

March- May 2021	Last report Dec/Jan/Feb 2021	GBGA AROUND THE REGION UPDATES FROM COUNCILS REPORT FOR MAIN GBGA MEETING May 20, 2021
ALPINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine Shire has hired a Sustainability Coordinator and Environment Officer (new roles) and filled the Waste Officer role. • Beginning work on compiling Councils baseline data for GHG emissions to enable Council to potentially set GHG targets/goals • In parallel working on scoping Council's Climate Action Plan which will set out Councils commitments to GHG emissions reductions and actions. • Alpine Shire is compiling its updated FOGO business plan that will inform the FOGO implementation plan. • In final stages of prioritising and designing solar systems for installations across Council's buildings and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined VECO – Victorian Energy Collaboration – to purchase 100% renewable energy for council operations • Developing a Climate Action Plan (corporate) – have finished the greenhouse gas baseline. Currently conducting internal workshops with every department to inform them of the CAP and incorporate all relevant initiatives. The CAP currently has a large focus on mitigation but is also considering adaptation. • Solar Works Program - identified top 10 council facilities to fit with solar and batteries to increase resilience in emergency (fitting 4 2021/22).
BENALLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winton Solar Farm successful community grants announced (total of \$35,000): Waminda Community House (community garden), Winton Cemetery Trust (new areas for contemplation and bird habitat), Tatong Memorial Hall (drinking water), Benalla Woodworkers' Association (dust filtration), Renewable Energy Benalla (seed funding for community energy project), Winton CFA (firefighting equipment and training) • Benalla Sustainable Future Group holding a climate science talk this Friday evening • Single Use Plastic Policy drafted and out for staff feedback • Off-grid solar and battery system for new transfer station (at quote stage, reviewing budget and initial site requirements) • Investigating potential for introduction of EV into fleet within next 6-12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Larissa Montgomery! • Benalla is restructuring Environment to report to a Director Sustainability and Economic Development
CAMPASPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charging the Regions has installed its first electric vehicle chargers at Maryborough. Campaspe Shire Council will have charger(s) installed in Echuca in March. It has been timed in conjunction with Swan Hill to accommodate the Blood Bank caravan timetable. We are also using the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined Victorian Energy Collaboration to provide 100% renewable energy for metered sites (large + small) and street lights. 'Good long-term contract with good terms to meet our operational needs with environmental benefits as well'. • A dual EV fast chargers and one medium charger has been installed and is operational in Echuca, you just need to use the

	<p>electrician onsite to upgrade car park lighting from MV80s to T5s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food and organics program will have delivered 5,500t to Biomix by the end of February for processing. Sixty-seven percent of eligible residential properties have signed up to the service. The 2021 contamination rate of 0.38% is higher than the 2020 figure due to contamination of Christmas waste in specific areas. These areas are being targeted with an education program. The aim is to reduce contamination rate back to 2020 low rate (or even lower). • Campaspe Shire Council is supporting community groups and businesses to participate in Clean Up Australia Day. • While COVID has impacted stadium use at the Echuca Basketball Stadium, the first six months of use of the solar panels and batteries is still a good news story. Electricity bills have significantly reduced. Full basketball stadium use has shown the battery can run the entire centre for 2 hours without grid power. The battery supply will last significantly longer off grid when used for as a recovery centre (as it will supply essential power only). The use of the solar and battery supply has avoided 52,900kh CO₂ emissions. • 	<p>Evie app. The site in High Street Carpark will be the launch of CVGA charge station network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochester Community House is hosting a Climate Ready Communities conversation tonight (20/05/21) as part of Loddon Mallee region's ADAPT program. • Community groups and schools are starting to register and order trees for National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day. Campaspe Shire Council provides support for community and school's plantings as part of National Tree Day. • A good news story regarding an endangered species of the Northern Grassland Plains. Zoos Victoria has released their first pairs of Plains Wanderers as part of their captive breeding program on the Patho Plains. This project is supported by a number of programs aiming to increase the grassland habitat and number of Plains Wanderer for the future and changing climate. Check out Zoos Victoria 4-minute video on the program, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1z3Z1elxZo • Food and organics program update, 6,200t processed by Biomix. Seventy percent of eligible residential properties have now opted into the service. Average contamination rate is still 0.38%. All Department of Fairness, Families and Housing (DFFH) properties in Girgarre, Gunbower, Tongala, Rushworth and Rochester now have the service. Kyabram and Echuca DFFH properties will receive the service during 2021-22.
<p>INDIGO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISC have joined VECO to purchase 100% renewable energy for council operations • Council have endorsed the 3rd round of our ISC sustainability grants. \$20K award to a range of projects and programs to be delivered by the community. • Emissions Reduction Plan should be finished by June. • Council is undertaking a number of smallscale lighting upgrades across multiple council building • Council is investigation the opportunity for public EV charging station across the shire. Currently supporting TRY to assess opportunities in Yackandandah.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen Jones going on extended leave. Sustainability Projects Officer - 6 month temporary position, 16 hours/wk - https://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/Council/Jobs-and-volunteering/Current-vacancies/Sustainability-Projects-Officer
MANSFIELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ironbark Sustainability has been appointed and is currently collating information for Council's Climate Action Plan background paper. Open Space Strategy development underway. Citizens Science project - Roadside biodiversity Hotspot survey to go out to community in the coming weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Plan background paper delivered to Council on the 4th May. Will be release for public comment following Council consideration on 19 May. Local community group, Renewable Energy Mansfield will be presenting to Council on the 1st June. EV fast charger being considered by the economic development team
MITCHELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26kW solar PV upgrade to Greater Beveridge Community Centre installed. Adding to the existing 10kW system. 'Solar Analytics' hardware installed at each Council site with rooftop solar to track and monitor usage and savings. Clothes Swap event being held in May to promote sustainable consumption. Investigating increasing our purchase of recycled paper Developing an ESD Minimum Building Standards for all new council building projects, asset renewal and extension of existing buildings and building maintenance works. Sustainability Officer undertaking ESD auditor training with Ironbark Sustainability in April. Conducting an ESD audit at the Broadford Living and Learning Centre. Ongoing collaboration with Mitchell Community energy. Hoping to work together on project to provide rooftop solar for social housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have joined the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework trial; developing an ESD policy for council buildings and will trial for 3 projects Preparing a discussion paper on a Climate Emergency Declaration after receiving a petition of 1300 signature Developing ESD standards for council buildings (Brendan Garrett). Also engaging a consultant to conduct ESD training for staff. Investigating EV charging station for MSC Civic Centre carpark Completed an ESD audit at the Broadford Living and Learning Centre.
MOIRA	<p>Still working on 50kW Solar system for Numurkah Sports & Aquatic Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to installing 'safe roof access infrastructure' - working through OH&S requirements Awaiting quotes to upgrade and consolidate electricity meters at this facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have joined VECO to purchase 100% renewable energy for council operations

	<p>Reviewing and updating Environmental Sustainability Strategy for 2022-2026 period – ongoing</p> <p>Received quotes to conduct a review of irrigation water use at each of Councils Recreation Reserves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project to be completed by 30th June 2021 <p>Report presented to CMT to consolidate all of Councils water shares into 4 key accounts; for enhanced management outcomes and reduced annual trading costs.</p>	
<p>MURRINDINDI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Policy training module via ELMO designed and almost ready to be rolled out. • Investigating next steps for climate risk assessment / financial analysis <p>Re Staffing: Zoe is on 12 months leave, Julie Kirkwood is in Coordinator Environmental Programs role for 12 months. Started last week (15.2.21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing to instal several 5kW solar systems gained as part of YEF solar bulk buy; engaging consultant to develop potential targets and pathways to assess options for Mitigation Plan; planning a risk assessment of options in the Adaptation Plan, Waste Strategy developed for consultation
<p>SHEPPARTON</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Emergency Plan is currently out to tender closing this week - Council Plan is currently in public consultation, so S&E team taking opportunity to be involved and include climate/environment discussions in this and alert of upcoming Climate Emergency consultation - Carbon Emissions Assessment - Ndevr should have a finalised costed action plan completed by the end of March - Council Sustainability Officers will write the Zero Emissions Plan with the assistance of an internal working group. - Solar for this financial year is complete. Looking at further 5 buildings next financial year. Also looking to undertake solar feasibility work for more suitable sites in the future - 2 x 50kw, dual port public EV chargers are being installed as part of the Charging the regions CVGA project. One in Mooroopna and one in Shepparton. Should be operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined VECO for 100% renewable energy; Shepparton represented the 7 GMCA councils on the PCG and participated in development of Communication and Media Strategy for the project • Received an Options Paper for the 2030 Emissions Action Plan, and has engaged Ironbark Sustainability to develop the Climate Emergency Action Plan • 4 AC chargers installed at Shepparton Arts Museum, May installation of 2 fast chargers in Shepparton and 2 fast chargers in Mooroopna •

	<p>late March/early April. Also some AC chargers being installed at the new Shepparton Art Museum site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EOI out to the community looking for potential roadsides for One Tree Per Child planting sites 	
<p>STRATHBOGIE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender for the Stage 2 (design) of Greening Euroa closed last week, going through the evaluation and Council report writing process now. • Lots of interest in moving to electric vehicles so I am doing some research • New waste officer employed and going well. • Lots and lots of weed requests and issues. We are updating our Roadside Management Plan about how we manage roadsides. We are looking at potentially moving away from spraying and towards slashing/mowing/mulching - would love to hear any information anyone might have and be willing to share. • Applying for a SV grant to look at the feasibility of having a tip shop at our transfer stations • Kerbside transition planning • Kerbside collection audits • Been some back and forth around declaring a climate emergency – not sure where it will land at this stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have joined VECO to purchase 100% renewable energy for council operations • Have finalised funding agreement for Naturally Cooler Towns • Strathbogie has declared a climate emergency with a unanimous vote. See resolution here pg 57 • Now working on engaging with our community and internally (both depots and office staff) on what is important to them. Surprised that a lot of people are already beginning to consider climate implications in their work without me prompting them. Makes me hope that getting buy in internally wont be too much of a pain. • Installing our first off grid battery and solar system at the Graytown community Hub • Investing our fleet options as after landfill and electricity (though not for much longer with VECO) fleet is our next biggest emitter. Does anyone have an easy way to calculate legacy landfill emissions?? • Greening Euroa has engaged GMR Engineering to deliver the detailed design.
<p>TOWONG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible staff member for GBGA has resigned and recruitment is underway. • Grant application is in under the regional infrastructure fund for Corryong CBD streetscape include EV charge station, solar shade structure and batteries to potentially support streetlights and connect to the town’s developing micro grid. • Trialling incorporating climate change modelling results for increased long range rainfall (80-100yrs) into new bridge designs. Designing for additional 25% of ARI to potentially increase bridge life as condition. Looking at what will change in the design and the cost implications. • Moving towards increasing the amount of locally recycled materials used in all infrastructure projects to reduce raw materials use and transport for GHG emissions reduction.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still planting street trees in towns across the shire to achieve 40% canopy coverage in urban nature strips by 2025. • Currently negotiating new electricity contracts which involves decisions on % of renewables to consider.
WANGARATTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 endorsed at the 23rd Feb meeting to proceed to public consultation. • Events schedule for 'March into Sustainability' at the Wangaratta library finalised and advertised. • Clean Up Australia Day Event scheduled and advertised for 9/3 • Mondo DER Trial talks continuing. • EOI applications have been received for wild dog/deer exclusion fencing funding and are currently being assessed • EOI period has been extended to 26 Feb for funding for weed control and/or participation in agricultural chemical users course • Investigating options for selective harvesting of Council's plantation firewood to stock firewood depots in preparation for re-opening following fire danger period • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Sustainability Strategy has finished public consultation with 31 submissions. Team currently reviewing feedback and making changes to the draft strategy. Will return to council in June. • Enviro team had a stall at the Off-Grid Living Festival on the 11th & 12th of April. • Draft Procurement Policy went out for feedback. Received submission regarding environmental and social procurement (which included officer submission). This will be carried over to the new policy that will be developed in a few months under the new LG Act. • First Environmental Upgrade Agreement signed with a local business to install 50kw solar.
WODONGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced single use plastics waste audits throughout the operations. This is to meet our Single use plastics policy requirements of a reduction in use in 2021. • Utilising Azility software to investigate the operations with the highest emissions and prioritising capital works submissions based on the results and reported on greenhouse gas emissions production for the council risk register to measure against the baseline year. • Continuing with the rewrite of sustainability strategy and preparing budget bid for Climate Change Adaptation Action plan review towards the end of the year. • Wodonga Cube additional 75 kW solar PV, realignment of current panels and LED theatrical performance lighting tenders have closed and installs will occur shortly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with our insurance company to identify how climate risks, particularly extreme weather events, will impact insurance premiums as part of a report to the Audit and Risk Committee. Responsible. Officers are assigned to actions outlined in Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan using Camms Strategy to allow greater accountability and ease of reporting. • Have joined VEEO for 100% renewable energy. Projected to reduce council's GHG emissions by approximately 80% • As part of Sustainable Subdivisions Framework trial (which Wodonga leads), important data have been gathered through the evaluation of several (5) new developments in meeting ESD standards. An EOI has been submitted to elevate ESD targets as part of another program. ESD principles are included in

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable living festival committee had first meeting and propose the SLF week will coincide with National Recycling Week which is Monday 8 to Sunday 14, November 2021. The festival is proposed for Saturday the 13th November (depending on COVID ruling). Any exhibitors/ event suggestions are welcome. The proposed format will be a combination of digital and face to face formats. • Preparing for council plan community engagement on sustainability and climate change will consist of a drop-in session at the council chamber on the 16th March 12.30 to 2.30pm and an invite only event for key stakeholders on the 18th March. • Prepared a feedback submission with council planners to the DELWP ESD roadmap paper and planning policy framework changes. 	<p>facility construction projects as standard practice where project allow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of our single use plastics policy, survey is being conducted to understand single use plastic waste produced by the procurement process of each business unit. Started thinking about potential behaviour change initiatives such as Green Team newsletter and lunch time talk by Halve Waste. • In the process of rewriting Sustainability Strategy. Engaged Point Advisory consultancy group to include achievable and measurable targets.
GB CMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement well underway on the Insights Paper as part of the RCS renewal. • We are awaiting final confirmation from DELWP on next four-year funding. • Report development underway for Land Use Mapping in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (northern section of Catchment) which spatially maps all land use (by industry) for each Water Use Licence. Farm Irrigation Surveys also conducted to complement this spatial mapping, with analysis underway. • We have launched a flood portal that covers 14 at flood risk communities with detailed flood data to assist with land-use planning, building, flood insurance and flood preparedness. This has been a vision in both the RCS and GB Regional Floodplain Management Strategy in building flood resilience by fostering self-help. The portal, a joint project with 4 Local Governments (GSCC, Moira, Strathbogie and Benalla) (so far) allows you to view flood maps, search properties and create a property flood report. https://my.floodreport.com.au/Gbcma/ 	<p>The GB CM submitted a response to the Directions Paper on Renewable Energy Zones.</p> <p>We are exploring opportunities to improve the sustainability of our accommodation including solar panels on buildings. A Statewide Carbon Sequestration Analysis Project Workshop was recently held with CMAs, Water Corporations, DELWP and contractors. The aim of the workshop was for CMAs and Water Corporations to collaboratively select three sites within each CMA to undergo a detailed carbon sequestration analysis. The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy is progressing, with a draft for public consultation due at the end of June.</p> <p>The GB CMA is a member of the National NRM Carbon Community of Practice. The GB CMA is taking part in a national – online workshop at the end of May.</p>

<p>NECMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
<p>DELWP</p>	<p>Regional Adaptation Strategy will be released for general comment early March 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a soft launch of the Regional Adaptation Plan including a video of action by youth and the community program Acres and Acres https://www.facebook.com/DELWPHume/posts/2222328771233114 Consultation till May 25; particularly interested in case studies of actions. • Consultation with partners is underway for specific feedback sessions. • https://engage.vic.gov.au/hume-regional-climate-change-adaptation-strategy for the draft and many other resources. • DELWP continues implementation for further 18 months • The State Climate Change Strategy with renewable energy targets has been launched Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy
<p>SV</p>	<p>James Bramwell James.Bramwell@sustainability.vic.gov.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Small Business Energy Saver has opened to offer incentive to change to energy efficient items eg hot water het pumps can be installed with about 90% subsidy. Looking for intermediaries to informal and assist businesses to take this up; also installers who will claim rebates. • SV would like to reach out to Local Government to promote the opportunities for small businesses, through electronic newsletters, social posts etc for the benefit of small businesses in your community. The link to our marketing material which you can use to promote the program is: https://mailchi.mp/sustainability.vic.gov.au/small-business-energy-savings-12966778?e=[UNIQID] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 star home program just launched - \$4000 rebates available for builders and land developers - https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/building-or-renovating/7-star-homes-program •