

# TAKING ACTION ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY TOGETHER

Most people who live in Darebin want our community to take urgent action on the climate emergency to protect our planet and ensure a safe future for all living things. At Darebin Council, we are working hard to protect our planet and people, and we are here to support you to take action!

## What is the climate emergency?

The **climate emergency** refers to dangerous changes to the world's climate caused by human activity. These changes mean our earth is getting hotter and our weather patterns are more unstable – leading to the megafires we experienced in early 2020, floods, severe ongoing drought and other extreme weather events which threaten our planet and our future.

To protect our planet and ensure a safe future for all life on earth we must:

1. Stop producing greenhouse gases that are produced by coal, oil and gas and
2. Remove current greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

More and more people are facing the urgent challenge of responding to the climate emergency. We have the solutions, and when we work together we can move quickly to protect our community and our planet.



## How is Council taking action on the climate emergency?

In 2016, Darebin was the first government in the world to declare a climate emergency, recognising that we need fast and coordinated action to address the climate emergency. Since then more than 1500 governments around the world and almost 100 in Australia have done the same.

In Darebin we are focusing on:

### ⊕ Reducing and drawing down our greenhouse gases

We are powering Council facilities and our community with renewable energy, replacing inefficient streetlighting, improving access to sustainable transport and rewilding our city.

### ⊕ Supporting our communities to take action

We are reaching out to and supporting people in Darebin to come together and take action on the climate emergency.

### ⊕ Calling for strong climate action from state and federal governments

This is a global emergency. We are calling on State and Federal governments to lead rapid action to reduce our greenhouse gases and protect our planet.

### ⊕ Working together with other Councils

We are working closely with other councils who have declared a climate emergency to share information and help each other

### Check out our full list of Council actions.

This is just the beginning. We know that as a Council we must do more to address the climate emergency, and to support everyone in Darebin to do the same.

## What can I do and how can Council support me?

There's so much each of us can do to take action on the climate emergency. When we all play our part, we inspire each other and our impact grows.

We have a dedicated team working hard to ensure that your voice is heard. We would love to hear your suggestions about how we can support you to have more impact. Say hello at [climateemergency@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:climateemergency@darebin.vic.gov.au).

### Read up

- [Register for Council's Sustainability News](#) for local events and tips on taking local climate emergency action
- [Learn about the climate emergency and solutions](#) from independent media
- [Check out our advice and support](#) for running a sustainable business (scroll down to find the 'Sustainable Business' section)

### Get together

- [Join a local climate action group](#). There are lots of groups with various focuses: for example creating art, organising events or having conversations about the climate emergency. [There's something for everyone](#).
- Want to start a new group in your neighbourhood, work or school? [We can help you get going](#).

### Speak up

- [Have conversations with friends and family](#) about the climate emergency. If you'd like a bit of help, consider [hosting a Climate for Change conversation](#)
- [Write to your State and Federal Government representatives \(MPs\)](#) asking them to take climate emergency action
- Encourage your child's school to join the [Victorian Government's Resource Smart Schools Program](#)

### At home

- Consider how your everyday actions contribute to greenhouse gases, and [work towards reducing them](#)
- [Review your banking, insurance and superannuation](#) to ensure your money is not supporting fossil fuels
- Explore Sustainability Victoria's ideas on [how to save energy at home](#)



### Out and about

- Swap driving your car for [sustainable transport alternatives](#) such as cycling, public transport and walking where possible
- [Ride your bike to work](#) - the [Darebin Travel Smart Map](#) will help you plan your journey
- Consider a local holiday and [visit some of the incredible parks and beaches](#) we have in Victoria

## How do we keep going and stay hopeful?

You are not alone. [Most Victorians agree](#) that climate change requires urgent action, but we often feel as if we are the only ones who care. Taking any of the actions above can be useful if you are feeling down or anxious about the climate emergency: as [Greta Thunberg](#) says, "The one thing we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere."

If you are still feeling overwhelmed:

- Check out the Australian Conservation Foundation's [list of guides, books and videos about self-care and coping with climate distress](#).
- To find a specialised mental health professional and other resources [check out the Australian Psychological Society](#).

## Share our climate emergency events with your friends and family!

Sign up for Sustainability News for climate emergency events, stories and tips directly to your inbox. You'll also find our events on social media:

[City of Darebin](#) - Facebook

[Darebin Libraries](#) - Facebook

[@darebinCouncil](#) - Instagram

[@CityOfDarebin](#) - Twitter