

Climate emergency and environment strategic framework

Declaration: Council acknowledges the 21st century as a period of climate emergency, and that this urgent crisis presents an opportunity for positive social change. Council commits to leading the Brimbank community towards a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the contemporary advice of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Community vision

By 2040, the Brimbank community will be healthy and safe and we will be united through a sense of belonging and pride. Our city will be inclusive, resilient, innovative and vibrant and our people will share equally in the City's prosperity and opportunity. The environment will be protected and enhanced and Brimbank's diverse neighbourhoods and housing will offer something for everyone.

Climate emergency strategy vision

Brimbank's community and environment is diverse, healthy and thriving. Our community and our places are resilient to the impacts of climate change and produce net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Key priority	Community health and wellbeing 	Biodiversity, water and urban greening 	Buildings, infrastructure and transport 	Energy - transition to renewables 	Local and circular economy 
Goal	We will build community resilience to address the health impacts of climate change.	We will protect, enhance and conserve nature, water and increase urban greening.	We will minimise the carbon footprint of new and existing buildings and infrastructure and prioritise low emissions and active transport.	We will improve energy efficiency, switch to all-electric and use renewable energy across council operations and support the community to do the same.	We will reduce waste and embed circular economy into council operations and community services and programs.
Why	Climate change has been described as the greatest threat to public health of the 21st century. Brimbank is one of the hottest and most disadvantaged areas in Melbourne. Climate change is affecting our community more than others - and it is getting worse.	Brimbank's natural environment, our urban parks and gardens and our water supply are crucial to building our resilience to the local effects of climate change.	Built infrastructure has a huge influence on both carbon emissions and the community capacity to adapt to a changing climate. This includes everything from buildings, roads, drainage, our streetscapes and our local transport infrastructure.	To reach net zero emissions we need to rapidly transition to renewable energy. The best way to achieve net zero is to improve energy efficiency, switch facilities to all electric, and purchase renewable energy.	Transitioning to a circular economy plays a vital role in reducing municipal emissions and transforming Brimbank into a more sustainable city. Moving away from the traditional "take-make-dispose" model, a circular economy focuses on keeping resources in use for as long as possible through reuse, recycling and repurposing.
Objectives	- Reducing Council's Climate Risk Profile. - Climate-safe havens at Council facilities. - Empower our communities to make positive environmental change. - Support food resilience in our communities. - Support Climate Justice at Brimbank - Support the community during an emergency (with partners). - Advocate for programs which support community members to make homes more resilient to heat waves and energy efficient.	- Support our local ecosystems to adapt to climate change. - Enhance Urban Greening across Brimbank. - Partner with Traditional Custodians, researchers and partner with Traditional Custodians, researchers and land managers to improve conservation and water outcomes.. - Improve Integrated Water Management - Understand and act on climate risks to blue and green infrastructure. - Empower community to become environmental stewards and contribute to improving Brimbank's natural environment.	- Transition Council Fleet to Electric Vehicles. - Implement best practice ESD standards and minimise embodied carbon in council developed infrastructure.. - Ensure our street scapes are safe, comfortable and inviting for our community to be able to walk and cycle more frequently. - Develop and invest in transport infrastructure that supports active and public transport. - Support public and active transport and reduce reliance on private vehicles. - Support the community to ensure residential homes are energy efficient resilient to climate hazards and impacts including heat, fire and flooding..	- Reduce Council emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. - Transition Council's fleet to be powered by renewables. - Improve utility data management and emissions reporting. - Reduce Community emissions to net zero. - Empower residents to actively contribute to the decarbonisation and climate adaptation of Brimbank. - Advocate to state and federal government for strong action on transition to renewables.	- Reduce the amount of landfill generated in Council Operations.. - Increase the use of recycled materials in Council operations and capital works projects. - Use civic events and procurement as an opportunity to demonstrate innovative waste-free approaches. - Complete the transition to a four-bin residential waste system and increase diversion from landfill. - Reduce contamination rates in recycling and FOGO bins. - Support residents and businesses to reduce waste generation and participate in the circular economy.
Strategic pathway	- Council Plan - We are Brimbank - Climate Emergency Strategy - Social Justice Framework	- Council Plan - We are Brimbank - Climate Emergency Strategy - Integrated Water Management Strategy - Biodiversity Strategy - Urban Forest Strategy	- Council Plan - We are Brimbank - Integrated Transport Strategy - Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy - Climate Emergency Strategy	- Council Plan - We are Brimbank - Climate Emergency Strategy - Fleet Transition Plan - Degasification Plan	- Council Plan - We are Brimbank - Waste, Recycling & Litter Strategy - Climate Emergency Strategy