



A changing climate

What should we do?

We all love energy. It is great to be able to cook food, have light and simply to move around.

The downside though is that the more energy we use, the more greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere causing all sorts of problems with the climate, affecting our environment and us.



Check out the *Your Home* and *Living Locally* Conversation Starters for energy saving ideas for your home and neighbourhood.

Have you already been able to reduce your energy bills? Would you like to? Would you like some help?

Climate change is truly a global matter

So why is local government involved?

There are two main reasons:

Firstly, helping community to reduce greenhouse also helps everyone **live well** by reducing electricity bills, air pollution, and providing more reliability for ongoing energy supply

And secondly, Councils needs to plan and budget to **adapt** our local infrastructure such as roads, drains and parks to the climate change that is already happening.

Did you know that Councils are already adapting their infrastructure to deal with climate change?

Are you also adapting your home with water wise gardens, trees as wind breaks, and rainwater tanks to slow down flood flows?

Moonee Valley City Council believes reducing greenhouse is so important for our future living conditions that we will:

One: reduce all of the emissions from Council's own operations to zero by 2020. We are well on track already with our savings in energy bills making it well worth the investment.

Two: work with the community so that altogether we produce zero emissions. We know that we can't achieve this on our own, but wanted to put this target in place to send a message to all levels of government that climate change needs to be avoided.

The good news is that there are plenty of actions now underway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Our plan of action is set out in *Greenhouse Strategy 2010*.

How do you feel about the zero net emissions targets?

A number of ways to reduce emissions

The good news is, there are many ways we can cut our greenhouse emissions without it making any difference to our quality of life.

Energy efficient lighting saves so much money, and the globes now give out a nice light. It's an investment to replace your downlights, but it will pay itself back in a few years.

Using ceiling fans and planting shade trees helps to reduce air conditioning loads. Make sure you have the right heating and cooling equipment.



There are many, many examples. And with the cost of electricity rising, we will all be losing money if we don't make the change soon.

Did you know that efficient lights and appliances have improved so rapidly? Did you know energy prices are expected to increase dramatically?

Using renewable energy

Even with all your efforts to turn off lights and use efficient appliances, you will still need some energy.

Renewable energy sources energy with no, or very low emissions. This includes solar panels and wind turbines.

Solar - taking energy from the sun for homes and business.

Enough energy from the sun strikes the Earth in one hour to provide all the energy consumed by the Earth's entire population in one year.

Do you have a solar system already? Have you considered installing one? What would stop you from installing one? Should rebates be provided to encourage solar power?

Wind – using the wind to power homes and business.

This is currently not so feasible in Moonee Valley but could be as technology improves or if used on future tall buildings.

Would you consider installing a wind turbine? Would you like to see more installed in Moonee Valley?

Collective ideas

There are great large scale renewable energy options also available. These include geothermal, solar thermal, tidal energy and more. There are also options to set up precinct cogeneration systems to share energy and waste heat.

If feasible, Moonee Valley can partner with other Councils, business or help set up community based models like the Hepburn Wind Farm. By creating a demand and assisting, it can help the market find more renewable energy projects.

GreenPower

Accredited GreenPower is electricity produced from renewable sources (e.g. wind and solar) that can be purchased through energy retailers.

Do you buy GreenPower? Do you consider it a useful service? Would you like some help understanding accredited GreenPower?

Removing carbon from the atmosphere

Wouldn't it be great if we could just remove these extra greenhouse gases from the atmosphere?

This is known as sequestration.

Trees, oceans and soils do this naturally, and we can create artificial processes that sequester carbon like biochar and methane sequestration (read more in our Greenhouse Strategy).

Again, we would need a collective regional approach to set up our own sequestration scheme.

Would you like to Council look into this? Do you have preferences and ideas?



We can also buy 'offsets' which fund greenhouse reductions in other places. We can all do this if it becomes too difficult or costly to reduce the greenhouse emissions on your own site.

Offsets need to be accredited, and need to be saving emissions that would not have otherwise been saved.

Would you consider buying offsets to cover the emissions created by your travel, your house or your parties? Would you prefer a different system? Or would it be better just to buy renewable energy via GreenPower?

What can we do next?

We have planned to do a whole range of things to reduce our own emissions and help the community do the same. Visit our action plans to find out more.

What would you like to see Council do? Is reducing greenhouse emissions important to you? Do you think there is anything else Council needs to consider?

What are City Sustainability Conversation Starters?

City Sustainability is important to all of us. A *City Sustainability Strategy* for Moonee Valley must reflect the priorities and interests of the whole community.

Council is running an engagement program from August 2011 to August 2012 and we want to hear from people and community groups living and working across our City.

Conversation Starters have been developed to provide thoughts and inspiration. They basically get you thinking about your suburbs and how you want to live. Please feel free to expand your ideas and comments beyond the topic of this Conversation Starter. All of your input is valuable and we thank you for your contribution.

Please contact Penny Mueller on 9243 9165 or environment@mvcc.vic.gov.au if you would like to discuss your ideas for City Sustainability further.