



BASS
COAST

Climate Change Action Plan Update: Council Priority Actions 2026–2030

Building a resilient, thriving, net zero Bass Coast

Community Vision 2045

From its flowing hills to its coastal woodlands and wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry.

We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment and are prepared for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.



Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to child safety and wellbeing, actively working to prevent abuse by identifying and addressing risks early. This work is underpinned by Council’s Child Safe Statement, which guides our commitment to ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of every child.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken when developing this update to our Climate Change Action Plan: Priority Actions 2026–2030

Definitions

Definitions of commonly used terms are provided below.

Net zero emissions	Means balancing the greenhouse gas emissions produced with an equivalent amount of emissions removed from the atmosphere. It does not require eliminating all emissions, but ensuring that no more emissions are added than are taken away. In practice, reaching net zero involves prioritising direct emissions reductions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport, and low-emissions technologies across an organisations assets and services, and addressing residual emissions through credible carbon removals such as sequestration or certified offset projects, where reductions are not yet technically or economically achievable.
Resilience	Is the capacity of a system to withstand and recover from (or adapt to) shocks and stressors, without undergoing a significant change in its structure or identity. For Bass Coast, it is our community's ability to cope with challenges and bounce back stronger. It means being prepared for shocks and everyday stresses, staying connected and supporting one another, and adapting when things change so we can keep living well. Resilience can apply to many parts of our community — from individuals and households, to local businesses, Council, energy and food systems, transport, supply chains and our social networks. A resilient community can handle disruption without losing what makes it strong, and can continue to grow and thrive into the future.
Climate change adaptation	Is the ongoing process of improving how we make decisions so our community can cope with the impacts of a changing climate. It involves making gradual improvements to the systems and practices we already use — for example, using future climate projections to guide how Council and local organisations plan, build and look after their assets. Adaptation also means preparing for climate risks while taking advantage of new opportunities that may arise. Sometimes, effective adaptation requires bigger shifts too — such as new types of investment, new partnerships and new ways of thinking — so we can create long-term, sustainable changes that help our community thrive in a different climate.
Circular economy	The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. It tackles global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution and is based on three principles, driven by design: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature.

Introduction

The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030, is an ambitious plan developed by local community, experts and Council staff following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. The plan holds key actions across Council and community to reach net zero emissions by 2030, including 45 Council-led actions to reduce Council's operational emissions, as well as support community to reduce community-wide emissions and build resilience and adapt to impacts from climate change. The plan also includes 15 targeted community actions, 8 business and organisation actions and 6 actions for farming community/agriculture.

In accordance with the commitment made in the Climate Change Action Plan, Council completed a comprehensive mid-term review over 2025. The review provided an update on what's changed since the plan was developed - including policy updates, assessment of Councils progress on implementing the plan, staff interviews, an action-by-action review, as well engagement to re-test community priorities for climate action - ensuring the plan remains effective and impactful.

For more information on our engagement, refer to our [Engage Page](#) you can also find more information about the review and its findings in the [Mid Term Review Report](#) provided on our engage page. An action-by-action listing, along with the revised action descriptions or opportunities and ideas developed during our community workshop is also provided in our [Community Action Portal](#) – with a summary tracking original actions in Appendix 1.

Building on Strong Foundations

Bass Coast has a strong legacy of climate leadership and local commitment. As one of the first regional councils in Australia to declare a Climate Emergency, Council adopted a Climate Change Action Plan that was leading for its time in charting a pathway to net zero emissions across both Council operations and the wider community.



This **Priority Council Actions 2026–2030** document highlights the achievements to date from implementing the Climate Change Action Plan 2020–2030, how we engaged and what we heard from our community, while bringing together key findings from the mid-term review, providing clear, refreshed priority actions organised under key action areas. It provides an update to the Council-led actions in the Climate Change Action Plan, ensuring Councils actions continue to deliver impact, including how Council can best support the community in its ambition to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate impacts. It does not provide an update to community-led, business-led and agriculture-led actions - we consider these actions in the plan to remain a reference point for action.

We have refreshed our key indicators to ensure our measures are meaningful, and how and when we will report on our progress. We further share a listing of our progress on the original actions in our plan in Appendix 1, highlighting actions that are complete, closed, or adapted into new priority actions from our original plan. There are also new actions that emerged as opportunities during community engagement, technical review, or staff interviews.

We suggest reading this document in conjunction with our mid-term review reports, which include and can be found on our [Engage Page](#) and through our [Community Action Portal](#)

- **Mid Term Review Report** – a technical review highlighting changes in science, policy, along with assessment of Council and community progress in implementing the plan to date and recommendations
- **Achievements Report** – sharing Council and community achievements and stories of progress since 2020
- **Engagement Report** – Highlighting how we engaged with our community and what we heard over the review, including community priorities for climate action

Council commits to achieving net zero emissions across its operations by 2030—and stands with the community of Bass Coast in striving for the same.

While Council has limited control across community-wide emissions, we proudly champion a safe climate and a regenerative, resilient Bass Coast. Cutting emissions today protects the wellbeing of our community, now and for generations to come. Our priority actions build on learnings from the mid-term review of our Climate Change Action Plan, targeting where Council can have the greatest impact to support a net zero, resilient and thriving Bass Coast.

Alignment with Community Vision 2045

The refreshed priority actions support the Community Vision 2045 by helping protect the natural beauty, character and wellbeing of Bass Coast. They reflect our shared commitment to live in harmony with the environment, walk alongside First Peoples, and strengthen the resilience of our townships, communities and local economy.

By focusing on clean energy, sustainable transport, healthy ecosystems, circular regenerative economy, climate preparedness and fairness for all, these priorities help ensure Bass Coast remains a thriving, inclusive and climate ready place for current and future generations.

How the Climate Change Action Plan Supports Council's Responsibilities

Although initially developed in response to strong community expectations, the Climate Change Action Plan is now central to meeting Council's legal responsibilities. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to promote environmental sustainability and plan for climate risks as part of good governance. The *Climate Change Act 2017* requires climate impacts to be considered in decisions affecting communities, and recent updates to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* reinforce the need to factor emissions reduction and climate resilience into land use planning.

Together, these Acts create a clear expectation that councils manage climate risks across services, assets and planning. The Climate Change Action Plan and Priority Council Actions 2026–2030 provide the framework that embeds climate considerations into everyday decisions, supporting responsible governance and long term community resilience.














Our Key Action Areas and Alignment with our Council Plan 2025–2029

Our Priority Council Actions 2026-2030 provide an update to Council-led actions in the Climate Change Action Plan- our lead strategy, delivering on the strategic objective:

- **Naturally Beautiful** – Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment

However, our climate response and key action areas extend across all parts of Council's work, supporting delivery of the full range of strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2025–2029.

Their alignment with these objectives and priorities is outlined below.

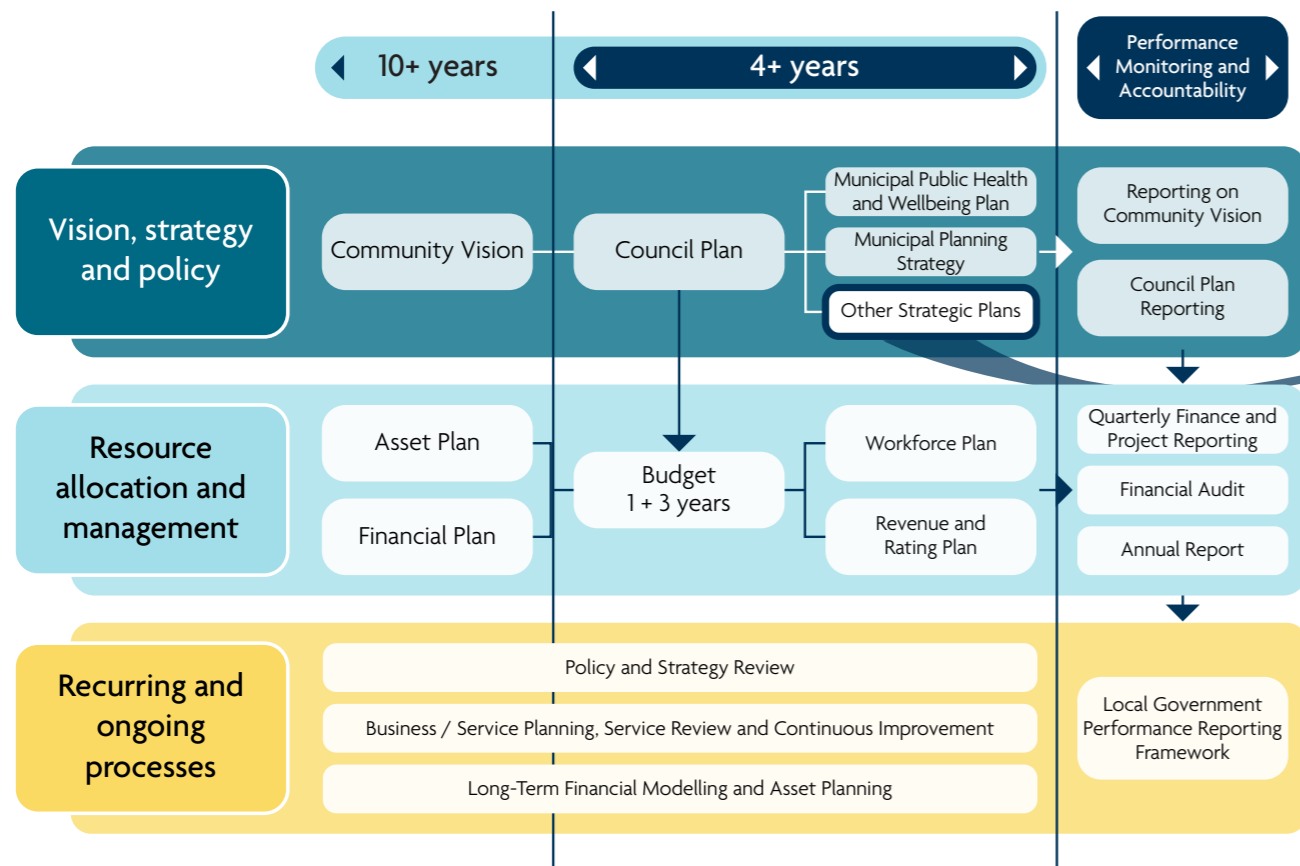
Strategic Objective	 Naturally Beautiful	 Thriving Places	 Vibrant Communities	 Visionary Leadership
Aspirations What we want to achieve long term	Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment	Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well-planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.	Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.	Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations
Climate Action Areas Delivering on Strategic Priorities				
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation, Risk and Resilience: Strengthen the capacity of both Council and community to adapt to and prepare for current and future climate impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering well planned townships • Facilitating sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities • Strengthening community connection and resilience 	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Transition: Continue to enhance and expand local renewable energy and storage where it is cost effective and boosts community resilience, helping cut emissions and support a cleaner, more reliable future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting local industry, business and agriculture • Enhancing Eco Tourism 		
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transport: Partner and advocate for holistic, sustainable transport solutions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering well planned townships • Facilitating sustainable development • Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities 	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Circular Economy: Work with our community to reduce waste and support a circular, regenerative and resilient economy and food system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening waste management • Supporting circular economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting local industry, business and agriculture • Enhancing Eco Tourism 		
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land, Water and Nature: Strengthen and scale nature-based solutions to draw down carbon while enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection • Optimising water management 			
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community, Equity and Climate Justice: Ensure no one is left behind, building on strategic partnerships to support a fair and equitable transition 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities • Strengthening community connection and resilience • Support young people to live, learn, play and connect locally • Walking alongside our First Nations communities on the path to reconciliation 	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Governance: Support our community to lead solutions, while advocating and partnering across federal, state and local government areas leveraging collective and collaborative action for impact 	Foundations of strong leadership and governance enable delivery of all action priorities			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimising partnerships • Strong advocacy • Driving innovation

Where Our Climate Change Action Plan and the Priority Actions 2026–2030 Sits in Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Climate Change Action Plan remains central to delivering Council’s sustainability commitments and the Naturally Beautiful objective. It also provides a coordinated framework that integrates climate considerations across planning, operations, asset management, service delivery and community resilience.

The updated Priority Council Actions 2026–2030 focus Council’s efforts where they can have the greatest impact. They reflect insights from the Plan’s mid-term review and community engagement, ensuring our climate response remains targeted, effective and aligned with what matters most to Bass Coast.

Bass Coast Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



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Naturally Beautiful

Aspirations
 What we want to achieve long term
 Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.

- Priorities**
 What we will focus on for the next 4 years
- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection
 - Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience
 - Optimising water management
 - Strengthening waste management
 - Supporting circular economy

- Strategies**
 How we will deliver these objectives
- Lead Strategy**
- Climate Change Action Plan
- Key Supporting Strategies and Plans**
- Circular Economy Framework
 - Integrated Water Management Plan Strategy Document
 - Natural Environment Strategy
 - Urban Forest Strategy
 - Waste Management Strategy

How are we Tracking?

The Climate Change Action Plan sets 2 major targets: achieving net zero emissions for Council operations by 2030, and reaching net zero emissions across the whole community. So, how are we progressing?

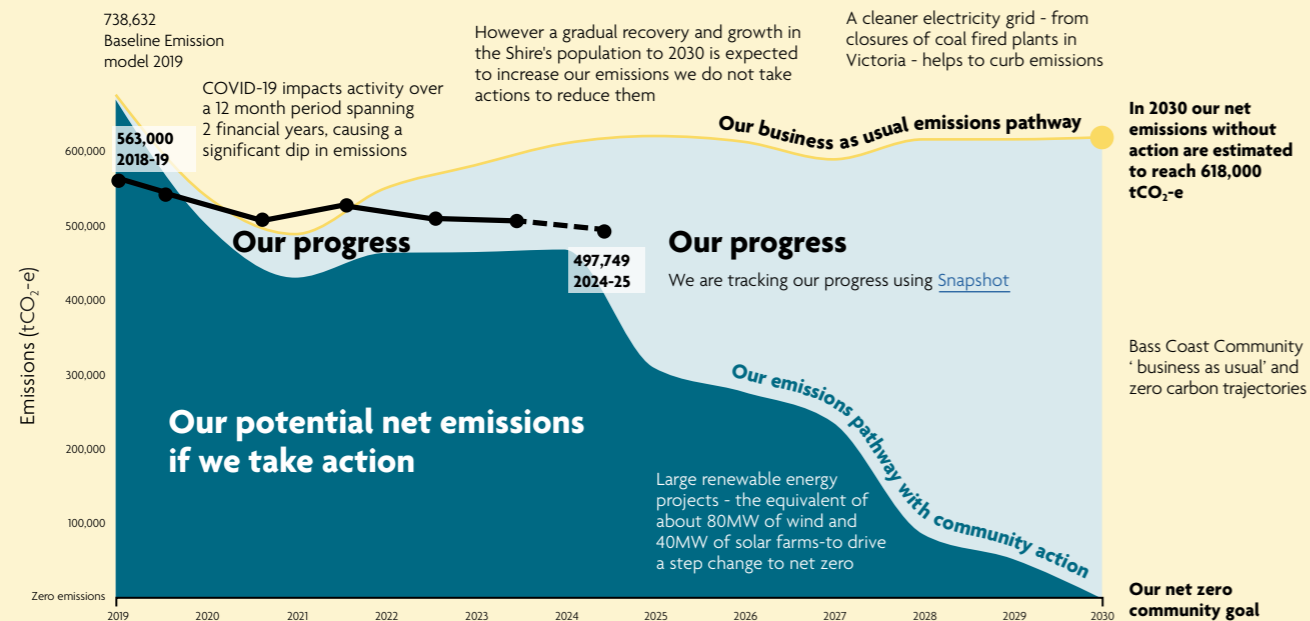
Community

Community emissions

Community emissions are trending down. The chart below illustrates our progress to date, using publicly available [Snapshot](#) community emissions data, compared against the community net zero pathway established in 2020 as part of our plan. By 2024-25, Bass Coast will have achieved a 12% reduction in emissions based on the snapshot data¹ which we are using to track our progress. This has been driven by increased renewable energy uptake, greater energy efficiency, lower vehicle activity, and changes in some agricultural commodities.

Some 30.1% of houses in the municipality now have solar, along with 16.6% of businesses. While we can't track the uptake of electric vehicles specifically in Bass Coast we know that 6.3% of households in Victoria now have an EV (up from 1% 5 years ago).

Net zero pathway – community emissions



--- Source - Community emissions profile - BCSC LGA snapshot
* Forecast community emissions provided by Ironbark Sustainability, September 2025

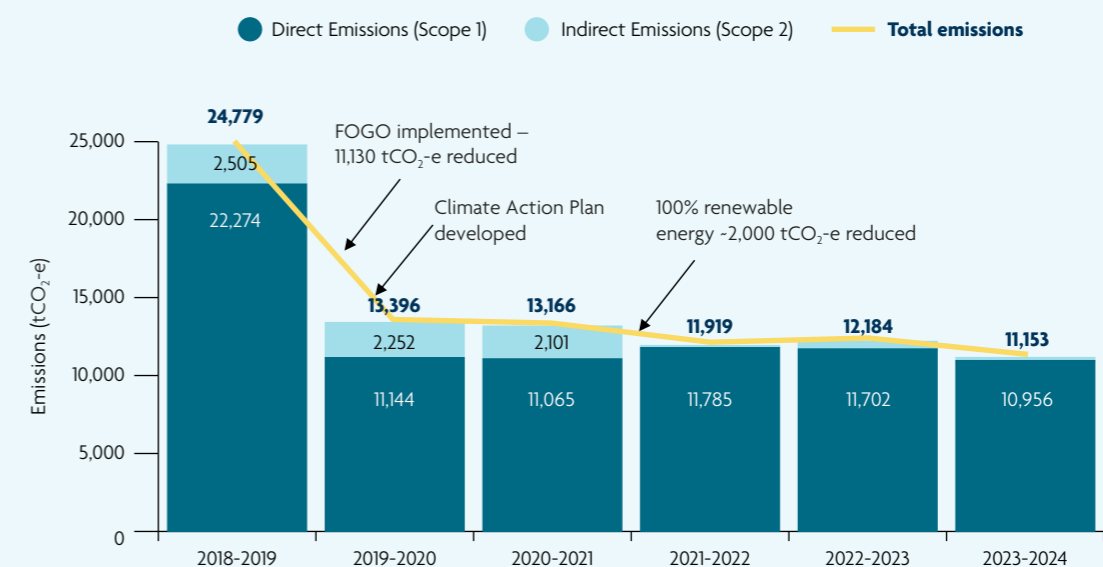
Council

Council emissions

Council's operational emissions saw a substantial reduction just prior to the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, largely due to the introduction of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. By diverting organic material from landfill, this initiative has avoided more than 11,000 tonnes of CO₂-e emissions, as illustrated in the chart below.

Since the plan was developed, we have dropped operational emissions by 16% since 2020. This is largely from the 100% renewable energy contract, reducing an approximate 2,000 tonnes CO₂-e. We've seen decreases across almost all emission sources, apart from diesel, this is largely due to improvements in how our data is collected and reported.

Bass Coast Shire Council emissions



While this is a solid start, we know we need to accelerate our efforts over the next 5 years and start to tackle emissions that are more difficult to reduce. Our biggest opportunities lie in transitioning our fleet away from diesel and continuing to reduce emissions from the Grantville landfill site.

Together, these results show that meaningful progress is happening, but there's still plenty more to do. With continued community leadership and Council action, we can keep building momentum toward our shared net zero goals.

Despite our collective progress, we've noticed that emissions reduction has started to slow recently — a clear signal that we need to step up our collective efforts.

¹ [Snapshot](#) is a free, publicly available data set with community wide emissions that is nationally benchmarked. We use this data set to track our progress.

Our Achievements

At the mid point of the Climate Change Action Plan, 10 of Council's 45 actions are already complete, with many others well underway (see the Community Action Portal for progress on each action). For the 29 community led actions, you can find inspiring stories showcased in our Achievements Report and more information in the Mid-Term Review Report - available through our [Community Action Portal: Community Action Portal | The Cap](#) and through our [Mid-Term Review Engage Page](#).



Powering the energy transition

- Council operations are now powered by 100% renewable electricity, reducing emissions by around 2,000 tonnes of CO₂-e every year
- We have exceeded our solar PV targets, installing 310 kW of new solar panels across Council sites
- An additional 120 kWh of battery storage has been delivered to capture clean energy, reduce peak demand and boost resilience during outages
- Resilience hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast, equipped with solar and batteries have also been established to support communities during emergencies, contributing to both emissions reduction and local resilience

Leading the way on low-emissions transport

- Council's Integrated Transport Strategy has been endorsed to guide long-term sustainable transport planning across Bass Coast
- Our fleet is steadily transitioning to cleaner vehicles, with 18% electric vehicles and 35% low-emission vehicles
- Major public EV charges were installed in late 2025, helping residents, visitors and businesses make the shift to electric transport

Restoring nature and boosting carbon drawdown

- Since 2020, more than 1.5 million trees and plants have been established through the Biolinks Plan, drawing down an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e
- The Biolinks partnership continues to deliver exceptional value, returning around \$22 in environmental and social benefits for every \$1 Council invests
- The Integrated Water Management Plan has been delivered to help secure a sustainable water future for our community and environment
- Developed and implementing our Urban Forest Strategy - supporting greener, cooler and more biodiverse townships

Protecting our coast and advocating for nature

- Coastal protection works have been delivered at Inverloch, Cowes East and Silverleaves helping safeguard key assets and ecosystems
- Council continues to advocate for increased investment in the Western Port Ramsar site to protect critical wetlands that are internationally recognised for their biodiversity, rich birdlife, and role in supporting healthy marine and coastal ecosystems
- The Cape to Cape Resilience Plan has been completed, providing a long-term framework to manage coastal hazards and support adaptation along the coastline of Inverloch and Anderson Inlet

Embedding climate resilience into how we work

- Climate hazards have been mapped into Council's infrastructure risk models, and the Asset Vulnerability Assessment (AVA) Toolkit is now embedded in our systems to support climate-informed decision making
- Climate responsibilities have been added to all staff position descriptions, ensuring climate considerations are part of everyone's role
- Staff training has been delivered so that teams across Council understand climate risks, opportunities and their role in responding

Building community resilience and preparedness

- Resilience hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast are equipped with solar and batteries have been established to support communities during extreme weather events and power outages
- Local resilience forums have helped build self-reliance, strengthen connections and support communities to plan for climate impacts

Supporting a more circular Bass Coast

- Council with support from Sustainability Victoria provided a tailored Circular Economy Business Accelerator program to support local businesses in the journey towards a more circular and resilient Bass Coast
- Council endorsed Circular Economy Framework that considers Council leadership, sectors and local business in the transition toward a more circular and resilient Bass Coast







Supporting an active and engaged community

- The Community Action Portal is live, giving residents a central place to learn, act and track our shared progress on climate
- Council has delivered numerous workshops and information sessions, and hosted Sustainability Festivals in 2021, 2023 and 2026, showcasing practical ways to save energy, reduce waste and care for Country (refer to page 8 of our [Mid Term Review Report](#) for more details on progress with community engagement)
- Council has supported community-led programs to help households reduce bills, improve comfort and address energy hardship — reinforcing our commitment to equity and climate justice

Strengthening governance and driving responsible investment

- Council's Procurement Policy has been strengthened to better align with climate and sustainability priorities, supporting a more circular economy by favouring low-waste, low-carbon goods and services
- We have moved to near-total fossil fuel divestment through Councils Investment Policy, ensuring our investments are consistent with a net zero future
- The revised Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy was endorsed in October 2025, setting stronger standards



Action highlights	Outcomes
 Powering Council operations with 100% renewable electricity	Reducing 2,000 tonnes CO ₂ -e per year
 Exceeded our solar target, plus battery storage	310 kW of new panels and 120 kW battery storage
 Transitioning Council's fleet and equipment to electric	18% EV in fleet 35% low emission vehicles in fleet
 Leveraged partnerships, grants and co-contributions delivering more for less	For every \$1 Council invests in Biolinks, the partnership delivers approximately \$22 in value
 1.5 million trees planted through Biolinks Plan	Approximate carbon drawdown of 165,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -e
 Supporting an active and engaged community	Accessible online tools, festivals and local support to take meaningful action — together

Mid-Term Review Findings

A comprehensive review of progress in implementing the Plan was completed in 2025. It combined internal interviews and an action by action assessment with an external review that examined updated science and data, state and federal policy changes, community engagement insights, and best practice benchmarking.

Summary of key internal learnings (in house interviews and action review)

Our internal review identified where Council has been most effective since adopting the Climate Change Action Plan:

- **Leveraging partnerships and funding**
Working with partners and securing external funding has enabled significant progress—from EV charging and resilience hubs to expanded Biolinks plantings and catchment focused projects delivered through Landcare and Integrated Water Management partnerships
- **Strengthening collaboration on climate risk**
Collaborative work, such as the SECCCA Asset Vulnerability Assessment, has improved our understanding of local climate risks and demonstrated the value of shared approaches across councils
- **Embedding climate action across teams**
Integrating climate considerations into departmental strategies has opened new opportunities, including the award winning Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program, which informed the development of Council's Circular Economy Framework
- **Prioritising nature based solutions**
Nature restoration continues to deliver high impact outcomes —improving biodiversity, catchment health and resilience. Biolinks, catchment focused planting programs, and the establishment of the Nature Recovery Foundation all demonstrate the benefits of this approach and its alignment with community priorities in Council Plan

Summary of key findings from the mid term review (external review)

The review confirms that Council has made substantial progress in delivering the current Plan and that the operating context, community expectations and climate science have evolved significantly. Key recommendations that emerged include:

- **Streamline and focus the action plan**
Retire or revise completed or outdated actions to create a clearer and more achievable program of work
- **Build on established strengths**
Expand high impact areas such as Biolinks, conservation initiatives and the Nature Recovery Foundation
- **Improve structure and clarity**
Group actions into clearer thematic streams—such as Nature and Water, Adaptation and Resilience, Transport and Energy—to support accessibility and alignment
- **Strengthen resilience and adaptation**
Place greater emphasis on preparing for the impacts of climate change, alongside reducing emissions
- **Prioritise real emissions reductions**
Resource key operational opportunities such as fleet transition and landfill emissions management, minimising reliance on offsets
- **Maintain transparent reporting and community engagement**
Continue to report on operational emissions to build trust and demonstrate progress, support community led climate action, enhance the Community Action Portal, and explore new ways to mobilise local businesses and community groups

Overall we found:

Council delivers the strongest outcomes when climate action is collaborative, integrated across teams, and supported through partnerships and external funding, and tailored to opportunities important to the Bass Coast community – such as nature restoration.

How These Findings Shaped the Priority Council Actions 2026–2030

The insights from both the internal review and the independent mid term review directly informed the Priority Council Actions 2026–2030.

Together, they guided where Council can have the greatest impact, highlighted where efforts should be streamlined or strengthened, and ensured the updated actions are focused, evidence based, community aligned and responsive to emerging climate risks. The Mid-Term Review Report can be accessed via the [Community Action Portal here](#).



Our Consultation

Community groups and local organisations were central to developing Council's initial Climate Change Action Plan in 2020, and they remain critical as we move into the next phase.

As part of the mid-term review, community members were invited to hear about Council's progress to date in implementing the plan, and share their own progress on climate action, priorities and preferences on emerging opportunities.

The aim was to understand what's working, what's not, and where Council can do better—especially when it comes to supporting community and business-led climate actions.

Engagement Activities and Promotion

Council used a variety of activities and channels for its engagement, including online and in-person.

- **73** responses to online survey
- **85** responses to youth survey
- **408** visitors to the Engage Bass Coast project site
- **10** social media posts with total reach of **17,943** and **42,434** views across all platforms
- **2** media releases resulting in **3** newspaper articles
- **6** 'pop up' drop-in sessions held across the Shire, with average of **7** attendees per session
- **6** community presentations
- **3** Coastell Newsletters sent to **1,110**, **1,159** and **1,147** email addresses
- **90** tickets sold to Future Council Event
- **11** attendees at a Deliberative Engagement Workshop at Berninnet
- **1** school incursion to Newhaven College

Key Findings

- Consensus on the importance of addressing the cost-of-living crisis alongside the climate crisis and the need to engage those not yet aligned with these priorities
- The importance of targeted assistance for vulnerable households so they are not left behind in the energy transition
- Strong support from community for establishment of a Community Reference Group or similar
- Support for work Council is doing to electrify, improve energy efficiency, and power Council operations with renewable energy
- General agreement that Council resources would be better directed toward supporting adaptation and resilience over investing heavily in carbon neutrality (in the form of consultants, Climate Active certification and carbon offsets)
- Emphasised importance of having a clear narrative about community net zero targets - recognising that while the community wants to keep aiming for zero emissions by 2030, Council's role is to support the ambition, not to take responsibility for targets beyond its direct areas of control and influence
- Acknowledgment of the limits of Council's influence while maintaining ambition and transparency
- Participants supported the idea of continuing to invest in, and grow investment in, Biolinks and other nature-based solutions that deliver multiple benefits for climate, biodiversity, and community wellbeing
- Suggestions to explore more opportunities to contract services (like energy auditing) and renewable energy generation locally to keep skills and money in the local community
- Continuing need to increase the rates of solar on all municipal buildings (including solar car parks if/where viable)
- Mixed feelings around Council's role in supporting public EV charging infrastructure with some people being highly supportive and others feeling this should fall to the private sector
- The need to advocate for increased funding from state government for town buses (smaller, electric buses with more flexibility)
- A desire for Council to plan for full electrification of Council's fleet including graders and garbage trucks
- Grantville Landfill is the largest source of Council's emissions. While public waste generation is outside Council's direct control, it was recommended Council focus on opportunities to expand material recovery, raise public awareness, and explore additional waste streams for local processing
- Council should consider the use of fines or other measures (incentives or disincentives within Council's remit) to reduce contamination in household waste streams
- Council should build stronger relationships with local farmers to support regenerative farming/agriculture
- Increase awareness and accessibility of the Community Action Portal (The CAP), for example it should be easy to find from Council's main website
- Increase focus on resilience and adaptation, not just mitigation
- Strengthening the partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and increasing the opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be involved
- Stronger support for hearing from young voices and youth-led climate initiatives



Our Council Priority Actions 2026–2030



Priority Area 1 - Adaptation, Risk and Resilience:

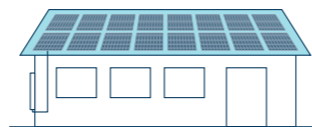
Strengthen the capacity of both Council and our community to adapt to and prepare for current and future climate impacts.

Across Australia, local governments are playing a critical role in preparing communities for a changing climate. Bass Coast is no different, and while strong foundations have been set, climate impacts such as coastal erosion, storms, flooding and heatwaves are becoming more frequent and costly. These pressures are already affecting Council's operating budget, infrastructure planning and service delivery, and the need for proactive, coordinated adaptation is only increasing.

Bass Coast has begun important work to build resilience, including integrating climate considerations into asset management, strengthening coastal protection partnerships, and embedding climate risk principles across key projects. However, climate risks have not yet been assessed comprehensively across all Council services, and current work focuses primarily on Council assets rather than the interconnected risks that also affect vulnerable communities, local businesses and essential services.

To strengthen its capacity to adapt, Bass Coast has joined the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program, which provides a structured, step by step process for identifying local climate risks and improving resilience across operations, assets and communities. This program will help Council build capability, improve decision-making and ensure that climate resilience planning becomes an ongoing cycle of learning, monitoring and improvement—not a one off exercise.

There is also increasing need for leadership in areas such as long term coastal adaptation, climate aware planning decisions, and supporting community preparedness. While many planning levers sit with the State Government, Council can still play a strong advocacy and community support role.

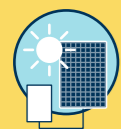


Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Adaptation, Risk and Resilience	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
1.1	Undertake a holistic climate risk assessment supported through the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program, considering risks across all Council services—not only assets—to support risk based and evidence based decisions	Sustainable Environment, supported by Governance and Communication	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Completion of climate risk assessment in 2026-27 Improved scores on the VCRC Adaptive Capacity Rapid Scan after 2 years of participation, showing strengthened organisational capability Climate risk results are being used to inform work priorities and initiatives

No. #	Adaptation, Risk and Resilience	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
1.2	Enhance asset vulnerability assessments to prioritise Bass Coast's key climate hazards, strengthen criticality and vulnerability measures, and assess cascading impacts across interdependent public and private infrastructure networks	Asset Management Team, supported by Sustainable Environment and Community, Safety and Resilience	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Participation in the SECCCA 'Financing Flood Resilient Infrastructure' project delivers applied tools, insights, and financial models that advance Council's Asset Plan objectives to adapt, upgrade, or re-build more climate-resilient infrastructure Case studies and business cases demonstrate the interdependencies between assets and identify practical adaptation opportunities, strengthening Council's ability to prioritise resilient infrastructure investments
1.3	Support the promotion and maintenance of the 10 existing Energy Resilient Hubs that can be utilised during power outages and identify opportunities to expand the network of existing Energy Resilient Community hubs	Community, Safety and Resilience supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Maintain or increase the number of resilience hubs with battery backup systems, supporting community safety and continuity Community workshop/ feedback / surveys
1.4	Strengthen and expand guidance on how households, businesses and community organisations can adapt to climate change and build disaster resilience in the Community Action Portal	Sustainable Environment, and Community, Safety and Resilience	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Community Action Portal (CAP) is expanded to include more guidance on how households, businesses and community can adapt and build resilience, as well as link to other emergency management information and services Increase reach of the CAP through profile on updated Council website, building newsletters and linking across Council digital spaces
1.5	Continue to advocate to state and federal government for planning controls and proactive support for at risk coastal communities	Governance and Communication, supported by Sustainable Environment	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Collaborations with other Councils for impact, leverage peak bodies like MAV to highlight issues Proactive planning and support for coastal communities is reflected in Council Advocacy Priorities, including sharing community stories to highlight impacts





Priority Area 2 - Energy Transition:

Optimise and expand local renewable energy and storage, helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner more reliable future.

We have exceeded the target in our Climate Change Action Plan (the Plan) to install 250 kW of new solar, reaching 310 kW of rooftop solar across key facilities. This is supported by 120 kWh of battery storage, improving resilience by enabling sites to continue operating during power outages and reducing peak energy demand. We now want to focus on ensuring we are getting the most out of our renewable energy investments to reduce operational costs, build resilience in our sites and for our community, through load shifting and energy sharing arrangements.

We will continue to expand local renewable energy and storage, where it provides clear benefits that are cost-effective, improving resilience of our buildings and supporting community wellbeing. We have made progress in partnership with AusNet to transition our streetlighting to LED, where we prioritise a tailored and smart transition to LED lighting, aiming to reduce impacts to biodiversity and light pollution, while balancing the needs for adequate lighting to support community safety.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Energy Transition	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource	When	Measure of success
2.1	Optimise generation, storage and efficient use of renewable energy across Council-managed sites; helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner, more reliable future	Asset Management, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	<p>Priority Council sites are equipped with monitoring data to optimise energy use</p> <p>Maintain or increase local renewable energy contribution (%) of electricity supplied by locally installed solar and batteries across Council sites from baseline established 2025/26</p> <p>Estimated annual cost savings achieved from increased Local Renewable Utilisation (%), calculated using avoided electricity costs - from 2026-27</p> <p>Total kW of solar installed, kWh battery storage - (cumulative since 2020)</p>

No. #	Energy Transition	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource	When	Measure of success
2.2	Support a tailored and smart transition to LED streetlighting by 2030, reducing impacts to biodiversity and light pollution, while balancing increased lighting to support community safety where needed	Sustainable Environment, supported by Asset Management	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	2026-ongoing	Options paper presented to Council highlighting costs and benefits for differing levels of Council involvement in Ausnet LED streetlighting rollout, particularly ways Council can support a tailored rollout to reduce impacts on biodiversity and of light pollution, combined with meeting lighting needs to support community safety
2.3	Support local businesses by connecting them with specialist advice and programs that help reduce emissions and cut energy costs, with a focus on organisations with high energy use	Economic Development, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	<p>Renewable energy contract implemented with certificates showing evidence of renewable energy supplied (large scale generation certificates) LGCs, with associated emissions reduction estimated – tCO2-e</p> <p>Prepare for the next renewable energy contract</p>
2.4	Continue to power 100% of electricity across Council operations with renewable energy sources	Sustainable Environment, Procurement, and Infrastructure Maintenance	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	<p>Renewable energy contract implemented with certificates showing evidence of renewable energy supplied (large scale generation certificates) LGCs</p> <p>Emissions reduction estimated – tCO2-e</p>





Priority Area 3 - Sustainable Transport:

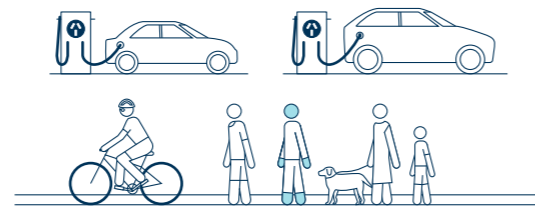
Partner and advocate for holistic, sustainable transport solutions.

Transport is a major contributor to community wide emissions, and its share is expected to increase as electricity related emissions decline through the shift to renewable energy. In response, Council has taken significant steps to support cleaner, low emissions travel across Bass Coast. This has included expanding the public EV charging network with four new 50 kW fast chargers in Wonthaggi, Grantville, Inverloch and Newhaven—building on the existing chargers in Cowes. These upgrades have helped make electric vehicle use more practical for residents, businesses and visitors, supporting quieter, cleaner and cheaper transport options. Council has also made progress in the transition of its fleet - with 18% now electric and 35% low emission vehicles.

Council has also strengthened sustainable and active transport planning by progressing the Tracks and Trails Strategy 2022–2032 and completing the Integrated Transport Study 2025–2045. Together, these works provide a clear pathway toward a safer, more connected and more sustainable transport network that encourages walking, cycling and reduced reliance on private cars.

Building on this foundation, Council's efforts will now focus on further advocating for and working with partners for continued expansion of EV charging infrastructure, continue to transition Council fleet and plant equipment, continue to improve active transport safety and connectivity, and strengthening advocacy for a more effective public transport network. These priorities are essential to reducing emissions, easing congestion, improving community health and wellbeing, while easing cost of living pressures.

These priorities support the goals of the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) to create a safer, low emissions, healthy and accessible transport system. They focus on accelerating the shift to electric and active transport, enhancing public and active transport access and safety, while ensuring inclusive, well integrated mobility for all residents and visitors.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Sustainable Transport	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
3.1	Continue to plan for and transition Council's fleet, plant and equipment to electric and low emission equipment and vehicles	Innovation and Engagement, Supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Updated Council fleet transition plan, reflecting technology and market developments Incremental increase of EV and low emission vehicles in Council fleet Increase in Council electric plant and equipment Reduction in fuel consumption across Council operations and associated avoided emissions
3.2	Support staff uptake of electric vehicles and explore low-cost charging options for staff use at Council sites	Innovation and Engagement, Supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Increased uptake of electric vehicles in staff novated leases from baseline 2025 Explore opportunity for increased charging options for staff use at Council sites

No. #	Sustainable Transport	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
3.3	In line with the Integrated Transport Study (ITS), undertake promotional activities to support increase in EV charging infrastructure and vehicles across Bass Coast	Sustainable transport, supported by Sustainable Environment, Economic Development	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Low- minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff support	Ongoing	Distribution of information about benefits of EV charging to tourism and business Share benefits from Council installed public chargers including the estimated avoided emissions from electric vehicle charging at these EV charging sites EV charging installed at San Remo by RACV
3.4	Continue to improve active transport safety and connectivity, in line with Tracks and Trails strategy	Sustainable Transport	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Delivery of key projects in Tracks and Trails Strategy, such as Inverloch-Wonthaggi path, Cowes-Ventnor shared path and Cowes-Rhyll path over the next 4 years
3.5	Strengthen advocacy to improve public transport service level across with Shire	Sustainable Transport	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	2026 - ongoing	Advocacy campaign to the Department of Transport and Public Transport Victoria for improved public transport in Bass Coast to meet current and future demands
3.6	Continue to advocate for improved mobility across the shire in line with the ITS, including sustainable transport pilot trials that reduce congestion and car use, while improving connectivity and safety in the community	Sustainable Transport	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Support through advocacy, grant funding applications, partnerships, in line with goals of ITS to pilot and trial private transport models that reduce congestion and emissions



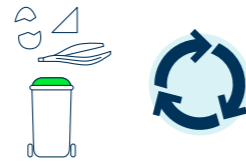


Priority Area 4 - Waste and Circular Economy:

Work with our community to reduce waste and support a circular, regenerative and resilient economy and food system

Supporting the transition toward a circular economy is essential for reaching net zero emissions and building a more resilient and regenerative local economy. Waste remains a significant challenge for Bass Coast, with emissions from the Grantville Landfill continuing to be Council's largest operational emissions source. Council has strengthened its planning and community education around recycling, food organics and garden organics (FOGO), and waste reduction, helping households and businesses make better use of existing systems.

Council has an important opportunity to shape a long-term vision for a circular economy—treating waste as a resource that can be recovered, repaired and reused locally. This shift supports both environmental outcomes and new economic opportunities, but will require early planning, strong partnerships and investment to prepare the community for a post landfill future.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Waste and Circular Economy	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
4.1	Implement Council's Circular Economy Framework, clearly communicating the environmental, economic and emissions reduction benefits of circular practices	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Strengthened community awareness (workshops delivered – e.g. Living Lightly Circular Economy feedback and evaluation) and foundational support for its implementation across Council's operations Establishment of governance structure to support Council departments in embedding circular economy principles in line with the framework, including development of appropriate measures to track progress
4.2	Support the delivery of a program that builds capability for local businesses, industry and/or agriculture to build knowledge of circular models and practice	Economic Development, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low - minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2027 - ongoing	Workshop delivered in 2027 by Economic Development, supporting capability uplift in circular principles and applications Stronger partnerships with businesses and industry demonstrating circular practices in action (grant funding grant support may be required) Progress shared through case studies on the Community Action Portal and Business Newsletters

No. #	Waste and Circular Economy	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
4.3	Increase resource recovery across the Shire by improving waste stream separation, reducing disposable organic material to landfill, aiming to 'close the loop' where recovered materials are processed or reused locally	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	From 2027-28 strengthened reporting on resource recovery and contamination levels in kerbside collection service, informing awareness campaigns Maintain or increase % of comingled, FOGO and glass in kerbside collection Maintain or increase the total tonnes and categories of materials recovered at Council transfer stations from baseline established 2025-26, – refer to indicator table for more details
4.4	Continue to manage emissions at Grantville Landfill in accordance with EPA Guidelines and best practice	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Compliance with EPA Licence and guidelines is maintained, Operational emissions reduced from landfill site (tCO ₂ -e), Landfill emissions are modelled to 2035 to support abatement planning





Priority Area 5 - Land, Water and Nature:

Strengthen and scale nature-based solutions to draw down carbon while enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection

Bass Coast is well positioned to lead nature recovery and regeneration, with its unique landscapes, strong Landcare partnerships and growing community interest in protecting biodiversity. Council has already made meaningful progress through initiatives such as the Biolinks Biodiversity Plan, the Urban Forest Strategy and the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan. These programs have helped restore habitat, expand ecological connections across the landscape, and support healthier waterways and greener urban spaces.

Bass Coast is also the first local government in Australia to establish a Nature Recovery Foundation in partnership with Biodiversity Legacy. This not for profit foundation is able to receive philanthropic investment to accelerate biodiversity restoration across public and private land. With transparent, science based pathways for investment, the Foundation positions Bass Coast as a regional leader in large scale ecosystem recovery and offers opportunities for co investment from neighbouring councils, community groups and external partners.

Local innovation is also emerging in agriculture. Through Bass Coast Landcare Network's Soil Health and Biofertiliser Program, farmers are adopting low cost, microbe rich organic fertilisers that reduce emissions, improve soil health and strengthen farm resilience. This program shows the potential for nature positive practices to deliver both environmental and economic benefits.

To build on this progress, Council now has an opportunity to strengthen leadership in biodiversity protection, expand restoration efforts, and ensure nature based solutions remain integral to the climate response.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Land, Water and Nature	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
5.1	Develop and implement a Nature Positive Strategy to guide protection and restoration of nature across Bass Coast	Sustainable Environment, supported by Strategic Planning	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	2027 - ongoing	Strategy outlining most effective measures for protecting nature, including the Westernport Woodlands, and targets and methods to guide effective restoration of nature across Bass Coast
5.2	Partner with organisations to scale up nature recovery efforts and connect regional biodiversity corridors	Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Partnership models driving increased investment in nature in Bass Coast - \$investment/ partner contributions

No. #	Land, Water and Nature	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
5.3	Advocate and support agricultural programs— that strengthen on farm resilience, local food systems and draw down carbon and/or reduce or avoid emissions	Sustainable Environment, supported by Economic Development	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 – ongoing funding dependent	Increased number of farms adopting regenerative and low emissions practices
5.4	Implement and expand the Urban Forest Strategy to create greener, cooler and more biodiverse towns	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Annual street tree plantings of at least 1,500 trees is consistently achieved Increased canopy cover across townships, on track to reaching 40% canopy cover by 2040 target Increase in diversity of plantings across townships, aiming to deliver more for nature, while providing a cooler urban microclimate
5.5	Improve and deliver the Biolinks Biodiversity Plan, strengthening habitat connectivity across the region	Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Increased area of habitat restored and connected across Bass Coast, reported through annual number of native plantings
5.6	Implement the Integrated Water Management Plan to enhance water quality, restore and protect catchment health, increase green and blue spaces, reduce flood improving community health, wellbeing and amenity	Asset Management, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Projects delivered and partnerships developed that deliver on IWM Plan objectives across the Shire Estimated reduction in nutrients, improving catchment health, reduced flood risk, improved amenity





Priority Area 6 - Community, Equity and Climate Justice:

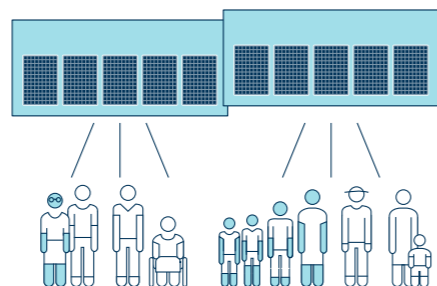
Ensure no one is left behind, building on strategic partnerships to support a fair and equitable transition

The climate crisis and cost of living pressures are placing growing stress on Bass Coast households, especially those least able to adapt. Rising energy bills, extreme weather and housing pressures highlight the need for a people centred approach to climate action—one that reduces household costs now while helping the community prepare for future impacts.

Council has supported community led climate initiatives through grants, partnerships and neighbourhood projects, and there is an opportunity to deepen this work by collaborating more closely with organisations that support vulnerable households. Scaling practical solutions—such as energy efficiency upgrades, local resilience initiatives and community run workshops—can help reduce bills, build preparedness and ensure the benefits of clean energy are shared fairly across Bass Coast.

A just transition also means ensuring young people and First Peoples have meaningful roles in shaping climate decisions. Community feedback strongly supported youth-led climate initiatives and strengthening collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and local First Nations people.

As heatwaves, storms and power disruptions become more common, the need for safe, accessible community spaces is growing. Council can play a stronger enabling role by using resilience hubs, Council facilities and community events to support vulnerable residents during climate related emergencies and build everyday resilience. Council will also strengthen and expand its Living Lightly workshop series and the Community Action Portal, tools for informing, motivating and connecting the community. By sharing practical guidance on adaptation and resilience, showcasing local stories and highlighting community events, the Portal and regular workshops can help bring people together and inspire action across the Shire.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Community, Equity and Climate Justice	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
6.1	Strengthen strategic partnerships to support households that are vulnerable to climate hazards through energy assessments and targeted support services	Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Program evaluation, partnership reach and impact assessment
6.2	Strengthen the climate change partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Sustainable Environment, supported by Connected Communities	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Maintain support for the Strong Country and Sea Country Teams through in-kind contributions and Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities that care for Land and Sea Country, and align with Council initiatives and Bunurong priorities Delivery of the Environmental Partnerships Program that supports Indigenous cultural burning practices that promote the regeneration of native grasslands and enhance biodiversity
6.3	Support youth-led climate justice / action initiatives (New action from Community workshop feedback)	Connected Communities, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Continued participation of young people in local climate and sustainability initiatives Delivery of a targeted youth climate / environment program Program evaluations inform future initiatives
6.4	Continue to Empower community action through tailored funding (Climate Action Grants) and/or in-kind support	Connected Communities, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Program evaluations, community stories, impact criteria – emissions reductions and/or resilience strengthened
6.5	Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services	Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Workshop surveys and evaluations, engagement reach of Community Action Portal (page view, visitors, followers, downloads), event, program attendance and evaluations



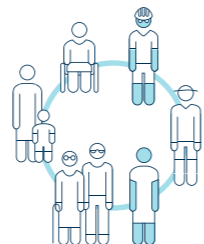
Priority Area 7 - Leadership and Governance:

Support our community to lead solutions, while advocating and partnering across federal, state and local government areas leveraging collective and collaborative action for impact.

Over the past several years, Council has built strong foundations for climate action through clear governance, strategic policies and programs that protect and restore the environment. This includes long standing community valued efforts such as Biolinks, conservation programs and the Nature Recovery Foundation, alongside strengthened policies in areas such as sustainable design, procurement, investment and the urban forest. These steps have helped ensure that Council's day to day decisions, operations and investments meaningfully support emissions reduction, nature protection and resilience across Bass Coast.

As we look toward 2030, the priority now shifts to tackling the harder-to-abate emissions and enabling stronger community leadership in climate action.

This next phase focuses on developing a transparent policy for how Council will meet its net zero target, and supporting programs that empower local leadership and environmental stewardship, and establishing the most effective way for the community to guide and influence the implementation of community actions in the Climate Change Action Plan. This reflects what we heard from our community—particularly the desire for inclusive representation, including nature, First Nations peoples and young people—and recognises that long term climate solutions will only succeed when shaped and led by the people of Bass Coast.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Leadership and Governance	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
7.1	Develop a clear policy position on achieving Council's net zero target to manage Councils residual emissions, in line with community expectations for transparency and local impact	Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2028	Clear and publicly available policy direction for achieving Council's net zero commitment
7.2	Explore and implement the most effective ways for Council to support community aspirations for emissions reduction and resilience building, informed by strong engagement interest in a community reference or advisory group, collective forum, or similar collaborative model.	Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Community leadership mechanism established and actively supporting progress on community-wide emissions reduction actions (measured through participation, initiatives supported, and actions progressed)

No. #	Leadership and Governance	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
7.3	Strengthen transparent and meaningful reporting of progress in implementing this plan and reaching net zero and resilience goals across Council's operations and community	Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Transparent reporting of key indicators identified in this document Continuous improvement of reporting on emission sources within Councils operational control, in line with government expectations
7.4	Continue to deliver climate awareness training for all staff and embed climate considerations in roles, responsibilities and performance planning Support leadership to assist their staff to understand tangible climate action steps they can take and contribute toward	People and Culture, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Development of on-demand training package by 2028, that includes an induction program with 2-yearly compliance refresh requirement for all staff, ensuring all staff continue to be supported to understand how their role intersects with climate
7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast	Relevant Council team lead, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Council strategic policies, plans and initiatives consider climate impacts and embed circular economy and sustainability principles Obtain Ecotourism destination certification, supporting sustainable business practice across Bass Coast Continue to improve the integration of climate risk into corporate processes, planning and decision-making Council policies and plans commit to minimise environmental impacts associated with AI and data storage



Refreshed Reporting Indicators

An update to the indicators for our Climate Change Action Plan is provided below. There are additional indicators to support measures of resilience, which we heard is important from our community, along with emissions reduction in the plan. We will update our progress against these indicators with data collected over the financial year.

	Indicator	Target (by 2030)	Baseline 2020-21	2024-25	Comments
Council	Council emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	0	13,165	11,153	On track, delivery of Priority Action No. 7.1 will transparently outline how Council will reduce hard to abate emissions
	% renewable energy	100%	0	100%	Target achieved – ongoing VECO contract
	% renewable energy sourced locally			Establish baseline 2025-26	Local renewable energy contribution (%) -% of electricity supplied by locally installed solar and batteries across Council sites from baseline established 2025-26 Estimated annual cost savings achieved from increased Local Renewable Utilisation (%), calculated using avoided electricity costs- from 2025-26
	kW solar installed	250 kW	0	310.8 kW	Target achieved, continue installations where three are clear benefits and optimise renewable energy installations – see Priority Action No. 2.1
	KWh battery installed		0	120.2 kWh	
	No. Energy resilience hubs with back-up power supply		0	10	No. Council facilities equipped with back-up power supply
	% EV in fleet	90%		18%	Trending below target for EV in fleet, based on lack of suitable heavy vehicles in market. Deliver phased increase to EV fleet at end of lease, responding to market opportunities and plan for suitable charging infrastructure
	No. EV in Council fleet		2	13	
	% low emission vehicles		-	34%	
	No. of Council staff with EV in novated lease arrangements			5	
	No. of Council staff with low emission vehicles in novated lease arrangements			5	Total of 10 low emissions vehicles of total 14 novated leases, representing 71% of novated lease arrangements
% LED streetlighting	100%	-	40%	On track – AusNet streetlighting program delivered by 2030, see Priority Action No.2.2	
Community	Community Emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	0	532,000	497,749*	*Emissions estimated, data updated in Snapshot in October, for the financial year prior. Mid-point results were commissioned early for Mid-Term Review
	% households with solar	60%	25%	30.1%	Increasing trend, but slow uptake to reach target - See residential in Australian PV Institute – Data not yet available on household battery
	% households with battery	-	-	-	
	% business with solar	25%	-	16.6%	See commercial (calculated as capacity % of total kW installed, not No. business installations) in Australian PV Institute - Data not yet available on commercial battery
	% households with EV ownership	80%	1%	6.3%	% EV ownership by state provided by Electric Vehicle Index
	Public EV charger use - Gigawatts per year	Maintain or increase			Public charge use is calculated from Council installed Chargefox chargers – data available following installations December 2025
	Public EV charger use - tCO ₂ -e avoided per year	Maintain or increase		0	

	Indicator	Target (by 2030)	Baseline 2020-21	2024-25	Comments
Community	% of comingled, FOGO, and glass diverted from kerbside general waste (% of kerbside material diverted from landfill)	Maintain or increase		72.17%	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
	Contamination levels in kerbside waste collection – general waste in landfill (%), recycling (%) and organics bins (%) ¹	Maintain or reduce		Baseline established 2027-28 under new waste contract	Poor data availability to meaningfully report, see Priority Action No. 4.3
	Category description of recoverable waste streams offered at Council transfer sites	Maintain or increase	Data not available	Data not available – build baseline 2025-26	Provide details for categories of recoverable waste offered at Council transfer sites
	Total tonnes of recovered waste from Council transfer sites (tonnes)	Maintain or increase			Data to monitor Council's progress of resource recovery from transfer stations will be improved from 2024-25 when the baseline levels will be established, with progress reported annually moving forward
	Tonnes of mulch applied on Council rehabilitation projects	Maintain or increase			
	% of material processed or reused locally from above measures	Maintain or increase			
	Increase native vegetation across the Shire	360,000 plants annually	0	1.5 million (cumulative) 165,000 tCO ₂ -e drawdown	No. natives planted to improve connectivity across the rural landscape through Biolinks Plan Associated estimated emissions drawdown over 25 year period
Urban Forest Strategy – Increase No. of trees within Shire townships	Annual plantings of at least 1,500 street trees	0	1,810	Progressive tree plantings established, working toward target of 40% canopy cover by 2040	



Reporting on our Progress

We will report on our progress of implementing these priority actions in Councils Quarterly Performance Reports. We will provide a more in-depth annual summary on our progress in Council's Annual Report, which will include an update on Council's corporate emissions and community-wide emissions. We note, due to data availability, emissions data provided in reports will be for the financial year prior. These reports are available on Council's website.

We commit to continuous improvement of reporting on material emission sources that Council has a level of influence over in line with government expectations, and to manage risks and support the transition toward a low carbon economy. These emissions sources can be indirect, generated from the supply chain and business activities, such as embodied carbon in projects. We note, that as we improve our emissions reporting processes, overall emissions reported as a result may increase. We will be transparent with our community as we continue to improve the measurement and management of our emission sources.

We will also report annually on our key indicators (refer Indicator Table above), which will be made available through the [Community Action Portal](#). Evaluation measures established for priority actions will be assessed as actions progress for continuous learning and improvement and considered in the development of the next Climate strategic document.

Appendix 1 – Councils Refreshed Priority Actions

The original 45 actions listed in the Climate Change Action Plan are provided below, highlighting refreshed action descriptions, new priority numbers for tracking and transparency purposes, as well as actions that are complete or discontinued. For more information about the actions please refer to the Community Action Portal where we share further details through our full actions listing, as well as community and review updates. Any priority action numbers that are not listed here are new actions that have emerged from community feedback, or opportunities identified through the review process.

Action No.	Original Action Title - Climate Change Action Plan	Status	Priority Action No.	Refreshed action update or rationale for action completion
1	Expand the Future Farms, Homes and Festivals	Combine or adapt	6.6	Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services
2	Develop a climate change community portal	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.4, 6.6	1.4 Strengthen and expand guidance on how households, businesses and community organisations can adapt to climate change and build disaster resilience in the Community Action Portal 6.6 Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services
3	Support the development of a local Climate Resilience Centre or hubs	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.3	Support the promotion and maintenance of the 9 existing Energy Resilient Hubs that can be utilised during power outages and identify opportunities to expand the network of existing Energy Resilient Community hubs
4	Deliver a climate resilience toolkit and campaign	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.4	Strengthen and expand guidance on how households, businesses and community organisations can adapt to climate change and build disaster resilience in the Community Action Portal
5	Promote financial solutions and incentives	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.6	Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services
6	Climate emergency community funds	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.5	Continue to empower community action through tailored funding (Climate Action Grants) and/or in-kind support
7	Expand the Climate Governance and Leadership Program	Combine or adapt	7.2	Explore and implement the most effective ways for Council to support community aspirations for emissions reduction and resilience building, informed by strong engagement interest in a community reference or advisory group, collective forum, or similar collaborative model.
8	Advocate for stronger climate action by State and Federal Governments	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Success measure - continue to advocate for stronger climate action by State and Federal Governments
9	Essential infrastructure working groups	Combine or adapt	1.1	Will be carried out as part of the climate risk assessment process - 1.1. Undertake a holistic climate risk assessment supported through the VCRC program, considering risks across all Council services—not only assets—to support risk based and evidence based decisions
10	Refresh the Economic Development Strategy	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast
11	Refresh the Visitor Economy Strategy	Complete - close		Action complete - remove this action - as the Visitor Economy Strategy is no longer developed by Council - it now sits with Destination Phillip Island
12	Refresh the Waste Management Strategy with a circular economy lens	Combine or adapt	4.1, 4.3	4.1 Implement Council's Circular Economy Framework, clearly communicating the environmental, economic and emissions reduction benefits of circular practices 4.3 Increase resource recovery across the Shire, improve separation of waste streams and continue to drive down disposable organic material that ends up in landfill
13	Partner to deliver a whole municipality coastal management plan	Combine or adapt	1.5	Refreshed action update - Continue to support collaborative coastal resilience: partnering across state and federal governments, community and traditional custodians for long-term adaptation and stewardship; however given Councils' level of control this is best captured as an advocacy action - see Priority Action No. 1.5 Continue to advocate to state and federal government for planning controls and proactive support for at risk coastal communities
14	Contribute to Inverloch Foreshore Erosion response	Complete - close		This is BAU - Continue support for short-term coastal protection aligned with Victoria's coastal management principles - partnering with DEECA and the community to deliver evidence-based responses to coastal erosion

Action No.	Original Action Title - Climate Change Action Plan	Status	Priority Action No.	Refreshed action update or rationale for action completion
15	Contribute to Cowes East Foreshore Erosion protection works	Complete - close		Action is complete and is covered in updated Action No. 14
16	Participate in Regional Climate Adaptation Planning	Complete - close		Complete - Council participated in development of Gippsland Regional Adaptation Plan initiated by state government, action is BAU for future regional adaptation planning updates
17	Collaborate to deliver climate resilient transport infrastructure	Combine or adapt	1.1, 1.2	1.1 Undertake a holistic climate risk assessment supported through the VCRC program, considering risks across all Council services—not only assets—to support risk based and evidence based decisions 1.2 Build on existing asset vulnerability assessments to understand larger interrelated systems of private and public infrastructure, rather than just focusing on individual assets
18	Review the critical communications partnership	Complete - close		Complete - see Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023 - 2026, implementation ongoing and ongoing update / improvement captured in future reviews
19	Establish a Bunurong climate change partnership	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.2	Strengthen the climate change partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
20	Optimise multi-stakeholder waterway health management	Complete - close		This is delivered through establishment of IWM Forums and existing partnership arrangements with catchment managers and considered BAU
21	Finalise the Integrated Water Management Plan	Complete or implementation ongoing	5.6	Implement the Integrated Water Management Plan to enhance water quality, restore and protect catchment health, increase green and blue spaces, reduce flood improving community health, wellbeing and amenity
22	Update the climate resilient species list	Complete - close		This has been delivered see: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/environment/tree-vegetation-lists ; will be managed and updated as part of implementing the Urban Forest Strategy
23	Improve vegetation cover in urban centres	Complete or implementation ongoing	5.4	Fully implement the Urban Forest Strategy to create greener, cooler and more biodiverse towns
24	Strengthen planning policy and practice	Combine or adapt	7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast
25	Township adaptation plans	Combine or adapt	1.5	Continue to advocate to state and federal government for planning controls and proactive support for at risk coastal communities
26	Deliver targeted assistance for vulnerable households	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.1	Strengthen strategic partnerships to support households that are vulnerable to climate hazards through energy assessments and targeted support services
27	Support businesses to build a circular economy	Continue - refreshed action	4.2	Support the delivery of a program that builds capability for local businesses, industry and/or agriculture to build knowledge of circular models
28	Support a shift to climate resilient transport for Bass Coast Community	Combine or adapt	3.4, 3.5, 3.6	3.4 Continue to improve active transport safety and connectivity, in line with Tracks and Trails strategy 3.5 Continue to advocate for improved public transport services across the Shire 3.6 Continue to advocate for improved mobility across the shire in line with the ITS, including sustainable transport pilot trials that reduce congestion and car use, while improving connectivity and safety in the community
29	Support local electric vehicle charging infrastructure and usage	Continue - refreshed action	3.3	In line with the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS), undertake promotional activities to support increase in EV charging infrastructure and vehicles across Bass Coast
30	Deliver the Biolinks project	Complete or implementation ongoing	5.5	Continue to implement the Biolinks Biodiversity Plan
31	Deliver climate emergency staff training and awareness training	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.4	Continue to deliver climate awareness training for all staff and embed climate considerations in roles, responsibilities and performance planning Support leadership to assist their staff to understand tangible climate action steps they can take and contribute toward
32	Embed the Climate Emergency into all staff roles and responsibilities, and performance planning	Complete - close		Complete - ongoing implementation captured in Action 7.4 above
33	Integrate and address climate risks in corporate processes	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Success measure - Continually review and improve the integration and management of climate risks in corporate processes in Action 7.5

Action No.	Original Action Title - Climate Change Action Plan	Status	Priority Action No.	Refreshed action update or rationale for action completion
34	Integrate climate risk into financial decision making	Combine or adapt	1.1	Continued implementation will be supported by climate risk assessment - see Action 1.1 success measure - climate risk results are being implemented into work flows
35	Increase fossil fuel divestment	Complete - close	7.5	Investment Policy updated - continued implementation covered in existing policy reviews and captured in Action 7.5
36	Update the Procurement Policy and procedures	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast
37	Integrate climate emergency into Council reporting processes	Combine or adapt	7.3	Strengthen transparent and meaningful reporting of progress in implementing this plan and reaching net zero and resilience goals across Council's operations and community
38	Review Council's zero net emissions target	Combine or adapt	7.1	Develop a clear policy position and methodology for achieving Council's net zero target, in line with community expectations for transparency and local impact
39	Asset vulnerability assessment project	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.4	Enhance asset vulnerability assessments to prioritise Bass Coast's key climate hazards, strengthen criticality and vulnerability measures, and assess cascading impacts across interdependent public and private infrastructure networks
40	Update Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Council Buildings (2017)	Complete - close	7.5	ESD policy update complete- implementation ongoing, covered by Action 7.5
41	Power Council with 100% renewable energy	Complete or implementation ongoing	2.4	Continue to power 100% of electricity across Council operations with renewable energy sources
42	Transition to electric vehicles	Continue - refreshed action	3.1	Continue to plan for and transition Council's fleet, plant and equipment to electric and low emission equipment and vehicles
43	Improve energy efficiency	Discontinue		We have built efficiency considerations as part of delivery for Priority Action No. 2.1 - other supporting policies like the updated ESD policy also assist in energy efficiency considerations
44	Accelerate the implementation of municipal solar	Complete or implementation ongoing	2.1	Action complete- exceeded our target for solar, action adapted to Optimise generation, storage and efficient use of renewable energy across Council-managed sites; helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner, more reliable future
45	Transition all street lighting to energy efficient LED lighting	Combine or adapt	2.2	AusNet led project to complete by 2030, Support a tailored and smart transition to LED streetlighting by 2030, reducing impacts to biodiversity and light pollution, while balancing increased lighting to support community safety where needed

Appendix 2 – Achievements Report

Appendix 3 – Mid-Term Review Report

Appendix 4 – Engagement Report

These appendices are available through the [Community Action Portal](#)





Bass Coast Shire Council

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