



Environmental Sustainability Strategy Annual Report 2022-23

Progress to 30 June 2023



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Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidawel people and their enduring relationship to 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.



Overview

About this Report

The Environmental Sustainability Annual Report is undertaken to monitor our progress towards achieving the East Gippsland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032's seven goals and the actions from the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. This report provides a snapshot of the various achievements made by Council and other partners, ensuring that these key achievements are acknowledged and celebrated.

The Annual Report demonstrates Council's commitment to environmental sustainability, highlights the significance of each goal from the strategy and demonstrates the progress we have made with our partners and community towards achieving our overall vision for sustainability in East Gippsland.

East Gippsland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-32

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is Council's key environmental policy document, guiding work across Council to achieve objectives for climate change, biodiversity, land and water management and resource efficiency.

This Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032 outlines East Gippsland Shire Council's role in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the region's natural environment over the coming decade.

Four-Year Action Plan 2022-26

The four-year action plan outlines how we will work to achieve the goals of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-32.

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

Each goal is further defined by targets that will help us move towards delivering the vision.



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.”

Goal 1: Conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity

Why this goal is important

The first goal of the strategy focuses on the conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity. This is important to East Gippslanders as most of the land in the Shire is in public ownership.

East Gippsland's natural environment and biodiversity were severely impacted by major events over the past 10 years. From 2014 to 2019 East Gippsland experienced the worst drought on record. These conditions led to the Black Summer Bushfires that burnt more than 50 per cent of our shire. The extent of the biodiversity loss is not fully understood.

Key Achievements

Wetlands - Crooke Street Bairnsdale

Council has approval to commence construction of wetlands at Crooke Street, which includes installing gross pollutant traps in Hoddinott Street Reserve in East Bairnsdale. This will better regulate stormwater, and eliminate gross waste and suspended sediments, reducing nutrient flows into Jones Bay.

Transforming the space into wetlands will achieve multiple environmental outcomes, including:

- 100 per cent removal of gross pollutants, including litter
- 100 per cent removal of suspended solids
- 81 per cent reduction in current phosphorous discharging to the Gippsland Lakes
- 33 per cent reduction in current nitrogen discharging to the Gippsland Lakes.

The project is co-funded by a range of partner agencies, including \$291,000 from the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee and \$325,000 from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Integrated Water Management Capital Grants Program. Construction is planned to start later this year, with an expected completion date of June 2024.

Concurrently, a citizen science project will be conducted to investigate the conditions related to water quality and biodiversity associated with urban wetlands in Bairnsdale. More detail on the project is provided on page 18.



Councillors and staff meet with representatives from partner agencies to discuss the forthcoming Crooke Street Wetlands project in East Bairnsdale

Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and Habitat Community Grants program

Council secured funding through the Commonwealth Government's Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and Habitat Community Grants program to conduct weed surveillance and treatment along the stretch from Betka Beach to Pebbly Beach at Mallacoota. Over 70 hectares were addressed, targeting both emerging and known weed species. The objective was to safeguard regenerating vegetation communities and associated fauna; this grant is nearing completion. A second grant from the same program, allocated for bushfire-impacted roadsides, enabled the assessment and treatment of an extra 1,000 km of roadsides for emerging and regenerated weeds. This project has been successfully completed.



The endangered Key's Matchstick Grasshopper in Omeo

Melbourne University scientists approached Council with a proposal to reintroduce the flightless endangered grasshopper, Key's Matchstick Grasshopper (*Keyacris scurra*), to Omeo. While this species was once widespread across northeast Victoria, it is currently only found in Omeo and three other small remnant sites. As the Key's Matchstick Grasshopper exists nowhere else in the world, its population has significantly declined due to habitat loss. In response, Council facilitated a collaboration between Melbourne University and the North East Catchment Management Authority. This partnership focused on developing vegetation mapping of suitable habitats in the Mitta Mitta River catchment, aiding in the identification of appropriate sites for the grasshopper's reintroduction.



The Key's Matchstick Grasshopper

Maintaining the natural environment from new developments

Council has acquired 5,700 square meters of new wetlands rain gardens and 66 reserve trees from two new developments at Vincent Court, Wy Yung and Salvatore Drive, Wy Yung.

Strategies, plans and policies in development or under review that impact the natural environment¹

- **Encroachment Policy:** A draft is in development and is progressing through approval processes.
- **Marine and Coastal Management Plan:** Community engagement is underway to build an understanding of community perceptions.
- **Public Open Space Strategy:** Despite delays caused by other priorities, an internal project team has initiated the development of the strategy.
- **Rural Land Use Strategy:** The draft strategy has been prepared and will be presented to Council for adoption in July 2023.
- **Housing and Settlement Strategy:** Community engagement has been concluded, and the final draft is currently under preparation.



Council planted 115 street trees, which were advanced trees from 45 litre pots

¹ These updates are as at 30 June 2023.

Projects and initiatives that support the achievement of Goal 1

Action	Status	Comment
Develop an Encroachment Policy and supporting processes to protect and preserve the open space values of Council land	On schedule – <i>Due to be completed in 2023-24</i>	An updated Encroachment Policy has been drafted and is in preparation to be reviewed and presented to Council for endorsement.
Audit and review instances of permitted and illegal native vegetation removal on Council and private land to inform future actions	Ongoing	Reports of illegal native vegetation removal on Council and private land are followed up and enforced as necessary. An internal review was undertaken to consider how Council can clearly report on this performance indicator.
Work with partner agencies to ensure compliance of approved Vegetation Management Plans, Landscape Plans and native vegetation offsets	Ongoing	Vegetation Management Plans and Landscape Plans are reviewed as part of secondary consents for planning permits.
Develop and provide regular natural environment training for field officers	Behind schedule	While no formal training was undertaken, advice and environmental information are provided to operational areas on a regular basis.
Undertake community education to promote the need to protect the natural environment and actions community members can undertake to support this	Ongoing	The quarterly <i>Environment Connect</i> newsletter informs our community and promotes the protection of the natural environment. Work is currently underway to review the website and other promotional and educational materials as part of the delivery of the Sustainability Action Plan.
Recognise and protect important habitat, biodiversity and climate risks during the preparation of the Municipal Planning Strategy and review planning controls	Ongoing	The Draft Municipal Strategic Statement includes directions on habitat, biodiversity and climate risks. Policy on flood risk will be developed as part of the flood mapping update.



Results against targets set for goal 1

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
Reduce the decline in biodiversity loss	< previous year's result	No data available	Baseline data being developed in 2023-24 to report on activity.
Increase in the quantity and quality of vulnerable land, habitat and biodiversity on Council and private land	> previous year's result	No data available	Baseline data being developed in 2023-24 to report on activity.
Illegal clearing of significant native vegetation will be enforced	Target to be developed in 2024-25	37 investigations on private land	An internal review has commenced to consider how Council can report clearly on the performance indicator on illegal clearing. This will inform future reporting on this measure.
By 2032 the community are more engaged in conservation efforts and have a greater awareness of our ecological values	To be confirmed	660 people engaged	This is the first year reporting on this measure. The results will be assessed to determine an annual target.
By 2032 community appreciation of the natural environment measures will have all increased	> in community appreciation	No data available	Baseline reporting is being developed. An initial report will be due by 2024-25.



Goal 2: Sustainable management of natural resources

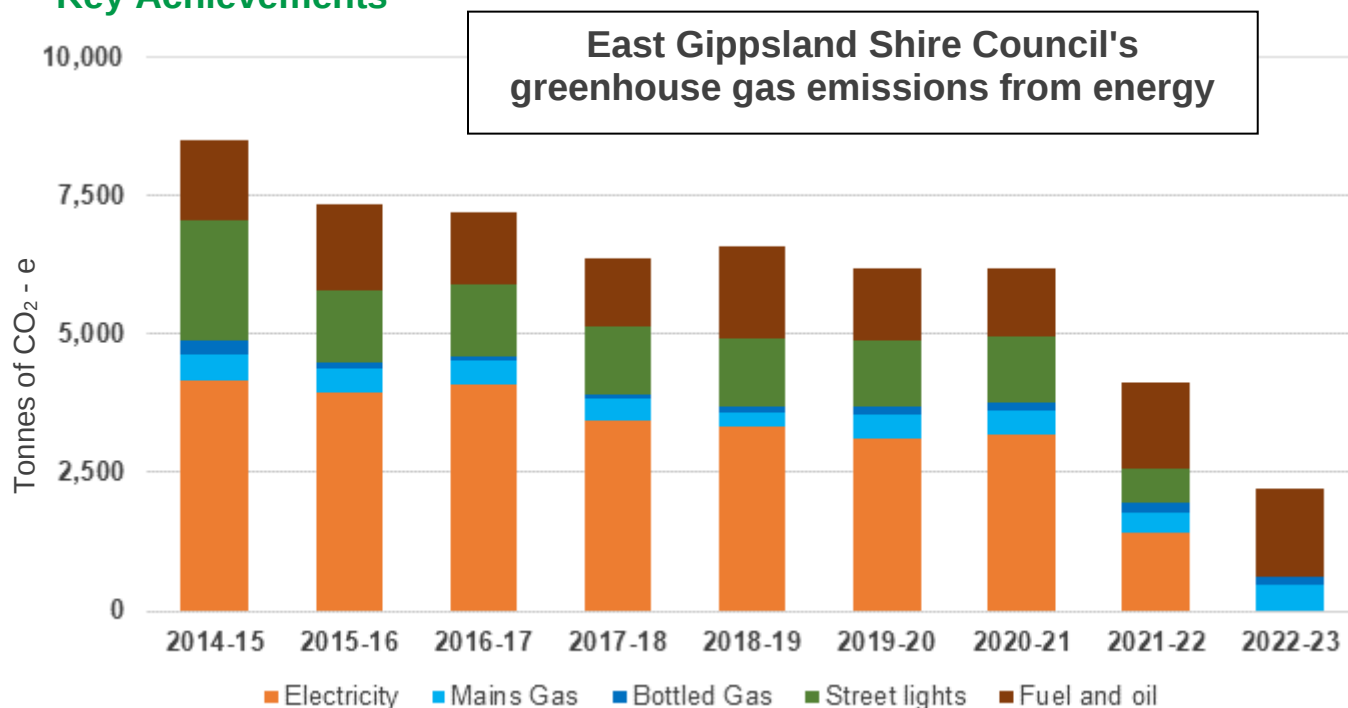
Why this goal is important

This goal refers to the sustainable management of natural resources, such as more efficient use of water, energy and fuel for transport as well as sustainable use of land, soil and raw materials.

Efficiently managing our use of natural resources can have two effects:

- Reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere (mitigation)
- Lower the risk of the impacts from change (adaptation)

Key Achievements



The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan identifies meaningful actions that Council will undertake to meet its corporate net-zero emissions targets by 2032. This involves continuous efforts to decrease corporate emissions through existing projects, along with initiatives to involve and assist the community in reducing their own emissions.

The breakdown provided above illustrates the annual generation of greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations, facilities, and services. This profile gives an understanding of the volume and sources of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from Council operations and enables the identification of emission reduction opportunities in specific areas.

The main factors behind the significant decline in emissions between 2020-21 and 2022-23 is from the following projects:

As of January 1, 2022, Council transitioned its electricity accounts to 100% renewable energy through the Victorian Energy Collaboration Organisation (VECO) agreement. This switch has resulted in a notable reduction of Council's carbon emissions, slashing them by over 3,000 tonnes per year.

Additionally, Council has replaced 1,593 residential streetlights with energy-efficient LED lights. This transition not only contributes to an annual estimated savings of \$228,000 in electricity costs but also leads to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, amounting to over 1,500 tonnes annually.

Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

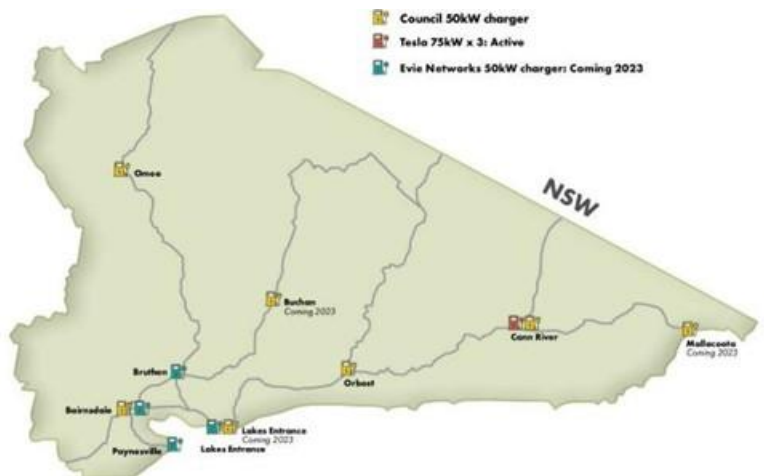
The initial phase of the planned public electric vehicle (EV) charging station network in East Gippsland has been successfully implemented by Council. The inaugural stage, funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, includes the installation of a 50kW fast charger at the following locations:

- 121 Nicholson Street car park, Bairnsdale
- Tongio Road, Omeo
- Wolseley Street car park and toilet block, Orbest
- Ward Street, Cann River

These EV chargers are powered by 100% renewable electricity sourced through a ten-year power purchase agreement with Council's energy retailer.

Key statistics from the EV charging stations include:

- 613 unique charges
- 15,333 kWh of electricity used
- Equivalent to over 16 days' worth of charging time
- 4.89 tonnes of CO₂ saved
- Vehicles registered to 206 different postcodes from across Australia

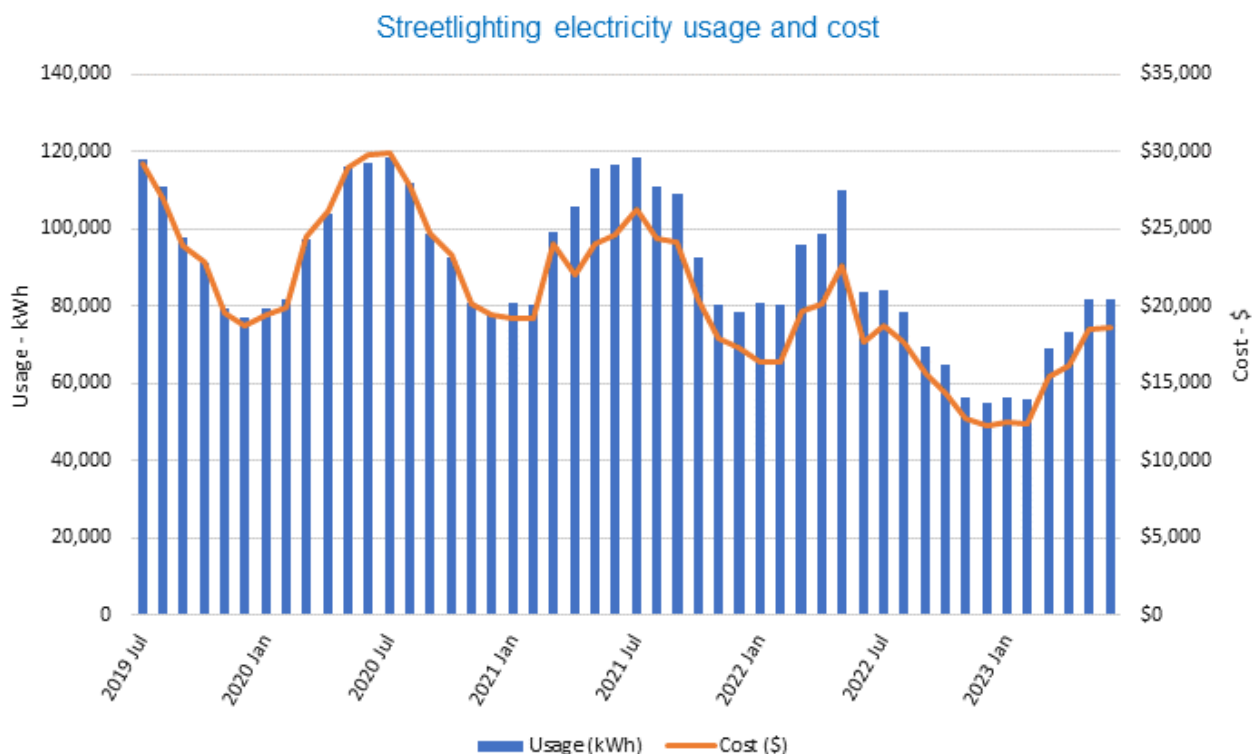


Council's public electric vehicle charging stations (from left to right) Bairnsdale; Cann River; Orbest and Omeo

Conversion of Streetlights to LED Lighting

Council has successfully replaced all high-energy residential streetlights with LED lighting on existing major and minor roads under its responsibility. This comprehensive initiative involved replacing approximately 1,593 standard and decorative lights, encompassing both full-cost and cost-shared installations. The transition to LED technology is expected to result in significant electricity savings, amounting to \$228,000 annually for the Council.

While the majority of the replaced lights were standard (non-decorative) residential streetlights, the project also included 'cost-shared' lights situated along key arterial roads and main intersections, including roundabouts, where the responsibility is shared between Council and the Department of Transport. The project was fully funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 2.



Council's fleet transition to electric, hybrid or alternate fuel source

Council aims to expand the adoption of renewable energy-powered vehicles. Currently, in the absence of adequate on-site charging infrastructure, hybrid fuel vehicles are utilised to mitigate emissions.

Of the 127 vehicles in Council's fleet;

- 15 are hybrid;
- one uses an alternate fuel source; and
- one is fully electric.

A new Integrated Water Management role

Council, in collaboration with DEECA and East Gippsland Water, has established an Integrated Water Management role. This position is dedicated to coordinating stakeholders and facilitating project development and delivery in alignment with the Bairnsdale Integrated Water Management Plan (IWM) and the East Gippsland Strategic Directions Statement.

Water management needs of the Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area

A review was conducted to address the water management needs of the Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area (LENGA), involving the expertise of a drainage engineer to support the advancement of this project. Work is progressing with East Gippsland Water to align IWM opportunities with the LENGA project through the development of a Lakes Entrance IWM plan. Growth planning that incorporates IWM and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is a coordinated approach between Council, East Gippsland Water, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and DEECA. This collective approach ensures due consideration is given to drainage capacity and the subsequent impact on existing infrastructure throughout the planning approvals process.



Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant

Projects and initiatives that support the achievement of Goal 2

Action	Status	Comment
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	Ongoing	Strategic planning for new urban growth areas includes detailed planning for best practice stormwater management. Assessment of new subdivisions includes approval of suitable stormwater infrastructure in accordance with drainage management plans. A project is underway to identify historic stormwater assets and map these in Council's Asset Register.
Complete the Bairnsdale Alternative Water Project	On schedule – <i>Due to be completed by 2024-25</i>	Funding is confirmed for the development of a water and effluent management plan for the Bairnsdale Livestock Exchange following discussions with DEECA and East Gippsland Water. Detailed planning is now in progress.
Audit organisational greenhouse gas emissions to establish forecast benchmarks for electricity, gas and fossil fuels	Ongoing	Data is being collected to conduct audits in the future. Scope one and two emissions are close to being known and work is underway to better understand our scope three emissions profile. A formal emissions reduction plan, aligned with the target established in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-32, will be presented to Council in the 2023-24 financial year.
Deliver key projects and programs to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions	Ongoing	Four electric vehicle chargers have been installed across East Gippsland, with additional support provided to Evie and Tesla for the installation of their respective chargers. The initiation of a Council Emissions Reduction Plan is underway, with a targeted completion date set for 2023-24. The University of Melbourne has been engaged to assess the feasibility of establishing a geothermal loop to power the Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre in West Bairnsdale.
Develop and enact a transition plan for Council's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles	On schedule – <i>Transition Plan due to be completed by 2023-24</i>	This project is being delivered in partnership with other Councils through the Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action (GACA). Data gathering and aligning requirements with the other Councils from GACA is underway. A review of other Councils' fleet transition plans was undertaken to understand the scope of the project before developing a contractor Request for Quotation.
Proactively manage trees and native vegetation assets across East Gippsland Shire Council's urban areas, open spaces and bushland settings	Ongoing	Tree inspections conducted and recorded in accordance with Council's Urban Tree Management Procedure and Electrical Line Clearance Plan. Council's current Urban Tree Management Plan is in the final year of a three-year cycle.

Action	Status	Comment
Deliver projects that provide active transport opportunities	Ongoing	The Buchan Main Street Linkages Project is a significant active transport initiative. A shared path connection has been established between the town and the Buchan Caves campground, aiming to enhance tourist mobility and promote walking or cycling among campers and the local community.
Explore feasibility of using geothermal technology in West Bairnsdale	On schedule – <i>Due to be completed by 2024-25</i>	The aim of the study is to assess the feasibility of utilising geothermal technology for renewable energy generation. The project will start in July 2023, and the final report will be presented to Council for consideration later in the year.



Results against targets set for Goal 2

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
Water use supports necessary environmental flow and best practice measures	Determined by individual projects	Reporting being developed for future years	This measure is supported by the integrated water management projects currently underway. It will also be further supported through the urban wetlands citizen science project, which supports environmental outcomes including water quality.
Council invests in stormwater assets using water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and Integrated Water Management (IWM) principles	Target to be developed by 2024-25	\$170,000	There have been no significant construction works, but planning and detailed design development has commenced for Marlo Town Drainage, Crooke Street Wetlands and Tambo Boulevard Stormwater improvement projects.
East Gippsland Shire Council's greenhouse gas emissions from energy use (electricity and gas) are reduced by 100%	100% by 2032	Reduced by 74.82%	The baseline year of 2021-22 had 2,573 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from electricity and gas, which was reduced to 648 tonnes in 2022-23.
All electricity used in council operations is from 100% renewable sources	100% by 2032	99.87%	The majority of Council's electricity accounts are on the VECO agreement and using renewable sources. Only a few accounts remain with other suppliers.
Greenhouse gas emissions from light vehicle fleet transport will decrease by 50% (Council fleet and community)	50% by 2032	Increased by 1.1% (Council) Reduced by 8.3% (community)	Council currently has 17 hybrid and one electric vehicle in the passenger vehicle fleet. The ability to increase this result further is currently limited by vehicle availability. <i>Community data is a comparison between 2019-20, to 2020-21 years.</i>
Increased active transport opportunities (e.g., cycling infrastructure, shared pathways)	Target to be developed by 2024-25	One project	The completed project is the Buchan Main Street Linkages Project - a shared path connection between the town and the Buchan Caves campground.
All service towns and prominent localities have access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure	Eight towns	Five towns	Council have installed electric vehicle charging stations in Bairnsdale, Orbost, Omeo and Cann River. Council supported Tesla to install charging stations in Cann River, and Evie to install stations in Paynesville and Bairnsdale.
New and existing land use development incorporates Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) principles	Target to be developed by 2024-25	Reporting is being developed for future years	There is no available report for this year. Council is planning to become a part of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) Network from the 2023-24 period, which grants access to their program aimed at enhancing Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) targets through planning scheme amendments.

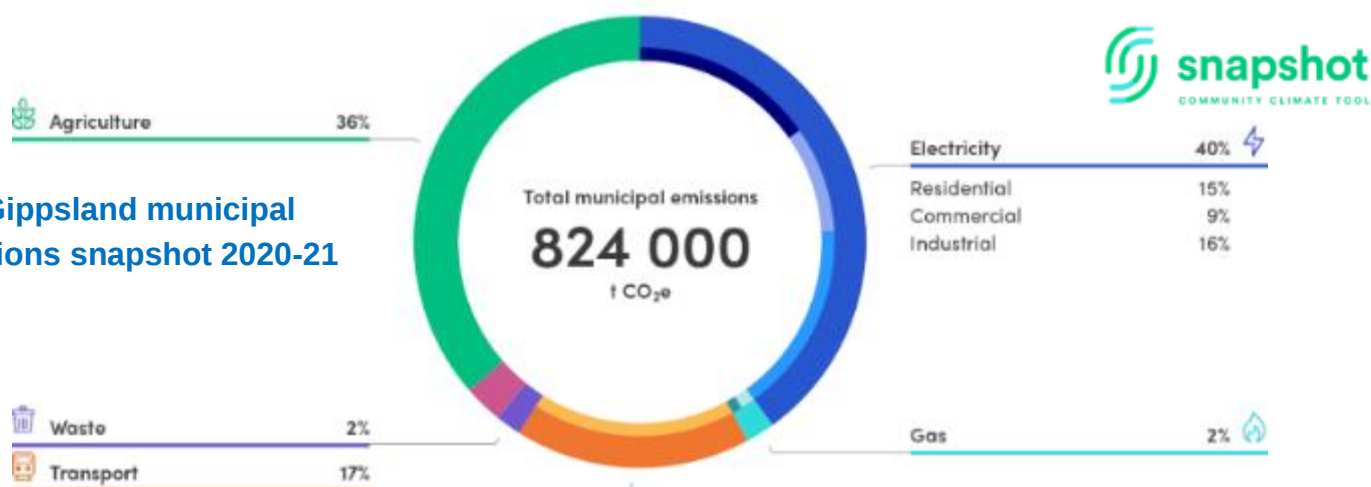
Goal 3: Community participation in the climate response

Why this goal is important

This goal specifically focuses on the extent to which the whole community (local businesses, community organisations, individuals, and Traditional Owners) undertake and participate in the climate response. This includes considering their awareness, the tools they need for action, and the level of ownership and leadership they demonstrate to drive change.

As the impact of a changing climate emerges, there is an urgent call for both individual and collective efforts to prioritise the sustainability of our environment.

East Gippsland municipal emissions snapshot 2020-21



The emissions data here is sourced from SnapShot, a website developed by Ironbark Sustainability and Beyond Zero Emissions. Snapshot is underpinned by a common international framework, the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC Protocol). Snapshot data, methodology and calculations have been independently verified as aligned with the GPC and with best practice industry standards for community emissions profile development in Australia.

Source	Sector	Emissions (tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent)	
		2018-19	2020-21
Electricity	Residential	125,000	126,000
	Commercial	92,000	73,000
	Industrial	125,000	131,000
Gas	Residential	8,000	9,000
	Commercial	1,000	1,000
	Industrial	7,000	7,000
Transport	On road	170,000	139,000
Waste		15,000	15,000
IPPU (Refrigerants)		23,000	23,000
Agriculture		288,000	300,000
Land Use		2,000	2,000
Total emissions		854,000	824,000

Key Achievements

Community events

Council actively connected with the community and shared information on sustainability initiatives at events such as the Orbest Agricultural Show, various farmers markets, and East Gippsland Field Days. Additionally, Council supported Rotary's Electric Vehicle Expo in Bairnsdale, where attendees had the chance to explore a range of electric vehicles and gain insights into the technology.

During the Electric Vehicle Expo, industry experts delivered presentations on charging options for both homes and businesses. These sessions addressed concerns and advocated for the broader adoption of electric vehicles, fostering awareness and understanding within the community.



Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen officially launched the Council-owned electric vehicle charging network as part of the Electric Vehicle Expo in Bairnsdale

Formation of Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action

East Gippsland Shire Council was one of four founding member councils of Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action (GACA). GACA works with member councils to undertake climate mitigation and adaptation projects that are best coordinated on a regional scale and provide a platform for communication and collaboration between Gippsland councils.

Council was involved in scoping the projects listed in the GACA Strategic and Action Plan 2023-24. The plan sets key projects and priorities for the alliance and identifies the following as the priority areas:

- 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



East Gippsland staff pictured with other founding member council staff with Tiffany Harrison, GACA Coordinator

Council's greenhouse gas emissions reporting and monitoring

A review is currently underway to assess software systems employed for monitoring and reporting the greenhouse gas emissions of the organisation. By implementing an updated system, Council will be able to establish forecast benchmarks and effectively report on emissions.

Citizen science project for urban wetlands in partnership with Federation University

In a first for Council, a citizen science project will be coordinated by Federation University and will run in parallel with the construction of the Crooke Street Wetlands project. Starting in 2024, the project aims to:

- increase community awareness about the role of urban wetlands in supporting environmental outcomes
- establish baseline conditions around water quality and biodiversity associated with urban wetlands in Bairnsdale
- prove the important role these wetlands have in supporting broader landscape objectives.



Autumn 2023
Welcome to Environment Connect, a quarterly update from East Gippsland Shire Council on environmental activities and opportunities for community involvement.

Clean Up Australia Day

We are encouraging everyone to join in the efforts of our community this Clean Up Australia Day. You can join an existing event or start your own. We support the efforts of our community members who participate in Clean Up Australia Day events from March 1-15. We encourage everyone to join in the efforts of our community this Clean Up Australia Day.



Winter 2023

Welcome to Environment Connect, a quarterly update from East Gippsland Shire Council on environmental activities and opportunities for community involvement.



The electronic newsletter Environmental Connect is distributed quarterly to over 400 subscribers, which over 660 people opened



Summer 2022-23

Welcome to Environment Connect, a quarterly update from East Gippsland Shire Council on environmental activities and opportunities for community involvement.

Vehicle charging stations

We have installed the first stage of the planned public electric vehicle (EV) charging network in East Gippsland. Contractors are working hard to complete the network by before Christmas.

The network is funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Infrastructure (LRI) Program and is seeing a 50kw fast charger installed at the following sites (photos left to right):

- Crooke Street carpark, Bairnsdale
- Omeo
- Crooke Street carpark & toilet block, Omeo
- Omeo River

Projects and initiatives that support the achievement of Goal 3

Action	Status	Comment
Develop a net zero emissions plan to achieve our 2032 emissions target	On schedule – <i>Due to be completed by 2023-24</i>	The development of a framework for the net zero emissions plan has commenced. This includes developing a profile of scope one, two and three emissions, and identifying gaps in current data available. A project to review an updated emissions and utility management software is progressing, which will assist in managing Council's emissions and associated projects.
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	Ongoing	Four Council-owned electric vehicle chargers were commissioned in Bairnsdale, Omeo, Orbost and Cann River. Planning is underway for another three, located at Mallacoota, Buchan and Lakes Entrance. Evie installed, or has plans to install, chargers in Bairnsdale, Paynesville (not yet connected) ² and Bruthen (not yet installed). TESLA installed chargers at Cann River.
Coordinate and support community events that support people and community to take leadership on sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Ongoing	The Sunrise Rotary Electric Vehicle Community Expo was supported by Council with both financial support and help coordinating the event. Councillor Allen (Deputy Mayor) commissioned the new Bairnsdale electric vehicle charging station during the event.
Work with the alliance of Gippsland Council (GACA) in delivering priority actions of the Strategic and Action Plan 2023-24	Ongoing	Council staff have been involved in establishing and working with GACA over the initial six months of its operation. Contributions were made to the GACA Strategic and Action Plan, participating in key projects and supporting broader Greenhouse Alliance initiatives across Victoria.
Support business (including the agriculture sector) to optimise opportunities to benefit from renewable energy transition and circular economy opportunities	Ongoing	The whole-of-region innovation working groups (led by Regional Development Victoria, Latrobe Valley Authority and Gippsland Climate Change Network) were engaged to identify and explore new opportunities in the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Energy Transition Plan, Gippsland Supply Chain, Mobile Energy Storage Systems. A major highlight is the Environmental Upgrade Agreement with Patties Foods (more detail on page 26).
Support Council's contractors to reduce their emissions and achieve savings	Yet to commence	This will be developed further in alignment with the updated procurement policy implementation. The updated Draft Procurement Policy increases the importance of suppliers being environmentally sustainable. The updated draft policy has an increase of a mandatory weighting of up to 10 per cent for sustainability and a weighting of five per cent for contributions to the circular economy for relevant procurements.

² Comment made as at 30 June 2023, the Paynesville charging station has since been connected and is operational.

Action	Status	Comment
Support programs that incentivise farming practices which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable participation in carbon markets, whilst improving productivity	Ongoing	A series of short webinars on the different perspectives of carbon farming were designed in partnership with Landcare and AusIndustry. Council partnered with Gippsland Agriculture Group and Melbourne University to trial and research the findings in the Nexus project and other research trials. This project explored how sheep and beef farms can adapt to the changing climate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Silage Wrap Pilot Project, completed with Benambra, Dinner Plain, Omeo Landcare Group and Swifts Creek, Ensay Landcare Group saw over six tonnes or 450 m³ of silage wrap recycled: a saving of \$78,750 in landfill costs.

Results against targets set for goal 3

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
Council will set a corporate net zero emissions target for 2032	0 tonnes of CO ₂ -e by 2032	2,206 tonnes	Council reduced its emissions by 45 per cent from the previous year. This decrease is primarily from the changeover of electricity to 100 per cent renewable energy.
The proportion of community members who report satisfaction with Council's environmental action will increase	> 37%	35%	Target not met. The upcoming year will prioritise focused communication efforts to highlight and showcase sustainability achievements, aiming to elevate the profile within the community.
Support a community emissions target	Achieved by 2032	Yet to commence	Work on supporting the community to develop emissions targets will commence in 2023-24.
By 2032 East Gippsland's community emissions will have reduced	< 824,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -e by 2032	824,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -e by 2032	The result for year one will provide a baseline result for community emissions that will be used as an overarching goal. <i>The most recent data available is for the year 2020-21.</i>

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

Why this goal is important

East Gippsland Shire Council recognises the importance of Traditional Owners in delivering sustainability outcomes for the community and important biodiversity values.

Traditional Owner groups as custodians of traditional customs and land management techniques are interlinked with every other goal within this Strategy.

Key Achievements

Aboriginal community involvement in Council's capital projects

Regular meetings were held with Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and other Traditional Owner groups during the design phase of a range of Council's capital projects. These include the following projects that are currently in the design phase:

- Krauatungalung Walk - GLaWAC are working on artwork for Stage 1
- Lakes Entrance playground design
- Indigenous gardens as part of Raymond Island - Koala Trail and Discovery Experience

Use of Aboriginal crews has been included in the following capital projects:

- Bullock Island landscaping designs
- WORLD Sporting Precinct - the project includes the use of local Aboriginal subcontractors
- Crooke Street Wetlands – the contract has been awarded and includes the opportunity for components to be delivered by GLaWAC
- Bruthen Streetscape - Yarning Circle - this project was delivered by GLaWAC



Yarning Circle as part of the Bruthen Streetscape. The Yarning Circle was designed and installed by GLaWAC.



Krauatungalung Walk (Stage 1) – Concept Design at Lakes Entrance Footbridge

Orbost Landfill Tree planting

GLaWAC were engaged to provide tree planting at the closed Orbost Landfill site. The planting was an important component of the phytocap covering the landfill, which is an environmentally friendly capping process for closed landfills.

Orbost Forest Park

The Hammond Family engaged with Council on the design of the shelter, which includes historical information, storytelling and a poem about Charlie Hammond (a historic Local Elder).

Moogji and other Traditional Owner groups were engaged during the design phase of the project.



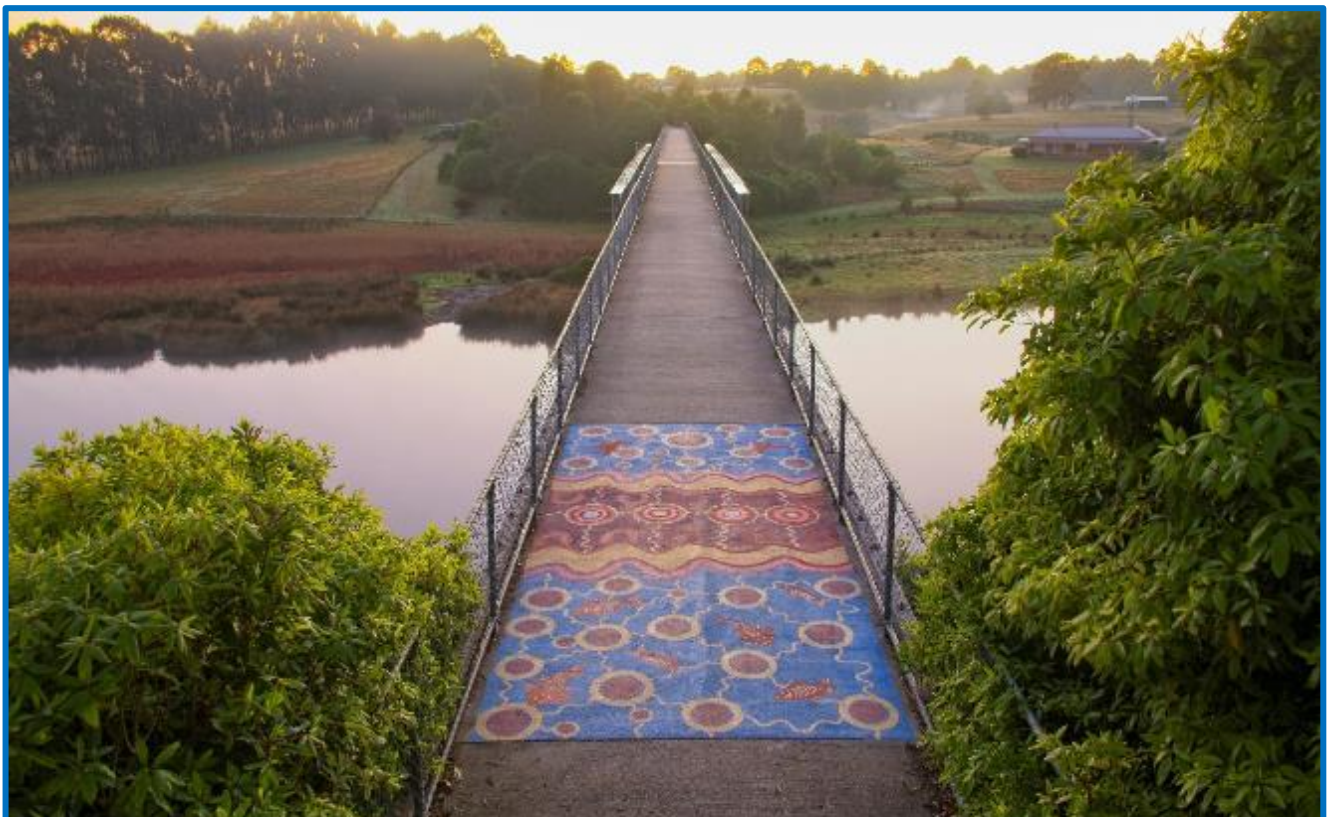
Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland welcomed Councillors and staff to their Bonang Road property on the edge of Orbost.

Projects and initiatives that support the achievement of Goal 4

Action	Status	Comment
Collaborate with Traditional Owners to support environmental and sustainable initiatives and outcomes	Ongoing	Regular meetings were held with Traditional Owner groups during the design and delivery of a range of Council's capital projects. Aboriginal design and interpretation are promoted in many capital projects, including the design of public art and interpretive elements for the Krauatungalong Walk. The Crooke Street Wetlands, Orbost Landfill rehabilitation and WORLD Sporting Precinct projects are being delivered with assistance by GLaWAC.
Include Aboriginal communities in Council decision-making processes around natural resource management, land-use and preservation of biodiversity	Ongoing	GLaWAC has representation on the Marine and Coastal Management Plan Project Control Group, and other Traditional Owner groups are engaged in this process. Engagement processes with Aboriginal community representatives to be developed for land use decisions. Current engagement is limited to generic public notification and engagement on Cultural Heritage Management Plans.
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	Ongoing	Council is working to better understand and engage with Aboriginal representative groups to support local Indigenous contractors in the delivery of a range of projects and services for the community. Council adopted the Culture and Creativity Strategy, designed to foster and celebrate the natural environment and cultural values of East Gippsland through arts and events. Several shows and events have already taken place, with ongoing planning focused on developing a more diverse program that includes showcases dedicated to celebrating local Aboriginal artists.

Results against targets set for goal 4

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
Traditional Owners are fully involved in decision-making around management and use of natural resources including climate change	Target to be developed by 2024-25	No data	To be explored further with the development of the new Reconciliation Action Plan.
Relevant agreements between Council and Traditional Owner groups are in place for the use and management of land under Council management	Target to be developed by 2024-25	Four projects	The four projects were: Krauatungalung Walk – GLaWAC are working on artwork for Stage 1; Raymond Island - Koala Trail and Discovery Experience; Crooke Street Wetlands – the landscaping services component of the project to be delivered by GLaWAC crews Bruthen Streetscape – the yarning circle was constructed by GLaWAC
Relevant targets set in collaboration with traditional owners are met	Target to be developed by 2024-25	No data	The targets will be developed further through the creation of a new Reconciliation Action Plan.



The Nicholson Bridge with local artwork

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

Why this goal is important

East Gippsland is recognised as an important agricultural district of state and national importance. Both socially and economically, East Gippsland recognises itself as a region that produces high-quality produce or 'food and fibre'.

An integral aspect of achieving this objective involves the expansion of sustainability services to enhance the existing industries' capacity for sustainability. The evolving climate and shifting policies and guidelines also present new opportunities for businesses to either relocate to or develop within East Gippsland.



Council staff promoting tourism opportunities from our Visitor Information Van at the Inspire East Gippsland Tourism Summit

Key Achievements

The Environmental Upgrade Agreement trial

Council's first Environmental Upgrade Agreement has been finalised with Patties Foods, the landowner of the Lucknow manufacturing site, and an external financier to support the implementation of energy efficiencies.

The two-year trial agreement, valued at over \$200,000, will see the installation of energy-efficient LED lighting in Patties' production facilities, resulting in cost reductions and preventing the emission of 557 tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually.

The financing model allows the costs of the upgrade to be paid back over time, with loan repayments being collected in a similar way to council rates.



Scott Bocskay (CEO of Sustainable Australia Fund), Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Michael Hall (former General Manager Operations of Patties) promoting the Environmental Upgrade Agreement at Patties Foods Bairnsdale

East Gippsland becoming certified ECO Destination

East Gippsland secured the distinction of being the first certified ECO Destination in the state, a designation unveiled during the Inspire East Gippsland Tourism Summit in May. This certification reflects the region's steadfast dedication to sustainable practices and the provision of nature-based tourism experiences.

The Ecotourism-level certification attained by East Gippsland is the outcome of a thorough independent assessment against 91 stringent criteria. This recognition positions the region as a nature-based tourism destination committed to the principles of ecotourism. These principles encompass cultural and natural interpretation and education for visitors, along with the active engagement of local businesses in sustainable practices.



Elissa Keenan, CEO of Ecotourism Australia, presented Mayor Cr Mark Reeves with East Gippsland's ECO Destination certificate

Gippsland Regional Circular Economy Plan

Council actively participated in innovation working groups spanning the entire region, spearheaded by Regional Development Victoria, the Latrobe Valley Authority, and the Gippsland Climate Change Network. The objective was to identify and explore new opportunities, with a specific focus on the development of a circular economy trading platform.

Rural Land Use Strategy

Following a community engagement process, a final Draft Rural Land Use Strategy was prepared and presented to Council at the June Council Meeting and was deferred.

The draft strategy included feedback from more than 100 people, highlighting the broad range of issues that were taken into consideration during the strategy's development.

The preparation of the strategy is underpinned by principles aimed at safeguarding and improving productive farmland, fostering innovation and growth in the agricultural sector, and preserving and enhancing environmental values such as biodiversity, landscapes, and water quality.



Projects and initiatives that support the achievement of Goal 5

Action	Status	Comment
Develop the Rural Land Use Strategy to support sustainable agricultural land use and investment	Behind schedule – <i>was due to be completed by 2022-23</i>	Following a community engagement process, a final Draft Rural Land Use Strategy was prepared and presented to Council at the June Council Meeting, although it was deferred until July ³ .
Support organisations to adopt and adhere to Environmental Social Governance (ESG) principles	Ongoing	East Gippsland achieved ECO Destination accreditation status, which was promoted through all communications and media (more detail on page 26). Through this accreditation, Council has encouraged businesses and organisations to undertake the Sustainability Scorecard to determine their baseline environmental impacts.
Integrate Sustainable Events (from ISO 20121) into the planning and delivery of local events	Ongoing	Council is exploring opportunities to promote and integrate sustainability into event planning by incorporating the Sustainable Events Standards into the development process. By doing so, Council is committed to creating a model that optimises positive impacts while mitigating any adverse effects on the environment and local communities.
Advocate for funding of programs and initiatives that create jobs and support climate resilience	Ongoing	Council is currently implementing programs funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria. These programs include: • Agriculture Business Economic Recovery and Resilience Training and Mentoring Program • Financial Capability and Strengthening • Climate Adaptation Programs • Resilience Planning Events • Community Connectedness
Review Council's procurement policies to further elevate support of businesses with demonstrated environmental sustainability credentials	On schedule – <i>due to be completed by 2023-24</i>	Council has reviewed and updated the Draft Procurement Policy, which includes the recommendation to change the tender mandatory weighting for sustainable procurement from five to 10 per cent. The revised policy aims to offer clearer guidance to businesses regarding expectations surrounding sustainable work practices.
Support business transition toward greater resilience and adoption of environmentally sustainable initiatives, practices and fostering of the circular economy	Ongoing	Council participated in whole-of-region innovation working groups, led by Regional Development Victoria, the Latrobe Valley Authority and Gippsland Climate Change Network. These working groups will identify and explore new opportunities, including the development of a circular economy trading platform, Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Energy Transition Plan, Gippsland supply chain and mobile energy storage systems.

³ This comment is made as at 30 June 2023. Since then, the Rural Land Use Strategy was adopted at the July Council Meeting.

Action	Status	Comment
Achieve and maintain Global Eco Destination Certification and grow the number of Eco-accredited operators across the region	On schedule	Global accreditation has been achieved and was announced at the Inspire Tourism Summit. East Gippsland has eight new operators undertaking the Business Eco-Certification Program, and work continues to drive the Strive-4-Sustainability and eco-certification message with Council promoting the Sustainability Scorecard to local businesses so that they can determine their baseline environmental impacts.
Represent Council and community interests in the advancement of off-shore renewable energy	Ongoing	Council developed a submission that supported the construction of off-shore renewable energy infrastructure off the Gippsland coast. This submission included recommendations on considerations such as governance, infrastructure, urban planning, impact on the fishing industry, and education. Council has committed to commissioning a research paper into where the opportunities exist for East Gippsland to take advantage of and benefit from the rapid transition to renewable energy. Council's Economic Development Advisory Committee, representing the various business community sectors, has been briefed on this project and receives ongoing updates.

Results against targets set for goal 5

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
An increase in external funding flowing to local businesses and initiatives that align to the Economic Development Strategy	Target to be developed by 2024-25	Reporting being developed for future years	Reviewing data sources that can be used to highlight how the funding leads to outcomes for local businesses.
Environmental Upgrade Agreement scheme expanded and applications increasing year on year	Target to be developed by 2024-25	One	The trial agreement with Patties Foods was officially signed off and commenced.

Goal 6: Growth in the circular economy

Why this goal is important

Goal 6 is about fostering the growth of the circular economy. The circular economy replaces the traditional make, use, and dispose of philosophy of consumption with the idea of recycle and reuse.

In a circular economy, natural resources are kept in circulation to create new economic opportunities and help conserve natural resources, reducing emissions and waste.

Reducing overall waste is the first step in establishing a circular economy, and growing it is based on introducing technologies that will allow for materials and products to be reused or repurposed.

Key Achievements

Capital projects that include recycled materials

In 2022-23, 60 capital projects included recycled materials, all at various stages of design or construction. Of these projects, 22 are complete.

Some of the biggest projects that use recycled material include:

- Moroney Street Bairnsdale upgrade used crushed concrete product in the subbase pavement material
- Bullock Island redevelopment used recycled plastic for the new seating
- Eagle Point Foreshore Hub used existing road pavement as structural fill for paved areas.

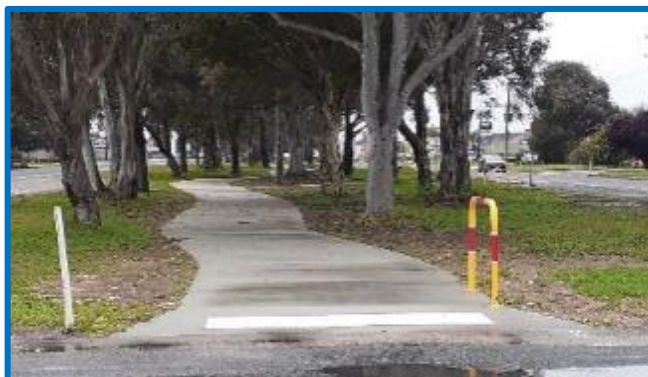
Detox Your Home

Toxic household chemicals, such as cleaning products, pool chemicals and pesticides were safely disposed of at the free Detox Your Home event in Bairnsdale on 10 December 2022.

Ninety-two community members participated.



The public seating at Bullock Island is made from recycled plastic



The footpath along the Princes Highway Bairnsdale includes recycled material, with the use of crushed glass sand supplied through Tambo Waste

Support provided for the Local Government Circular Economy Funding Program

The Municipal Association of Victorian (MAV), supported by Council, has requested a new two-part \$120 million funding package for local government from the Victorian Government including:

- A \$100 million (over four years) Local Government Circular Economy Infrastructure Fund to contribute to the capital costs of implementing household recycling reforms and the construction, upgrades, and improvements of council transfer stations, material aggregation sites, and resource recovery centres.
- A \$20 million (over two years) Local Government Circular Economy Capability Fund to support councils to prepare, review and update waste and recycling policies, strategies and plans. It will also facilitate feasibility studies, risk assessments, audits, engagement of third-party expert advice, and training and professional development.

Organic waste and composting facility

An organic waste and composting facility project has progressed, with a detailed business case completed and externally peer-reviewed. The design for the composting facility has been awarded, and site assessments are underway to support future permit and licensing applications.

Grant funding from Sustainability Victoria supports this project.

Textile recycling trial

Council is planning a textile recycling trial to commence in 2023-24 at the Bairnsdale Landfill site. Over 12 months, the Bairnsdale Tip Shop will accept textile waste, bale it, and send it to Textile Recyclers Australia. Accepted items include pillows, curtains, bed linen, doonas, blankets, throws, towels, fabric scraps, woven shopping bags, and uncontaminated or lightly soiled clothing.



Six community waste education programs were delivered to inform and promote recycling and reusing. Pictured – The Sustainability and Waste Minimisation stand at the Orbst Agricultural Show 2023

Projects and initiatives that support the achievement of Goal 6

Action	Status	Comment
Develop circular economies in East Gippsland by supporting and influencing local businesses to increase their use of recycled raw materials	Ongoing	A detailed business case for the management of organic waste has been finalised and externally peer-reviewed. The design for a composting facility has been awarded, and active work is currently underway. Related site assessments are in progress to support future permit and licensing applications. The project is being supported by grant funding received by Sustainability Victoria. Council worked with Gippsland AgGroup and East Gippsland Water, to connect them with the new Circular Farms platform and other businesses employing circular economy principles. Circular Farms were engaged to help identify the main challenges that businesses face in a circular economy and explore available resources for exchange. Council also supported the Gippsland Circular Economy Hub working group, which aims to engage more Gippsland businesses in the circular economy.
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	Ongoing	Community education programs are ongoing, with planned new programs in development. Regular communication and education activities were implemented through various formats, encompassing participation in events, delivery of school-based programs, and other related activities.
Design and construct the Bairnsdale Recycling Centre at the Bairnsdale Landfill	On schedule – <i>due to be completed by 2023-24</i>	Grant funding was awarded for the completion of the design and construction of new Recycling Centre facilities. The project is forecast to commence construction in early 2024.
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	Ongoing	Council provided funding to the Repair Café to deliver workshops for the community to increase the re-use and repair of a range of household products. Council continues to partner with the 'Tip Shop' to divert waste from landfill.
Increase the use of recycled materials in Council's infrastructure and maintenance program, including roads, pavements and other construction products	Ongoing	Sixty capital projects, in the design or construction phase, include recycled materials. Investigation into how to broaden and increase the use of recycled materials. The Asphalt Construction contract was also re-opened, and contractors requested to submit pricing for alternate materials, including recycled products.

Action	Status	Comment
Embed requirements for the utilisation of recycled materials in Council policies and practices and support reuse initiatives by businesses and the broader community	Ongoing	The revised Draft Procurement Policy includes recommendations to expand the utilisation of recycled materials in projects. Additionally, an Innovation Working Group, initiated by Regional Development Victoria, is actively pursuing the establishment of a Circular Economy Trading Portal for Gippsland.
Develop Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste infrastructure to support repurposing and recycling	Ongoing	A review of the Mallacoota Kitchen to Compost program commenced with a meeting with members of the Friends of Mallacoota and local sustainability network. This review will inform the re-launch of the program as it approaches its tenth year in operation. The commencement of the detailed design of an Organics Processing Facility at Bairnsdale Regional Landfill will continue through 2023.
Reduce and report landfill greenhouse gas emissions	Ongoing	Landfill emissions data collection has commenced, which will be used for detailed future reporting.



19,866.77 tonnes of green waste was received at Council's landfill and transfer stations, which is mulched and repurposed by Council. Pictured - Green waste being mulched at the Bairnsdale Landfill

Results against targets set for goal 6

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
Facilitate industry co-operation for a transition to a circular economy	Target to be developed by 2024-25	Data being collated	Council worked with partner agencies, connecting them with the new Circular Farms platform and other businesses that employ circular economy principles. Circular Farms were also engaged to help identify the main challenges that businesses face in a circular economy and explore available resources for exchange. Council supported the Gippsland Circular Economy Hub working group, which aims to engage more Gippsland businesses in the circular economy.
Growth in the number of businesses participating in the circular economy	> previous year's result	Data being collated	Tracking the participation of businesses in the circular economy is complex. It will require a detailed process to capture this data and determine the criteria for what qualifies as participation.
Council has embedded re-use of materials in all policies and practices and supports reuse by businesses and the broader community	Achieved by 2025-26	Data being collated	The updated Draft Procurement Policy has an optional provision to include up to five per cent weighting for contributions to the circular economy.
Council's procurement will comprise 10% of recycled material	10% by 2032	No data available	Project to commence to record recycled materials in projects.
Volume of waste going to landfill is reduced by: • organic waste to landfill by 90% • textile waste to landfill by 50% • recyclable materials going to landfill by 90%	> 90% reduction in organic waste > 50% reduction in textile waste > 90% reduction in recyclable waste	Baseline data gathered	Baseline data was gathered through the waste audit in 2020. The next audit will take place in 2024; the results will then be assessed against the baseline data.
Greenhouse gas emissions from landfill will be reduced and reported	Target to be developed by 2023-24	Data being collated	Gas flares were installed at Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance Landfills, which will reduce the release of methane gas. The emissions data is being collated and assessed for future reporting.
Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) will be repurposed to produce organic based products	Achieved by 2025-26	Progressing	Detailed design of the Organics Composting Facility has commenced.

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

Why this goal is important

Goal 7 focuses on the resilience of East Gippsland communities and how they respond to their surrounding natural environment and bounce back from disruptive or extreme events caused by climate change.

Given the vulnerability of East Gippsland to climate change and natural disasters, preparing for climate change now is critical to reduce the impacts on our people, infrastructure, economy and natural environment. This will allow our communities and visitors to continue to live, visit and work in East Gippsland into the future.

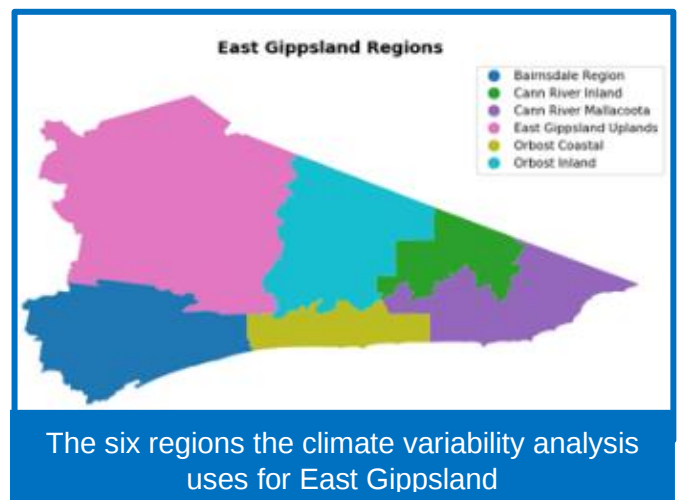
Key Achievements

East Gippsland Climate Variability Analysis

Council engaged with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to develop a future climate analysis of East Gippsland, separated into six regions. Using the Victorian Climate Change Projections 2019 datasets, the model uses scenario limits and is able to capture more specific variabilities of East Gippsland regions. This data demonstrates the effect of climate variability in changing the hazard and risk profile.

Local Incident Management Plans

Council assisted community groups with the development of their Local Incident Management Plans (LIMP) as well as playing an integral role in the Working Better with Communities working group, designed to assist agencies to successfully engage with communities.



Proof of concept of the climate risk pilot

Council engaged XDI Systems to conduct a pilot climate risk analysis. This pilot models where, what and when climate is likely to impact a specific site.

The analysis identifies multiple climate and weather risk variables at a fine scale - every 100 metres - to rate the identified risks at each location. To identify the risks, the system uses multiple datasets to measure climate risk profiles, such as Victoria Climate Projections (VCP19), and CSIRO sea level rise datasets.

Disaster Ready Project for East Gippsland

Council has been granted \$1.2 million by the Commonwealth Government (under the Disaster Ready Fund) to advance disaster preparedness and resilience in collaboration with communities across the Shire.

The project aims to achieve two major deliverables:

1. Development of a user-friendly dashboard on Council's website for all disaster readiness and emergency management information.
2. A climate risk assessment tool that will provide information down to a local asset level to assist with property preparedness and protection, insurance, utilities and public asset planning and protection.

These tools empower communities, residents, visitors and organisations to make informed decisions before, during and after emergencies, and in a changing climate.

The funding will also enhance community preparedness by ensuring that additional assembly areas identified in Local Incident Management Plans have reliable, independent power. This will build on previous work to ember-proof community facilities and improve internet connectivity resilience through the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program.

This project is estimated to take three years to complete.



Scriveners Road Lakes Entrance is prone to flooding

Projects and initiatives to support achieving goal 7

Action	Status	Comment
Strengthen municipal emergency planning arrangements to improve community resilience and preparedness	Ongoing	Community groups were assisted with the development of their Local Incident Management Plans (LIMP), as well as being an integral part of the Working Better with Communities Working Group, designed to assist agencies to engage with communities successfully. The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) was also engaged to ensure planning and preparation for emergency events is on track.
Work with community to ensure they have the knowledge, understanding and resources required to ensure their long-term self-reliance	Ongoing	Many projects were run in parallel, including Fire to Flourish, Community Based Bushfire Management, Red Cross, assembly area training and working with MEMPC as well as its subgroups to work across all agencies in community meetings.
Support the establishment of local community energy generation to improve resilience of communities vulnerable to power outages and natural disasters	Ongoing	This is an ongoing project, with work undertaken to finalise the sites and requirements for local community energy generation implementation in the 2023-24 financial year.
Work with industry sectors and businesses to ensure better natural disaster preparedness	Ongoing	The Agribusiness Leadership Program for Economic Resilience program has been developed and is ready to be delivered. The first intensive program will cover Leading Change Theory and Leadership. Nineteen Expressions of Interest were received from Omeo, Noorinbee, Woodglen, Nicholson, Eastwood, Benambra, Bairnsdale, Walpa, Omeo Valley and Lucknow.
Ensure the Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area development project applies sustainable development and urban storm water management principles	On schedule - <i>due to be completed by 2025-26</i>	The consideration and assessment of development plans and planning permit applications continue to include detailed assessments of stormwater drainage strategies and planning permit conditions. A revised Stormwater Drainage Strategy has been prepared for implementation into operational and planning scheme requirements.
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	On schedule – <i>due to be completed by 2025-26</i>	The \$1.2 million Disaster Ready Fund grant application was successful. The project will involve detailed climate modelling to support understanding of climate risk and inform actions to improve the resilience and adaptability of our community. The funding is contributed by Commonwealth and State emergency management panels.

Action	Status	Comment
Install battery storage and generators at selected Council facilities to safeguard emergency response capabilities	On schedule - <i>due to be completed by 2024-25</i>	The East Gippsland Community Facilities Emergency Power Project is a Shire-wide project that will seek to benefit fire-impacted communities through the installation of generators as a back-up power source to ensure emergency power supply. Planning and site inspections have been undertaken at the recommended locations. Installation of generators, slabs and cages for the first four locations will commence towards the end of the calendar year.
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	Ongoing	Communities were assisted to develop LIMPs at Bullumwaal, Bengworden, Clifton Creek, Sarsfield and Twin Rivers. Community Emergency Management Plans were developed in partnership with the Safer Together Community-Based Bushfire Management Officer in both Cann Valley and Buchan. A pilot project to improve outcomes for community-led activation of relief centres was conducted with Omeo community members. This pilot will inform the development of a scope for a training package across interested communities in East Gippsland.

Results against targets set for goal 7

Measure	Target	Result	Progress to date
Reliable Climate modelling exists for East Gippsland by 2023	Achieved by 2023	In progress	The CSIRO data on climate modelling for East Gippsland has been prepared. The next phase of this project is to present the model publicly, which is currently being planned.
Proportion of residential, commercial, public and agriculture infrastructure that is insurable for natural disasters	Target to be developed by 2024-25	No data available	This data will be available following the climate modelling risk analysis being undertaken.
East Gippsland Planning Scheme reflects existing and future predicted climate risk	Achieved by 2025-26	In progress	The current planning scheme addresses the risk of bushfire, while further work is being conducted on the risk of flooding. The climate risk analysis currently in progress will inform future changes required to the planning scheme and incorporate specific climate risks.
Council has implemented 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	Achieved by 2025-26	In progress	Funding was announced to proceed with the project. This multi-year project is due to be finalised by 2025-26.

Contact us

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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