



## What are the design solutions?

There are many solutions found in sustainable planning, urban design, transport and landscaping

### Changing homes for children

Adapting **homes** to children's needs can include

- windows onto outdoor areas so that children can easily play out in the yard and along the street
- more storage for bicycles, tricycles and scooters
- sustainable materials that are not toxic and unhealthy



Adapting **gardens** to children's needs can include

- connecting kids with nature by providing discovery landscapes to climb and absorb themselves within.
- apartment blocks to include communal play areas for young children that is away from cars.
- less garden area used up for parking cars that can instead be used for garden or informal sports

*Would you like to see children spending more time outdoors? Would these design solutions help?*

### Changing homes for young adults

Adapting **homes** to young adult needs can include

- partitions that enable young adults to live independently in their parent's house
- flats and share-houses in inner city neighbourhoods that are close to transport and shops. This avoids costly car ownership.

Adapting **gardens** to young adult needs can include

- small food gardens, often just herbs, that are easy for busy young people to maintain
- improved load bearing of apartment balconies to support small gardens

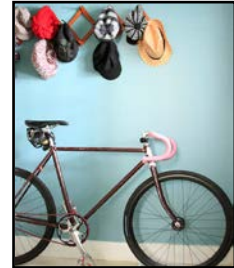


*Are you a young adult considering any of these design solutions? Do you have others?*

### Changing homes for adults

Adapting **homes** to adult needs can include

- electronic portals that give live updates on energy and water use and automatically adjust awnings or even rotating solar panels (yet to be designed)
- easier storage and access to bikes at home so that they are more convenient to use than cars



Adapting **gardens** to adult needs can include

- water wise, easy maintenance gardens to support busy lives, frequent travel, and extended drought
- shade trees that add financial value to the property (one study shows \$8000 increase in value)

*Would you like access to live updates of your energy and water usage? Does knowing the value of a tree increase the likelihood of planting one in your garden?*

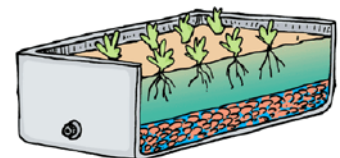
### Changing homes for older adults

Adapting **homes** to older adult needs can include

- smaller units that are easier to maintain
- water and energy efficiency fittings to reduce household running costs.

Adapting **gardens** to older adult needs can include

- raised wicking garden beds that save water and are easier for older adults to reach
- front sitting area that is shaded and semi-private to enable older adults to watch and engage with neighbours



*Would these design solutions work for you, or the older adults you know? What other ideas do you have?*

## Changing homes for health and wellbeing

Adapting **homes** for health and wellbeing can include

- low running costs to reduce financial and mental stress for householders
- less mechanical air-conditioning and heating to reduce surrounding noise and pollutants



Adapting **gardens** for health and wellbeing can include

- inviting green spaces that have spaces to sit and relax or play and run
- productive gardens that provide fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs

*Is health important in the design of your home or garden? What influences the way you live in your home?*

## Changing homes for climate change

Adapting **homes** to climate change can include

- shading to help householders cope with more frequent heat waves
- rainwater tanks that are connected to the toilet to reduce demand on precious drinking water in times of drought.



Adapting **gardens** to climate change can include

- shade trees, vines on trellis, or native grasses on flat roofs to reduce the heat on your home and in the city
- resilience to flooding with rainwater tanks that can purge water automatically when extreme storms are predicted.

*Do you already have these design solutions in place? Do they make your home more comfortable?*

## Changing homes to protect limited resources

Adapting **homes** to our limited resources can include

- easy to use reuse, recycling and composting systems to help everything be used more than once
- renovations that enable future changes to be made, including 'easy' dismantling so materials can be reused.



Adapting **gardens** to our limited resources can include

- well designed gardens which make the best use of space. Large gardens can even be subdivided to provide a smaller home for others with different needs
- nutrient, carbon and phosphorus recycling as much as possible within the garden. This is as easy as composting your own green 'waste'.

*Have you considered that what you do in your own home can protect the planets resources? Is this something you would like to do?*

## Changing homes for biodiversity protection

Adapting **homes** to biodiversity protection can include

- smaller homes built in inner areas to reduce the housing demand on valuable urban fringe land
- homes that are built from sustainable materials e.g. recycled timber



Adapting **gardens** to biodiversity protection can include

- less hard surfaces to support better soil health, and to reduce stormwater eroding and polluting our waterways
- bird friendly gardens with dense shrubs, bird baths and nesting boxes to encourage pollinator pathways

*Do you have lots of hard surfacing in your garden? Would you be interested in alternatives to concrete like permeable paving?*

## Your buying choices help

In our homes, we have the option of buying things in a way that is better for our lifestyle, and our environment. Examples include buying:

1. organic and sustainable products wherever possible. Start with simple purchases like coffee and soap.
2. quality items that will last a long time
3. items that do not need a lot of energy or water to run
4. products that are made from reused materials, and that can be recycled at the end of their life
5. goods and services from cooperatives e.g. a food co-op in your suburb, or a community farm.

At the moment, it may be hard to find these goods and services near you. That is why it is up to each of us to create a market for them. We have the technology to create sustainable products, and we will see more of them once our businesses can see there is a demand.

Moonee Valley has made a start with its Buy Green list of businesses that supply environmental goods and services.



*Do you like the idea of buying products for, and within your home, which are better for the environment? What sort of 'environmental goods and services' do wish there were more of? Are there more businesses to include on our list?*

## Your home can make a difference

All of the above design solutions show how your home can make a difference to our environment, your suburb, your family and the way each of us lives our lives.

The important thing to always remember is that good environmental design can not only add value to your home but also to your lifestyle now and in the future.

## 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](mailto:environment@mvcc.vic.gov.au) if you would like to discuss your ideas for City Sustainability further.

**Please tell us about yourself...**  
Answers are optional

**Name:**

**Suburb:**

**Email address or phone number:**

**Would you like to be sent further information on this topic? Or do other sustainability topics interest you instead?**

**Which ones**