



SUMMARY VERSION

Hepburn

SHIRE COUNCIL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Hepburn Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work. On these lands, Djaara have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We recognise their resilience through dispossession and it is a testament to their continuing culture and tradition, which is strong and thriving.

We also acknowledge the neighbouring Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri to our South East and the Wadawurrung to our South West and pay our respect to all Aboriginal peoples, their culture, and lore. We acknowledge their living culture and the unique role they play in the life of this region.

Caring for and healing Country

Dja Dja Wurrung peoples (Djaara) see all the land and its creatures in a holistic way that is interconnected with each other and with the people. For us, Dja Dja Wurrung Country (Djandak) is a cultural landscape – it is a living entity, which holds the stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased.

We have a duty to care for our Country and feel ashamed and sad that it is currently suffering. When the Country suffers, we suffer.

Our Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Plan reaffirms our goals and obligations to care for Country and describes our People's aspirations as the Traditional Owners of Djandak. Our Vision is for the health and wellbeing of our people to be strong and underpinned by our living culture. Our Vision is for our lands and waters to be in good condition and actively managed to protect our values and to promote the laws, culture and rights of all Djaara.

Sustainable Hepburn presents an important opportunity to walk together and heal Country for the Hepburn Shire part of the Dja Dja Wurrung Nation. Successful implementation of *Sustainable Hepburn*, through working in partnership with Djaara as the Traditional Owners, gives life to the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan, puts spirit back into Country and creates a future that respects our past generations, and those yet to come.

Rodney Carter

CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Dja Dja Wurrung Group
Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation



Mayor leadership statement

During the Hepburn Together process in 2020/21, we heard loud and clear from our local community that environmental sustainability is the number one priority closely followed by liveability. We love where we live and we wish to protect what we love, both now and for future generations. We are excited to present *Sustainable Hepburn* to you, Council's updated commitment to further reduce our corporate greenhouse gas emissions, protect and enhance our local biodiversity, transition to a low waste Shire and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

There is so much knowledge and sustainable action already occurring in Hepburn Shire, and we applaud the progressive actions underway across the community. Our opportunity is to build on the momentum, extend our ambition and work together in partnership. This is not something we can do alone – council, community, businesses must all chip in for a more *sustainable Hepburn*.

This strategy has been developed with multiple authors. We appreciate the input of Council staff, the broad Hepburn community, DJAARA, and other agencies for bringing *Sustainable Hepburn* to life. We are thankful for the hard work and collaborative efforts of the *Sustainable Hepburn* Community Reference Group who co-developed the action plans.

Council is committed to implementing *Sustainable Hepburn* 2022-26 and will actively involve you, our community in its implementation. We look forward to building stronger partnerships with you, enabling you to deepen the work we are already so proud of.

I commend to you this strategy, *Sustainable Hepburn* and sincerely look forward to seeing what we can achieve together today, for a better tomorrow.

Cr Tim Drylie

Mayor

June 2022



Introduction to a Sustainable Hepburn

This is an abridged summary of the Sustainable Hepburn strategy and provides an overview of the full strategy. Please read the full strategy for the complete version.

We love where we live, Hepburn Shire. Caring for our natural environment by reconnecting with nature, reducing impacts associated with our lifestyles and regenerating disturbed landscapes is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of our community, the natural systems that sustain us, a thriving local economy and resilience in the face of future challenges.

“Think Global Act Local”, accurately reflects the intent of this strategy. Thriving, safe, just, and prosperous local communities, living within planetary boundaries, is at the heart of *Sustainable Hepburn*.

Environmental sustainability is the Hepburn community’s top priority, and Hepburn Shire is known for its progressive and proactive communities walking their talk. The forests, bushlands, and rich agricultural land define our identity and connect us to each other. It is also what draws visitors to the Shire. Tourism contributes over \$106 million annually¹ to the Shire’s economy and is also one of our largest employing sectors. *Sustainable Hepburn* recognises that although we depend on our ecosystems and biodiversity for life, they are vulnerable to the choices we make. We are pushing our natural systems; our waterways, plants and animals, and forests - beyond their ability to cope. Therefore, it is increasingly important to achieve a balance between people and place.

The Traditional Owners of the Hepburn Shire, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung People), have lived on their traditional lands and cared for Djandak (Country) over many thousands of years.



¹ Attachment-8-Hepburn-Shire-Events-Strategy-2020-2025-Separate.pdf

What is Sustainable Hepburn?

Sustainable Hepburn is a new strategy referenced in Council's 2021-25 Council Plan.

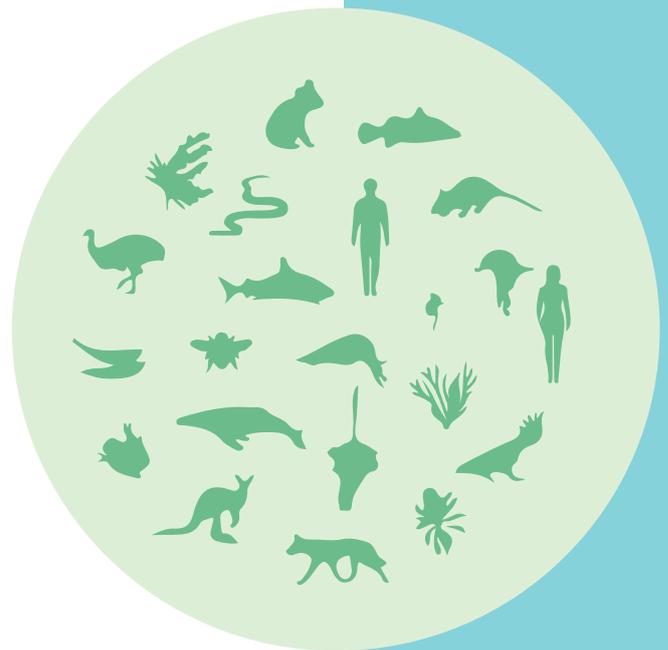
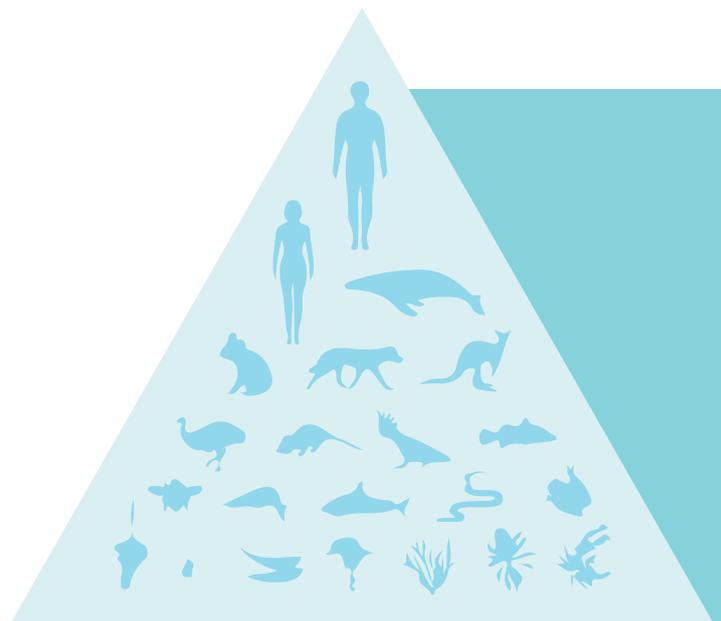
It falls under Focus Area 1: A resilient, sustainable and protected environment.

Sustainable Hepburn is Hepburn Shire Council's updated commitment to environmental sustainability. Sustainable Hepburn acknowledges the interconnected relationship between many facets of environmental sustainability and proposes action on four key themes. Each theme shares elements of crossover which other, providing an opportunity for deeper collaboration and partnership both within Council and between Council and the community.

This shift in mindset requires us to work in new and different ways. Sustainability is no longer the sole responsibility of a specific person or department. To regenerate and heal our natural environment requires a huge collective effort; new governance structures that break down silos, facilitates genuine accountability and reviews and improves systems and processes that no longer serve our ambitions.

Together in partnership, we believe we can make a difference to a more sustainable Hepburn.

Sustainable Hepburn is Hepburn Shire Council's updated commitment to environmental sustainability.



If design and planning processes consider natural systems that include people, animals, resources, and plants equally – similar to an Indigenous world view – this would make a significant contribution to a more sustainable future world.

Human-centred or Country-centred: Image: Diagram adapted from German architect Steffen Lehmann, Eco v Ego diagram 2010

| |  <p>BEYOND ZERO EMISSIONS</p> |  <p>BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</p> |  <p>LOW WASTE</p> |  <p>CLIMATE RESILIENCE</p> |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Sustainable Hepburn themes | <p>Achieve and maintain beyond zero net emissions from council activities by installing and purchasing renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, designing for local climates, offsetting where appropriate and providing options for low fossil fuel-based activities</p> | <p>Protect and enhance biodiversity values across the Shire through restoration of natural environmental values, appropriate land use, knowledge sharing, and improved capacity of Council</p> | <p>Reduce waste to landfill, increase and improve recycling and extend services across the Shire for reuse of materials and develop circular economy opportunities</p> | <p>Council's infrastructure, services and the community can adapt to the impacts of a changing climate, know what actions to take in extreme weather, are more informed about climate risk and water is valued as a vital natural resource</p> |

Why Sustainable Hepburn?

Climate change impacts and biodiversity loss are two of the most important challenges and risks for human societies.

We are in a climate emergency (Hepburn Shire Council declared a climate emergency in 2019) and at the time of writing, climate scientists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts.

Waste produced by our society has traditionally been treated in landfill sites, generating methane and contaminating soil and water if not managed properly. The prevalent throw away culture means that humans as a rule, live beyond their planetary footprint. If everyone around the world lived as Australians do, we would need 4.48 Earths to sustain us.

The impact humans are making on the planet is contributing to an uncertain future, which is where climate resilience comes in. We need to improve our resilience to a changing climate, to reduce not only the likelihood but also the consequence of negative impacts.

Hepburn Shire is home to some of Victoria's most biodiverse forests, deep volcanic soils, receiving such high annual rainfall making this region one of the most ecologically and agriculturally productive areas in our state. Our region is an important refugia for biodiversity in a warming and drying climate.

Walking our talk and rolling our sleeves up for a more sustainable Hepburn has so many benefits. By thinking global and acting local, we can cherish where we live, create a stronger local economy, respect and celebrate our community and demonstrate to future generations that we care.



Trentham Falls

What we have achieved to date

Sustainable Hepburn builds on efforts to date and updates three major Council strategies:

- ▶ Waste Management and Resource Strategy 2014-21
- ▶ Biodiversity strategy 2018-21
- ▶ Towards Zero Emissions Roadmap 2017-21

Some highlights of sustainability in action to date



Beyond Zero emissions

Hepburn Shire Council mandated carbon neutrality from Council operations in 2021 which is soon to be achieved through renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon offsets. In early 2022, the Hepburn Shire community reached 42% renewable energy use in comparison to the state average of 29%. Hepburn Shire is home to Hepburn Z-NET, a collaborative partnership bringing together community groups, organisations, experts and Council to shift the Hepburn Shire to zero-net energy by 2025 and zero net emissions by 2030. The Z-NET Community Transition Plan was endorsed by Council in 2018.

Council has retrofitted streetlighting 'Lighting the regions with LED technology making significant cost savings and awarded \$67,000 over the past two years to local community emissions reductions projects through the Towards Zero Community Grants program. In partnership Council has rolled out Hepburn Solar Bulk Buy, Solar Savers and the public Electric vehicle fast charger rollout.



Natural environment and biodiversity

Council has made good progress on the 33 actions in the 2018 Biodiversity strategy including many that are recurrent or under implementation. This includes oversight of the Roadside Weed and Pest Plant funding allowing a structured approach to weed control on biodiverse roadsides, partnered in developing Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife training mentors for wildlife gardening advice, implementing an annual grants program for local groups conducting biodiversity actions and provided expert reviews to Council's statutory planning process.



Low waste

Council initiated an organics collection trial in Clunes from March 2021 where residential properties have been provided with a 120L bin for organics (food scraps and garden materials) collected weekly. The organic material collected in Clunes is processed via in-vessel compost units located at Creswick transfer station. The trial has been successful with respondents self-reporting a 41% reduction in their landfill bin. A Waste Education Officer was recruited in 2019 to work with schools, community and businesses to reduce waste to landfill and maximise effective recycling practices and with a Community Reference Group, developed the Hepburn Shire salvaging guidelines.



Climate resilience

To date Council have not had a formalised approach to climate resilience. There are however programs aimed at improving climate resilience for council buildings, developments within the Shire and building community resilience to climate change impacts such as extreme weather. The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance has been funded to plan community batteries across the Hepburn Shire as part of the State Government's Neighbourhood Battery Initiative, and Council and Hepburn Energy were successful in their submission for funding (from the Adapt Grampians Grants Program 2021-22) to leverage and expand on the Hepburn Z-NET mitigation model to develop an approach to climate change adaptation.

To read more about work progressed to date, the global to local context of why we need a sustainable Hepburn and more, read the full version of the Sustainable Hepburn strategy 2022-26.

STRATEGIC THEMES – OPPORTUNITIES & ACTION PLANS



Recommendations from the Sustainable Hepburn CRG

Strategy term

The CRG recommended the Sustainable Hepburn strategy term be from 2022 (i.e., initiated in 2022/23) through to 2026/27 (i.e. 4 years).

Form an ongoing Sustainable Hepburn CRG or Advisory Committee to keep building community participation and agency throughout the Shire.

There were at least nine members from the CRG who are interested in being included in an ongoing *Sustainable Hepburn* CRG to meet up at agreed intervals throughout the strategy lifecycle.

The momentum to keep the work of the CRG could take the form of a community champions model which will help to engage additional community members who would like to be involved in the implementation of the *Sustainable Hepburn* Strategy.

Create a Sustainable Hepburn hub/portal and make it easy for the community to connect into it.

CRG Members have made it clear that the community is poised and ready to act however what is lacking is clear communication on how to get involved, where to share information, what actions need doing, and who is leading various efforts. There is an opportunity for Council to create a reliable “one stop shop” where information can flow in and out of. New community members can be directed to the hub to register interest, offer skills, and contribute ideas. This does not need to be a physical hub; it could exist on a digital platform.

Sustainable Hepburn Overarching actions

There are a suite of actions relating to each theme around “embedding sustainability and climate change awareness and action within council culture”, “governance for implementing the strategy”, “communication,” and “community involvement”. Having a series of actions that sit in an “overarching action” would assist in articulating the synergy between strategic themes and raising the profile of such actions within the finalised strategy.

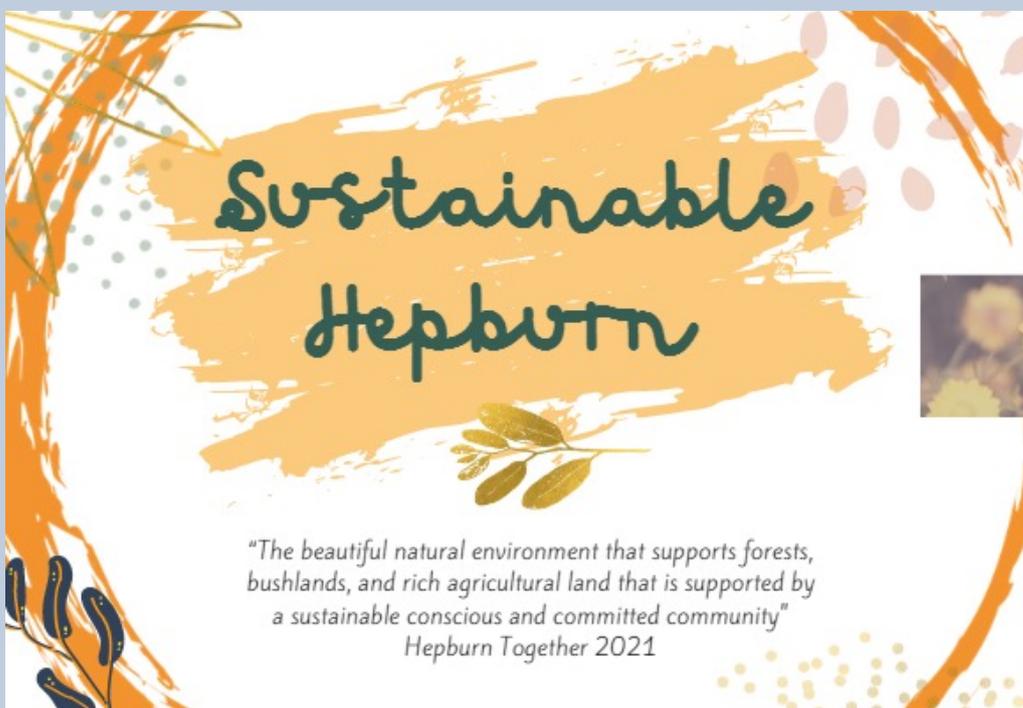
Overarching Sustainable Hepburn Opportunities and action plan

Given the interconnecting nature of the four Sustainable Hepburn themes and the recommendation above, there are opportunities and actions that speak to all themes, enabling co-benefits and deeper outcomes.

Most of these relate to embedding environmental sustainability and climate change understanding, awareness and action into Council culture, investment and decision making.

The objectives guiding the overarching *Sustainable Hepburn* actions include:

- Ensure all decisions are made through a sustainability and climate change lens
- Ensure good planning / governance for implementation of *Sustainable Hepburn* actions
- Incentivise sustainability and climate action for local businesses and the community.





ORTO Farm, Blampied - Low emissions and climate resilient home



| Sustainable Hepburn THEME | OBJECTIVES | ACTIONS (How we will achieve the outcomes) | WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? | COUNCIL'S ROLE - Deliver - Partner - Facilitate | PROJECT PARTNERS i.e. Business community | TIMELINE (year) | | | | Related Sustainable Hepburn theme |
|---------------------------|------------|---|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |

SUSTAINABLE HEPBURN OVERARCHING ACTIONS

Ensure all decisions are made through a sustainability and climate change lens

Develop a HSC Sustainability and Climate Change (emergency) policy

A Sustainability and climate change policy is developed, adopted, and embedded in all operations by Council in 2022. Subsequent framework is applied to 80% of council decisions

Deliver Partner

Djaara

x x

All themes

Embed the Sustainability and Climate Change Policy into the HSC Planning Scheme

Everywhere you look within Shire you see sustainable property development occurring and the green urban spaces increasing

Amend HSC Planning Scheme to incentivise development applications which address Sustainable Building Design and Rain & Greywater harvesting/reuse

Deliver and partner

DELWP Djaara

x x x x

All themes

Embed sustainability and climate change into council decision making processes.

Develop a Sustainability / Climate change Decision Making Framework to assist council officers and Councillors to consider implications of decisions on climate change.

Embed into council processes such as council reports, budget development and capital works projects.

80% of all council reports and capital works bids are assessed per year against decision making framework by end of 2023.

Deliver

Djaara

x x x x

All themes

Build a council culture that recognises climate change action and sustainability as a priority.

Develop and deliver climate emergency capacity building program to all council staff (include Djaara Cultural Values)

Councillors and Executive, model behaviours by applying the framework, always questioning and enunciating consequences of decisions and actions. Require senior staff to do the same.

80% of all council staff attend training by 2023

Deliver

Djaara

x x x x

All themes

Ensure good planning / governance for implementation of Sustainable Hepburn actions

Create and maintain a Sustainable Hepburn Steering Committee within Hepburn Shire Council with representation of each Department responsible for actions to aid collaboration and momentum in implementing actions

Sustainable Hepburn Steering Committee is established with Terms of Reference in place before September 2022

Deliver

x x x x

Create and maintain an external Sustainable Hepburn community Advisory Committee to assist community support, involvement and partnership towards a sustainable Hepburn

Sustainable Hepburn Community Advisory Committee is established with Terms of Reference in place before September 2022

Deliver Facilitate

Community and community sectors

x x x x

SUSTAINABLE HEPBURN OVERARCHING ACTIONS

| Sustainable Hepburn THEME | OBJECTIVES | ACTIONS (How we will achieve the outcomes) | WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? | COUNCIL'S ROLE - Deliver - Partner - Facilitate | PROJECT PARTNERS i.e. Business community | TIMELINE (year) | | | | Related Sustainable Hepburn theme |
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| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| | <p>Incentivise sustainability and climate action for local businesses and the community.</p> <p>Increase the profile of Hepburn Shire as a "sustainable destination" and encourage businesses in the area to do more to reduce impact of climate change, adapt to the challenges climate change will present</p> | <p>Create the annual or bi-annual Sustainable Hepburn awards to celebrate achievements made in projects and actions taken by various sectors across the Shire (i.e., business, community, education).</p> <p>The scope of the awards would be the four themes of the Sustainable Hepburn strategy. Sponsorship would be sought from partners to financially assist the awards program.</p> | 25 applications to the awards | <p>Deliver</p> <p>Facilitate</p> | <p>Sustainability Victoria</p> <p>Sponsorship partners to be defined</p> <p>Djaara</p> | x | x | x | | All themes |
| | <p>Create a Sustainable Hepburn Community Grants program to support the community and others to act on the Sustainable Hepburn themes.</p> | 50 applications for grants | <p>Hepburn Energy</p> | <p>Sustainability Victoria</p> <p>Hepburn Energy</p> | x | x | | | | All themes |
| | <p>Work with the local tourism industry to reduce impact and build greater resilience to climate change, so that Hepburn is viewed a leader in the field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate sustainability certification schemes (using criteria based around Sustainable Hepburn themes) of holiday accommodation and tourism activities. Liaise with Daylesford Macedon Tourism (DMT) on delivering a series of events to assist tourism businesses to reducing impact and adapting to climate change impacts. | Sustainability Certification is highly sought after with 60% of businesses in Shire registering | <p>Deliver</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Facilitate</p> | <p>Daylesford Macedon Tourism</p> | | x | x | x | | All themes |

Beyond zero emissions

Opportunities and action plan



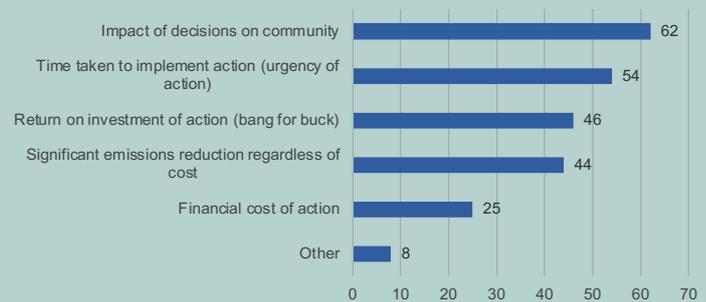
This theme will focus on priorities and actions that will reduce Council’s corporate emissions to net zero and beyond. Seven objectives have been developed to guide actions for a Beyond zero emissions council:

- 1 Transition Hepburn Shire to a Circular Economy
- 2 Reduce Council transport emissions and enable electric vehicle uptake across the shire
- 3 Reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency of Council buildings and assets, and support the improvement of residential and business building stock
- 4 Increase renewable energy & storage capacity for Council operations and support the Hepburn Z-NET Community Transition Plan
- 5 Sequester carbon locally
- 6 Amplify emissions reductions impact through effective partnering at local, regional state level and beyond
- 7 Tell the story of a Beyond Zero Shire to inspire and involve the Hepburn community and beyond.

Broad community feedback that relates to this theme includes:

- Community provided suggestions for renewable energy and suggested ways to increase energy efficient buildings and infrastructure.

What criteria should Council use to prioritise actions and make decisions to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions?



Beyond Zero emissions council

What is a beyond zero emissions council?
 Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions generated and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. We believe Hepburn Shire Council's emissions can be reduced even further and those remaining, offset by carbon capture activities (i.e. tree planting). To do this we need to phase out of our use of fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – and transition to renewable energy.

Why is it important?
 Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

We can do this by:

- using renewable energy
- designing for our local climate
- energy efficiency
- offsetting emissions
- low fossil fuel based activities

Sustainable Hepburn



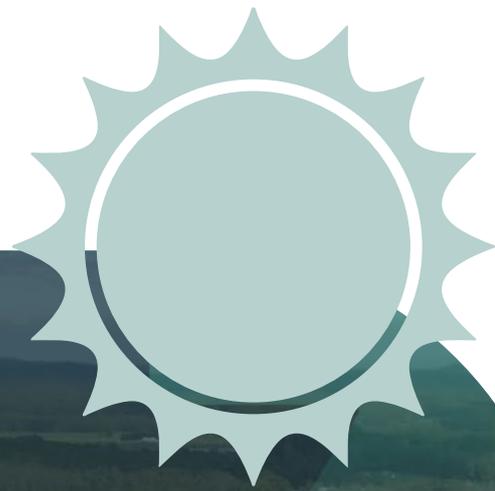
What community and strategy partners can do

▶ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Participate in [Hepburn Z-NET](#) programs and ambitions to contribute to Hepburn Shire reaching zero-net energy by 2025 and zero-net emissions by 2030
- Retrofit homes with energy efficient appliances and fixtures; install solar panels and batteries through programs like Solar Savers (zero interest loans for solar), or the Hepburn Solar Bulk Buy; and progressively remove gas appliances

Advocate for:

- Strong Victorian Renewable Energy Targets
- All local renewable energy projects to be community partnerships (i.e. with local community ownership)
- Finance products and options for low-income households to gain access to renewable energy and housing upgrades
- Minimum Energy Performance Standards - including for rental properties
- Partnerships with housing agencies rental housing
 - ▶ Minimum Energy Performance Standards



znet
HEPBURN SHIRE

Take action on climate change

- 01 Home**
Learn about Hepburn Shire household emissions and how Z-NET can help to reduce them.
[Learn more →](#)
- 02 Farm**
Learn about Hepburn Shire farming emissions and how Z-NET can help to cut them.
[Learn more →](#)
- 03 School**
Learn how Z-NET is helping Hepburn Shire schools take action on climate change.
[Learn more →](#)
- 04 Work**
Learn about business sector emissions and how Z-NET can help your workplace to reduce these.
[Learn more →](#)
- 05 Visit**
Learn about Hepburn Shire tourism emissions and how you can make your trip more sustainable.
[Learn more →](#)
- 06 Community**
Learn how community groups are leading the change in the Hepburn Shire.
[Learn more →](#)

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|---------------------------|------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |



Beyond Zero Emissions

Transition Hepburn Shire to a Circular Economy

Develop a circular economy framework and implementation roadmap for the Hepburn Shire

Research and development into circular economy models and opportunities for local application providing outputs such as a circular economy framework, local case studies and a roadmap to lay the foundation for on-ground projects in partnership with local stakeholders.

Deliver
Partner
Facilitate

Council teams – EcoDev, Artisan Agriculture, Waste & Resource Recovery, Sustainability.
Business community
Local community
Other LGAs and regional partners
Sustainability Victoria
Hepburn Energy

x x



Integrate circular economy principles across Council operations

Knowledge sharing and capacity building workshops held across Council resulting in a cross-Council working group to progress circular economy opportunities.

Deliver

HSC
Hepburn Energy

x x x x



Work with local and regional stakeholders to deliver circular economy outcomes

Partnership project that establishes strong collaboration locally and with our regional and other partners to build capacity, innovation, and on-ground activities to strengthen our circular economy.

Deliver
Partner
Facilitate

Business community
Local community
Sustainable Victoria / Vic Gov
Circular Economy Victoria
Ellen MacArthur Foundation
Hepburn Energy

x x



Reduce Council transport emissions and enable electric vehicle uptake across the shire

Develop HSC Fleet Transition Plan to Zero Emissions Vehicles

A comprehensive Fleet Transition Plan for all 140+ Council vehicles including heavy and plant.
Exploration of options for reducing emissions in existing heavy vehicles while viable replacements are not available – ie. Carbon reduced or carbon neutral fuels, behaviour change program for drivers.

Deliver
Partner

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)
Greenhouse Alliance & Climate Emergency Australia national network of Councils
Climate Council/Cities Power Partnership
Other LGAs
State Government
Federal Government
ARENA
University sector

x



Replace Council Pool Fleet (light passenger vehicles) with electric vehicles (EVs) by 2025

Replace shared vehicle fleet with light passenger EVs, enabling multiple Council teams to utilize EVs, showing leadership and reducing running costs while reducing carbon emissions and local pollution levels.

Deliver

State Government
Federal Government
Local partners such as CVGA for a bulk buy

x x x x



Enable electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the Shire

An effective network of EV charging stations installed across Hepburn to stimulate uptake and support Council, community and visitors using EVs.

Deliver
Partner

Hepburn Z-NET
Vic Gov
Business community
Hepburn Energy

x x x x



Beyond Zero Emissions

Reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency of Council buildings and assets and support the improvement of residential and business building stock.

Develop a Carbon Neutral Buildings Plan.
(Or a BERP – Buildings Emissions Reduction Plan)

A clear plan for reducing emissions and building performance across Council assets to complement existing activities.

Deliver

Sustainability Victoria

x



Build capacity within the local community to deliver a range of sustainable buildings and services locally.

Partner with local and other stakeholders to provide training and practical experience across a range of vital sustainable buildings and energy efficiency areas such as energy audits, ecologically sustainable design, retrofitting and strategic planning.

Deliver
Partner
Facilitate

x x x x



Reduce energy consumption and transition from gas.

Commonly utilized buildings management practices and a reduction of gas-powered heating, cooking, and hot water units in Council buildings.

Deliver
Partner
Facilitate

Internal teams – assets, facilities etc.
Local community groups and businesses leasing buildings from Council.

x x x x



Pilot program to improve residential homes to 10-star rating.

Deliver small pilot to retrofit approximately 10 residential properties to a 10-star building performance rating.

Deliver
Partner
Facilitate

x x



Increase renewable energy & storage capacity for Council operations and support the Hepburn Z-NET Community Transition Plan.

Continue to explore energy storage and distributed energy generation options across Council operations.

Council increases renewable energy generation capacity, adds storage capacity and works with other council units around opportunities such as waste to energy projects.

Deliver
Partner

Business community
CVGA
Victorian and Federal Govs

x x x x



Support Hepburn Z-NET to reach its 2025 goal of net-zero emissions from energy use Shire-wide.

Continue to partner with the community on the Hepburn Z-NET project.

Partner
Facilitate

Hepburn Community
Business community
Vic/Fed Govs
Hepburn Energy

x x x x

Sequester carbon locally.

Develop a local carbon sequestration (in-setting) and carbon off-setting strategy.

Endorsed carbon sequestration strategy in place.

Deliver

Universities & NRM sector, Parks Vic & DELWP
Djaara consultation in strategy development

x x



Djaara consultation in strategy development

Partner and support local in-setting projects that sequester carbon within the Hepburn Shire.

Local carbon farming projects occurring that Council can partner in or support.
Revegetation (using indigenous provenances of native flora) of local areas, riparian ecosystems, and degraded crown land.

Partner
Facilitate

Hepburn Z-NET
Regional partners such as other LGAs, Water Authorities, Landcare, local farmers, universities, state and federal govt.

x x x x

Biochar pilot: Collection, conversion to biochar and local sequestration of 'waste' timber biomass from agricultural sector and other available sources within the Shire.

A program in place to support the creation of biochar and addition of the biochar resource to local farming and residential properties.

Partner
Facilitate

Agricultural sector, DELWP

x



Explore a carbon credit system to encourage local farmers and other groups to increase soil carbon and/or plant trees.

Increased levels of locally sequestered carbon occurring across the Shire and the region.

x





Beyond Zero Emissions

| Sustainable Hepburn THEME | OBJECTIVES | ACTIONS (How we will achieve the outcomes) | WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? | COUNCIL'S ROLE - Deliver - Partner - Facilitate | PROJECT PARTNERS i.e. Business community | TIMELINE (year) | | | | Related Sustainable Hepburn theme |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Beyond Zero Emissions | Amplify emissions reductions impact through effective partnering at local, regional state level and beyond. | Council leadership and support for communications initiatives, not limited to developing and implementing a consistent emissions accounting methodology to calculate and report publicly Council's emissions every 12 months. | Effective monitoring and evaluation of HSC emissions Council reports on its annual emissions from operations in an accurate and transparent manner every 12 months. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Local community groups Business community CVGA Cities Power Partnership Climate Emergency Australia Local media outlets | x | | | | |
| | | Ensure sufficient resourcing within Council to ensure capacity to deliver matches ambition. | Additional staffing resources to deliver the HSC sustainability and climate action program and partnerships with the Hepburn community. | Deliver | | x | | | | |
| | Tell the story of a Beyond Zero Shire to inspire and involve the Hepburn community and beyond. | Develop an effective communications and engagement strategy for a Beyond Zero Emissions Shire and Sustainable Hepburn more broadly. | Empower local people to tell the story by increasing collaboration and engagement with the Hepburn Shire community, generating inclusivity and participation in Council initiatives and Community-Council partnerships such as Hepburn Z-NET. Strengthened local media outlets. | | Hepburn Community & Djaara Sustainability groups Hepburn Z-NET Business community | x | | | | |
| | | Sustainable Hepburn Day – an annual event bringing together the many groups and individuals the make Hepburn a sustainable Shire. | Wide participation from Community, Council, and local businesses to provide updates on progress, build capacity and knowledge, and celebrate our successes. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Hepburn Community & Djaara Sustainability groups Hepburn Z-NET Business community Hepburn Energy | | x | | | |



Natural environment and biodiversity

Opportunities and action plan

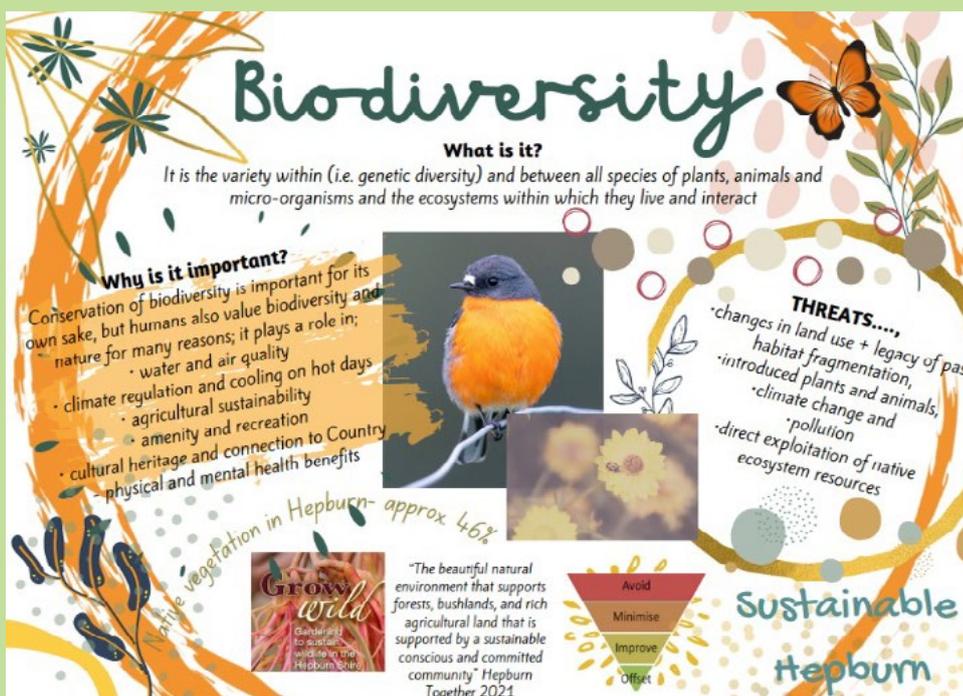


This theme focuses on priorities and actions that protect and enhance biodiversity values across the Shire. Seven objectives have been developed to drive action for the Natural environment and biodiversity theme:

- 1 Ensure good planning / governance of biodiversity actions
- 2 Prioritise protection of existing biodiversity & habitat on both Council controlled and private land
- 3 Increase extent, connectivity & integration of natural ecosystems
- 4 Identify & reduce threats to biodiversity
- 5 Improve Council's and community's connection to and understanding of biodiversity
- 6 Strengthen connection to DJAARA
- 7 Promote and increase access to expert advice on Agrobiodiversity, Agroforestry and ecologically-informed sustainable management of privately held native forests.

Broad community feedback that relates to this theme includes:

- Natural environment and biodiversity were the second highest rated priority, next to waste, for community members
- Participants in the individual online survey ranked actions in order of importance with "better management of roadsides and reserves to reduce threat posed by environmental weeds" as a top priority
- People agreed with actions to manage weeds and protect the natural environment
- Balancing future growth with the preservation of heritage and environment
- Supporting community actions and awareness
- Support for Landcare grants program





What community and strategy partners can do

▶ to protect and enhance biodiversity:

- Assist Traditional Owners to manage public land and deliver natural and cultural resource management strategies on Country
- Get to know your local native species of flora and fauna (see [Grow Wild](#) and [Wombat Native Plants](#))
- Create Wildlife friendly Gardens to attract pollinators and create habitat for native animals
- Avoid removal of native vegetation on your property
- Farmers to increase native vegetation on farms and consider how new vegetation corridors can be linked to existing remnant vegetation on your property and neighbouring properties
- Volunteer in a Landcare group (or similar) and tree planting programs to restore habitats and repair landscape health
- Advocate for increased native vegetation on public land to support threatened species habitat
- Advocate for more native revegetation along waterways to improve habitat for local fauna, decrease nutrient loads and decrease sedimentation in waterways



| Sustainable Hepburn THEME | OBJECTIVES | ACTIONS (How we will achieve the outcomes) | WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? | COUNCIL'S ROLE - Deliver - Partner - Facilitate | PROJECT PARTNERS i.e. Business community | TIMELINE (year) | | | | Related Sustainable Hepburn theme |
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Natural Environment & Biodiversity

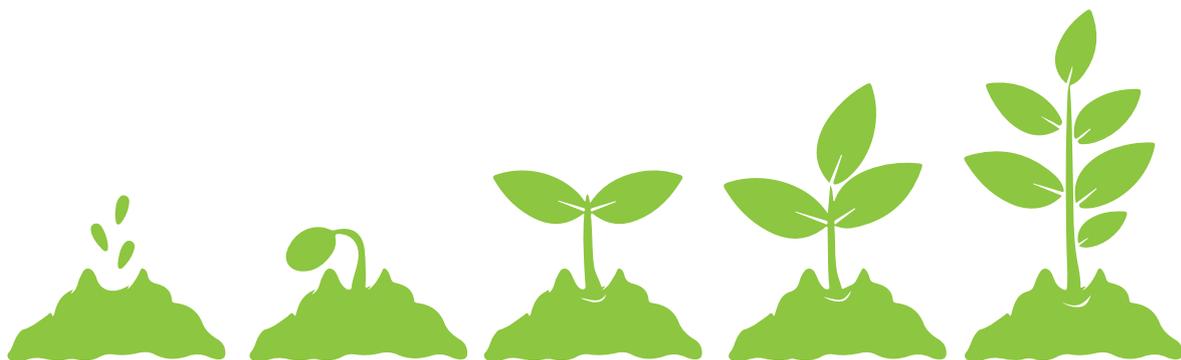
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| Ensure good planning / governance of biodiversity actions | Update Hepburn Council Biodiversity Strategy every 4 years with minor review annually | Improved proportion of biodiversity actions/outcomes achieved compared 2018-2021 Biodiversity Strategy as identified in June 2022 evaluation | Deliver | DJAARA Landcare & other community groups NCCMA Academics | x | x | x | x | | |
| | | Strategy is distributed & has broad public awareness | Deliver | Public – draft consultation process | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Develop & implement a monitoring & evaluation plan. Report annually to Council & the public. | Monitoring plan developed Annual reports delivered to Council and public | Deliver | | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Council review policies and procedures on enforcement regarding biodiversity protection | Review of policy and procedure conducted, and improvements implemented | Deliver | DELWP | | x | x | | | |
| | Supply significant biodiversity data gathered as part of council activities and projects to state government biodiversity databases | Increased Records of threatened or significant species on Victorian Biodiversity Atlas | Deliver | DELWP | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Prioritise protection of existing biodiversity & habitat on both Council controlled and private land | Encourage protection of large old trees on private and Council managed land in urban and rural areas | Significant Tree Register is updated and maintained | Deliver | DJAARA Landholders Council workers Parks Engineering DELWP | | x | | | |
| | | | Significant Trees and Large old trees considered in Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) | Deliver | | | | x | | |
| | | | Significant Tree register and VPOs are used strategically to avoid loss of large old tree loss | Facilitate and Deliver | | x | x | x | x | |
| | | Establish Hepburn Environment Fund to progress currently unfunded works | Fund established and promoted and funds available to initiate identified projects | Facilitate, Partner | Community | | x | x | x | |
| | | Pursue funding opportunities to accelerate and leverage council and community investment | Increase in grant-funded works | Deliver, Partner | DELWP | | | | | |
| Continue Council's Community Biodiversity and Landcare grants to community | | Eligible projects continue to be fully subscribed and successfully implements | Deliver, Partner | Community groups | x | x | x | x | | |
| Improve Council capacity for prompt and effective enforcement of illegal vegetation removal | | Reduced illegal clearing due to increased awareness of greater risk of enforcement | | Facilitate | | | x | | | |
| | | Increased officer time, skill, and equipment available to follow up reports | | Deliver | | | | | | |
| | Greater visibility of enforcement action | | Deliver | | | | | | | |
| Mapping of biodiversity features under township structure planning processes | Flora and Fauna Assessments completed for major towns | | Deliver | | x | x | | | | |
| Shire-wide mapping of biodiversity features of relevance to planning | Mapping conducted and included as reference document to Environmental Significance Overlays | | Deliver | DELWP, Community | | x | x | | | |

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Natural Environment & Biodiversity

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| Increase extent, connectivity & integration of natural ecosystems | Develop a Landscape Connectivity Plan and biolink overlay in planning scheme that prioritises & places additional protections on biodiversity | Landscape Connectivity Plan | Partner Deliver | DJAARA, NCCMA, ARI, Landcare | x | x | | | | |
| | | Biolink Overlay (ESO) in Planning Scheme | | | | x | x | | | |
| | | Implementation of Plan actions | | | | | | | x | |
| Identify & reduce threats to biodiversity | Develop Weed & Pest Management Strategies | Weed Management Strategy completed to include below outcomes | Deliver | Ag Vic, Landcare Community, DELWP/PV | | x | | | | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical minimisation demonstrated Increased education/compliance regarding landowner obligations under CALP ACT Fire protection notices under CFA ACT to reduce weed infestations that create a fire risk A minimum of hectare/kms of road to treated annually for environmental weeds. Owners of pine plantations to be made responsible for supervised and careful removal of pine trees which have spread beyond their boundaries. Council Involve local people and visitors in weeding specific areas Audit of current weed control measures conducted Increase grant application for weed control works Develop/promote options for legal disposal of noxious weeds | Deliver | Parks Victoria | | x | x | x | | |
| | | Pest Management Strategy | Deliver | Ag Vic, Landcare Community, DELWP/PV | | x | | | | |
| | | Cat curfew, with associated education and enclosure incentives | Deliver, Facilitate | Community | | x | | | | |
| | | Collation of accessible online advice on biodiversity threats and actions. | Deliver | Community groups Academics Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife | x | x | x | x | | |
| Improve Council's and community's connection to and understanding of biodiversity. | Increase information resources and biodiversity engagement that builds community capacity in particular the results of activities. | Regular social media/newsletter including reporting of project results that is archived to online resources. | Deliver | Community groups Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife | x | x | x | x | | |
| | | Increase in face-to-face workshops/events. | Deliver | Community groups Hepburn Gardens for Wildlife | x | x | x | x | | |



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Natural Environment & Biodiversity

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| Strengthen connection to DJAARA | Promote awareness about DJAARA approaches to and knowledge of biodiversity ('All Bunjil's creations') through online resources, media and events. | Increased awareness and support for DJAARA priorities in land management | Partner | DJAARA Community Groups | x | x | x | x | |
| | | Re-naming of places/ features with cultural and usually ecological significance | Partner | DJAARA RAP Committee Community | | | | | |
| | | Increase in environments where Dja Dja Wurrung identify that they as First Peoples and murrup ('spirits') feel safe. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Everyone | x | x | x | x | |
| | Broaden Council and community relationship and interaction with DJAARA | Increased numbers of Hepburn Council staff, community and Dja Dja Wurrung people identifying they have an active and healthy relationship | Deliver | DJAARA RAP Committee | x | x | x | x | |
| | | Number of engagements with DJANDAK business | Partner | DJANDAK | x | x | x | x | |
| | Have Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural priorities recognised in biodiversity management decision making | DJAARA involved in Strategic Planning processes | Partner | DJAARA | x | x | x | x | |
| Promote and increase access to expert advice on Agrobiodiversity, Agroforestry and ecologically-informed sustainable management of privately held forests | Employ an Agroecology Officer to support all scales of farming that promotes and sustainably uses biodiversity | Agroecology Officer employed and number of interactions with farmers and groups | Deliver | AFSA VFF | | x | | | |
| | Support more diverse, heritage seed & breed | Survey community re seed & breed use to determine baseline and follow up to measure increase | Deliver | Artisan Ag Project Seed Savers Garden societies RBTA AFSA | x | | | | |
| | Support local farm forestry workshops | Deliver workshop on Agroforestry / ecologically informed sustainable forest management for private landowners | Deliver | North Central Catchment Management Authority University of Melbourne Australian Forest Growers | x | | | | |
| | Investigate interest in local chapter of Farm Forest Growers that includes native forest management | Baseline assessment of forest management needs in Shire conducted including interest in establishing a Local Farm Forest Growers group. | Facilitate | Australian Forest Growers North Central Catchment Management Authority | | x | | | |
| | Develop resource base for farm forestry and native forest management | Production of an online resource including planning issues. Private landowners have increased knowledge of ecologically informed forest management. | Deliver | North Central Catchment Management Authority University of Melbourne Australian Forest Growers | | x | x | | |

Glossary

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| AFSA | Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance |
| CALP act | Catchment and Land Protection act. Purposes include; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sets up a framework for the integrated management and protection of catchments;• to encourage community participation in the management of land and water resources;to set up a system of controls on noxious weeds and pest animals; (includes designation of noxious weed controls) |
| DBH | Diameter at Breast height – standard measurement of trunk circumference (1.3m) |
| DELWP | Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning |
| GBF | Global Biodiversity Framework |
| GMW | Goulburn Murray Water Manages water related services in a region by the Great Dividing Range in the south and the River Murray in the north |
| NCCMA | North Central Catchment Management Authority Established in 1997 under the CALP act and also has powers under the Water Act 1989. Core function is delivery of Regional Catchment Strategy; overarching strategy for all involved in land, water, and biodiversity management |
| RBTA | Rare Breeds Trust of Australia |
| RAP | Reconciliation Action Plan |
| VFF | Victorian Farmers' Federation |



A low waste Shire

Opportunities and action plan



This theme focuses on the reduction of waste to landfill as a community. Five objectives have been developed to guide actions for A low waste Shire.

- Reduce waste to landfill and make improvements to kerbside collection
- Better operating Transfer Stations
- Be part of a thriving circular economy
- Walk our talk – Council to incorporate zero waste objectives into contractual purchases and services
- Provide education and awareness to the community on transitioning to a low waste shire

Broad community feedback that relates to this theme includes:

- A low waste shire was the theme which rated as a top priority for community.
- Clear instructions on top of the bin on what can and can't be recycled
- People want actions with the biggest sustainability benefit.
- Participants offered practical solutions to minimising waste in cafes, schools, hotels, and homes
- Participants wanted to see recycling services improved and increased with more opportunities and access for reusing mater

A Low Waste Shire

What do we mean by low waste?
We can all make changes to lessen our impact on the environment by designing products and services that generate less waste, use products to create more value, supporting the reuse economy, by recycling more and well, and by managing our waste more appropriately to protect our environment from harm and pollution.

Why is this important?
Up to half the global greenhouse gas emissions stem from the extraction and processing of materials, fuels, and food. Reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting are strategies that can lessen the environmental impact of goods.

A circular economy continually seeks to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption, while enabling economic growth through more productive use of natural resources.

When food waste ends up in landfill, the bacteria helping to decompose it release methane instead of carbon dioxide. This is because there's no oxygen in the depths of a pile of landfill rubbish. Methane is 28 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, over a 100 year period.

Approximately 3,500 tonnes general waste sent to landfill each year annually. A recent audit of landfill bins showed that over 40% (2019), and up to 56% (2021) is food or garden material.

Recycling contamination (putting non-recyclables in recycle bin) = 25.8% in 2021

Sustainable Hephburn



What community and strategy partners can do

to be Low waste:

- Commercial and industrial businesses can seek new opportunities to use waste as a resource and reduce waste generation
- Avoid disposal of 'waste' materials and products by practising the 5 Rs of refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle
- Divert food and organics from landfill by using kerbside FOGO collection or backyard composting
- Avoid plastic bag shopping and single-use plastic
- Buy products with less packaging to influence suppliers
- Actively support retailers who offer take-back old products or recycling schemes for end of life consumables
- Stick to your shopping list when you go shopping to avoid buying items that may result in food waste
- Check what can go into your bins. Waste and recycling services can change. Check Council's website to make sure the right thing goes in the right bin which means more of our resources can be recovered and less goes to landfill.
- See Sustainability Victoria's website on the small acts you can take to make a big difference (<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/at-home>)



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|  Low Waste | Reduce waste to landfill and make improvements to kerbside collection | Roll out FOGO to urban areas. Investigate for rural areas. | Removal of organic material from the landfill bin | Deliver | Community and contractors | x | x | x | x |  |
| | | Remove glass from commingled recycling | Removal of glass from mixed recycling bin | Deliver | Community and contractors | x | x | x | x | |
| | | Transition to fortnightly landfill collection schedule | Reduction in waste to landfill and cost to residents for landfill service | Deliver | Community and contractors | x | x | x | x | |
| | | Trial soft plastics drop off | Residents able to drop off soft plastics at transfer stations | Deliver | Community and contractors | x | | | | |
| | | Review Clunes Hard Waste service | Provide an equitable service for all | Deliver | Community | | x | | | |
| | | Investigate alternative solutions for families with children/nappies | Reduce impact of fortnightly waste service for households with nappies | Deliver | Community | x | | | | |
| | | Review public litter bin schedule and number of bins | A solution which works under "Recycling Victoria" Clear signage on public litter bins Reduce contamination in public recycling bins | Deliver | Community | | | x | | |
| | Reduce plastic consumption in Shire | Partner with business and community and advocate for plastic free solutions | Partner | State government, Community, Traders | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Improve operations at Transfer stations | Implement Hepburn Shire Salvaging guidelines | Install signage, update website | Deliver | | x | | | | |
| | | Improve the layout and flow of our transfer stations | Traffic management plan, better signage | Deliver | | x | | | | |
| | | Review Transfer Stations hours | Transfer staff having ability to: 1. Have multiple staff on site at all times for improved safety and better customer service. 2. Access training with all staff present. 3. Have regular team meetings with all staff present | | | x | | | | |
| | | Capture more granular data of material entering the transfer stations. <i>Undertake annual waste audits to track performance and identify areas for improvement.</i> | Have access to objective data on the type of materials the move through the transfer stations. | Deliver | | | | | | |
| | | Develop best practice model for regional transfer stations | Having a best practice guide developed for regional transfer stations to strive to create. | Partner | State government Neighbouring LGAs | | | x | | |
| | | Implement changes to improve Shire tip shops | Implement better storage for saleable materials, standard pricing and a more inviting tip shop. | Deliver | | x | | | | |
| Investigate the potential for recovery of clean concrete and soil at each of the transfer stations | | Provide recycled materials locally | Deliver Partner | State government Neighbouring LGAs | | x | | |  | |

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|  Low Waste | Improve operations at Transfer stations (cont.) | Review Tip Voucher System | Design a better functioning tip voucher system | Deliver | Community | | | | | | |
| | | Minimise illegal dumping | Develop incentives and stronger penalties to discourage illegal rubbish dumping (eg: Asbestos collection sites, Paintback scheme) Less rubbish in the natural environment | Deliver Partner | | | | | |  | |
| | Lead and enable a thriving local circular economy | Investigate social enterprises at transfer stations and the opportunity for a Resource Education centre at MRF | Create an expression of interest for a resource recovery social enterprise | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Businesses Community State government | x | x | | | |  |
| | Walk our talk – Council to incorporate zero waste objectives into contractual purchases and services | Update Procurement policy to avoid purchase of disposable single use goods, minimal waste in products and packaging and waste free events | Council staff are educated and empowered to avoid waste generation through purchasing behaviour and disposal | Deliver | | | | | | | |
| | Provide education and awareness to the community on transitioning to a low waste shire | Develop schools and early-childhood initiatives to include resource recovery education | Primary and High School students receiving education and engagement on low-waste initiatives | Partner | Resource Smart Schools | x | x | x | x | | |
| | | Develop and deliver community education program | Complete council run education program and partner with community groups Waste avoidance and behaviour change campaigns for community groups, businesses, schools Educational materials for HSC website (what goes in your bins, composting / worm farms etc, Transfer Stations). Support initiatives through libraries, childcare, business and real estate agents for short term stays. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Local community groups Sustainability Victoria | x | x | x | x | |   |
| | | Re-brand Council's waste department to reframing waste as a resource | Implement branding that describes resource recovery rather than waste | Deliver | Community Hepburn Shire Council | x | | | | | |
| | | Celebrate success stories | Putting a face/name to the council team Videos from engaged members of the community | Deliver / Partner | Community Hepburn Shire Council | x | x | x | x | | |
| | | Assist community and businesses in reducing contamination | Conduct bin inspections and follow up on contaminated bins. Contaminated bin owners notified and supported to assist improvement. Regular bin audits to provide feedback. <i>Strengthen compliance for Commercial, restaurants and B&B operators to meet appropriate standards for no/low contamination in recycling, organics and landfill.</i> <i>Investigate options for rebates for households to reduce waste initiatives - such as cloth nappies, sanitary items, compost bins, textiles.</i> | Deliver/ Partner | Business Residents Hepburn Shire Council | x | x | x | x | |  |

A climate resilient Shire

Opportunities and action plan



This theme focuses on priorities and actions that will prepare Council's services, infrastructure, and the community for the impacts of a changing climate. The specific focus of this theme is to work towards achieving and maintaining:

- Greater understanding of the risk and vulnerability of council assets and service delivered to the community because of extreme weather events
- Climate proof future residential developments from avoidable emissions, extreme heat, flooding, and fire
- Water resilience and integrated water management
- Build disaster and community resilience to connect, inform and prepare communities to know what action to take in the event of extreme weather and related disasters

Members of this working group also recommended that the theme's name be changed from Climate and Water Resilience to Climate Resilience, as climate implicitly includes water.

The *Sustainable Hepburn* Community Reference Group proposed the following objectives for the Climate resilience theme:

- The Hepburn community is better connected, prepared and engaged for climate related impacts
- Hepburn Shire Council is better prepared for climate related impacts
- Re-localise Hepburn Shire: improve security of basic needs for locals from locals
- Ensure intergenerational equity of resources across Hepburn Shire

Broad community feedback that relates to this theme includes:

- Community voiced concerns over recent natural disasters and wish to better prepare the community for future events.
- Participants in the individual online survey ranked actions in order of importance with "Local renewable energy supply" as a top priority for Council to focus on to ready services and assets for the impacts of climate change.
- Actions that focus on communication and education
- Climate proof future development and infrastructure
- Water resilience and integrated water management





What community and strategy partners can do

to be climate resilient:

- Get to know your neighbours and join a local community group
 - Understand your local risks (heat, flooding, bushfire risks to name a few) and download the [VicEmergency](#) app
 - Create a climate resilient home using good solar passive design, insulate against the heat and cold (and save money on electricity)
 - Create an [emergency plan](#) and know what to do if you experience a disaster
- Learn about the origins of your food purchases and who and how it is produced
 - Grow food and create pollinator habitats within your backyard, including practicing organic and permaculture gardening techniques
 - Support local farmers and producers by buying locally and sustainably grown and produced food
 - Install water tanks and adopt water saving behaviours in your homes and businesses
 - Construct a frog pond or rain garden in your backyards
 - Businesses can increase water efficiency and/or adopt recycled water and stormwater for non-potable water uses





Climate Resilience

The Hepburn community is better connected, prepared for and engaged for future climate related impacts

Develop a Shire wide "better prepared/know your neighbour" program to build stronger local awareness and understanding of climate change impacts such as extreme weather events. This will include:

- Awareness raising workshops including scenario planning for future disasters
- Map the extent, reach and capacity of existing community services and organisations to jointly produce a working plan for climate preparedness and emergency response
- Hold community BBQs at Refuge centres
- Encourage residents to keep a phone book for contact with neighbours

Our community is empowered to face unknown climate related impacts as they have the capacity and resources to prepare for many situations

Joint community shire response plan developed by 2023

Deliver
Facilitate
Partner

ES
CFA
Forest Management
Djaara
HSC
Community Life

x x x



Develop climate resilience guidelines for future landuse and building design in a changing climate including ideas to future proof your lifestyle

Climate resilience guidelines are developed and published for the community and a workshop series is facilitated

Deliver
Partner

Z-NET

x x



Create Shire wide Community Resilience Hubs.

Community Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities that provide information and services to build resilient communities before, during, and after emergency events. As climate change brings more flooding, heat waves, and severe storms, Community Resilience Hubs will complement existing emergency response services and, communities year-round by promoting health, providing meeting spaces, educating the community about risks and emergency preparedness. Resilient power systems are a critical feature of Community Resilience Hubs since they will need to operate and provide services such as refrigeration, cell phone charging, food, water and communications during outages.

Community regularly uses CRHs to congregate to prepare for the unknown as they feel ownership and see the value in being involved

Deliver
Partner

SES
CFA
Forest Management
Djaara
HSC
Emergency Management and Community Life

x x x

Support the Community Sparks community battery project

Feasibility completed for five community battery sites in Hepburn Shire completed, work on a decision-making tool for regional communities and implementation of one trial site for scalability

Partner

CVGA

x x x



Partner in the development of the Adaptation X Z-NET program

Leverage and expand on the Hepburn Z-NET mitigation model to develop an approach to climate change adaptation that is place-based and locally appropriate

Partner
Facilitate

Hepburn Z-NET

x x x



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Climate Resilience

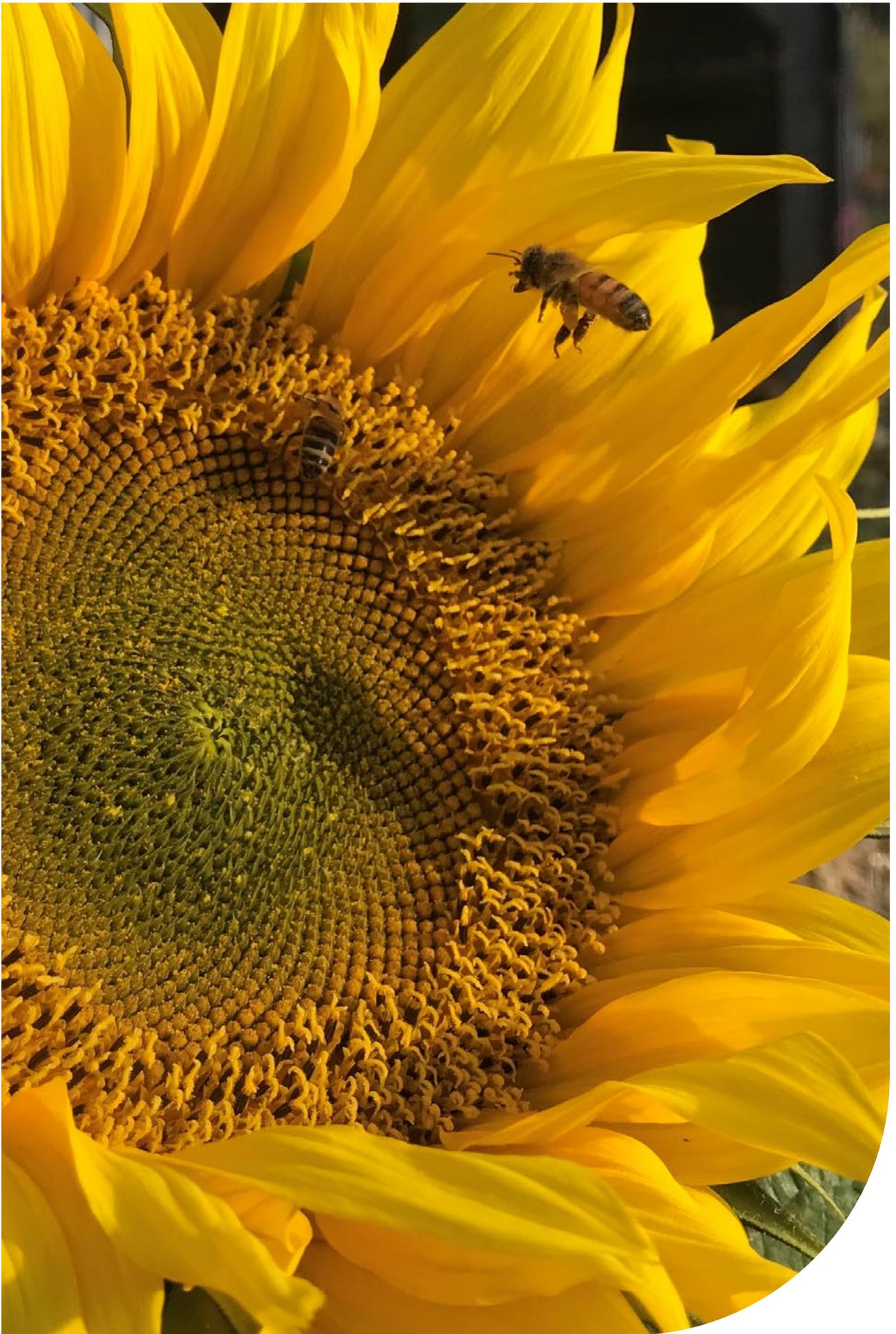
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| The Hepburn community is better connected, prepared for and engaged for future climate related impacts (cont.) | Engage telecommunications companies to build back up / spare capacity into communications systems in the event of blackouts and disasters. | Ability to communicate with each other and emergency services during major climate related events Telcos agree to increase their backup capacity at towers within HS. | Facilitate Partner | Telcos | x | x | | | |
| Hepburn Shire Council is better prepared for future climate related impacts | Undertake a vulnerability assessment on the risks to council assets and services given projections of more extreme weather. Accompany this with a risk management plan prioritising action and advocating for reduced insurance premiums. | Council assets and service delivery is resilient in the face of climate related impacts. Secure funding from State &/or Federal government to upgrade infrastructure to withstand severe weather events. | Deliver | Insurance companies | | x | x | | |
| | Work with DJAARA on flood, fire and storm mitigation practices. | Djaara practices are the norm in our flood, fire and storm mitigation demonstrating resilience and reduction in impacts Facilitate knowledge sharing between Djaara and other indigenous groups with local groups/organisations interested in learning their practices. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Djaara SES CFA VicForests | x | x | x | x | |
| | Reduce social impacts of a changing climate and extreme weather by future proofing social services such as social housing and mapping existing community groups and services identifying gaps | All Hepburn Shire residents are assured of housing, services and support to protect them from the impacts of climate change Produce a Community Group/ Service Directory Develop targets to increase social housing within the Shire. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Community Groups e.g., Good Grub Club | x | x | x | x | |
| Re-localise Hepburn Shire: improve security of basic needs for locals from locals | Improve resilience of communications systems particularly to withstand or have back up during storms or fire. | Ability to communicate with each other and emergency services during major climate related events Telcos provide a quality of service or agree to increase the backup power available to towers. | Partner | Telcos | x | x | | | |
| | Investigate local energy supplies and battery storage for reliability and back up during power outages. | 80% of energy needs of households, community centres and businesses are maintained during climate related events Engage with Powercor to determine feasibility and cost of installing community batteries within the Shire to provide power in the event of a transmission line damage, and build in grid robustness | Partner | Powercor Breaze CFA SES | x | x | x | x | |

| Sustainable Hepburn THEME | OBJECTIVES | ACTIONS (How we will achieve the outcomes) | WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? | COUNCIL'S ROLE - Deliver - Partner - Facilitate | PROJECT PARTNERS i.e. Business community | TIMELINE (year) | | | | Related Sustainable Hepburn theme |
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Climate Resilience

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| Re-localise Hepburn Shire: improve security of basic needs for locals from locals (cont.) | Ensure local food & water security before, during and post climate related events through Community Resilience Hubs being well stocked with non-perishables and water tanks. | Enough food and water supplies available for impacted community for one week post climate related event | Deliver | Local community groups Sponsors (local Coles, Blakes, IGA for non-perishable food) Sponsor water tanks for Hubs?? Or apply for grant | x | x | | | | |
| Ensure intergenerational equity of resources across Hepburn Shire | Explore the opportunity to introduce "Rights of Nature" with DJAARA | Our Shire respects our environment and has made it a legal entity ensuring protection as it is at the centre of all decisions | Deliver | Blue Mountains Shire Council (their experience of introducing 'Rights of Nature') DJAARA | x | x | x | | | |
| | Develop a local share economy to reduce the impact on lifestyle due to climate change and also to connect community with each other (link with community resilience hubs) i.e., share homes, cars, tools, food, gardens. Focus on social equity and inclusion – climate justice. This could include community to community mentoring workshops. | All shire residents have access to the same resources no matter how much they earn. | Deliver Partner | Community Groups | x | x | | | | |
| | Investigate raising revenue to invest in climate resilience actions and protect/improve the local environment (eg tourism/bed and planning/development levies) | An increased revenue stream to deliver Hepburn Shire Council Sustainability Goals | Deliver | Tourism businesses Developers | | x | x | x | | |
| | Protect Shire wide water security and align with DJAARA water policy | Everyone in shire has access to affordable high quality drinking water today and into the future. Water leaving Hepburn Shire is cleaner than it arrived. | Deliver Partner Facilitate | Djaara Water Authorities Landcare groups Cleanup Australia | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Develop and implement a climate resilience plan for greenspaces looking at ecosystem services nature provides in an urban setting to provide greater resilience to climate change impacts: - Raingardens - Shade trees, streetscapes etc - Implement greening main st plan - Restore wetlands | As we experience more drought and less rainfall our shire remains green and shaded through WSUD principles (green and blue infrastructure) designing our towns providing a haven for residents while extending nature | Deliver | Djaara Landcare groups Residents | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Ensure we value all resources that enter our Shire – we no longer refer to anything as waste, instead it is a resource and reuse/recycle/upcycle etc keeping it in the Shire | Embraced and demonstrating leadership in adopting a 'Circular Economy' within the shire to reduce waste and value it as a resource and see new businesses emerging creating local employment | Deliver Partner | Sustainability Victoria DELWP | x | x | x | x | | |
| | Integrate the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into Council's Integrated Planning Framework | Council and community better understand intergenerational equity and can apply the SDGs to live in a way that doesn't compromise future generations from having the same ability to live a thriving life. | Progressing targets within the SDGs guide Council's future investments and guide the development of future Council Plans. | Regional partnerships Djaara | | x | x | x | | |



Hepburn

SHIRE COUNCIL

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