



Brimbank
City Council

DRAFT
**Climate Emergency
Strategy**

2026–2036

Acknowledgement of Country and Council Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Reconciliation in Brimbank

Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Bunurong People as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where our municipality sits. Council recognises the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who contribute to our community. We pay our respects to the wisdom of Elders past, present, and future.

We recognise their continuing spiritual connection to this land and renew our commitment to respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander beliefs, values and customs.

The Country in which Brimbank is located is under the statutory care of its Traditional Custodians, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to the south and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to the north of the municipality. For the Traditional Custodians, the lands in the City of Brimbank have always been a significant trading and meeting place.

Aboriginal people lived on these lands for over 65,000 years before European settlement. The rich history and continuous culture of our Traditional Custodians are woven throughout Brimbank, in its people, in significant sites and in murals recognising this history. Brimbank has about 440 registered sites of significance. The artefacts found are more than 30,000 years old. Some of these sites are in Brimbank Park, yaluk barring (former Sydenham Park) and Organ Pipes National Park.



Contents

Executive summary	02
Introduction	03
Vision and key priorities	04
Understanding climate change	05
Adaptation and mitigation	06
Climate change context	07
- National	07
- State	07
- Local	08
- Traditional Custodian context	09
Climate risks in Brimbank	11
- Extreme heat and heatwaves	11
- Drought, flooding and storms	14
Climate justice	15
The role of Council	15
What we've done so far	16
Roadmap to net zero	17
Our approach to achieving net zero	19
Priorities 2026-2031	20
- Community health and wellbeing	20
- Biodiversity, water and urban greening	22
- Buildings, infrastructure and transport	25
- Energy transition to renewables	28
- Local and circular economy	31
Key terms	34
References	37
Appendices	38
Appendix A: Summary of Key Climate Change Legislation at each government level	38
Appendix B: Community engagement summary	40

Executive summary

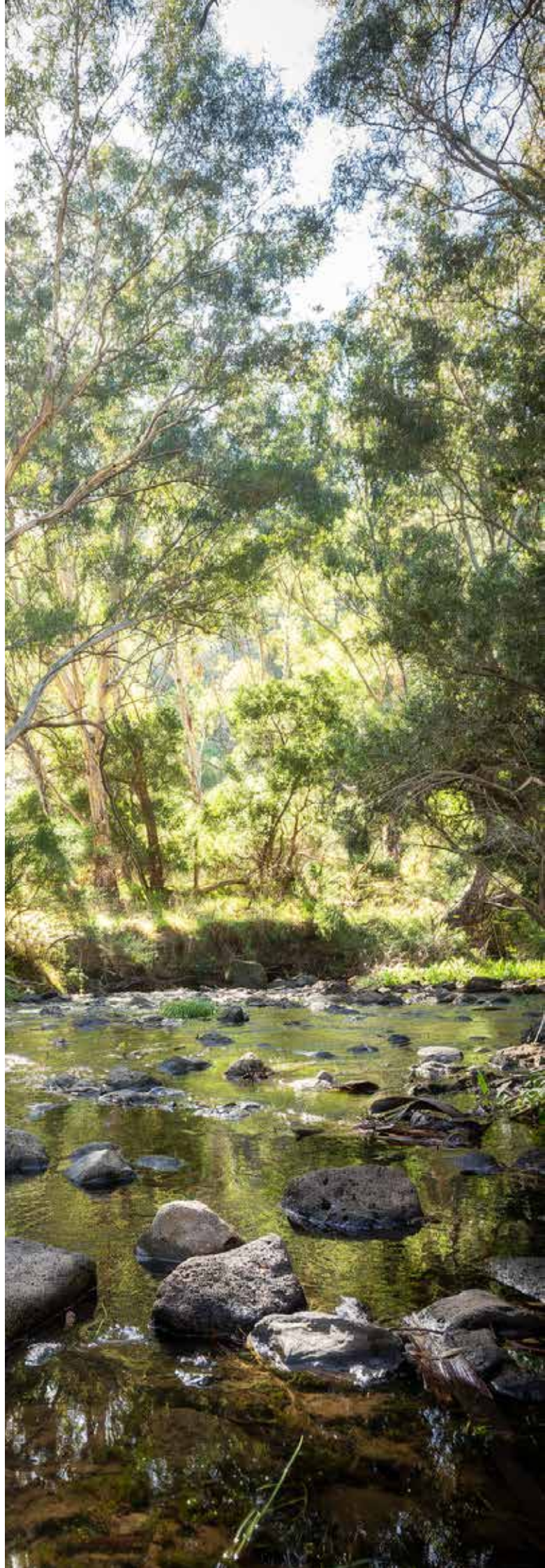
Worldwide, our natural and built environments are under increasing pressure from climate change. We are seeing higher temperatures, increased flooding, more severe fire seasons and more extreme storms. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving this change and the current trajectory shows that warming will continue. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted that global temperatures have already increased by 1.1°C and are on track to reach 1.5°C above preindustrial levels by the early 2030s¹.

Brimbank is no exception and faces significant challenges caused by climate change. 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 lead the Brimbank community towards a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the contemporary advice of the IPCC and other science led organisations such as Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)². Brimbank City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and adopted its first Climate Emergency Plan in 2020. In delivering that first Climate Emergency Plan Council reduced its own emissions by 78%, delivered numerous climate focused initiatives and worked to improve the resilience of the municipality to climate impacts.

This Climate Emergency Strategy 2026-2036 builds on the work achieved to date and sets out our Vision and Key Priority areas for action for the next 10 years.

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2023. Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Geneva, Switzerland: IPCC

² CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, State of the Climate 2024, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Canberra





Introduction

Imagine a mid-summer afternoon in Melbourne's west. The horizon shimmers with a dry, unrelenting heat for the third consecutive day. The usual coastal breeze has stalled, replaced by a north-westerly wind that carries the scent of parched grass and the distant threat of smoke. In our residential streets, the impact is visible. Oceans of black roofs and concrete footpaths radiate heat long after the sun sets, making sleep difficult in homes not built for these new extremes. Our local parks, once green, struggle under the weight of prolonged drought, and our transport networks strain as tracks and power lines expand under the thermal load. This is one future Brimbank could face through climate change.

In an alternative future, while heatwaves are still taking place, our streets are shaded by green trees, watered through stormwater captured from earlier rain events. People gather in parks which act as cooler microclimates within our suburbs. Residents sleep in homes designed to both shade unwanted sun and to be ventilated safely in the cool of the night. Brimbank's community facilities such as libraries and sporting pavilions capture sunlight through rooftop solar and use the energy to power heat pumps, keeping buildings and the people within cool and comfortable.

While these two futures are both possible, the Brimbank community and environment only thrives under the second option.

In 2019, with these potential realities front-of-mind, Brimbank Council declared a climate emergency. This declaration recognised the immediate threat of climate change and the need for urgent action to help realise a better future for our community. Council cemented its commitment to address climate change and its impacts by adopting the 2020-2025 Climate Emergency Plan. During the life of that Plan, we have successfully delivered a wide range of actions and are now looking ahead to the next 10 years and beyond through this new Climate Emergency Strategy. This Strategy describes how Brimbank City Council will continue to act to both limit greenhouse gas emissions and support our community and environment to adapt to a changing climate.

Vision and key priorities

The Climate Emergency Strategy 2026-2036 sets out our vision:

The Brimbank 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.

This strategy sets five priority areas for action that shape to address the climate emergency:

Community health and wellbeing



We will build community resilience to address the health impacts of climate change.

Biodiversity, water and urban greening



We will protect, enhance and conserve nature, water and increase urban greening.

Buildings, infrastructure and transport



We will minimise the carbon footprint of new and existing buildings and infrastructure and prioritise low emissions and active transport.

Energy - transition to renewables



We will improve energy efficiency, switch to all-electric and use renewable energy across council operations and support the community to do the same.

Local and circular economy



We will reduce waste and embed circular economy into council operations and community services and programs.

Climate adaptation and mitigation are integrated in these priority areas. Climate mitigation efforts across these priority areas will enable Council, and ultimately the community, to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, which is central to the vision of this strategy. Climate adaptation will enable the city to become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Climate change is one of Council's major strategic risks and requires organisation-wide action and consideration. As such, providing strong governance and risk management are a focus across each priority area within this strategy.

This 10-year strategy will have two reviews; one in 2030 and another in 2035 to ensure that this Strategy is still delivering positive climate outcomes for Brimbank residents and the local environment, and measure how we have progressed in addressing the key priorities and achieving the vision.



Understanding climate change

Climate change is the rapid warming of the Earth's system caused primarily by human activities - such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation. These have increased greenhouse gas concentrations to levels higher than at any time in at least 2 million years. This human-induced warming is driving more frequent, intense, and unpredictable extreme weather events, accelerating sea level rise and causing irreversible damage to ecosystems across the world.

In 1988, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to provide policymakers across the world with regular, objective scientific assessments to assist in taking action on climate change. The IPCC produces major assessment reports every 5 to 7 years. In 2023, the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), highlighted 4 key elements around the current scientific understanding of climate change:

It is unquestionably human-caused

The planet has already warmed by 1.1°C through fossil fuel use and land destruction. This has pushed atmospheric CO_{2e} to levels not seen in 2 million years. This warming is happening faster than at any point in human history.

The impacts are here and uneven

Climate change is currently causing more frequent heatwaves, fires, floods, and droughts. While every country is affected, over 3 billion people live in "highly vulnerable" zones - mostly in developing nations that contributed the least to the problem.

The "1.5°C" deadline

Scientists agree that exceeding 1.5°C of warming risks triggering 'tipping points', such as the permanent collapse of ice sheets or coral reefs. On our current path, we are likely to hit this mark by the early 2030s.

There is still a solution (but timeframes are narrowing)

To avoid the worst outcomes, global emissions must peak by 2025 and be cut nearly in half (43%) by 2030. This requires:

- Phasing out fossil fuels in favour of renewables.
- Protecting and restoring forests.
- Electrifying transport and industry



Adaptation and mitigation

Taking action on climate change requires a two-pronged approach of mitigation (addressing the cause) and adaptation (addressing the impacts).

Mitigation is about making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere (for example, from burning fossil fuels). In 2015, the Paris agreement was adopted as a legally binding international treaty on climate mitigation. The Paris Agreement looks to hold the increase in global average temperatures to:

- Well below 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels
- Pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C

Some examples of local scale mitigation actions include:

- Installation of solar panels
- Switching to Electric Vehicles
- Increasing travel via public transport, walking or cycling
- Improving energy efficiency of homes and businesses
- Lowering embodied emissions in buildings can be achieved through different material choices and construction techniques.
- Reducing waste to landfill and proper management of closed landfill sites can reduce methane emissions (a highly potent greenhouse gas).

These actions will help us achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions for council operations and our community.

Adaptation is about anticipating the adverse effects, adjusting to life in a changing climate, preparing for projected, unavoidable future changes, and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause. Local approaches to adaptation may include initiatives such as Council extending the opening hours of libraries and aquatic centres in a heatwave, improving building design to promote passive cooling in public and private buildings, and increasing neighbourhood tree canopy cover. Examples of adaptive actions that residents can take include using plants to cool down their homes and improving insulation.

There are many place-based actions which also contribute to both **mitigation and adaptation**. These include restoring native vegetation and habitat, urban greening, conserving water and managing water in the urban landscape through Water Sensitive Urban Design.



Climate change context

The priorities in this strategy align with global, national and state legislations and commitments on climate change. A list of key legislation and relevant application at each government level is summarized in Appendix A. This strategy will contribute towards efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, this is also a locally focused plan which looks at climate change through the lens of the community and environment of Brimbank.

National

As one of the driest inhabited continents with a highly coastal population, Australia faces a unique set of climate challenges. These include more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as catastrophic bushfires, heatwaves, prolonged droughts and flash flooding along with rising sea levels and coastal erosion. This subsequently leads to significant biodiversity loss, ecosystem loss, water and air pollution. Culturally, this impacts the way that we use and enjoy the land. Economically, the country faces an insurance crisis with many properties becoming uninsurable due to climate risks. There is also a projected decline in our overall agricultural output, leading to food insecurity.

The Australian Government signed up to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty adopted in 2015 aiming to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Australian Federal government's climate targets are governed by the Climate Change Act 2022 and the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the United Nations in late 2025, as required under the Paris Agreement ³.

There are three relevant national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets

1. The 2030 target of a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels.
2. The 2035 target of 62% to 70% reduction below 2005 levels
3. The 2050 target of zero net emissions

State

Much like Australia more broadly, Victoria faces a set of climate challenges characterised by a shift towards a warmer and drier climate. According to the Victoria Climate Science Report 2024, the state is looking at a significant decline in cool-season rainfall which is coupled with a longer and more intense bushfire season ⁴. Victoria's coastline is increasingly vulnerable to sea-level rise and storm surges while its urban centres face increasing heat island effects. Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026 - 2030 has adaptation action plans to help manage these risks and highlights the economic value in investing in Climate Adaptation ⁵.

Victoria's climate mitigation response focuses on a rapid transition to renewable energy and aims to achieve net zero five years ahead of the national schedule.

There are three relevant state emissions reduction targets:

1. The 2030 target of 45% to 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels
2. The 2035 target of 75% to 80% reduction below 2005 levels
3. The 2045 target of zero net emissions

³ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) 2025, Australia's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution, Australian Government, Canberra, September

⁴ Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) 2024, Victoria's climate science report 2024, Victorian Government, Melbourne

⁵ Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2025, Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026-30, State Government of Victoria

Local

Brimbank is located in Melbourne's west and is home to over 200,000 residents from culturally diverse backgrounds. Brimbank's landscape is known for its escarpments, open grasslands, and various waterways which support a wide range of ecosystems. Since European settlement, Brimbank's landscape has undergone significant change. Native vegetation was extensively cleared to allow for agriculture, quarrying and heavy industry, alongside residential development.

Brimbank today is a reflection of its layered past, with residential, commercial, industrial alongside remnant natural areas where critically endangered ecosystems still persist⁶. Past industrial uses also inform Brimbank's vulnerability to climate and other environmental risks, such as higher levels of land contamination and urban heat island effect due to large areas of impermeable surfaces.

In Brimbank, the greatest impacts of climate change are extreme heat and heat waves and their effect on community health. Brimbank's demographics and condition of housing stock make the municipality particularly vulnerable to the impacts of heatwaves and extreme heat. In addition to this, Brimbank can expect to see more frequent extreme rainfall and flooding as well as intense storms. These risks are discussed in more detail below.

Local Governments have legislative requirements to act on climate change including requirements under the following Acts:

- Victorian Local Government Act 2020
- Victorian Climate Change Act 2017
- Victorian Planning and Environment Act 2024
- Emergency Management Act 2013
- Environment Protection Act 2017

We Are Brimbank: Integrated Community Vision 2050, Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, identifies **Climate emergency, conservation and environmental sustainability** as one of its **Strategic Priorities** with the **Objective**: Environmental stewardship is strengthened through climate action, sustainability, protection of natural assets and biodiversity, expanded green spaces that support healthy, climate-resilient lifestyles, and community empowerment to act on climate change.

Council also has an important role in local emergency management. We work with emergency services, government and community organisations to ensure emergency planning is effective and provides the best possible outcome. Our Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) addresses the prevention of, response to and recovery from, emergencies in Brimbank⁷.



⁶ Brimbank City Council 2025, Brimbank biodiversity strategy 2025-2035, Brimbank City Council, Sunshine

⁷ Brimbank City Council 2023, Brimbank Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Sunshine

Traditional Custodian context

For millennia, the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people have served as the custodians of Brimbank's environmental resilience, managing the landscape as it has changed over time. To effectively address the current climate emergency, we have an opportunity to integrate traditional knowledge with contemporary climate science to develop place-based solutions that treat our natural assets not as resources to be exploited, but as living systems to be supported and

worked with. This ranges from how we manage our various natural ecosystems through to the way our communities live on this land itself. Learning from the deep well of Traditional Custodian experience is a chance to build a more resilient and sustainable future for everyone in Brimbank.





Climate risks in Brimbank

Climate change is intensifying hazards in Brimbank, including heatwaves, grassfires, flooding, and storms. Using scenarios developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Brimbank undertook a risk assessment to identify the key climate risks and consider ways to manage them. The key risks faced by our municipality are highlighted below.

Extreme heat and heatwaves

Hot days

Hot days are expected to continue to become more frequent over the region. By 2050, modelling suggests that hot days with temperatures over 35°C could occur almost 3 times as often under the low emissions scenario. By 2090, under the high emissions scenario, hot days could occur almost 5 times as often⁸.

Heat waves

Heatwaves are prolonged periods of excessive heat that generally last for at least three or more successive days. Heatwaves can be harmful to human health with those more at risk including people over the age of 65, infants and young children, pregnant women, people with acute or chronic health problems, and people who are socially isolated.

According to the Victorian Climate Science Report 2024, projections for the future indicate significant increases in the intensity, frequency and duration of heatwaves, and the concurrent occurrence of droughts and heatwaves.

Indicative results from the regional modelling suggest that by 2050, under the low emissions scenario, the frequency of heatwaves could increase by around 45% compared to 1986-2005. Under the high emissions scenario, this jumps to 84%⁹.



8. 1 Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2024, Greater Melbourne climate projections 2024, Victorian Government, Melbourne

9. Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) 2024, Victoria's climate science report 2024, Victorian Government, Melbourne

Urban heat island effect

Brimbank is one of the hottest municipalities in Melbourne. Brimbank has a low percentage of tree canopy cover and approximately 60% of its ground cover is made up of impermeable heat-absorbing surfaces (e.g. concrete and brick buildings). On-going densification of residential and industrial areas with larger roofs, driveways and paved courtyards, has contributed to the loss of greenery. This leads to the urban heat island effect whereby an urban area becomes significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas, especially at nighttime.

Figure 1. A map of urban heat of LGAs in the Port Phillip region (Hurley et al. 2019).

Difference in average surface temperature

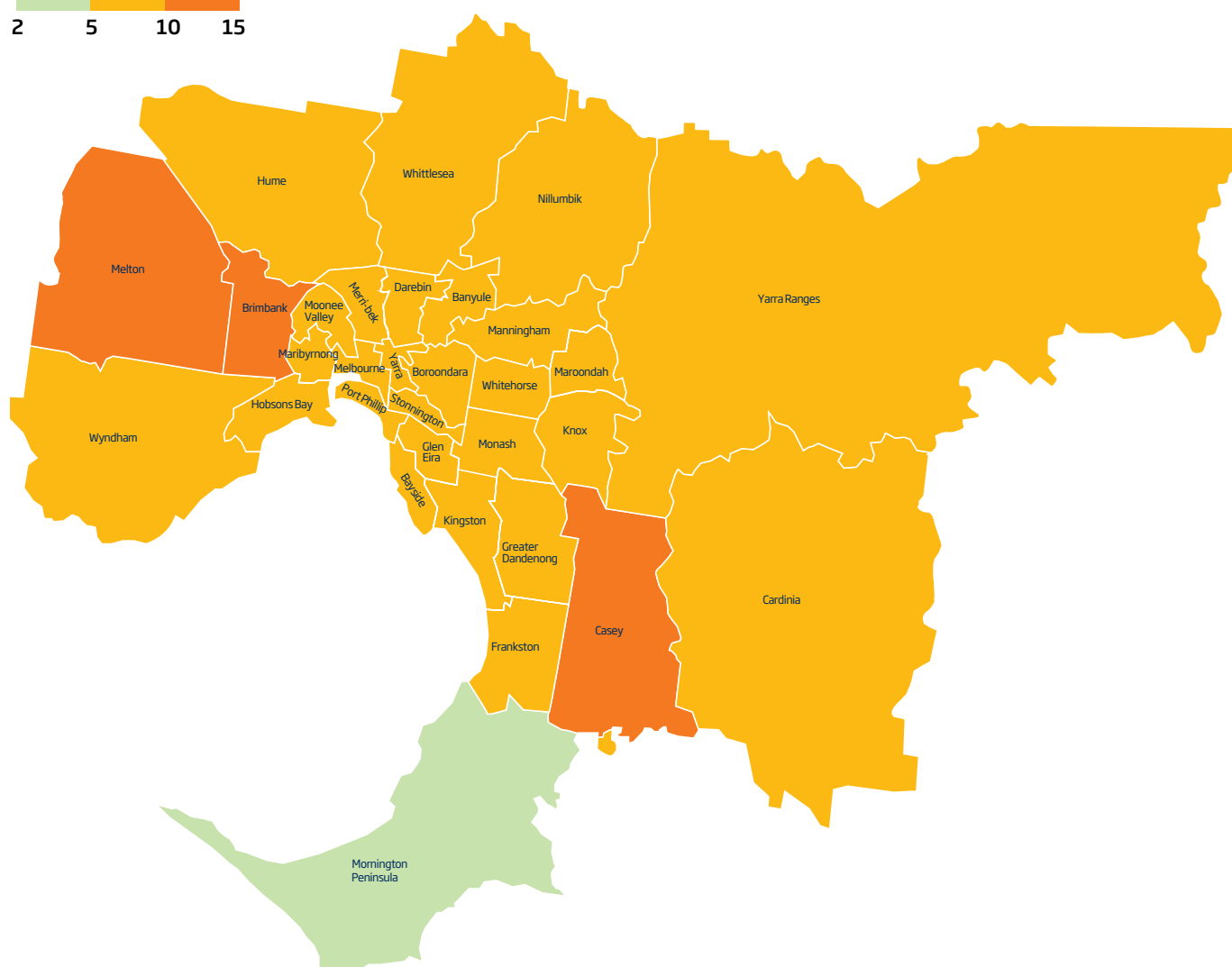


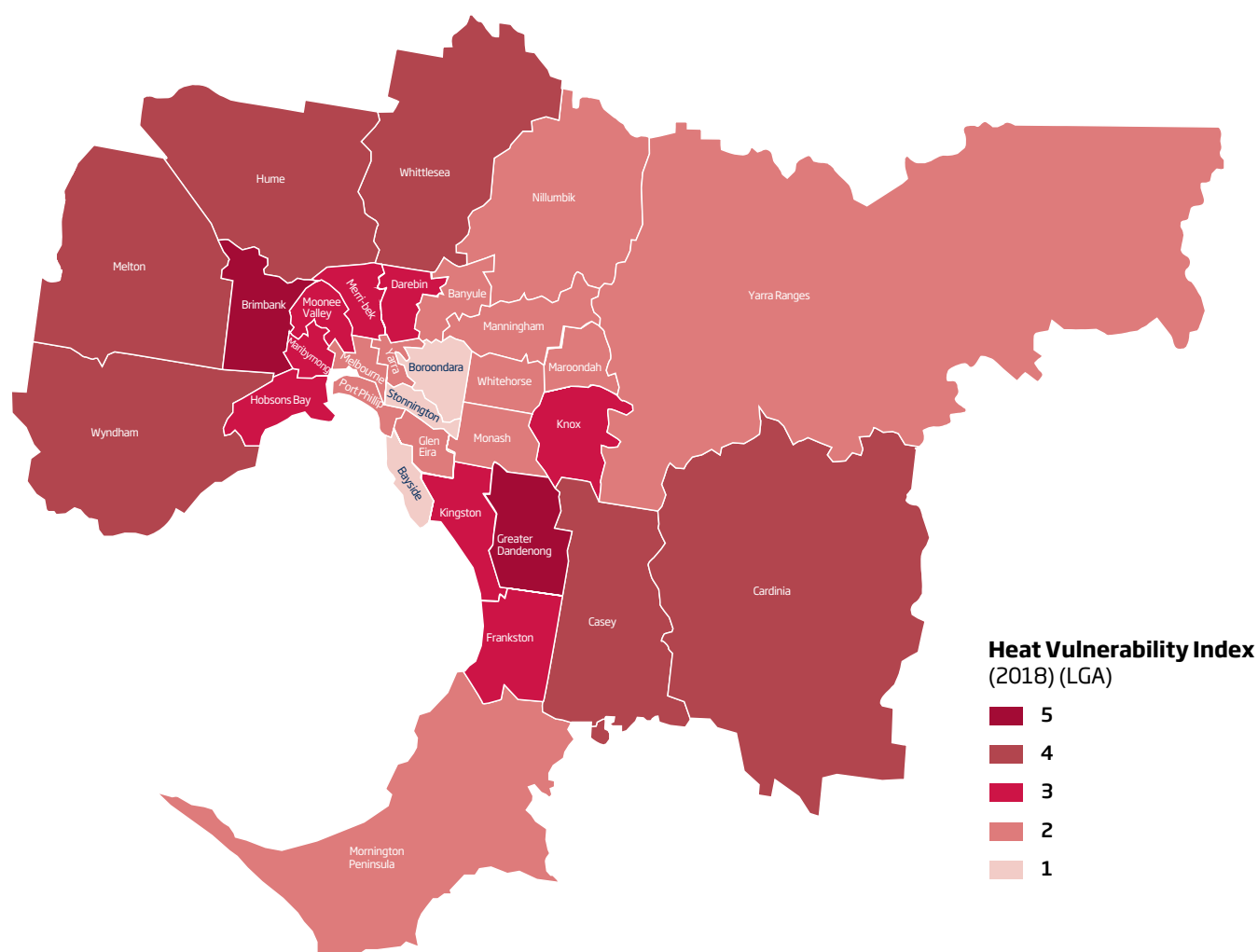
Figure 1 shows how much hotter (in °C) the average temperature within each local government area (LGA) is compared to the non-urban baseline, which was established using native vegetated sites. According to Figure 1, average surface temperatures in Brimbank are 10 to 15°C hotter than the non-urban baseline, meaning that Brimbank has one of the worst urban heat problems in Greater Melbourne.

As seen in Figure 2, Brimbank has the highest possible heat vulnerability index (HVI) rating of 5, meaning that Brimbank's population is highly vulnerable to extreme heat events.

The HVI rating is a measure of:

- sensitivity to heat due to age, land cover, and population density
- heat exposure
- and adaptive capacity, i.e. the ability to reduce your vulnerability to the impacts.

Figure 2. A map of the Heat Vulnerability Index of LGAs in the Port Phillip region (Hurley et al. 2019).



Drought, flooding and storms

Brimbank lies across two catchment areas: the Werribee and the Maribyrnong. The Werribee Catchment is considered the driest south of the Great Dividing Range, and the Maribyrnong Catchment is substantially drier than eastern catchments in the Melbourne Region (DELPW, 2022). Brimbank is located within the Victorian Volcanic Plains, a naturally drier ecosystem than other parts of Melbourne. With changing land use and increased urbanisation, this has increased the demand for water and increased impermeable surfaces. This makes water shortages a key climate risk for our municipality.

Water shortages can also compound other climate risks such as heat. With less water, our green spaces dry out and their ability to cool the local environment diminishes.

While average annual rainfall may decrease, both catchments will see more frequent and strong rainfall events, increasing the danger of floods like we saw in the flooding of the Maribyrnong River in 2022. Flood mapping gives insights on prevention, management and recovery costs. For example, Melbourne Water calculated \$735 million is the estimated annual average damage caused by floods in the Melbourne region¹⁰. Melbourne water is currently updating flood mapping for Brimbank.



10.. Melbourne Water 2021, Waterways and drainage investment plan summary: July 2021 – June 2026, Melbourne Water, Melbourne, viewed 27 May 2026

Climate justice

The most vulnerable people in our community will be disproportionately affected by these climate risks, thus climate justice is recognised as a key commitment in the Brimbank Social Justice Framework (SJF) 2026 - 2029. Homelessness and rough sleeping, older age, chronic health conditions, and low-socioeconomic status are factors that can increase a person's vulnerability to climate change and limit their ability to participate in climate solutions (such as improving the energy efficiency of their homes). Additionally, community groups that are at greater risk of experiencing inequality or discrimination may also be disproportionately affected, which may include women and gender diverse people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disability, and culturally and racially marginalised people.

The role of Council

Responding to climate change is a shared responsibility and local government does not have all the levers in its control to solve this challenge alone. Addressing climate change requires urgent action from all levels of government, the community and businesses.

Council performs three distinct roles in addressing the climate emergency.

Deliver

We deliver projects that are on council-owned land, council-owned buildings, or that provide support for Brimbank residents and business owners.

Partner

We partner with local, state and federal governments, NGOs, community groups, schools, and more to deliver projects and programs.

Advocate

We advocate to the state and federal governments to provide adequate support to councils and community and implement broader system changes.



What we've done so far

Brimbank Council developed its first Climate Emergency Plan in 2020, following its declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. At the time, the dual crisis of COVID-19 and devastating bushfires in early 2020 were front of mind. The Climate Emergency Plan included 65 actions under five themes: People Power, 100% Renewable, Resilient Rebuild, Green and Cool and Circular Economy.

Highlights achieved over the period of the Plan include:

- ✓ Brimbank's organisational emissions decreased by 78% during the 2020-2025 period, primarily due to Brimbank participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) in 2021 (Figure 3) VECO includes 60 councils who have signed a long-term contract for renewable electricity, purchased from two windfarms in regional Victoria.
- ✓ LED Lighting upgrades have taken place across all council-owned buildings. Over 15,000 of Brimbank's streetlights have been replaced with more energy efficient LED lights.
- ✓ Between 2018- 2023, Brimbank's community emissions were reduced by 163,000 tCO₂e, the equivalent of 5.58%, as reported in data collated by Snapshot Climate (Figure 4)
- ✓ Launch of a new stormwater harvesting system at Dempster Park in 2021, which allows sustainable irrigation from storm-water reuse and helps cool the surrounding parks and streets.
- ✓ Launch of the 100% Renewable Brimbank program which provides an on online platform of resources and programs for the Brimbank community around switching to electric and renewable energy along with improving energy efficiency
- ✓ Through the planning process Brimbank's Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy has resulted in improvements to thousands of new buildings, many of them being residential housing.
- ✓ Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre opened in 2022, Australia's first aquatic centre designed to run on 100% renewable, all-electric energy. The centre, recognised for its global leadership through a 6-star Green Star rating, reduced Council's total greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 17% (compared to Council's emissions when the previous gas-powered aquatic centre was operational).
- ✓ Endorsement of the Sunshine Energy Park Vision Plan, which includes plans for a sustainability hub.
- ✓ Introduction of planning controls to protect trees on private property
- ✓ Extending the opening hours of Brimbank libraries and aquatic centres during hot days.
- ✓ Improving our kerbside waste services with food waste accepted in council green bins in 2022, to reduce methane emissions from food waste going to landfill.
- ✓ The retrofit of the Sunshine West Community Centre from gas powered to all-electric, with solar and battery storage, in 2024.
- ✓ Expanded the My Smart Garden program, a cross-council, award-winning, educational gardening program.
- ✓ Trialled the use of recycled material TonerPlas Council's road reconstruction projects. By utilising 12.6 tonnes of TonerPlas, Council repurposed 1.5 million plastic bags and 43,600 printer cartridges.

For more information on the previous Climate Emergency Plan go to <https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/about-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/plans/climate-emergency-plan>

Roadmap to net zero

Achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions is a key part of this strategy's vision. Through this Strategy, Council continues to commit to pursue the following greenhouse gas emissions targets:

- **Council operations to be carbon neutral by 2030**
- **Council and community emissions to achieve net zero by 2040**

These targets have been set recognising the science on climate change, the scale and speed of change required, and the opportunities available to achieve deep cuts to emissions.

Achieving zero net emissions for the community is not something that Council can achieve on its own, as such this is an aspirational target, and meeting it requires all levels of government, our community and businesses working together. Council is committed to working with others to achieve this target.

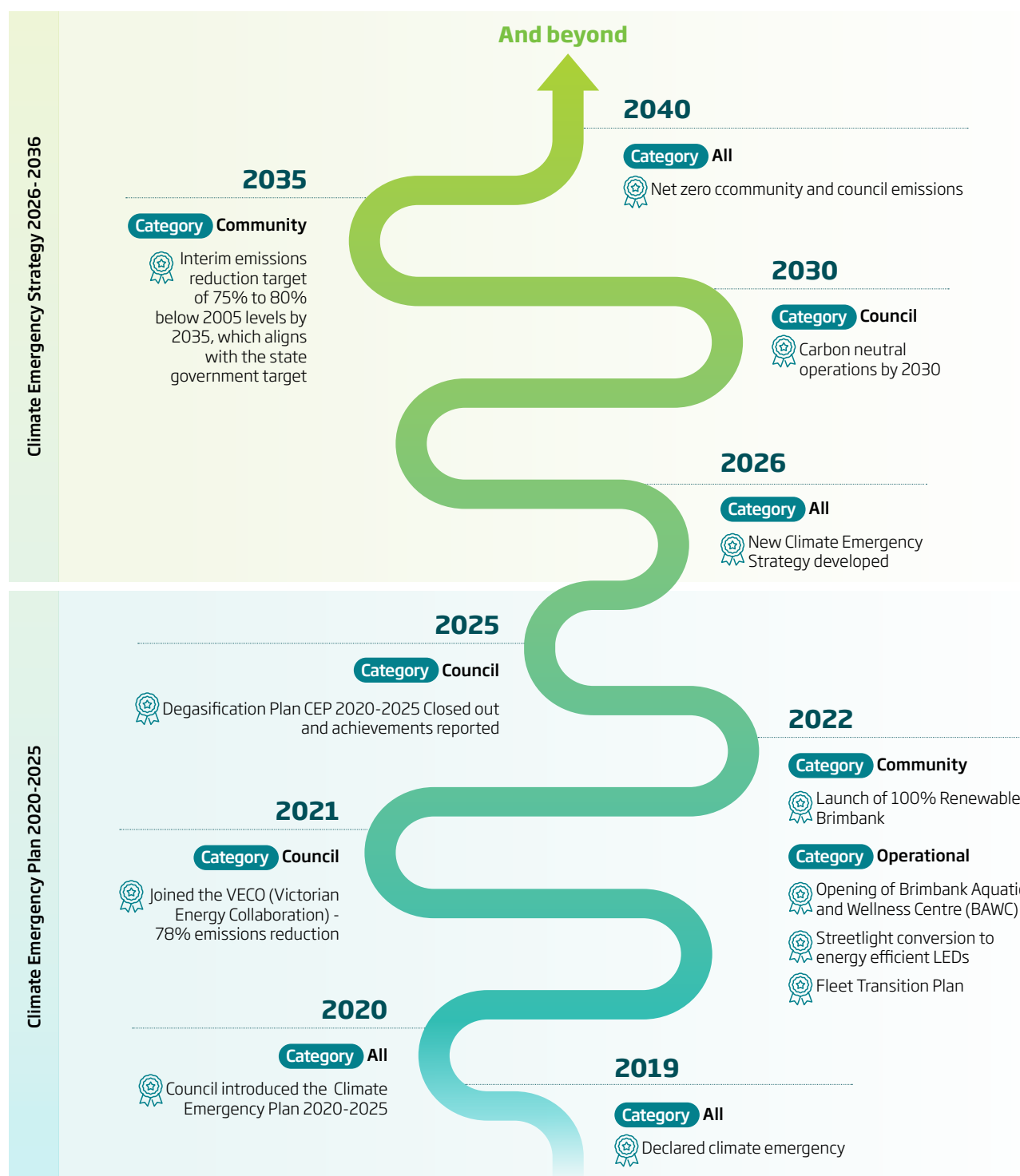


Figure 3. Brimbank City Council organisational emissions from 2016/2017 to 2023/2024

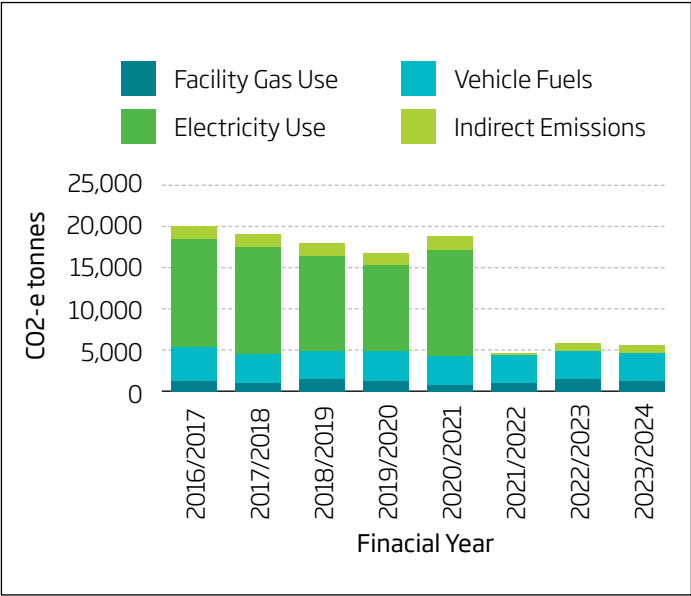
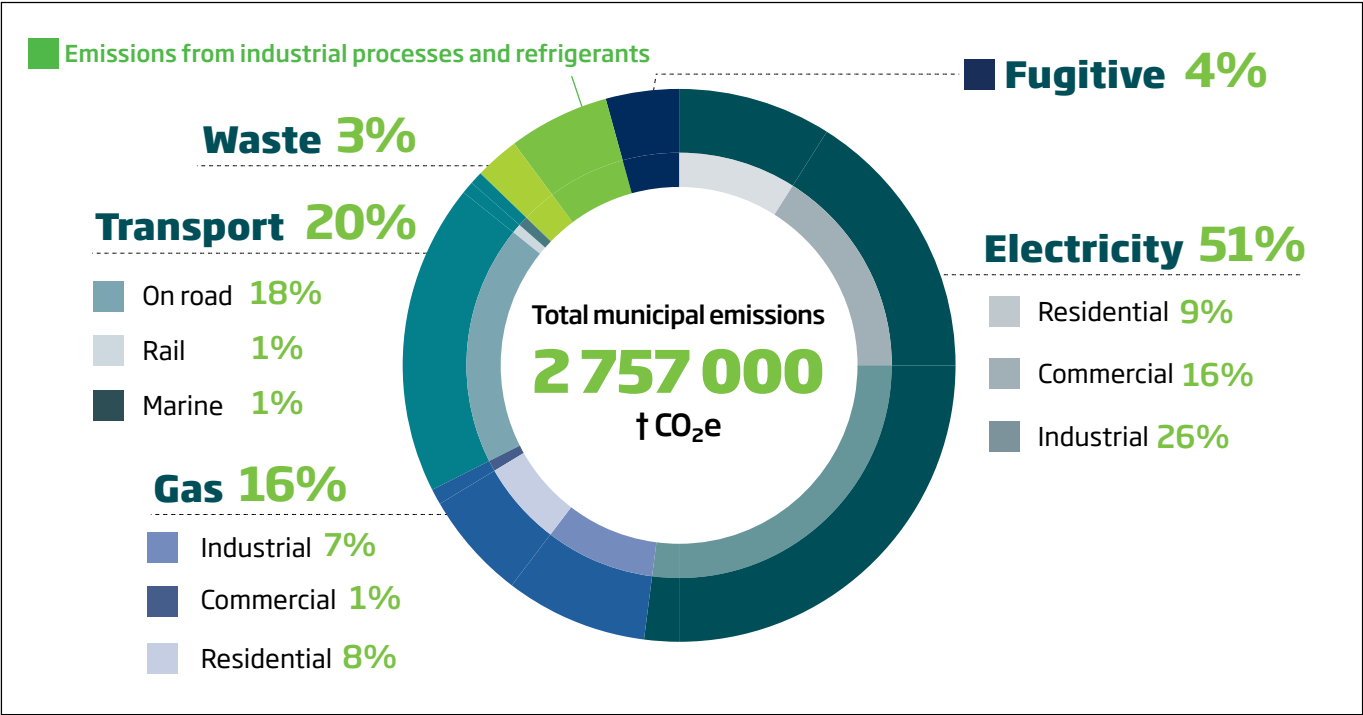
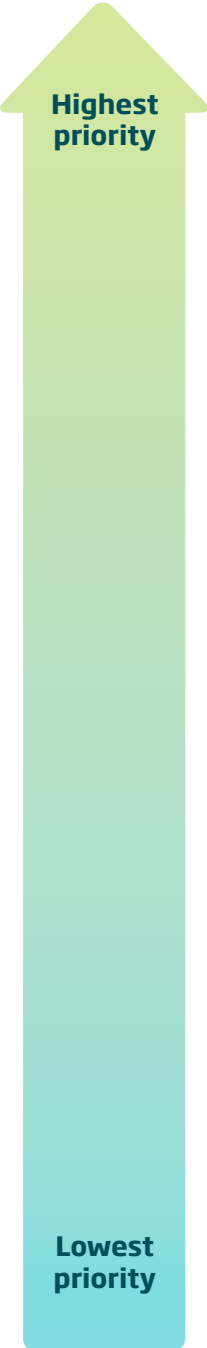


Figure 4. Brimbank Community Emissions from 2023/24 (Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability 2026)



Our approach to achieving net zero

Our approach to net zero emissions includes all options to emissions reduction, ordered from highest to lowest priority, as summarised in the table below.

Emissions reduction option	Priority level	Example
Avoid: Avoid activities that cause emissions	 Highest priority	Council Operations: - Build all electric facilities that avoid the use of gas Supporting the Community: - Encourage and influence community to use active and public transport instead of cars
Reduce: Change activities to reduce emissions		Council Operations: - Insulate buildings to reduce the need for heating and cooling - Plant shade trees on streets to cool local streets and reduce need for air conditioning Supporting the Community: - Supporting energy efficiency in homes and businesses
Substitute: Change sources to reduce emissions		Council Operations: - Degasification of existing facilities, fleet transition to electric, purchasing renewable electricity Supporting the Community: - Encourage household electrification
Sequester: Undertake activities to store emissions		Council Operations: - Plant trees and vegetation to store carbon Supporting the Community: - Organise community planting days and promote the greening of residential properties
Offset: Offset residual emissions		Council Operations: Purchase of carbon offsets such as Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)

Priorities 2026-2031



Community health and wellbeing

Hotter summer days and increased heat waves due to climate change are one of the biggest threats to Brimbank's community health and wellbeing. Council will prioritise supporting community members most vulnerable to the effects of heat. Additional threats come from storms and flooding.

Achieving good community health and wellbeing in a changing climate depends on working with the unique strengths and culture of the Brimbank community. Engaging in environmental activities such as nature restoration, gardening and other sustainability initiatives, can have a beneficial impact on mental and physical health, and deepen people's sense of belonging and connection to their environment and community. Growing fruit and vegetables can help address food insecurity and improve healthy eating.

Council recognises that supporting community members to build a connection to their local environment and take an active role in positive environmental action, is integral to the community's overall resilience and wellbeing. By supporting local food growing and sharing, engaging with multicultural leaders and networks and embracing Brimbank's strong culture of volunteering, we can work together to enhance our local environment and build resilience to the effects of climate change. These health and wellbeing priorities are recognised in the We Are Brimbank: Integrated Community Vision 2050, Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, which identifies addressing the impacts of climate change as one of our top priorities.



Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	
Council Operations			
Reducing Council's Climate Risk Profile	Climate risks have been identified through a Climate Risk Assessment completed in 2025. Addressing the health impacts of climate change has been recognised as a health and wellbeing priority in the We Are Brimbank: Integrated Community Vision 2050, Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029	Management of climate risks is embedded across all organisational projects, programs and operations.	Adaptation
Supporting the Community			
Climate-safe havens at Council facilities	Council has improved the thermal performance of many facilities through insulation. Some facilities (including libraries and aquatic centres) have extended their operating hours during heatwaves.	Safe havens are available for vulnerable community members during extreme weather events. Improved thermal performance of priority buildings. Procedures for heatwave actions are in place across relevant Council facilities.	Adaptation and mitigation
Empower our communities to make positive environmental change	Council provides local friend's groups, volunteer groups, community groups, faith groups, schools and individuals with support to restore the local environment, act on climate change and support community climate resilience.	A diverse range of opportunities are available for community members to actively protect and restore our environment in the public and private realm and take action on climate change.	Adaptation and mitigation
Support food resilience in our communities	Delivered and supported sustainable gardening and food growing programs including: • My Smart Garden program • Brimbank Seed Libraries • Seedling in schools Strengthening community food security and resilience to climate impacts are Health and Wellbeing Commitments in the We Are Brimbank: Council Plan.	Expanded sustainable gardening and food growing programs which offer educational and material support are available to the community. These programs reach diverse communities across Brimbank. Improved community access to affordable and nutritious food.	Adaptation and mitigation
Support Climate Justice in Brimbank	Through Council's Social Justice Framework, Council recognizes that some communities face greater risks associated with climate change and have less climate mitigation opportunities.	The impact of climate on vulnerable groups is considered, and people have equitable access to climate solutions such as heat-safe refuges.	Adaptation and mitigation
Support the community during an emergency (with partners)	The Brimbank Emergency Management Team (BEST) assists the community during emergencies such as floods, fires, storms etc. Council has developed a Municipal Emergency Management Plan.	Council continues to maintain and strengthen Emergency Management planning and response with partners.	Adaptation
Advocacy			
For programs which support community members to make homes more resilient to heat waves and energy efficient, with a particular focus on community with health vulnerabilities or living in social housing.			Adaptation and mitigation
For programs which improve renewable energy uptake and electricity grid resilience, particularly to prevent blackouts during hot days and heat waves.			Adaptation and mitigation



Biodiversity, water and urban greening

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. To protect these precious natural assets and adapt to a changing climate, we will work to maintain, expand and enhance our green spaces and water assets along with using planting choices that support biodiversity and are resilient to drought. To support our unique local wildlife, we must protect and enhance habitat in both land and aquatic environments and ensure established trees are protected.

Biodiversity, water and urban greening, collectively known as Blue and Green Infrastructure is crucial to building our resilience to the local effects of climate change.

Our flat open plains were once dominated by grasslands, and grassy ecosystems. These unique systems, now endangered, are well adapted to the low rainfall and shallow soils that characterise Brimbank. Increased population, buildings and hard surfaces have contributed to the urban heat island (UHI) effect, biodiversity decline, and changed water flow through the landscape.

Well designed and deliberate planning of our green infrastructure can ensure the protection of our unique grasslands, and target key areas impacted by UHI for increased canopy. The re-establishment of habitat corridors to support species movement and ecological resilience and maintain natural carbon cycles are crucial, cost-effective methods to avoid emissions and capture existing atmospheric carbon.

The retention of water in our landscape is crucial to protect water dependent flora and fauna, support increased tree and canopy cover, and reduce the impacts of flash flooding. By collecting and storing stormwater then using it in our parks and gardens we also avoid the overuse of potable water. Collectively thinking about water holistically is referred to as Integrated Water Management.

Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2025-2035, Integrated Water management Strategy 2025-2035 and Urban Forest Strategy 2016-2046 all contain further detail about Council's work in these areas.



Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Council Operations			
Support our local ecosystems to adapt to climate change.	Council launched its Biodiversity Strategy in 2025 which includes an objective to 'Evaluate and adapt land management techniques in response to environmental conditions and the impact of climate change' (Objective 2.2) Council manages approximately 400 hectares of Open Space within the municipality for Conservation purposes. Council has actively worked to enhance the Habitat Corridors within the municipality.	Delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy, including Objective 2.2 Increased quality and extent of areas managed for biodiversity, increasing species and genetic diversity within restoration design.	Adaptation Mitigation
Improve Integrated Water Management (IWM) across Brimbank	Council launched its Integrated Water Management Strategy in 2025 which includes an objective to 'Prepare for more severe and frequent heat waves, drought and flood events.' (Objective 1) Reducing potable water use in Brimbank parks and facilities is a key objective of the IWM Strategy. Developed guidance for WSUD solutions that conserve rainwater and promote passive irrigation in private developments and capital works projects.	Delivery of the IWM Strategy, including Objective 1. Increased water storage and reduced potable water use.	Adaptation
Enhance Urban Greening across Brimbank	Delivering direct implementation of urban forestry outcomes through tree planting in open space and streetscapes. Established protections for significant trees on private land. Council is part of the Greening the West partnership, a long running collaboration with councils, water corporations and community groups to enhance urban greening across Melbourne's west. This partnership has seen the planting of over a million trees.	We continue to plant trees in the parks and streetscapes and encourage the community to protect or enhance trees on private land. We will monitor the level of tree planting and target areas of greatest opportunity. In developing the inaugural Open Space Strategy for Brimbank, measures to actively cool the municipality in open space areas will be included.	Adaptation and mitigation
Understand and act on climate risks to blue and green infrastructure.	A Climate Risk Assessment was developed in 2025, which identified flooding, droughts and heatwave risks for Brimbank. Planning for climate resilient outcomes when undertaking changes to parks and public realm.	The recommendations within the climate risk assessment have been implemented. Incorporated planning for climate resilience in developing the inaugural Open Space Strategy for Brimbank. Teams have access to contemporary data to build understanding of climate factors and community vulnerability to inform decision making. Updated MW flood modelling is incorporated into risk management approach.	Adaptation

continued

Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Supporting the Community			
Empower our community to become environmental stewards and contribute to improving Brimbank's natural environment.	Delivered and supported various community engagement programs, such as: • Volunteering opportunities such as working bees and planting days. • Supported environment-focussed community groups through assistance with training, events, governance guidance, and promotion. • Commenced programs to support biodiversity on private land, including those targeted at education institutions and residential properties, such as Gardens for Wildlife program. Delivered and supported school and early learning programs and initiatives such as: • Supported the Trees for Schools program • Climate Oasis in Schools • Wildlife in Schools programs • Funded school and early learning incursions • Planting days	Expanded community engagement programs to make them more accessible to a wider audience. Our community understands and actively cares for the local environment.	Adaptation and mitigation
Enhance Urban Greening across Brimbank	Facilitating community urban greening initiatives, such as the Trees for Schools program. Delivering community programs that support community to create or enhance garden spaces. Promote trees and permeable landscaping in private property development.	Community awareness is increased in the need to act to green and cool Brimbank. We will know this is successful from the Community Satisfaction Survey results for Strategic Priority #7 of We Are Brimbank. Improved protection and enhancement of trees and biodiversity on private property.	Adaptation and mitigation
Partner with Traditional Custodians, researchers and land managers to improve conservation and water outcomes.	Council has engaged Narrap, Wurundjeri Rangers, at yaluk barrang park to undertake conservation works. Cultural Heritage Permits are in place for Conservation works at yaluk barrang park and Kororoit Creek. Council has worked with Melbourne Water, Greater Western Water and DEECA to deliver water and conservation projects.	Stronger partnerships with Traditional Owners, researchers and other land managers.	Adaptation
Advocacy			
	For state government funding for programs and projects that protect and enhance biodiversity, increase water capture and re-use and support urban greening.		Adaptation and mitigation
	For state government to strengthen planning controls including requiring WSUD, trees and permeable areas in private developments.		Adaptation and mitigation
	To state and federal government for stronger legislative protections on biodiversity, and improved management of crown land for biodiversity.		Adaptation and mitigation



Buildings, infrastructure and transport

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.

New infrastructure must be built to standards that can withstand and protect against heat waves and floods and not rely on fossil fuels like natural gas to operate. New buildings need to be built using best practice Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) and minimise embodied carbon.

While progress is being made to reduce emissions in some sectors such as electricity, community transport emissions are continuing to increase. It's important that people living in Brimbank can use sustainable forms of transport like walking, cycling and public transport to get to where they need to be, and not just rely on privately owned vehicles.

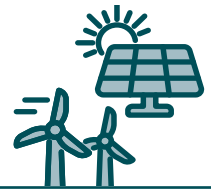
Our buildings and transport must also embrace new technology to run on all-electric and renewable sources. Switching to all-electric prepares our community for a decarbonising electricity grid and will ensure homes and businesses are safe, clean and cheaper to run into the future.



Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Council Operations			
Transition Council Fleet to Electric Vehicles	A small portion of Council's fleet has been converted to EVs.	All Council fleet is powered by renewable energy (electric or hydrogen)	Mitigation
Implement best practice ESD standards and minimise embodied carbon in council developed infrastructure.	There's been limited work to date in minimising embodied carbon in council developed design and infrastructure. Council has an ESD policy for Council Buildings.	Council-designed buildings reduce embodied carbon at all possible stages. Council has best practice ESD guidelines for design and infrastructure. Council's Procurement Policy supports best practice ESD and sustainability outcomes.	Adaptation and mitigation
Ensure our streetscapes are safe, comfortable and inviting for our community to be able to walk and cycle more frequently.	Council has made some progress in improving canopy cover and active transport infrastructure such as separated bike lanes in activity centres.	Council has a well-connected, extensive infrastructure network that supports safe active transport. Council has expanded its canopy cover.	Adaptation and mitigation
Develop and invest in transport infrastructure that supports active and public transport.	Council has developed a Draft Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) which identifies the need for improved infrastructure to support active and public transport.	Delivery of the ITS to achieve a low emissions environmentally sustainable transport system.	Mitigation

continued

Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Supporting the Community			
Support public and active transport and reduce reliance on private vehicles.	Council has developed a draft ITS which identifies the need for community to increase their use of active and public transport.	The delivery of new education and behavioural programs to support community use of active and public transport. Working with schools and community organisations to introduce initiatives like walking and cycling days. Mode Shift Promotion: encourage walking and cycling for local trips and bus use as a practical alternative to private car travel.	Mitigation
Promote the switch to electric vehicles	There are very few public EV charging stations with the Brimbank Municipality.	An expanded local EV charging network delivered by leveraging private sector investment. Increased local uptake of EVs.	Mitigation
Support the community to ensure residential homes are energy efficient resilient to climate hazards and impacts including heat, fire and flooding.	Council currently delivers education programs around building climate resilience at home (such as 100% Renewable Program and Solar Savers). Council works with developers and builders to include ESD requirements that help homes be more climate resilient and energy efficient.	Continued delivery of community educational programs to improve the energy efficiency and climate resilience of resident's homes. Partnering with developers and builders to incorporate best practice ESD. Stronger ESD planning requirements for private developments.	Adaptation
Advocacy			
For planning reform to ensure local newly built development is resilient to the impacts of climate change.			Mitigation and adaptation
To state government for increased investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport.			Mitigation and adaptation
For state-led bus reform, new and improved bus routes, and a coordinated pipeline of western rail projects, as outlined in Council's Integrated Transport Strategy.			Mitigation



Energy transition to renewables

To reach net zero emissions we need to rapidly transition to renewable energy.

Council plays a unique part as a large organisation and municipal government to influence and support the energy transition in Australia. The best way to achieve net zero as an organisation and mitigate climate change is to:

- Improve energy efficiency
- Switch facilities and fleet to electric; and,
- Ensure electricity is sourced from renewable sources

To do this, Council must improve building and system efficiency, switch its facilities and fleet to all-electric systems and continue to purchase electricity from a renewable energy source when not sourced from rooftop solar or battery storage. Data gathering and management will be key to managing the transition in an efficient manner.

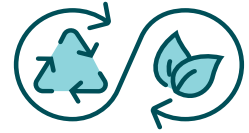
To support the community energy transition Council will seek to fill gaps in existing community education and outreach, particularly for diverse and hard to reach communities. We must also continue to encourage state and federal government to commit to strong emissions targets and act on these promises.



Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Council Operations			
Reduce Council emissions to achieve carbon neutrality	78% reduction in Council emissions since 2020, largely due to joining VECO in 2021. LED Lighting upgrades have taken place across all council-owned buildings. Over 15,000 of Brimbank's streetlights have been replaced with more energy efficient LED lights. Implementing best practice energy efficiency and beyond in new council buildings. Eg. BAWC	Carbon neutral Council emissions by 2030 An updated Power Purchase Agreement to continue to purchase renewable energy beyond 2030.	Mitigation
Transition Council's fleet to be powered by renewables.	A fleet transition plan has been developed. We have commenced introducing electric and hybrid cars and trucks as Council's fleet.	Continue to expand Council's electric and hybrid fleet and charging infrastructure.	Mitigation
Electrify Council-owned facilities	We have commenced electrifying Council-owned facilities and developed a degasification roadmap to help prioritise council facility electrification upgrades.	All Council-owned facilities are fully electric.	Mitigation
Improve utility data management and emissions reporting	Currently there are data gaps and Council lacks integrated systems to efficiently report on emissions.	Have integrated reporting systems that allow automatic collection of electricity, gas, water and solar data. Accurate and real-time emissions reporting. Site tracking and data to empower capital investment decisions.	Mitigation

continued

Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Supporting the Community			
Reduce community emissions to net zero	We offer community programs and education to promote the installation of solar, home energy efficiency and electrification. We are currently offering our zero-emissions electricity plan through VECO to community groups and tenants, enabling them to use green energy while also reducing their electricity bills. We installed the first community battery for Brimbank in Sunshine West, helping to make the local power network more resilient.	An interim emissions reduction target of 75% to 80% below 2005 levels by 2035, which aligns with the state government target. Council will work with others to achieve net zero community emissions by 2040. Expanded offer of VECO to more sporting clubs, childcare centres and other community groups.	Mitigation
Empower residents to actively contribute to the decarbonisation and climate adaptation of Brimbank	Supporting businesses and households transition to all-electric and improve their energy efficiency through: • Educational resources and behaviour change projects (e.g. 100% Renewable Brimbank) • Providing material support (e.g. Climate Emergency Grants) • Resources focused on better building design through 'Environmentally Sustainable Design	Educational resources and material support are provided for homes and businesses to aid in their transition towards net zero emissions. Improved co-ordination with State and Federal Government to support the community energy transition.	Adaptation and mitigation
Advocacy			
	For strong state and federal government 2030 and 2035 emissions targets with tangible objectives.		Mitigation
	To the state government for improved Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) standards for new builds and use our existing partnerships such as the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) to strengthen our advocacy efforts.		Adaptation and mitigation
	For renewable grid development, with costs shared fairly by energy users and network service providers.		Mitigation
	For state and federal government to provide assistance for low-income households to improve climate resilience and access low-emissions technology at home.		Mitigation



Local and circular economy

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.

Effective waste management, particularly diverting materials from landfill, is central to this transition. When food and garden organics are sent to landfill, they decompose and release methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas. It is estimated that almost three quarters of emissions produced from household waste comes from food and paper materials going to landfill. This presents a significant opportunity to reduce emissions through improved waste practices, including green waste initiatives and composting education.

This priority area focuses on supporting residential and business circular economy initiatives, improving recycling outcomes and reducing the amount of waste generated. Alongside recycling, encouraging and enabling residents and businesses to repair, reuse and repurpose materials will reduce the demand for new and imported materials and decrease reliance on landfill. Equipping and empowering the community to take an active role in these initiatives is essential to delivering successful behaviour change programs and achieving lasting emissions reductions.



Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	Climate adaptation or mitigation
Council Operations			
Reduce the amount of landfill generated in Council Operations.	In 2025, an estimated 864 tonnes of waste was sent to landfill from Brimbank operations. Brimbank supports multiple additional recycling streams at its Brimbank Resource Recovery Centre in Keilor.	Increased waste separation and circular partnerships to keep resources out of landfill. Improved data collection to accurately track diversion from landfill.	Mitigation
Increase the use of recycled materials in Council operations and capital works projects.	Council is engaging in some circular projects, including using recycled soft plastics in road base or green waste for compost in roundabouts.	Increased use of recycled materials in projects. An updated Procurement Policy supports increased purchasing of recycled materials.	Mitigation
Use civic events and procurement as an opportunity to demonstrate innovative waste-free approaches	Engaging with contractors who encourage zero-waste and circular practices. This includes reusable plates, cups and cutlery services at events, and waste audits to educate attendees and track diversion rates.	Reusable plate, cup and cutlery services are a standard at all council events. Food waste recycling is made available at all civic events. Waste avoidance and reuse is prioritised during event planning stages. Single use items are phased out across civic events and within staff facilities.	Mitigation

continued

Objectives	Where we are now	Where we want to be	
Supporting the Community			
Complete the transition to a four-bin residential waste system and increase diversion from landfill	Currently, 63% of residents have opted-in to have a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin. Council has finalised collection frequency for the 4-bin roll-out. The next stage will be the physical rollout and education program for the bins themselves. Currently, Council is diverting 37% of overall waste from landfill via the recycling and FOGO streams.	Universal FOGO and Glass bins are rolled out coupled with comprehensive education programs to support their use. Significantly reduce the percentage of FOGO materials being placed in the general waste bin. Currently, FOGO materials make up approximately 50% of items placed in the general waste bins. Short to medium term target is 50% diversion via kerbside collections, longer term target is to achieve best practice (other councils have achieved 65 – 70%).	Mitigation
Reduce contamination rates in recycling and FOGO bins	In 2025, 2.77% of the FOGO stream was contaminated. In 2025, 24.5% of the Brimbank community recycling stream was contaminated.	Keep FOGO contamination rates the same or lower with the introduction of universal FOGO. Continue to reduce recycling contamination, with the aim of getting it as close to zero as possible.	Mitigation
Support residents and businesses to reduce waste generation and participate in the circular economy.	Council currently delivers a range of community services and events that supports keeping materials out of landfill. These include: • Reusable party kits • Reusable Goods Drop Off Day events • Detox Your Home events • E-waste & More events • E-waste, soft plastic, polystyrene, cardboard, and textiles drop off points. Despite current efforts, residents and businesses often still rely on landfills and illegal dumping to dispose of old, broken or unwanted materials.	Facilitate and connect businesses and residents with local reuse, repair and recycling opportunities. Regular events and services are delivered in Brimbank that educate the community on waste avoidance and provide more recycling options for challenging materials. Improved resource recovery and less waste to landfill. Dramatically reduce illegal dumped rubbish and littering.	Mitigation
Advocacy			
To State government for investment in no or low emissions waste processing facilities to improve climate and air quality outcomes.			Mitigation
For legislation around universal product stewardship to minimise hard-to-dispose-of waste streams			Mitigation
To State government to continue efforts to reduce plastic packaging, a major component of landfill waste.			Mitigation
To State and Federal government for all hard plastic allowed to be sold in Australia to be recyclable.			Mitigation
For the use of recycled and recyclable materials in major State Government led building and infrastructure projects, including Sunshine Station and Albion Quarter upgrades.			Mitigation

Key terms

100% Renewable Brimbank	Council initiative to increase community uptake of electrification.
AR6	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report, released between 2021-2023 – also referred to as AR6
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)	ACCUs are tradable credits distributed by the federal government to individuals, businesses and landholders for performing actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or store carbon
Carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)	A standardized unit of measurement used to express the climate impact of various greenhouse gases (GHGs) based on their global warming potential in comparison with that of carbon dioxide
Carbon footprint	The total amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by an individual, event, organization, or product
Carbon neutral	A state in which the climate pollution generated is balanced out by the purchasing of carbon offsets, which may include avoidance or removal offsets
Circular Economy	A term used to describe the restructuring of waste processes and norms, which aims to reuse materials or eliminate waste wherever possible
Climate emergency	Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 to acknowledge the urgency required in responding to the risks and challenges of climate change
Climate safe-haven	A refuge from extreme weather events that is accessible to the community
Community Emissions	The carbon footprint of the Brimbank community, including business operations. Community emissions does not include Council's emissions
Council emissions	Also referred to as operational emissions, the carbon footprint of Council's operations, including direct emissions such as fuel and natural gas use, and indirect emissions such as those created in the supply chain of these fuels
CSIRO	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is an Australian Government agency that engages in scientific research with a focus on commercial applications
Council Plan	A plan setting out the medium-term strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and resources reflecting vision and aspirations of the community for the next four years
Decarbonisation	A term used to describe the transition of away from dependence on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas
DEECA	The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is a Victorian Government department responsible for several climate-related services and policies in Victoria
Degasification	A term used to describe the retrofitting of an existing facility to remove appliances or infrastructure that utilise natural gas and replacing them with energy efficient electric alternatives
DELWP	The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) was the Victorian Government Department responsible for climate action between 2015-2023, prior to the formation of DEECA in 2023
Densification	Increasing the density of housing within existing urban areas to accommodate growing populations without increasing urban sprawl

continued

Electrification	A term used to describe the retrofitting of an existing facility to remove appliances or infrastructure that utilise natural gas and replacing them with energy efficient electric alternatives
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)	The practice of designing products, buildings, systems, or services that minimize environmental impact while maximizing efficiency, functionality, and resource conservation
EV	An electric vehicle, which is powered by one or more electric motors instead of a traditional internal combustion engine
Global warming	The long-term rise in Earth's average temperature due to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere
Green Star	An ESD certification system administered by the Green Building Council of Australia in which an independent assessor rates the sustainability attributes of a building, fitout or precinct.
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	A group of gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat, contributing to the 'greenhouse effect'. Key GHGs include: carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O) and fluorinated gases (F-gasses).
Food insecurity	Food insecurity data is based in the Victorian Population Health Survey data 2023 in which respondents were asked if they had either: Worried about running out of money to buy food; OR had run out of money to buy food within the last 12 months.
Heat waves	A weather event in which maximum and minimum temperatures are unusually high for 3 or more days.
Heat vulnerability index (HVI)	The Victorian Government's Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI) measures the susceptibility of populations to extreme heat events by combining Urban Heat Island (UHI) data with socio-economic and population density data
Hot days	The climate data that informs this report defines hot days as 35 degrees Celsius or higher.
Impermeable surfaces	Also referred to as impervious surfaces, these are solid surface materials that prevent water from penetrating the soil such as concrete and asphalt.
Integrated Water Management (IWM)	An approach to water management that considers all aspects of the water cycle. The Brimbank Integrated Water Management Strategy 2025-2035 was released in June 2025 and outlines Council's vision for embedding IWM across Brimbank.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change
LED	An LED light uses Light-Emitting Diodes to create light with significantly less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs.
LGBTQIA+	Abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual. The additional "+" stands for all of the other identities.

continued

Melbourne Water (MW)	The Victorian government-owned statutory authority which controls and manages many of Melbourne's waterways, water infrastructure and sewerage systems.
Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)	The Brimbank Municipal Emergency Management Plan is prepared by the Brimbank Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and approved by the North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMP).
NARClm2.0	The NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARClm) project's most recent climate impact modelling tool which was released in 2024.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	Under the Paris Agreement, Australia and all other signatories must submit emissions reductions commitments through Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) every five years.
Net zero emissions	A state in which an organisation or entity has reduced carbon emissions by 90-95% from an agreed baseline, and all unavoidable emissions are offset by undertaking or funding removal projects such as tree planting.
NGO	An abbreviation for non-governmental organisation, typically a non-profit organisation that operate independently of government
Organisational emissions	The carbon footprint of an organisation, which may include direct and indirect emissions.
Paris Agreement	An international treaty on climate change which was signed during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference of which Australia is a signatory
Social justice framework (SJF)	Brimbank has had a Social Justice Framework in place since 2008. Brimbank's Social Justice Framework 2026-2029 was released in 2026.
Solar Savers	A joint initiative of more than 20 Councils to assist locals in accessing trusted suppliers to help people electrify their homes.
Stormwater harvesting	The process of collecting treating, and storing urban stormwater runoff for reuse.
Victorian Volcanic Plains	A Victorian bioregion which spans 22,000 km ² West from Melbourne to Port Fairy including Brimbank. Formed by volcanic eruptions at least 5,000 years old, less than 1% of its original vegetation remains.
Water-sensitive urban design (WSUD)	An approach to design that integrates water and its inherent characteristics into the built environment to improve outcomes for liveability and the natural environment.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of Key Climate Change Legislation at each government level

Level of Government	Legislation	Obligations relating to climate change
National	Climate Change Bill 2022	Requires the minister to prepare and table an annual climate change statement; requires the Climate Change Authority to give the minister advice in relation to the annual statement and future greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; and provides for periodic reviews of the operation of the Act.
National	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007	This act establishes the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme, a national framework for reporting greenhouse gas emissions, energy production, and energy consumption
National	Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act	Encourage the generation of electricity from renewable sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector. It establishes a framework for the creation of certificates (Large-scale Generation Certificates and Small-scale Technology Certificates) based on renewable energy generation, which can be traded to meet renewable energy targets.
National	Corporations Act 2001 (Treasury Laws Amendment Bill 2024)	Australia has implemented mandatory climate-related financial disclosures starting January 2025 for large organisations, requiring them to report climate risks, opportunities, governance, strategy, and emissions under the Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS)
State	Victorian Emergency Management Act	Emphasises the need to adapt Victoria's emergency management capabilities to respond to risks arising from more frequent and intense climate-related hazards like heatwaves, droughts, and bushfires. The legislation emphasises the need to enhance climate-related hazard and risk assessment capabilities to inform emergency planning.
State	Environmental Protection Act 2017	
State	Climate Change Act 2017	Provides Victoria with the legislative foundation to manage climate change risks, maximise the opportunities that arise from decisive action, and drive our transition to a climate-resilient community and economy with net zero emissions by 2045 which are set in law.

continued

Level of Government	Legislation	Obligations relating to climate change
Local	Climate Change Act 2017	Obligations for local government within this state government act include that climate change must be considered when applying legislation under other related state government acts. Councils are required to have regard to climate change when preparing a municipal health and wellbeing plan, including both mitigation and adaptation actions.
Local	Local Government Act 2020	• Councils must promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks. • Councils are expected to consider the long-term consequences of climate change in council planning, decisions and actions. • Councils must ensure decisions, actions and information are transparent.
Local	Planning and Environment Act 1987	Local councils must take into account climate change adaptation into decision making and planning. A range of clauses focus on planning responses to hazards such as bushfire, flood, erosion and heat.
Local	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	Local councils must also consider the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027 which lists tackle climate change impacts as a priority area.

Appendix B: Community engagement summary

This table provides a summary of the community engagement events and initiatives undertaken by representatives of the Council's Climate Emergency and Environment Department to receive input on the 2026-2031 Climate Emergency Strategy

Date	Event	Description
Dec 2024	Community Survey Opens	Community survey opens, advertised in Leaflet eNewsletter and promoted at in-person events.
Dec 2024	Meeting with Uncle Shane	Meeting to introduce Strategy and ask about best engagement approach with local first nations community members and groups.
Dec 2024	Meeting with Wurundjeri and Uncle Shane	Introduce Strategy to Wurundjeri representatives and ask about best engagement approach with indigenous groups.
Dec 2024	Festive Family Fun Day	Community event. Environment stall had a free plant giveaway, activities and offer to fill in Community Survey.
Jan-Feb 2025	Internal Brimbank Engagement one-on-one meetings begin.	One-on-one meetings to introduce Strategy and gain preliminary feedback held with the following departments: • Urban Design • Emergency Management • Transport Planning • Social Planning • Parks • Conservation • Economic Development
19 Jan 2025	St Albans Lunar New year	Community festival. Environment stall offered information about climate related programs and opportunity to fill in Community Survey.
Feb 2025	Commencement of monthly Environmental Strategies PCG group	Monthly meeting with key managers across the organisation to brief on three Climate Emergency and Environment Department Strategies, including the Climate Emergency Strategy. Council departments represented in this group: • Climate Emergency and Environment • Capital Works and Building • Engineering and Infrastructure • Parks and Public Realm • Project Management • City Futures • Community Strengthening and Social Planning • Communications and Community Engagement • Infrastructure and City Services
Feb 2025	Visy Hub Youth Summer Sundown Pop Ups x 2	Youth team held events on Wednesday afternoons in February, offering free food to high-school aged youth. The sessions had information on youth services and a Climate Emergency representative had a stall set up offering the opportunity to talk about climate change and for attendees to fill in the survey.
4 March 2025	Brimbank Community Voice	The Brimbank Community Voice community advisory group was convened to participate in a workshop providing sentiment and feedback on the Climate Emergency Strategy. The workshop was followed by a behind the scenes tour of the Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre.

continued

Date	Event	Description
12 March 2025	Deer Park Library Drop In	Drop-in stall at Deer Park Library. Various community groups used the library space throughout the day including cultural groups and after-school youth groups. Library visitors had the opportunity to give their feedback about the strategy and fill in the Community Survey.
15 March 2025	Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre Drop-In	Drop-in stall at Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre. Community members using the pool and gym came to the stall and filled in the survey. A community workshop with an environmental theme was also held in an adjacent activity room and this provided a good opportunity to get attendees to also fill in the survey and give feedback.
March 2025	St Albans Traders Association Meeting	Attended the St Albans Traders Association quarterly meeting to introduce the Strategy and provide feedback from a small and local business perspective.
March 2025	Sunshine Traders Association	This association holds quarterly meetings however, meeting dates did not align for this engagement. An invitation to fill out the community survey was sent in a group newsletter as well as an invitation to attend the Community Climate Forum.
March 2025	BATSICC information session	Background information on the strategy was presented and the group was invited to have input on ongoing engagement opportunities for development of the strategy.
2 April 2025	Brimbank Economic and Employment Advisory Group	Attended the BEEAG quarterly meeting to introduce the climate emergency strategy and provide feedback from a local business perspective with key local employers from VU, hotel chains, hospitality providers and community employment agencies present. Group gave feedback on past programs including BRBG and best ways to engage medium and larger business in energy programs.
12 April 2025	Community Climate Forum	Workshop held at Brimbank Civic Centre open to community members to gather feedback on Strategy and understand main thoughts and concerns about Climate Change mitigation and adaptation needs in the municipality.
6 May 2025	Internal project working group establishment	First internal Climate Emergency Strategy working group meeting scheduled to run through outcomes of engagement and ELT priorities review. This meeting will be an opportunity to refine the strategy priorities and identify crucial inclusions in the strategy draft, as well as next steps for strategy development. Working group to include representative from the following departments/units: • Urban Design • Parks • Strategic planning • Strategic transport • Conservation • Environmentally Sustainable Design • WAGA • Social Planning • Emergency Management and Resilience • Operations (representative TBC)

Brimbank City Council

Telephone 9249 4000

Email info@brimbank.vic.gov.au

Post PO Box 70, Sunshine, VIC 3020

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