urban Forest Consulting (Meg Caffin) to develop Council's Urban Tree Canopy Strategy, which will focus on Indigo's eight towns (Beechworth, Yackandandah, Chiltern, Rutherglen, Barnawartha, Wahgunyah, Stanley, Tangambalanga). Staff consultation sessions were held in February, and external consultation will occur in the coming weeks. • Find out more at https://climateaction.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/actions/42 	<p>Net zero by 2035 – Corporate emissions (Scope 1,2,3), Total corporate emissions – 6,366 tonnes CO2e (2019/20)</p> <p>Community emissions</p>

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	<p>RENEWABLE ENERGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is installing a 30kW solar PV system at Council’s Beechworth offices in 2023/24. The project has received Heritage Victoria approval, and is awaiting a planning permit from Council. Find out more about Indigo’s solar PV and battery installations at https://climateaction.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/actions/5 • Council has entered an MOU with Indigo Power to undertake a feasibility study for a community-scale battery at Baarmutha Park, Beechworth. Indigo Power also included Baarmutha Park in their final application to ARENA’s Community Batteries Funding Program (Round 1). Council provided a Letter of Support to Indigo Power’s application, submitted on 19/02/24. <p>CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY Council’s Climate Change Policy is being reviewed, and will be revised by 30 June 2024.</p> <p>ESD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigo’s first Sustainable Subdivisions Framework (SSF) application (Alma Rd Beechworth) was approved by Planning in late 2023. The property has been subdivided the lots are currently on the market, with two sold to date. • Indigo has re-committed to another 12 months of funding to help retain GMCA’s ESD advisor, Simon Blackwell. We have also become a CASBE member in 2023/24 for the first time. • We’ve begun investigating developing an ESD Policy (a Council Plan action for 2023/24) which is being led by Planning with support from Environment & Sustainability. We’re in the process of establishing how best to utilise CASBE and GMCA’s ESD Advisor in supporting the ESD Policy development. 	
MANSFIELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akhil Joseph has started as the Contract Coordinator Waste and Environment, with great enthusiasm for Climate Action. • Street Light Audit with Murrindindi Shire and Strathbogie Shire is underway, most of the way through Strathbogie component. • Roadside Weed and Pest Management Program starting already with spraying of Gorse that is already flowering. • Evie Charger location confirmed on Early Street, Mansfield, with two chargers. • First lot of plantings under our “cooler towns” project underway. Engagement has provided information to help develop a five-year planting plan. • Currently in the process of on-boarding with Trellis – up and running for 23/24, and will include retrospective data from 22/23 • Carbon Farming Outreach Program - Liaising with AgVic and Landcare around a Federal Grant to help facilitate landholders and farmers with emissions reduction and carbon farming. 	Corporate Net Zero 2025 – Climate Action Plan adopted Feb 2023
MITCHELL*+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Emergency Action Plan endorsed! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation underway • Electrification of aquatic centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undertaking designs for two aquatic centres ○ Focusing on replacing gas boilers with heat pumps ○ Transitional process • Urban Forest Strategy endorsed • Undertaking feasibility study for a solar farm on a former landfill site in Seymour • Making portable induction kits available at libraries to encourage electrification • Reporting on and performing review of Council Building ESD Policy • Seeking quotes to install rooftop solar on Kilmore Leisure Centre, second highest energy consuming building • Completing analysis to consider joining VECO 2.0 • Welcoming two new staff to our Environment Team! Senior Environment Officer and Land Management Officer 	Corp Net Zero by 2030 (CEAP – non landfill emissions) Corporate Net emissions for FY 20/21 (baseline year) = 20,843 tCO2e Emissions from Waste Disposal account for majority of Council’s emissions at 75% or 16,611 tCO2-e Community Net Zero by 2043

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MOIRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026 adopted by Council at December 2022 Council meeting. EV charging station construction nearing completion at Federation Park (Cobram). Overall project expected to be completed by end of March. Have had some delays with Ausnet. Have finalised licence agreement with EVIE for public 50kW EV charging station to be installed at Hovell St carpark in Yarrawonga. Stage 1 of Construction is complete and looking to book an appointment for energisation. Reviewing Councils utility management software subscription (Azility) - putting together business case for transitioning to Trellis Internally workshopping priority areas and future directions for updating Councils Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (2022-2026). All scope emissions (1,2 & 3) are planned on being included. Close to an appointment for Environmental Sustainability Officer (ESO) (James Steinfort Position). Conducting final reference checks 	<p>Corp <50% by 2026 reduction of X from baseline year of 2009 Corporate emissions (Scope 1,2) 50% reduction by 2026, Total corporate emissions – 3,011 tonnes CO2e (2020/21) Net zero by 2050 (Scope 1,2,3)</p>
MURRINDINDI +	<p>Holding a corporate CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 5th March</p> <p>Holding a workshop with small to medium business about Circular Economy Forum 19th March</p> <p>Climate Change Action Plan CCAP adopted – targets 70% CO2E by 2030, net zero carbon by 2035; also, 100gm/km CO2 for passenger vehicles</p> <p>Key community CCAP projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Battery Initiative – 2 projects - one by 2030Yea with RMIT and Indigo Power, second through the CVGA for Marysville site Bulk Buy investigation – included in bid for budget 2024/25 <p>Key CCAP Mitigation projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streetlights upgrade MV project – audits complete, applied for budget for replacement 2024/25, investigating if Community Energy Fund grant could apply Council assets – looking into energy reduction projects Electric vehicles – policy development, PHEV types being investigated <p>Key CCAP Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilient Estates regional project – Thornton bridge case study <p>Key CCAP offset project – carbon offset planting investigation on Council land</p> <p>Natural environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual weed and pest program roadsides and council bushland reserves well advanced Roadside Weed and Pest Management Plan submitted to DEECA Rural Roadside Management Plan near completion – training organised for key eng and ops staff Have submitted an application to the Risk and Resilience Grants Program to audit all council’s street trees for characteristics and health, incorporate into Council’s GIS and strategic planning for planting and maintenance – all to increase resilience to increasing heat – despite expecting to hear in January, still no news <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexandra Flood Scoping Study complete 100% Renewables is doing a study of Council’s scope 3 emissions and community emissions. Also a pathway for reducing community emissions. A lot of delay getting community emissions data from various sources 	<p>Corp targets 20% reduction 2025 ; 70% reduction by 2030 and Net zero by 2035 100gm/km CO2 tailpipe emission for passenger vehicles by 2028</p> <p>Corporate emissions baseline: 7,848 tCO2-e (2016/17) 2021/22 6860 tCO2-e 2022/23 6552 tCO2-e (16% reduction on baseline)</p> <p>Municipal Net Zero by 2035 target Population:</p>
NECMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications are in the process of being undertaken by the NECMA in the areas of climate change and the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator which are supported by the Australian Government. Planning is underway to access the Victorian government's Environmental contribution fund supporting irrigation to remain efficient, effective and adapting to climate change. Work is underway on a flow model for the Ovens River under a climate change scenario. This work will try and identify the effects on the Iconic Ovens River of a potentially lower flow as a result of climate change. NECMA has partnered with the One Basin Cooperative Research Centre to work through the changes occurring in the Murray Darling Basin and how best to support the transition to a lower water future under climate change. NECMA in partnership with the GBCMA have managed to access two projects looking at the community's capacity to adapt to the changes identified. This is a 10 year project and will be supporting agencies and community groups to adapt to the potential changes needed to ensure there is a balance between environment, community and economy. 	

SHEPPARTON



- New CEO as of January 2024 – Fiona Le Gassick
- We have calculated our 22/23 emissions and presented this data to Councillors – the floods significantly increased our waste to landfill and therefore emissions, which offset some of the reductions we had made in switching fleet to electric and electrification works.
- We are contributing to a Case Study for the Resilient Public Estate project on the benefits of our Urban Forest Strategy, and have been trying to source some additional data for the consultants.
- We have received tenders for a Decarbonisation Audit for our main aquatic centre (Aquamoves).
- We are preparing to undertake a Decarbonisation Audit for our Office building and performing arts centre (Eastbank).
- We have hit electrical capacity for new DC chargers at our main office and depot, and need to consider other options for EVs moving forward.
- We have been preparing a business case to reinstate our Community Sustainability Grants after funding was dropped for this financial year due to budget constraints.
- We are still working on launching energy efficiency toolkits to be available to borrow through libraries – trying to finalise a Memorandum of Understanding with the library.
- A Sustainable House Tour is in the final stages of planning, and will be held in March.
- Second year of DEECA funded Youth Climate Change Leadership project, led by Councils youth team, on hold for now due to staff shortages

STRATHBOGIE



- Currently working with our Community Development department to add a “reducing emission” grant to our small grants program
- EV Charger in Nagambie is live and well utilised
- We are about to start the next round of street tree plantings, approx 290 trees across 6 townships
- Very close to finalising our Active and Connected Cycling and Walking Strategy and interesting (not for me but for assets) people prefer walking on footpaths that have canopy cover.
- New solar, battery and generator system was installed at the Euroa Depot in time for all the storms in early Jan. Depot didnt even notice that the power went off in town the swap over to the backup was so smooth.
- VT Landfill rehab is complete and we are days away from Auditor signoff.
- Completed out GHG corporate emissions assessment and we are slowly chipping away at our corporate emissions. The VT landfill emissions are our “largest” so once the rehab is signed off we will get them reassessed to hopefully reduce those. To met our goals of being net zero by 2025 we will need to purchase some offsets
- New Director has meant changes to our Fleet policy, exciting changes

Corp Net Zero by 2030 (Scope 1, 2 and 3)
Community Net Zero by 2030 (Aspirational)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently completed energy audit of council buildings which will inform possible works in the coming years Two feasibility/business case studies in the works currently for community batteries at our Sports & Aquatic Centre and Wangaratta Showgrounds 	
WODONGA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team is now reduced to one officer after a decision by the financial budget committee in January to not replace the vacant Team Leader position Evi Charger was installed and energised late last year at Acacia carpark and is now available to the public Working with Evie Network to find site for EV charger – ongoing. Car Park Solar feasibility study was completed promoting a strong case for the project. The project will now be explored with the potential of the CEUF that was recently announced Daniel Alder will now be the main contact for Wodonga 	<p>Zero Emissions Increase Corporate target of 75% reduction (on 2005 levels) by 2025 and net zero by 2045 in line with Victorian target 31.5% reduction in 2021/22 from baseline year of 2018/19 corporate emissions which were 8,726 tCO2-e Community zero emissions increase</p>

*Climate Emergency declared + has Community emissions targets