



Community Greenhouse Action Plan 2010

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Community Greenhouse Emissions

Moonee Valley City Council is committed to a community target of zero net emissions by 2020. The target and guiding principles are set out in its *Greenhouse Strategy 2009* which has been used as the basis for the greenhouse reduction actions tabled below.

Where are emissions coming from?

Various sectors contribute to the community's greenhouse gas emissions. These include:

1. residential
2. transport
3. commercial
4. industrial
5. waste

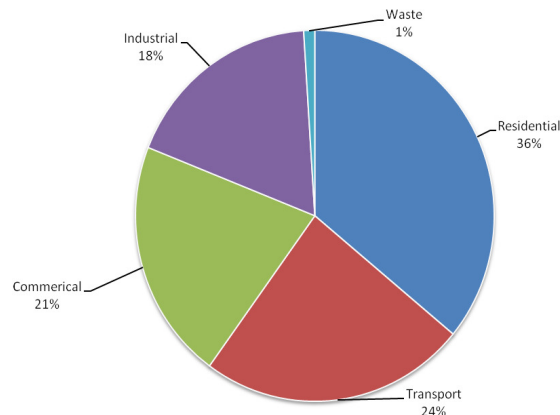


Figure 1: Community greenhouse emissions by sector 2006

Each of these sectors are outside of Council's direct operational control, however Council will be facilitating and encouraging emission reductions wherever possible.

Moonee Valley's community greenhouse emissions profile is based upon the most recent 2006 ABS census data and variables including total population and number of people employed in Moonee Valley.

'Community' refers to all emissions from residents, business, organisations and government agencies based in the municipality of Moonee Valley.

All greenhouse gases are expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) in this Plan.

What reductions have been made to date?

In 2001, the community emitted 1.41 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.

Between 2001 and 2006, community greenhouse emissions were reduced by 6 per cent. Much of this reduction is due to an increase in the efficiency of Victorian coal, however Council has assisted the community in reducing emissions through a number of activities including:

Residential (36 per cent of total emissions)

1. 'Solar Suburbs' solar panel bulk buy program taken up by 167 households - saving 334 tonnes of greenhouse emissions a year.
2. Showerhead exchange program coordinated by City West Water - saving 600 tonnes of greenhouse emissions a year.

3. Home energy efficiency retrofit program for 106 Aged and Disability households to date saving over 200 tonnes of greenhouse emissions a year.

Transport (24 per cent of total emissions)

4. Walking School Bus program with a total of 550 children participating – saving more than 150,000 car trips and 75 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

Commercial (21 per cent of total emissions)

5. Green Precinct Project making savings for eight local businesses - to date saving 23 tonnes of greenhouse emissions a year.

Waste (1 per cent of total emissions)

6. Improved residential recycling and green waste system which now diverts 45 per cent of waste away from landfill. The improved service saves an additional 13,700 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year.
7. Business recycling program available to all businesses to reduce waste to landfill.

Community:

8. Sustainable Environment Community Grants scheme supporting community initiatives. For example, funding to establish the Moonee Valley Climate Action Group - contributing to more than 100 houses installing solar panels saving more than 400 tonnes of greenhouse emissions a year.
9. Public environment forums on practical ways to reduce energy use attended by more than 200 residents each year. Economic development events promoting sustainable business.

The Community Greenhouse Action Plan addresses on-ground programs for residents, businesses, community groups and schools, as well as education and advocacy campaigns.

1) Residential

The residential sector is the largest contributor to Moonee Valley's community greenhouse emissions. This sector contributed 36 per cent to Moonee Valley's emissions in 2006.

Residential emissions are produced through the electricity and natural gas used to heat and cool buildings, power electrical appliances and provide hot water. There are approximately 45,000 residential properties in the City of Moonee Valley.

Residential actions listed in the table below aim at assisting community members to reduce greenhouse emissions. This will be achieved by educating community members to minimise their resource use and improve energy performance of homes and community facilities.

Residential actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & Offset	1.1	Education	<p>Deliver education programs to help residents reduce emissions. Implement a mix of education initiatives progressively, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Demonstration projects Continue to establish and promote demonstration projects to inspire residents (Green Precinct, carbon neutral kinder) b) Bill reading programs Investigate need to facilitate bill reading programs (incl. CALD communities) to make people more aware of their energy consumption c) Advice on energy usage Provide information on energy benchmarking to advise residents how they compare with other similar households d) Sustainable homes tours Investigate need and feasibility of facilitating sustainable homes tours to houses that have been retrofitted, or have been built according to environmentally sustainable design e) Residential education webpage Develop a tailored greenhouse and energy efficiency education webpage that draws on existing information and education tools f) Sustainable events toolkit Develop and promote a sustainable events toolkit for Council and community use g) Sustainable environment focus at events Council facilitated Community events like the Moonee Valley Festival will be utilised to educate residents about environmental sustainability h) Other education programs Consider other relevant education programs that arise due to project development or partnership opportunities. 	2010 - ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch	1.2	Development planning	<p>Sustainability assessment tool for planning applications Introduce voluntary sustainable assessment tools to the planning scheme to improve energy performance of residential developments. Commence implementation of Sustainable Tools for Environmental Performance Strategy (STEPS) for residential developments.</p>	2010 - ongoing
Reduce Switch	1.3	Retrofitting buildings	<p>Deliver home retrofit programs to help residents reduce emissions. Implement programs progressively, including:</p>	2009 - ongoing

Residential actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
			<p>a) Home assessments and retrofit programs Facilitate and promote free home assessments, retrofit programs and available rebates through the WAGA Retrofitting the West program. Incorporate behaviour change program</p> <p>b) Aged care retrofit program Continue to do basic retrofits through Home and Community Care program (e.g. light globes, showerheads)</p> <p>c) Showerhead exchange Continue to facilitate and promote City West Water showerhead exchange to reduce water consumption and lowers greenhouse emissions</p> <p>d) Green rental properties Working with Real Estate Agents to encourage green rental properties (e.g. government funded retrofits)</p> <p>e) Green lease agreements Investigate green lease agreements between Council and community groups and sporting clubs that lease and use Council buildings to reduce emissions in Council facilities that are community run</p> <p>f) Other relevant retrofitting programs Consider other relevant retrofitting programs that arise due to changing technologies, financing and partnership opportunities.</p>	
Reduce	1.4	Gardens	<p>Greenhouse saving garden Investigate, and if feasible, implement a Smart Gardens Program which includes a greenhouse saving garden module to keep homes cool and reduce travel for food.</p>	2009 - 2012
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & Offset	1.5	Partnering	<p>Green community groups Continue to support partnerships with community groups such as friends groups and gardening groups to maintain and improve biodiversity, shading and increase vegetation that will absorb carbon from the atmosphere.</p>	2009 - ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & Offset	1.6	Schools programs	<p>Deliver school programs to help residents reduce emissions. Implement school initiatives progressively, including:</p> <p>a) Environmental webpage for schools Develop an Environmental Resources Webpage in cooperation with local school teachers that are part of the Sustainable Schools network</p> <p>b) Resource Smart AussivIC Schools Promote and facilitate "Resource Smart Schools" and AussivIC to help schools to reduce their electricity and water consumption and waste production</p> <p>c) Sustainable Schools network Pilot a Council facilitated sustainable schools network to share information about environment initiatives for schools. Investigate a Sustainable Schools Awards Program to reward and promote schools that are leaders in sustainability..</p>	2010 - ongoing
Renew	1.7	Community renewable	<p>Investigate and if feasible facilitate community/business owned renewable energy projects in Moonee Valley and the Western region.</p>	2010 - ongoing

Residential actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
		energy projects		

2) Commercial and industrial

The commercial sector contributed 21 per cent to Moonee Valley's emissions in 2006, while the industrial sector contributed 18 per cent. There are more than 9000 businesses in Moonee Valley that make up these sectors.

Commercial and industrial emissions are produced through the electricity and natural gas used to heat and cool buildings, power electrical appliances and provide hot water. Industrial energy use may also include energy intensive functions like running motors and furnaces.

Commercial and industrial actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & Offset	2.1	Education	<p>a) Demonstration projects Promote the Moonee Valley Green Precinct to showcase best practice initiatives and investigate the feasibility of establishing another Green Precinct or Sustainable Village.</p> <p>b) Sustainable business workshops Include Sustainable Business Workshops in Council Economic Development Unit's annual events program.</p>	2009 - ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch	2.2	Planning	<p>Sustainability assessment tool for planning applications Guide planning permit applicants to improve the environmental performance of buildings through the use of environmentally sustainable design tools. Investigate, and if feasible implement voluntary Sustainable Design Scorecard (SDS).</p>	2010/11
Avoid Reduce Switch	2.3	Retrofitting buildings	<p>Deliver building retrofit programs to help business reduce emissions. Implement initiatives progressively, including:</p> <p>a) Commercial building energy saver program Investigate, and if feasible appoint an energy efficiency consultancy to deliver a general energy saver program to commercial and industrial businesses. This will provide energy efficient building features and renewable energy installations. Bulk buying initiatives to be coordinated by Council, and efforts made to support community run bulk buying initiatives</p> <p>b) Big roof project Provide advice to businesses with large industrial roofs on how to generate solar power (based on the WAGA big roof project).</p>	2010-ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & Offset	2.4	Sustainable business operations	<p>Deliver business programs to help reduce emissions. Implement a mix of business initiatives progressively, including:</p> <p>a) Sustainable business program Provide support to different business sectors to reduce their greenhouse emissions. The program will involve education, networks, links to rebates and products, guidelines and promoting of businesses that reduce emissions in their operations and products. Business programs to be investigated include manufacturing, offices, restaurants, hotels/motels, event venues and food courts</p> <p>b) Green purchasing programs Encourage businesses with over 100 employees to join the ECO-Buy business program. Promote the ECO-Find database to all businesses to assist them in purchasing products that use less energy</p> <p>c) Grow Me the Money Encourage small businesses to join the Grow Me The Money program run by VECCI and EPA. This program is open to all Victorian businesses interested in reducing energy use and saving money.</p>	2010 - 2014

3) Transport

Transport emissions from vehicle fuel contributed 24 per cent to Moonee Valley's greenhouse emissions in 2006.

Transport actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
Avoid Reduce	3.1	Education	<p>a) Public transport Continue to promote and provide information on public transport to reduce the number of vehicles used in commuting.</p> <p>b) Cycling and walking Continue to promote and provide information on cycling and walking (e.g. local walking maps tied to local shops and parks). Undertake surveys to monitor and promote cycling and walking activities.</p> <p>c) Green Vehicle and Green Driving Guides Promote the Green Vehicle Guide to residents and businesses to encourage uptake of more efficient vehicles. Investigate the development of a green driving course.</p> <p>d) Car sharing and car pooling Educate community about the different roles and benefits for car share and car pooling services.</p> <p>e) Electric vehicles and bikes Encourage the use of electric vehicles and bikes powered by renewable energy as an alternative to fuel driven vehicles.</p>	ongoing
Avoid Reduce	3.1	Support sustainable transport initiatives and infrastructure	<p>a) Walking school bus Continue to promote and facilitate the Walking School Bus program.</p> <p>b) Bike hubs Investigate, and if feasible, seek funding for bike hub/s for second hand bike repair, bike rental and bike training.</p> <p>c) Public bike sharing scheme Pending the success of upcoming CBD bike sharing scheme, seek its extension into Moonee Valley.</p> <p>d) Support cyclist facilities Continue to increase bike facilities for improved use and safety of cyclists.</p> <p>e) Support car pooling Set up a local car pooling website for Moonee Valley dependant on funding.</p> <p>f) Advocate for better and affordable public transport Advocate to State and Federal Government to improve public transport infrastructure and services and local ticketing to remove cost barriers for short trips.</p> <p>g) Sustainable transport infrastructure in new developments Ensure that new developments provide appropriate bike facilities.</p>	ongoing

Avoid Reduce	3.2	Working with businesses	<p>a) Car share programs Investigate, and if feasible subsidise car share services for local businesses to assist in its take up.</p> <p>b) Work from home programs Encourage businesses to introduce work from home programs for their staff.</p> <p>c) Business bike fleets Encourage business to make bike fleets available to their staff for business travel.</p>	2010 - ongoing
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4) Waste

Methane emissions from residential and commercial organic waste in landfill contribute less than one per cent to Moonee Valley's greenhouse emissions. These emissions can be reduced by generating and disposing of less organic waste and separating organic waste from landfill.

Waste actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
Avoid Reduce Switch	4.1	Education	<p>Garden waste service and home composting Continue to promote Council's garden waste service and encourage home composting to separate green waste from landfill.</p> <p>Continue to educate residents about best practice composting to minimise greenhouse emissions from organic waste.</p> <p>Waste reductions will be further supported through sustainable residents and business programs.</p>	ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & offset	4.2	Advocacy Working with waste management	<p>Landfill management Advocate, or negotiate, for landfill sites used by Council and the community to capture methane and ideally use it to generate energy.</p> <p>Advocate, or facilitate opportunities by business for advanced waste treatment for organics including pyrolysis converts waste to biochar for agricultural use, whilst generating energy.</p>	2009 - 2013

5) General actions

Council will support general actions to reduce emissions including communications and addressing indirect emissions from foods and goods purchases that we make.

Sector wide actions				
Strategy	No	Action	Description	Time frame
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & offset	5.1	Education	<p>Environment forums and workshops Continue to facilitate environment forums and workshops to educate community members about sustainability and key issues affecting our community and to receive community feedback on existing and future policies.</p>	2009 - ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & offset	5.3	Indirect emissions	<p>a) Moonee Valley Green Business Directory Investigate to develop and promote a Moonee Valley Green Business Directory to provide a resource to residents for locating genuine green business, products and services in Moonee Valley.</p> <p>b) Made in Moonee Valley program Investigate to run a program to promote local products and encourage community members to buy locally produced food and goods..</p>	2010 - ongoing
Avoid Reduce Switch Sequester & offset	5.2	Financial incentives	<p>Sustainable Environment Community Grants Continue to support community programs and projects through the Sustainable Environment Community Grants to improve environmental sustainability in Moonee Valley.</p>	2009 - ongoing