



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ACTION PLAN 2022-26



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Cover image – The solar project at the Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre



Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidawel people and their enduring relationship with country.

Council aspires to strengthen our partnerships and supports Aboriginal participation in management processes for land and natural resources. We recognise Australia's rich cultural heritage and aim to encourage integrated decision making now and in the future.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-32

Our aspirations drive the focus:

“By 2032, sustainable behaviour and decision making will be embedded into all aspects of how East Gippslanders live and work. East Gippsland’s natural environment will be enhanced, connected and resilient, and East Gippsland will be recognised as a leader in regional climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

Over the next ten years, we are committed to:



» Managing and mitigating the impact of climate change.



» Achieving sustainable resource management.



» Facilitating living and working within the capacity of the local environment.

Our goals over the next ten years are:

1. Conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity.
2. Sustainable management of natural resources (includes climate mitigation).
3. Community participation in the climate response.
4. Respect and alignment with the rights of the Traditional Owner Groups.
5. Environmental sustainability supports sustainable economic growth and new job opportunities.
6. Growth in the circular economy.
7. Community resilience to respond to increasing climate risk and natural disasters.

Community Engagement

The draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy was taken to the community for feedback in 2022. There were over 55 respondents to the survey and detailed written submissions from individuals and community groups representing 150 members. An outcome of the engagement was for the community to rank the goals in order of importance, which has informed the order of the goals listed above.

The issues raised were categorised into the themes of; the urgency to act on climate change; the biodiversity crisis given the bushfires of 2019-20 (combined with Australia’s very high extinction rate) and the need for strong land-use planning; and the opportunities for co-benefits when the lens of sustainability is applied – such as improved health and wellbeing outcomes, more prosperous businesses, safer communities and a healthy natural environment.

Action Plan 2022-26

The four-year action plan has been developed to support the achievement of the goals and targets set out by the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-32.

The actions included under each Goal represent the priorities that East Gippsland Shire Council will either lead or work in partnership with various stakeholders and our community to improve sustainability outcomes.

Progress in delivering on each of the actions will be reported to both the Council and the community periodically.

Major monitoring and development of 'State of the Environment' reporting will also be undertaken every four years - with the first of these due by 2026.

Council's Strategic Planning Framework

East Gippsland Shire Council has three key strategies themed around the triple bottom line principles of sustainable development:

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032 – 10-year horizon
- Economic Development Strategy – 10-year horizon
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – 4-year horizon

These strategies are community-facing and set Council's strategic direction for a diverse range of services and support the work of external agencies and our community.

The interdependence between these three strategies is recognised as they are important tools for delivering the Community Vision:



While there may be some similarities between the goals of these three strategies, the actions and measures will be tailored to the sustainable development theme addressed by each. These strategies have been developed to ensure they complement each other.

Alignment with broader strategy and policies

Whilst the Action Plan has been developed to integrate with other Council strategies, it is also informed by global, national and state conventions, legislation, strategies and policies. This includes, but not limited to, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment reports, and the Gippsland Alliance for Climate Change (GACA) Strategic and Action Plan 2023-24.

GACA was established in 2022 as a Greenhouse Alliance that represents Gippsland Councils to work together to support regional climate action. The GACA Strategic and Action Plan 2023-24 lists priority areas that they will work with member councils to undertake, which includes;

- Climate risk mapping
- Electric vehicle fleet transition plan
- Environmental Sustainable Design for Council buildings
- Decarbonisation and gas removal in council buildings
- Emissions monitoring
- Communications and training

Advocacy

Council's Advocacy Strategy provides a prioritised set of initiatives to focus our efforts on delivering the community's priorities.

Advocacy and partnership priorities are based on the adopted decisions of Council. These decisions include the strategic objectives in the 2021-25 Council Plan, Annual Budget, other strategic documents and partnerships, and items identified and resolved at Council meetings.

Council's advocacy priorities for 2022-23¹:



Long-term bushfire recovery and community resilience



Weed and pest management



Strategic firebreaks and roadside vegetation management



Coastal risk management



Climate change mitigation



Gippsland Lakes health audit



Develop natural resource management strategic partnerships



Biodiversity preservation

¹ For further information on our advocacy priorities and what Council is seeking, visit the Advocacy page on our website – www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au

Goal 1: Conservation of the natural environment/ biodiversity

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Community Facilities and Open Space
- Emergency Management
- Governance
- Planning
- Regulatory Services
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation

External agencies

- East Gippsland Conservation Management Network (EGCMN)
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
- Local Landcare and other volunteer groups
- Local Catchment Management Authorities
- Other Traditional Owner Groups
- Parks Victoria
- Trust for Nature

Related strategies and plans

- East Gippsland Planning Scheme
- Encroachment Policy
- Draft East Gippsland: Housing and Settlement Strategy
- Roadside Vegetation Strategy
- Rural Land Use Strategy
- Urban Tree Management Procedure

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
1.1 Conduct a gap analysis of existing datasets to understand key habitat areas and biodiversity values on Council and private land (AAP)	Community Facilities and Open Space		X			Within existing resources
1.2 Develop management plans to protect key habitat areas and other biodiversity values on Council land (AAP)	Community Facilities and Open Space		X	X		Within existing resources
1.3 Continue to manage fire affected Council land to protect biodiversity and ensure public safety (AAP)	Community Facilities and Open Space Emergency Management	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources

AAP – Annual Action Plan 2022-23; **EDS** – Economic Development Strategy; **RLUS** – Rural Land Use Strategy; **EGEGAP** – East Gippsland Events Growth Action Plan; **MPHWBP** – Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan; **AMP** – Asset Management Plan; **WMAP** – Waste Management Action Plan

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
1.4 Review and update planning overlays with a lens to preserving and connecting important habitat and natural environment values (<i>RLUS</i>)	Planning		X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation and /or grant funding
1.5 Develop an Encroachment Policy and supporting processes to protect and preserve the open space values of Council land	Regulatory Services Governance Community Facilities and Open Space	X	X			Within existing resources
1.6 Audit and assess instances of permitted and illegal native vegetation removal on Council and private land to inform future actions, including taking any relevant enforcement action	Planning Regulatory Services	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
1.7 Work with partner agencies to ensure compliance of approved Vegetation Management Plans, Landscape Plans and native vegetation offsets	Planning Community Facilities and Open Space	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
1.8 Pursue opportunities with partners to promote and support preservation of local biodiversity values	Community Facilities and Open Space Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources
1.9 Develop and provide regular natural environment training for field officers	Community Facilities and Open Space	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
1.10 Develop the first State of Environment review	Community Facilities and Open Space Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X			Within existing resources

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
1.11 Ensure project developments with a land-use impact undertake an environmental analysis prior to planning	Assets and Projects Community Facilities and Open Space		X	X	X	Within existing resources
1.12 Undertake community education to promote the need to protect the natural environment and actions community members can undertake to support this (AAP)	Community Facilities and Open Space Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
1.13 Update the Roadside Vegetation Strategy	Community Facilities and Open Space Works		X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation
1.14 Recognise and protect important habitat, biodiversity and climate risks during the preparation of the Municipal Planning Strategy and review planning controls	Planning	X	X	X		Within existing resources
1.15 Expand annual revegetation programs to support biodiversity, liveability and contribute to the offsetting of Council emissions	Community Facilities and Open Space		X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation
1.16 Work with relevant land managers to provide litter collection services and infrastructure across rest areas, parks, bushland reserves and informal camping areas	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X		Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
1.17 Work with key stakeholders to develop and deliver education programs, initiatives and targeted enforcement investigation to better address illegal rubbish dumping and littering (WMAP)	Regulatory Services Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation

Goal 2: Sustainable management of natural resources

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Community Facilities and Open Space
- Council Enterprises
- Planning
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation
- Works

External agencies

- DEECA
- East Gippsland Water
- Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN)
- Local Landcare and other volunteer groups
- Local Catchment Management Authority
- Sustainability Victoria

Related strategies and plans

- East Gippsland Planning Scheme
- Integrated Water Management Plan

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
2.1 Continue to implement sustainable water practices, including implementation of Integrated Water Management (IWM) and application of water sensitive urban design principles, within new urban development and existing drainage assets (AAP)	Planning Assets and Projects Community Facilities and Open Space Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Works	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
2.2 Complete the Bairnsdale Alternative Water Project (AAP)	Assets and Projects Community Facilities and Open Space Council Enterprises Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Works	X	X	X		Within existing resources

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Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
2.3 Audit organisational greenhouse gas emissions to establish forecast benchmarks for electricity, gas and fossil fuels	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X			Within existing resources
2.4 Deliver key projects and programs to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation and /or grant funding
2.5 Develop and enact a transition plan for Council's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles	Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation
2.6 Incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles when upgrading or developing new Council assets	Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation / impacts final cost
2.7 Proactively manage trees and native vegetation assets across East Gippsland Shire Council's urban areas, open spaces and bushland settings	Community Facilities and Open Space	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities or additional budget to expand further
2.8 Review land use planning policy to facilitate high-quality, sustainable housing sub-division and development which incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design principles (EDS)	Planning		X	X	X	Within existing resources
2.9 Explore feasibility of using geothermal technology in West Bairnsdale	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X		Within existing resources

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
2.10 Deliver projects that provide active transport opportunities	Assets and Projects Community Facilities and Open Space	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
2.11 Undertake audits to identify opportunities to reduce energy, water and waste across Council facilities	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
2.12 Expand the installation and ongoing maintenance of gross pollutant traps or equivalent systems to reduce littering and prevent it entering waterways from existing and new urban stormwater systems	Works Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further

Goal 3: Community participation in the climate response

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Economic Development
- Governance
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation

External agencies

- Business Victoria
- Cities Power Partnership
- Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action (GACA)
- Sustainability Victoria
- Tertiary and further education providers

Related strategies and plans

- Economic Development Strategy
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
3.1 Develop a net zero emissions plan to achieve our 2032 emissions target	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X			Within existing resources
3.2 Coordinate the installation of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure across East Gippsland, by installing Council owned stations and assisting third parties to install their own	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Assets and Projects	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
3.3 Establish a community greenhouse gas emission profile and support actions to reduce emissions	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources
3.4 Coordinate and support community events that support people and community to take leadership on sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources / requires additional budget allocation to expand

3.5 Update and distribute community information packages on sustainability initiatives (Smart Living Booklet)	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources
3.6 Work with the alliance of Gippsland Council (GACA) in delivering priority actions of the Strategic and Action Plan 2023-24	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X			Within existing resources
3.7 Develop and deliver business support programs and information packages, such as the Better Business Guide	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation			X	X	Within existing resources / requires additional budget allocation to expand
3.8 Explore opportunities to provide support for community and businesses to reduce reliance on gas	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources / requires additional budget allocation to expand
3.9 Support business (including agriculture sector) to optimise opportunities to benefit from renewable energy transition and circular economy opportunities (EDS)	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources / requires additional budget allocation to expand
3.10 Support Council's contractors to reduce their emissions and achieve savings	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Assets and Projects Governance	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
3.11 Support programs that incentivise farming practices which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable participation in carbon markets, whilst improving productivity (EDS)	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources / requires additional budget allocation to expand

Goal 4: Respect and alignment with the rights of Traditional Owner Groups

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Community Engagement and Resilience
- Community Facilities and Open Space
- Council Enterprises
- Emergency Management
- Planning
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation
- Works

External agencies

- GLaWAC
- Other Traditional Owner Groups

Related strategies and plans

- Aboriginal Cultural Framework (in development)
- Gunaikurnai Native Title Agreement (External)

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
4.1 Collaborate with Traditional Owners to support environmental and sustainable initiatives and outcomes	Community Facilities and Open Space Assets and Projects Community Engagement and Resilience Emergency Management Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
4.2 Engage with Traditional Owners to ensure the impacts of climate change are identified and addressed through the delivery of joint projects and programs	Community Engagement and Resilience Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
4.3 Include Aboriginal communities in Council decision-making processes around natural resource management, land-use and preservation of biodiversity	Assets and Projects Community Engagement and Resilience Community Facilities and Open Space Planning Works	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
4.4 Engage with Aboriginal communities in Council operations to: • Access traditional land management knowledge to help build awareness and capacity across Council and the community; • Improve the way Council interact with Aboriginal communities on sustainability outcomes; and • Celebrate natural environment cultural values through delivery of arts, events and festivals	Community Engagement and Resilience Assets and Projects Community Facilities and Open Space Council Enterprises Broader Organisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources

Goal 5: Environmental sustainability supports sustainable economic growth and new job opportunities

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Community Facilities and Open Space
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Governance
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation
- Planning

External agencies

- Local business and tourism associations
- DEECA
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
- Destination Gippsland
- GLaWAC
- Latrobe Valley Authority
- Parks Victoria
- Tertiary and further education providers
- Other Traditional Owner Groups

Related strategies and plans

- East Gippsland Economic Development Strategy 2022-32
- East Gippsland Events Growth Action Plan
- Rural Land Use Strategy

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
5.1 Develop the Rural Land Use Strategy to support sustainable agricultural land use and investment (<i>EDS</i>)	Planning	X				Within existing resources
5.2 Support organisations to adopt and adhere to Environmental Social Governance (ESG) principles	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
5.3 Integrate Sustainable Events (from ISO 20121) into the planning and delivery of local events (<i>EGEGAP</i>)	Economic Development	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources

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Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
5.4 Advocate for funding of programs and initiatives that create jobs and support climate resilience (<i>EDS</i>)	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
5.5 Review Council's procurement policies to further elevate support of businesses with demonstrated environmental sustainability credentials (<i>EDS</i>)	Governance Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X			Within existing resources
5.6 Expand and promote access to an Environmental Upgrade Financing Scheme (Better Building Finance) and leverage for local employment (<i>EDS</i>)	Economic Development Finance Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources
5.7 Achieve and maintain Global Eco Destination Certification and grow the number of Eco-accredited operators across the region (<i>EDS</i>)	Economic Development	X	X			Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
5.8 Consider opportunities to build tourism experiences within Council planning, asset creation and operations (<i>EDS</i>)	Economic Development Assets and Projects Community Facilities and Open Space		X			Within existing resources
5.9 Represent Council and community interests in the advancement of off-shore renewable energy	Economic Development	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
5.10 Support business transition toward greater resilience and adoption of environmentally sustainable initiatives, practices and fostering of the circular economy (<i>AAP</i>)	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources

Goal 6: Growth in the circular economy

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Economic Development
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation
- Works

External agencies

- Bairnsdale Recycling Enterprise Inc
- Environment Protection Authority
- Sustainability Victoria
- Tambo Waste and other waste contractors

Related strategies and plans

- Economic Development Strategy 2022-32
- Waste Management Action Plan 2022-32

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
6.1 Develop circular economies in East Gippsland by supporting and influencing local businesses to increase their use of recycled raw materials (<i>WMAP</i>)	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Economic Development	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
6.2 Develop and implement waste education programs and events to focus on key areas of waste reduction, increase re-use and recycling and reduce litter across East Gippsland Shire (<i>AAP</i> / <i>WMAP</i>)	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
6.3 Design and construct the Bairnsdale Recycling Centre at the Bairnsdale Landfill	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Assets and Projects	X	X			Within existing resources
6.4 Support community and not-for-profit groups to deliver programs that support reusing items, including the Repair Café at the HUB Bairnsdale and 'Tip Shop' at the Bairnsdale Regional Landfill	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
6.5 Deliver initiatives and projects to reduce Council's generated waste (<i>WMAP</i>)	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X	X	Within existing resources
6.6 Support the establishment of a local solar panel recycling program	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X		Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
6.7 Increase the use of recycled materials in Council's infrastructure and maintenance program, including roads, pavements and other construction products (<i>AAP</i>)	Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Works	X	X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation / impacts final cost
6.8 Embed requirements for the utilisation of recycled materials in Council policies and practices and support reuse initiatives by businesses and the broader community	Economic Development Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
6.9 Develop Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste infrastructure to support repurposing and recycling (<i>WMAP</i>)	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation and /or grant funding
6.10 Complete a transition plan and service modelling to guide the provision of future waste management, recycling services and education programs in accordance with Recycling Victoria Policy regulations	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X		Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
6.11 Reduce and report landfill greenhouse gas emissions	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
6.12 Support the roll out of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme and ban on single use plastics across Council facilities, community and local business	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation		X	X		Within existing resources

Goal 7: Community resilience to respond to increasing climate risk and natural disasters

Partnering business units

- Assets and Projects
- Community Engagement and Resilience
- Economic Development
- Emergency Management
- Governance
- Planning
- Sustainability and Waste Minimisation

External agencies

- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- DEECA
- Local Catchment Management Authorities
- Parks Victoria
- Regional Roads Victoria
- SP Ausnet

Related strategies and plans

- East Gippsland Planning Scheme
- Economic Development Strategy
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2022-25

How will we achieve this goal?

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
7.1 Strengthen municipal emergency planning arrangements to improve community resilience and preparedness (AAP)	Emergency Management	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
7.2 Provide the latest reliable climate modelling for East Gippsland (using CSIRO data) to inform local agencies and the community	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation			X	X	Requires additional budget allocation, with potential grant opportunities to expand further
7.3 Work with community to ensure they have the knowledge, understanding and resources required to ensure their long-term self-reliance	Emergency Management	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources

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Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
7.4 Support the establishment of local community energy generation to improve resilience of communities vulnerable to power outages and natural disasters	Emergency Management Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation and /or grant funding
7.5 Work with industry sectors and businesses to ensure better natural disaster preparedness (EDS)	Economic Development Emergency Management Planning Sustainability and Waste Minimisation	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources with potential grant opportunities to expand further
7.6 Increase awareness within Council, it's partners and community of the risks of climate change to health and wellbeing (MPHWBP)	Community Engagement and Resilience		X	X	X	Within existing resources
7.7 Improve resilience of Council and community assets through asset management planning that incorporates the impacts of climate change (AMP)	Assets and Projects		X	X	X	Within existing resources
7.8 Implement a detailed climate risk analysis to identify the likely impact of extreme weather and climate events on Council's infrastructure assets, and the ability to provide community services	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Assets and Projects Emergency Management Governance	X	X	X		Within existing resources with potential grant opportunities to expand further
7.9 Engage with local agencies and other stakeholders to identify and mitigate risks to assets and critical infrastructure due to the impacts of climate change	Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Emergency Management			X	X	Within existing resources

Action	Unit(s) responsible	Years planned				Resourcing
		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	
7.10 Ensure the Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area development project applies sustainable development and urban storm water management principles	Planning Assets and Projects Sustainability and Waste Minimisation Works	X	X	X	X	Requires additional budget allocation and /or grant funding
7.11 Install battery storage and generators at selected Council facilities to safeguard emergency response capabilities	Community Facilities and Open Space Assets and Projects	X	X	X		Requires additional budget allocation and /or grant funding
7.12 Work with community to build on their Local Incident Management Plans and prepare Community Emergency Management Plans to reduce the risk and impact of natural hazards on highest disaster risk communities	Emergency Management	X	X	X	X	Within existing resources
7.13 Develop an Urban Canopy Strategy to reduce heat impacts and support habitat connections	Assets and Projects Planning			X	X	Requires additional budget allocation

Monitoring and communicating our progress

As a Council, it's important that we can measure and report on the impact and effectiveness of our work, with the Action Plan demonstrating how we are working towards the achievement of the goals outlined by the strategy.

Reporting on the progress of the action plan is an essential component of providing the community an opportunity to see the progress being made and that the strategy is being implemented effectively.

Council will report annually on the delivery of actions and highlight key projects and achievements. The report will be published following the end of each financial year through the Council website and social media channels. Providing the community with reports is essential to ensure that progress is transparent and that other stakeholders are kept informed and engaged.

As projects and services commence and meet milestones, Council will provide accessible information to the community about progress and outcomes.

Timelines

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy specifies the timeline to undertake reviews of the strategy, develop updated action plans and develop the 'State of the Environment' reviews.

By committing to the delivery of a 10-year strategy, it is essential that Council undertake regular reviews of priorities and that they continue to meet community expectations. Reviewing the strategy also allows Council to reprioritise or pivot the strategy to adapt to new or developing circumstances.

Key dates:

2024 - Major monitoring and development of the first 'State of the Environment' review.

2026 – First review of the strategy and development of second action plan.

2027 – Second State of the Environment review

2030 – Final review of the strategy and development of action plan.

Glossary

Terms	Definitions
Bairnsdale Alternative Water Project	The project to manage water usage and efficiency at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange and Bairnsdale City Oval.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of life forms on earth - the plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms, their genes, and the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems of which they are a part. This diversity exists at different scales: regional diversity, ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. High levels of biodiversity are considered desirable
Circular economy	A circular economy is based on the principle of eliminating waste and pollution by keeping products and materials in use. In a circular economy, natural resources are kept in circulation to create new economic opportunities and employment. It helps conserve natural resources and reduces emissions and waste
Climate change	A change in global and regional climate patterns that can be attributed to increased levels of greenhouse gases leading to global warming and more extreme weather
DEECA	Department of Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Encroachment	An unauthorised occupation, development or use of Council-owned Land or Council-managed Land for private benefit.
Environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plants lives and operates
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) involves designing the built environment to comply with the principles of sustainability.
ESG	The Environmental Social Governance Principles (ESG) framework operates in accordance with the belief an organisations long-term survival and their ability to generate profits require accounting for the impact their decisions and actions have on the environment, society as a whole and their own workforce.
Greenhouse gases	A gas that contributes to climate change through absorbing heat radiation from the sun. Carbon dioxide, methane, water vapour and nitrous oxide are examples of greenhouse gases
Habitat	A habitat is an environment that provides all the conditions necessary for a species to survive
ISO 20121	A management system standard that has been designed to help organisations in the events industry improve the sustainability of their event related activities, products and services
IWM	Integrated Water Management. A collaborative approach to water planning and management that brings together organisations with an interest in all aspects of the water cycle
Resilience	The ability of a species or environment to respond and bounce back from disruptive or extreme events
Recycle	Converting what would otherwise be waste into a reusable product
Reuse and repair	Diverting items that would otherwise become landfill into other uses
Sustainability	Focus on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design. Managing urban water movements by mimicking the natural water cycle

Contact us

Residents' Information Line: 1300 555 886

Contact Centre: (03) 5153 9500

National Relay Service: 133 677

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In person

Bairnsdale: 273 Main Street

Lakes Entrance: 18 Mechanics Street

Mallacoota: 70 Maurice Avenue

Omeo: 179 Day Avenue

Orbost: 1 Ruskin Street

Paynesville: 55 The Esplanade

Outreach Centres

Bendoc Outreach Centre - 18 Dowling Street

Buchan Resource Centre - 6 Centre Road

Cann River Community Centre - Princes Highway