

2022-23-24 Strategic Plan Alignment	Program	Project and Partners	22-23 Outcomes	Notes	Budget	Progress August 2023
Mitigation <i>Use the power of the Alliance to scale regional efforts to dump and sequester carbon.</i>	Battery Storage Initiatives	CVGA in partnership with GMCA and Indigo Power and GACA will work with councils across regional Vic to develop an investment-ready business case and site-specific project plans for 18 neighbourhood battery projects at critical community sites in participating LGAs: Benalla, Murchison, Yea - partner with RMIT to review ARENA readiness for microgrid applications.	Application to DEECA for NBI initiative submitted by Alliances in April 2023. 3x Submissions accepted by RMIT to be developed for ARENA for full funding for feasibility facilitated by RMIT.	\$7.5k to GMCA for Admin RMIT project at standstill	\$ 246,990.00	ONGOING: Neighbourhood Battery Initiative (NBI) Application successful. GMCA participants include Wangaratta, Alpine Resorts, Benalla, Strathbogie, Alpine, Murrindindi. No financial input is required. Indigo Power the lead consultant. CVGA will act as project lead, with GMCA also assisting and taking an admin support fee.
	Zero Emissions Councils	Support the Hydrogen Working Group, and Member zero emissions fleet transition with support for zero emissions fleet assessments and expansion of EV charging in council operations	Scope a brief for a funded pilot for H2 kerbside waste vehicles. GMCA H2 Steering Committee to visit a H2 Truck conversion in 2022/23 (Swinburne, Kenworth, Hycel, or Hyzon).	Watch progress	-	NOT PROGRESSING: Met with Melbourne Uni's Mildura Cluster who are organising a Forum for March. They will set up visits for GMCA members to Hyzon, Toyota to view vehicles.
		All Electric Councils	Continue to support GMCA members to address going all-electric.	In collaboration with VGA Project	-	ONGOING: EO on All Electric Councils PSG. Foundation Paper (Guidance doc) finalised by FG Advisory. Moira SC participated as a regional case study for Paper (paper now completed). Regional Bulk Buy to explore an electrification theme. Councils to undertake a review of what barriers exist to electrifying the grid and LG role
		Vicroads Main Road Lighting	Revisit the Vicroads Main Road project with key stakeholders, taking LCRI funding and Cost Benefit Analysis into account for potential activation.	Long term project for further investigation & advocacy	-	
		Ausnet Public Streetlighting changeovers	Continued support of members undertaking Public Streetlighting changeovers.	Co-funded through AusNet, councils, VEEC, and LMCI	Individual council cost with LED subsidies	ONGOING: EO on AusNet Community Consultation Committee and AusNet Streetlight Changeover PSG. 1. Workshop with GMCA councils, Ironbark, EAGA & AusNet held 1/8/22 2. Comms of AusNet reconciliation/audit deferral of billing & assoc impacts from Aug 2022. 3. EO sponsored to attend Energy Consumers Aust conference in Feb (Syd) with AusNet reference 4. EO to contact AusNet CCC & Exec to find solution to discrepancies between audited and billed lighting (15/3)
		VECO: Additional initiatives	Consideration of other options across the VECO offering.	Existing VECO funds	VECO funds	ONGOING: Ongoing VECO PSG meetings. Innovation fund using underspend of VECO \$5 ongoing. Brimbank taking over lead function as at May 2023. New Renewables Business Buyers Group (RBBG) formed for Metro and Regional councils to engage businesses using 250+ MW per annum. Yarra CC lead. VECO innovation fund may be involved. Wangaratta has signed the EOI as at 12/5/23.
	Net Zero Communities NZC	Investigate mechanisms and pathways for GMCA members to support net zero residents/business. Explore additional funding opportunities & partners.	Partnerships and projects with Regional Partnerships (Ovens Murray and Goulburn).	External funding	\$ 50,000.00	ON HOLD: Project with Regional Partnerships proposed Dec 2022 : Technical Assessment: Community Net Zero Opportunities for the Goulburn Murray Region - including Marginal Abatement Cost Curve, Regional Emissions Profile, and practical pathways to NZE within control of partnership stakeholders. Regional Partnerships have recalibrated and are rethinking.
	Recharging Goulburn Murray GMCA Regional Renewables Programme	Undertake a regional renewables programme with solar and batteries to enable vulnerable households, and business, to access low emissions, low cost energy.	Explore the steps, costs, resources, and appetite for a regional bulk buy for residents experiencing energy-shocks through the GMCA Network for households and business.	All cash contributions for future FY. 2022-23 in-house research only. Likely to start 24/25 FY	\$ 30,000.00	ONGOING: A scoping & tender document has been prepared with GMCA councils finalising with Project Manager. A consultation document was also prepared.
Adaptation <i>To partner with the intellectual, financial, and communal resources that will create stronger, safer spaces and places.</i>	Victorian Climate Resilient Councils	Collaborate in the VCRC initiative and launch in 2023.	VCRC joint funding submission led by WAGA for adaptation development across Victoria's local government.	Recurrent budget (contribution dependent on project support with external funding in 22/23 FY)	\$ 5,000.00	ONGOING: VCRC successfully applied for \$235k funding with EMV and is now finalising the compilation of resources for Councils. Trial climate vulnerability assessment for MEMPCs underway.
	A Resilient Public Estate (RPE)	Three funding-ready Climate Adaptation Project Briefs endorsed by the GMCA.	Sub-Committee to assess collaborative regional implementation opportunities.	Internal Project	-	
		Regional Asset Vulnerability Assessments	Understand how GMCA member councils' buildings, roads, drainage, levies, saleyards, open space will be impacted by climate change and how in turn, councils income and expenditure will be impacted so they can appropriately plan for identified changes. This information can then be used to influence decision-making and create prioritised, costed works plans for make an asset more resilient to climate change. This project will result in a cost benefit analysis of risk, internal assessment tools, and associated investment to address climate impacts to the delivery of community services.	100% external grant funding + in-kind Grant includes p/t EFT	\$ 403,917.00	ONGOING: 3 additional councils joined RPE - Shepparton, Wangaratta, Mitchell, making 11 total GMCA participants. Mentoring sessions have been held with all councils. CSIRO has presented to participants on their Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project, and also met with GMCA and the Integrated Water Management Forum for the NE. GMCA is leading a working group comprising NEW, GWM, IWM Forum, Wangaratta, Murrindindi, GBCMA and CSIRO, to do 2-3 co-design workshops for the MAR project in the Goulburn Murray.
	Regional Environmental Markets Project	Partner with BehaviourWorks to research, report and disseminate what land management changes reliably increase climate resilience and produce off-farm payments.	Literature review, report, video/comms materials & community forum. Potential phase 2 pilot derived from the learnings - Environmental Markets Leadership Program (EMLP).	GB CMA funded project. Lead - BehaviourWorks	\$ 30,000.00	COMPLETED: Final workshop in person held Benalla in late May and paper presented.
	Naturally Cooler Towns Phase 2	Kick off the NCT Regional Arborist Network (RAN) to promote better knowledge sharing, learning and capacity for urban public and private greening. Link to the Cool It program and resources.	Annual/bi-annual forum. Quarterly meetings. Support participants to self-manage the new NCT Regional Arborist Network.	potential catering only - 1 meeting	\$ 9,231.00	COMPLETED: Additional unexpended funds found by Strathbogie SC (\$9231 ex gst). The Regional Arborist Network was held Friday 24 Feb 2023 in Benalla with arborists from 8 councils, 2 private nurseries, State Gov, Bendigo & Yarra Ranges councils attending. Discussion was held chiefly on setting up a regular Network.
	Charging the Regions Phase 3	Collective plan for equitable ongoing operation, maintenance, licencing, accessibility policies, and expansion of EV charging network.	Template forms and guidance for members assisting in the zero emissions transition of transport networks. Set up statewide communications to ensure high-quality knowledge and information is shared to GMCA staff.		\$ -	ONGOING: 3x GMCA meetings held June-Aug re coordinated licencing & infrastructure, policy. No new meetings due to floods. Basecamp page set up for officers.
Advocacy <i>Influence, inspire, and advise those who legislate and lead to make decisions enabling rapid decarbonisation and stronger communities.</i>	Planning for a Safe Climate Campaign	Communicate the Hansen Report recommendations, to GMCA members forums and working groups in preparation for the Vic State election and beyond.	Member understanding and state collaboration integrating recommended changes into land use planning legislation.	Carried over from 21-22 FY		COMPLETED: Campaign finalised.
	Responses to Vic State/Fed Govt and Agency Consultations	Joint advocacy initiatives and submissions with VGA, CASBE, MAV and other strategic partners.	Letters and submissions demonstrating a strong, united Alliance on climate action in response to State consultation requests.	As required		COMPLETED: Joint VGA submission for design of a fuel efficiency standard - 31/5/23
						COMPLETED: Joint VGA submission for Australian Safeguard Policy.
						COMPLETED: Joint submission by GMCA, with CVGA, BSWCA, GCCN & SECCCA for Resilient Regional Road Network to Federal Govt.
						COMPLETED: Joint submission with CVGA, BSWCA, GCCN & SECCCA for Sustainable Commonwealth Games.
						COMPLETED: Public access to DNSP data: DELWP Sept 2022
						COMPLETED: May 2022 Joint VGA submission to the Vic Gov Interim GHG Emissions 2035 Target - Met with Panel in Oct 2022. Govt has agreed to revise all Targets.
						COMPLETED: Fed, State & Territory building ministers agreed to new energy efficiency standards for new homes in Aug 2022 including moving from 6 to 7 stars under NATHERS.
						COMPLETED: Sept 2022 joint submission with VGAs on Federal review of Aust Carbon Credit Units.
						COMPLETED: joint submission with CVGA to Transgrid & AEMO re Vic NSW Interconnector West Project Assessment Draft Report
						COMPLETED: Federal EV Strategy with Victorian Greenhouse Alliances & associated councils 31/10/22.

	GMCA Return on Investment + Cost-Benefit Analysis	Undertake a NPV / ROI cost-benefit analysis and prepare a comprehensive ROI illustration for members and investors.	Better communication to decision-makers, leadership and investors on the value of the GMCA and future investment in adaptation & mitigation, as members move into more resource-constrained, critical times.	Recurrent budget and/or potential funding opportunity	-	ONGOING: VECO returned \$272k savings to participating GMCA councils (\$3m across 51 councils); \$4.43m in savings to date from Watts Working Better; \$881k + \$6.4m in lights savings from EDPR advocacy; \$3.33m in grants procured by Alliance;
	Climate Investment Partnerships	Prepare a GMCA Briefing Pack, and scope potential private sector investors for discussion of a tailored suite of specific initiatives ready for investment.	Briefing Pack and contact list.	Recurrent budget & Working Group input	-	
	Strategic Plan Member Tour	Presentations at member Board/Council meetings.	Build awareness, support and gather feedback from GMCA membership.	Recurrent travel budget	\$ 2,000.00	ONGOING: Presentation to Rural City of Benalla 21/9/22 Wodonga City Council Councillor Briefing 31/10/22 Day visit to Strathbogie SC: meeting with Exec/Sustainability staff 19/5/23
	Present at Regional Forums & Committees	GMCA Chair and EO to take the new Strategic Plan to major regional committees and forums to present and discuss our activities.	Build awareness and support across regional leadership.	Recurrent travel budget	\$ 500.00	Limited capacity to undertake NERSA 6/12/22
Building Capacity <i>To strengthen regional capacity to implement, through funding, training and partnerships.</i>	Annual VGA Conference	Partner with the VGAs to plan and undertake the annual VGA Conference.	Enable as many regional/rural participants as possible to take part in the Conference. Be a financially contributing partner to the VGAs to assist with venue, project management, catering etc. Encourage GMCA members to present their initiatives.	GMCA Recurrent budget	\$ 1,500.00	ONGOING: EO is in planning for this with the VGAs. Likely date is 4 Aug 2023. Regular fortnightly VGA meetings underway. Funds can be paid NPY.
	Shared SSF ESD Planning Advisor	Partner with GMCA SSF councils, CASBE and DELWP to create a 12m shared ESD position to undertake the SSF pilot and ESD expert advisory role.	1 FTE position working across 8 councils and collaboratively with CASBE to successfully put SSF on the VIC land use planning map.	Contributions from councils, GMCA, & DELWP grant (21/22 FY) Murrindindi lead	\$ 105,983.00	ONGOING: SSF Planning Advisor commenced 31/10/22, and is confirmed to be working for 23/24 with 6 GMCA councils supported by DEECA. Approx 16 Planning Assessments completed/underway from 6 of 8 councils. Strategy planning workshops commenced with individual councils, and councils of similar sizes.
	GMCA Councillor Forum	Support GMCAs climate-change decisionmakers by creating a space to meet.	A councillor forum meeting set to every 6 months with the first meeting reviewing its purpose and future activities.	In kind and Recurrent budget	\$ 500.00	NOT COMPLETED: Nil capacity to undertake.
	Employing for a Changing Climate	Explore the steps, costs, resources, and appetite for a project reviewing the current and future needs of regional climate-based employment - particularly to meet the responsibilities of government and statutory authorities. What is required from organisations to make the necessary employment transformations to adapt, and is this being communicated adequately?	Working group to explore the current situation - the gaps, opportunities, shortages, and requirements (current and future) throughout the GMCA. Present a 2 page summary to the Alliance for discussion and review.	In-house research exercise 2022-23	\$ -	NOT COMPLETED: Nil capacity to undertake.
	Various Training & Networking	Carbon Accounting training with Trellis	Training to build capacity of LG staff	FREE		COMPLETED: Officer carbon accounting/net zero training organised for 19/10/22 with 24 attending.
		NCT Regional Arborist Network	Initiate first Network meeting	use underspend from NCT project see above.		As Above.
		Climate Leadership Project	For councillors/CEOs/Directors focussed on decision-making in the face of climate change ie legal, planning, advocacy to State/Fed politicians. Asking Cathy McGowan, legal pros, climate change experts etc. To be run with Alpine Valley Climate Leadership.	DELWP funded - 3x one day workshops	\$ 20,000.00	COMPLETED: 3x Climate leadership forums were hosted in Wangaratta and supported by NECMA with an additional \$3k. Report completed by AVCL.
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