

DRAFT

Climate Emergency Strategy

2026-2036

Plain Language Guide

Acknowledgement of Country

Brimbank City Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.



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About this guide

This document is a summary of the Draft Climate Emergency Strategy. It was written to help you learn more about the strategy.

You can read the draft Strategy online here:

https://yoursay.brimbank.vic.gov.au/download_file/1351/978

Why we are making this strategy

Climate change is already impacting Brimbank. The effects of climate change will keep getting stronger over the next 10 years. Global temperatures have already risen by around 1.1°C. Without urgent action, this increase is likely to reach 1.5°C by the early 2030s.

Brimbank City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Council recognises that it is important to take action now. We have the chance to make Brimbank healthier, fairer and stronger. The next 10 years are vital to making sure Brimbank stays strong and liveable into the future.

Brimbank faces serious risks from climate change. This includes:

- stronger and more frequent heatwaves
- flooding and storms
- higher demand for water, which also affects our ecosystems
- serious impacts on the health and wellbeing of our community.



What we want to achieve

This strategy aims to protect our community from the effects of climate change. It will help us:

- support our people to thrive and be healthy
- improve our energy and waste systems
- care for our natural environment
- be resilient towards climate impacts
- achieve our emissions targets.

Our emissions targets

Our emissions targets are when we plan to:

- be carbon neutral
- have net zero emissions.

Carbon neutral is when we can balance out the pollution we create with actions that support the environment. For example, by planting trees.

Net zero emissions is when we lower our carbon emissions by 90-95%. To have net zero emissions, we also need to balance out the rest of our carbon emissions.

Our emissions targets are to:

- **make Council's operations carbon neutral by 2030**
- **make Council's operations net zero by 2040**
- **make the community's emissions net zero by 2040.**

Our approach

This strategy combines:

- **Mitigation** – reducing carbon emissions
- **Adaptation** – getting ready for the impacts of climate change

What we have achieved so far

Since 2020, we:

- reduced Council's emissions by 78%
- reduced community emissions by about 5.58%
- use renewable power for all Council buildings through the Victorian Energy Collaboration
- use LED lighting in buildings and streetlights
- built Australia's first all renewable-powered leisure centre
- expanded green urban areas
- improved waste and energy programs.

These achievements will provide a strong base for our work over the next 10 years.



Important information on climate risks

Extreme heat

Brimbank will experience an increase in extreme heat by 2050.

This means there could be 3 to 5 times more days over 35°C. Heatwaves could increase by up to 84% by 2050. Extreme heat can cause health risks to rise, especially for groups who are at risk.

Urban heat island effect

Temperatures in Brimbank are higher than non-urban areas. This is because there is less vegetation and more concrete areas.

Flooding, drought and storms

Climate change increases the risk of flooding, drought and storms in Brimbank. Storms will become more extreme, meaning it rains more heavily. This increases the risk of floods.

Rainfall will also become less predictable. Brimbank could need to use more water. This might put pressure on our water storages.

Climate justice

Climate change affects some people more than others. For example, older people, low-income households and groups who face other barriers in the community could be more at risk.

Equity is an important part of the strategy. It means we will focus on making sure our work is fair for the people who need it.



Our role in addressing climate change

We play different roles in climate action:

- **We deliver** projects like buildings, services and infrastructure.
- **We partner** with other levels of government, community and industry.
- **We speak up** to other levels of government for stronger policies and funding.

Brimbank Council is committed to taking climate action. We also acknowledge that the Climate Emergency is a responsibility we share with our community and all levels of government.



Our five priority areas

1. Community health and wellbeing

Focus: Protect people from climate impacts, especially heat.

Key actions:

- Make community buildings cool and available to help protect people from extreme heat.
- Support communities who are more at risk from climate change.
- Work with the community and support environmental programs.
- Improve food security and encourage growing local food.

Outcome: A strong, connected and climate-prepared community.

2. Biodiversity, water and green urban areas

Focus: Use nature to cool and protect Brimbank.

Key actions:

- Create more tree cover and green spaces.
- Protect and restore biodiversity and natural habitats.
- Catch and reuse more water from rain and storms.
- Use Integrated Water Management (IWM) across Brimbank. IWM is a way to manage water that considers all parts of the water cycle. For example, how we can use rainwater on local parks.

Outcome: Cooler suburbs, healthier ecosystems, and lower flood and heat risks.

3. Buildings, infrastructure and transport

Focus: Climate-efficient urban spaces.

Key actions:

- Make more buildings energy efficient and all electric.
- Reduce the total carbon emissions created in construction. For example, carbon emissions from creating and transporting building material.
- Make it easier to walk, cycle or use public transport.
- Support people to use electric vehicles by improving infrastructure. For example, building more charging stations.

Outcome: Less carbon emissions and infrastructure that can resist climate impacts

4. Energy transition to renewables

Focus: Quickly transition to renewable energy systems.

Key actions:

- Make Council buildings and vehicles electric.
- Support homes and businesses to become more energy efficient.
- Support homes and businesses to change to electric from other power sources, such as gas.
- Improve reporting and tracking of Council's emissions.

Outcome: Less carbon emissions and more comfortable homes.

5. Local and circular economy

Focus: Reduce waste and keep materials in use.

Key actions:

- Use recycling and food and garden waste bins to reduce landfill.
- Promote repair, reuse and recycling.
- Use more recycled materials in projects.

Outcome: Lower emissions, reduced waste and a more sustainable economy.

Looking ahead

This is a 10-year strategy. It includes two reviews to make sure it is working well. The reviews will happen in 2030 and 2035.

Success of the strategy will depend on:

- strong leadership and managing risks
- support from the community and the state and federal governments
- ongoing monitoring and adaptation.



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