

Climate Emergency Plan

Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2017-2022 Summary

Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency. Unless we restore a safe climate at emergency speed, there will be dramatic and negative impacts on our community and around the world. We are already seeing more intense and frequent heatwaves, heavy rainfall and flooding, the bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, extreme fire weather and more bushfires.

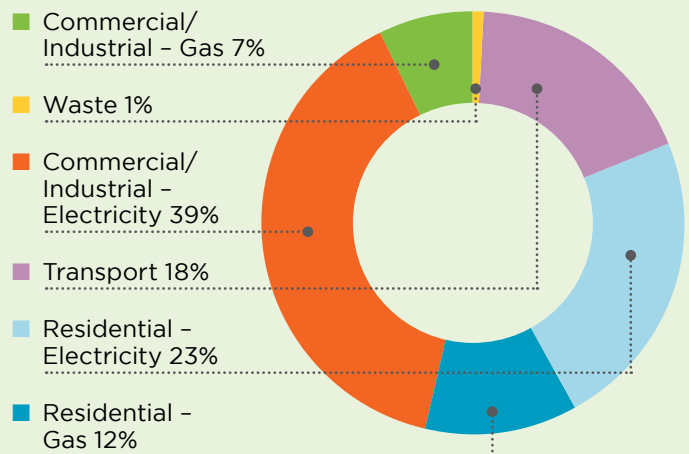
Our best hope of securing our future is to move into emergency mode. Darebin Council is committed to urgent action to make our planet safe for ourselves, our children and future generations. Council has developed this Climate Emergency Plan to work together with our community and other levels of government to restore a safe climate.

Eliminating emissions

To avert or reduce the effects of climate change, we need to stop emitting greenhouse gases and remove the excess emissions already in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are produced when fossil fuels are burned to create energy to power our homes and businesses, and run vehicles and machinery. Eliminating our emissions will involve: ambitious energy efficiency (decreasing the energy we use in the first place); getting our electricity from renewable sources (such as solar); moving away from gas; and moving to transport powered by renewable energy, and cycling and walking.

This is a breakdown of where our carbon emissions in Darebin are coming from:

Darebin Community Emissions 2015/16



Action taken so far

Council has already taken action by:

- providing solar panels for 500 low-income and pensioner households and community groups through our award-winning Solar\$aver program
- making our own buildings more energy-efficient, saving over \$1.3 million
- providing nearly 500 households with window shades and weather-proofing to increase comfort and reduce energy costs
- saving 50% of the emissions from street lighting by upgrading to energy-efficient lights
- working with businesses through the Darebin Light\$mart program to change nearly 10,000 lights to energy efficient LEDs
- providing energy efficiency information and education in community languages.

Our new Climate Emergency Plan includes actions to:

- **double solar in Darebin over the next 5 years**
- **establish Climate Emergency Darebin**
- **support homes and businesses to be more energy efficient**
- **call on other levels of government to join us in responding to the climate emergency**
- **review all Council programs and policies to ensure alignment with our Climate Emergency commitment.**

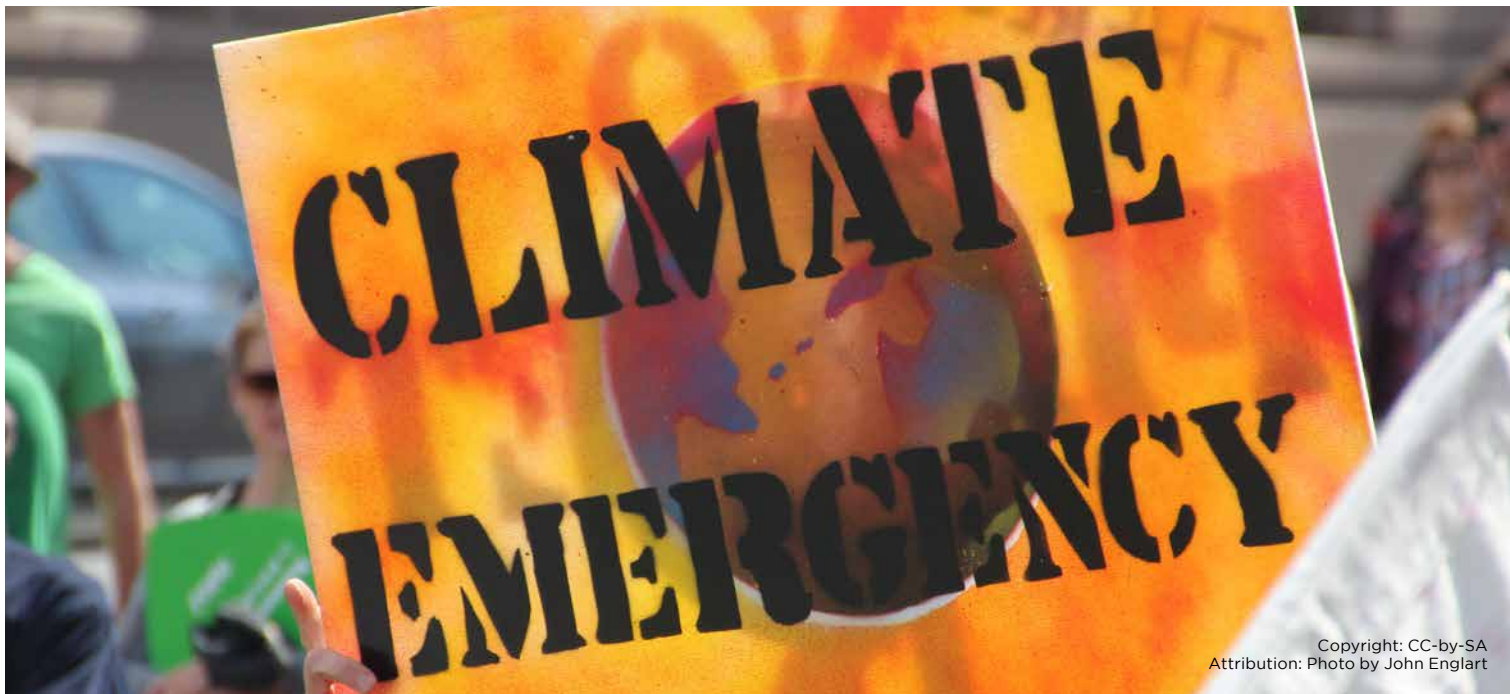
Darebin Council can lead the way. We can work with other councils to show what is possible at the local level. We can influence cities around Australia through the Cities Power Partnership and around the world through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Some of the largest changes, like 100% renewable energy, and leaving fossil fuels in the ground, require action from state and federal levels of government. We will build support for strong action in our local area and work with community groups and other councils to advocate for change at the state and federal levels.

Our goals are to:

- provide maximum protection for the community of Darebin and for people, civilisation and species globally, especially the most vulnerable

- restore a safe climate at emergency speed by eliminating greenhouse emissions and enabling drawdown of excess carbon dioxide greenhouse gases in the air
- encourage research to find safe ways to protect people, species and civilisation from near-term dangerous temperatures, while zero emission and carbon dioxide drawdown strategies are being enacted
- enable our community to be resilient in the face of any unavoidable dangerous climate impacts
- engage, empower and mobilise governments, communities and organisations to take action on and achieve these goals with certainty and at emergency speed.





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We've identified **nine key directions to take action in response to the Climate Emergency.**

① Climate Emergency mobilisation and leadership

The scale and speed of transformation needed to change our energy markets, our economy, our legislation, and our behaviour to eliminate and draw down greenhouse emissions requires a nationwide and global emergency response. Darebin Council will:

- Engage and partner with other councils and organisations to mobilise State and Federal Governments to declare and act on the climate emergency as soon as possible to meet the goals of this plan
- Support community groups to engage and take action on the Climate Emergency
- Foster innovation that can be scaled up
- Build local engagement with climate emergency action broadly and deeply
- Convene a climate emergency conference to bring other councils, levels of government, organisations and the community together to identify strategic action and collaboration
- Undertake an organisational review of all Council programs and policies to ensure alignment with Council's Climate Emergency commitment
- Report back on our actions and key achievements.





② Energy efficiency

This is the first step in reducing emissions and has the added benefit of saving money and making homes and workplaces more comfortable. Under our plan Council will:

- Change more street lights over to energy-efficient LED lights
- Support retrofits to make homes more energy-efficient, including insulation, draught-proofing and efficient heating/cooling
- Ensure new Council buildings will be built to a high environmental standard, and existing buildings made energy-efficient
- Urge state government to improve rental properties
- Ensure a high energy standard for new buildings in Darebin through the planning process
- Extend the reach of the Green Business program to help businesses be energy-efficient
- Urge government to introduce standards, and planning and finance mechanisms to make buildings energy-efficient and increase monitoring to ensure they perform to this standard.

③ Renewable energy and fuel switching

It's crucial for us to get our energy from renewable sources that don't produce greenhouse gas emissions. We will:

- Offer a no-up-front-cost solar program to households, businesses, schools and community organisations. Under this program the cost of panels can be paid back over time through rates using the money saved on electricity (interest-free for pensioners and low income households)
- Explore a program offering energy efficiency, solar and batteries for householders and businesses
- Offer bulk solar programs for businesses and homes
- Increase the amount of solar panels on Council's own buildings
- Explore how we can purchase renewable electricity
- Urge the government to set a target for 100% renewable electricity as soon as possible
- Phase out natural gas use from Council buildings and promote switching from gas to electric across Darebin.





④ Zero emissions transport

18% of Darebin's emissions come from transport. Under this plan we will:

- Improve the infrastructure for walking, cycling, and accessing public transport
- Review our fleet policy to upgrade to low-emissions vehicles
- Encourage and facilitate the use of electric vehicles
- Increase the car share network.

⑤ Consumption and waste minimisation

The rapid depletion of the earth's resources and our waste problem are two sides of one coin: unsustainable consumption. Additionally waste sent to landfill is a small but important source of greenhouse gases. Council will:

- Investigate providing food waste collection services, so food waste does not go to landfill
- Give greater prominence to reducing consumption (including carbon intensive foods) in our environmental engagement strategies and programs
- Help the community to reduce waste through information, education and infrastructure
- Urge government to adopt and enforce the highest levels of resource recovery and expand the product stewardship scheme to more products.





⑥ Fossil fuel divestment

Taking our investments away from companies that extract and supply fossil fuels - and the institutions that fund them - lets our money do the talking.

Council will:

- Actively invest with fossil-free financial institutions within the bounds of our Investment Policy
- Integrate Council's Investment Policy and Fossil Fuel Investment Policy into one comprehensive policy
- Create awareness about divestment and related campaigns
- Urge government to divest from and phase out extraction and supply of fossil fuels in Australia.

⑦ Adaptation and resilience

We are supporting communities to adapt and become resilient to the changes in the climate we know are already happening.

Under the plan we will:

- Increase suitable tree canopy coverage to reduce the urban heat island effect
- Support urban food production
- Apply standards through the planning process that equip new buildings to cope better with a changing climate
- Run education programs on retrofitting to adapt to extreme weather and support businesses to become more resilient
- Work with Melbourne Water to undertake flood protection works.





⑧ Engaging the community

Council's environmental engagement programs aim to empower our community to take action on the Climate Emergency. Under this plan we will:

- Develop a new Environmental Engagement Strategy consistent with our Climate Emergency commitment
- Continue to provide information through events, workshops, e-newsletters
- Help individuals and groups influence governments
- Expand the sustainable business program to support businesses to take up energy efficiency, solar and sustainable transport programs
- Facilitate relationships between different environmental and community groups across Darebin to help them maximise their effectiveness.

⑨ Climate Emergency Darebin

Council is establishing Climate Emergency Darebin to accelerate sustained and meaningful action with the community (residents, businesses, education and other organisations) to reduce Darebin's greenhouse emissions and embed community resilience to climate change. We will:

- Establish an interim advisory board in 2017 to determine the most effective long-term governance model for Climate Emergency Darebin, for consideration by Council by February 2018
- Set up a Climate Think Tank
- Implement the final model for Climate Emergency Darebin in 2018
- Provide ongoing support to Climate Emergency Darebin following establishment.



“Failure to act now will haunt us till the end of time.”

Professor Ross Garnaut, Economist

Arabic

يدرك المجلس بأننا في حالة طوارئ مناخية. نحن هنا في فيكتوريا نشاهد بالفعل المزيد من موجات الحر وحرارة الأعشاب. وما لم نستعيد مناخاً آمناً في سرعة الطوارئ، فإن التغييرات الجذرية ستؤثر على مجتمعنا. وهناك حاجة ماسة إلى اتخاذ إجراءات لضمان السلامة لأنفسنا ولأجيالنا المقبلة وكافة الأحياء الأخرى على كوكبنا. وقد وضع المجلس هذه الخطة الطارئة للمناخ للعمل جنباً إلى جنب مع مجتمعنا والمستويات الأخرى للحكومة لاستعادة مناخ آمن. يمكنك الانضمام إلى الجهد والحصول على الطاقة الشمسية دون أي تكلفة مقدماً – انظر الموقع <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Chinese

市议会承认我们正处于气候变化紧急状态。维多利亚州已经出现了更多的热浪和丛林火灾。除非我们紧急恢复安全气候，巨大的气候变化将会影响我们的社区。我们现在迫切需要采取行动，确保我们自己、我们的子孙后代，以及地球上所有其他生命的安全。为此，市议会特制定《气候变化紧急预案》，以便与我们的社区和各级政府携手合作，恢复安全气候。您可以加入到这项行动中，获取太阳能而无需支付任何前期费用——详情请浏览 <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Greek

Ο Δήμος αναγνωρίζει ότι βρισκόμαστε σε κατάσταση έκτακτης κλιματικής αλλαγής. Εδώ στη Βικτώρια βλέπουμε ήδη περισσότερους καύσωνες και πυρκαγιές. Εάν δεν αποκαταστήσουμε ένα ασφαλές κλίμα με ταχύτητα έκτακτης ανάγκης, οι δραματικές αλλαγές θα επηρεάσουν την κοινότητά μας. Υπάρχει επείγουσα ανάγκη να αναληφθεί δράση για να διασφαλίσουμε ασφάλεια για τον εαυτό μας, τις μελλοντικές μας γενιές και για όλη την άλλη ζωή στον πλανήτη. Ο Δήμος έχει αναπτύξει αυτό το Σχέδιο Έκτακτης Ανάγκης Κλιματικής Αλλαγής για να συνεργαστεί με την κοινότητά μας και άλλα επίπεδα διακυβέρνησης για την αποκατάσταση ενός ασφαλούς κλίματος. Μπορείτε να συμμετάσχετε στην προσπάθεια και να αποκτήσετε πρόσβαση στην ηλιακή ενέργεια χωρίς προκαταβολικό κόστος – βλ. <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Hindi

काउंसिल यह मानती है कि हम जलवायु आपातकाल की स्थिति से गुजर रहे हैं। विक्टोरिया में हम पहले से ही भीषण गर्मी और जंगली आग का सामना कर रहे हैं। जब तक हम आपातकालीन गति से एक सुरक्षित वातावरण को बहाल नहीं करेंगे, नाटकीय बदलाव हमारे समुदाय को प्रभावित करते रहेंगे। अपने स्वयं के लिए, हमारी भावी पीढ़ियों और ग्रह के अन्य सभी जीवों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कार्रवाई करने की एक तत्काल आवश्यकता है। काउंसिल ने सुरक्षित जलवायु को बहाल करने के लिए हमारे समुदाय और सरकार के अन्य स्तरों के साथ मिलकर काम करने के लिए एक जलवायु आपातकालीन योजना बनायी है। आप इस प्रयास में शामिल होकर बिना किसी तुरंत भुगतान की जाने वाली लागत पर सौर ऊर्जा तक पहुंच प्राप्त कर सकते हैं – विवरण यहाँ देखें <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Italian

Il Comune riconosce che ci troviamo in una situazione di emergenza climatica. Qui nel Victoria si verificano sempre più spesso ondate di caldo e incendi. Se non ripristiniamo in fretta un clima sicuro ci saranno dei cambiamenti drammatici che si ripercuoteranno sulla nostra comunità. C'è un bisogno urgente di agire per garantire la nostra sicurezza, quella delle generazioni future e quella di tutte le forme di vita sul pianeta. Il Comune ha sviluppato questo Piano di emergenza climatica per collaborare insieme alla nostra comunità e ad altri livelli di governo per ricreare un clima sicuro. Potete partecipare a questo sforzo e accedere all'energia solare senza pagamenti in anticipo - visitate <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Macedonian

Општината признава дека сме во состојба на промена на климата. Тука во Викторија веќе гледаме почесто топлотни бранови и пожари. Доколку не ја вратиме безбедната клима со итна брзина, драматичните промени ќе влијаат на нашата заедница. Постои итна потреба да се преземе акција за да се обезбеди сигурност за нас самите, за идните генерации и за целиот живот на планетата. Општината го разви овој план за вонредни состојби за климата за да работи заедно со нашата заедница и другите нивоа на власта за да се врати безбедна клима. Можете да се придружите на напорите и да добиете пристап до сончевата енергија без однапред да платите - видете <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Somali

Golaha degmadu wuxuu aqoonsan yahay in aan ku jirno xilli ay jirto xaallad degdeg ah oo la xiriirta cimilada. Halkaan Fiktooriya waxaan hadaba ku aragnaa kulayl siyaada ah iyo dab kaymaha ka dhasha. Ilaa aan si degdeg ah u soo celino cimilo amaana ah, isbedeladaan badan ayaa saamayn doona bulshadeena. Waxaana jirta baahi ah in degdeg loo qaado talaabo si loo xaqiijiyo amaanka nafteena, jililkeena mustaqbilka soo socda iyo dhamaan nololaha ka jira dhulka dushiisa. Goluhu wuxuu sameeyey Qorshe Degdeg ah oo cimilada si wadajir loola shaqeeyo bulshadeena iyo heerarka kala duwan ee dawlada si dib loogu soo celiyo cimila amaana. Waad ka qayb geli kartaa da'daalkaas waxaadna helli kartaa tamarta qoraxda taas oo qiimaheeda lagaa rabin isla markaba <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

Vietnamese

Hội đồng Thành phố nhận biết rằng chúng ta đang ở trong tình trạng nguy cấp về khí hậu. Tại Victoria, chúng ta đã thấy xảy ra thêm nhiều đợt nóng và cháy rừng. Trừ phi chúng ta khôi phục khí hậu an toàn ở tốc độ khẩn cấp, những thay đổi tai hại sẽ ảnh hưởng đến cộng đồng chúng ta. Chúng ta cần phải hành động cấp bách để bảo đảm an toàn cho bản thân chúng ta, cho các thế hệ tương lai của chúng ta và cho tất cả sự sống trên trái đất này. Hội đồng Thành phố đã soạn thảo Kế hoạch Nguy cấp Khí hậu (Climate Emergency Plan) này để cùng với cộng đồng và các cấp chính quyền khác khôi phục khí hậu an toàn. Quý vị có thể tham gia vào nỗ lực này và sử dụng năng lượng mặt trời mà không phải trả trước chi phí - xem tại <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/solar>

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274 Gower Street, Preston
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877
E mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
darebin.vic.gov.au