

CITY OF BALLARAT EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2015

PURPOSE

This Emissions Management Action Plan provides an outline of the actions that will be undertaken over the next five years to reduce greenhouse gas emission from the operations of the City of Ballarat. These actions are to be owned by the staff responsible for the management of the relevant area, with environmental management the responsibility of all staff at the City of Ballarat. This plan provides the objectives and actions to support the Ballarat Strategy 2015.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The objectives of the Emissions Management Action Plan are:

- Developing a culture of sustainability; and
- Reducing resource consumption and everyday impact.

Details on these objectives and key actions required to be undertaken to meet these objectives are outlined below with a resourcing schedule attached to guide planning for these actions. Results of actions undertaken will be reported to the Regional Sustainability Alliance in August of each year, where feedback on progress will be reported back to Council.

DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

OBJECTIVE:

Develop a strong culture of sustainability throughout Council Business where staff are fully informed about best practice in their areas of operation and are working in an environment which encourages and supports innovation and change.

ACTIONS:

- Incorporate outcomes of the climate change risk assessment (2013) into the Council's Risk Management Register to minimise Council exposure to climate change risks; (City Infrastructure)
- Include triple bottom line reporting guidelines for Council reports (Business Services)
- Develop community education and engagement plans to increase community awareness of the benefits of living sustainably (City Infrastructure)
- Incorporate both climate change mitigation and adaptation actions within the Councils risk management framework and integrate actions and plans throughout the Council operations to minimise exposure and vulnerability to weather/climate events and increase resilience to the risks that cannot be eliminated; (safety & Risk)
- Develop a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) management approach for tender projects over \$50,000 and all Council initiatives, incorporating sustainability into all levels of decision making and action; TBL awareness training be implemented to improve its application to council reports and decisions; (Business Services)
- Amend the Ballarat Planning Scheme to include the following:
 - Review and update the MSS to ensure consistency with updated Environment Management Action Plan and Environment Sustainability Policy;
 - Ensure that Council's sustainability policy is integrated through all clauses. Include the updated City of Ballarat Environment Sustainability Strategy as a reference document in the scheme. (City Strategy)
- Develop Environmental Management Awareness training to be delivered in staff and Councillor Inductions. (Business Services)

REDUCING RESOURCE CONSUMPTION AND EVERYDAY IMPACT

Carbon Reduction Management

OBJECTIVE:

Corporate greenhouse gas emissions are being significantly reduced by adopting innovative solutions in response to climate change. Priority actions have multiple benefits and outcomes and Council is positioned to take advantage of opportunities that arise that drive further energy efficiencies.

ACTIONS:

- Actively reduce Council corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 20% based on 2012/2013 levels by 2020:
 - Adopt the guiding principles of carbon management as the framework for a comprehensive approach to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction target towards neutrality with residual/ unavoidable emissions being offset by switching to renewable energy sources and other offset mechanisms, as they become available, preferably within the municipality;
 - Accurately measure, monitor and report Council's greenhouse emissions on an annual basis; (City Infrastructure)
- Review progress towards greenhouse gas emission reduction target in 2017 and amend if necessary; (City Infrastructure)
- Ensure that Council is positioned to take advantage of opportunities that arise for the introduction of renewable energy generation as a substitute for fossil fuel use; (City Infrastructure)
- Consider allocating future expenditure for greenhouse mitigation/carbon reduction programs which have a return on investment of 5 years or less; (City Infrastructure)
- Provide training to all relevant employees to ensure that they are aware of this action plan and the Environmental Sustainability Policy and are involved in assisting Council to reduce carbon emissions; (City Infrastructure)
- Consider the creation of a Revolving Energy Reserve as a mechanism to ensure savings on energy efficiency or associated actions are re-invested into further carbon reduction measures (Business Services)
- Develop a sustainable lighting strategy and continue to rollout energy efficient street lighting across Ballarat. (City Infrastructure)

Resource Efficient Buildings

OBJECTIVE:

All Council buildings maximise energy efficiency and minimise environmental impacts and resource use in the construction, operation and maintenance of Council buildings and facilities. Council planning regulations provide incentives and guidance for residents and businesses to plan and build in accordance with best practice for energy efficiency outcomes.

ACTIONS:

- Reduce emissions from electricity & gas usage in buildings & facilities by 15% (EFT equivalency) from 2012/13 levels by 2020:
 - Develop and adopt a Sustainable Building Design Policy which incorporates sustainable building design principles to apply to all new Council buildings and projects including renovation and/or retrofitting of existing Council buildings;
 - Develop a sustainable design checklist to assess Council building designs and renovation and retrofit proposals;
 - Develop operational plans and budgets to implement energy efficiency audit recommendations, in a systematic way, for BAC; Art Gallery; Her Majesty's Theatre and Town Hall over a 5 year period;
 - Prioritise the introduction of energy efficiency measures as a risk abatement mechanism in regard to responding to: increasing power costs, climate change mitigation and adaptation; (City Infrastructure)
- Complete Development and implementation of a sustainable design assessment framework (SDAF) in a format that is applicable for the local development context. This to include a review of Council's suite of planning permit conditions to ensure consistency with the requirements of the amended Planning Scheme and adopt a SDA Framework:
 - prepare practice notes that can be promoted to developers, designers and builders to influence design before planning permits sought (City Infrastructure)

Fleet Emission Reduction

OBJECTIVE:

The management of the Council's vehicle fleet is in accordance with best value principles taking into consideration the issues of financial management, fleet optimisation, attraction and retention of staff, safety, environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

ACTIONS:

- Reduce fleet emissions by 10% from 2012/13 by 2020:
 - Continue rationalising fleet numbers;
 - Improve vehicle efficiency and usage; (Business Services)
- Instigate an ongoing driver training program through Council's induction program to improve driver practices of all relevant staff:
 - Introduce further training to influence staff behaviour in decreasing vehicle usage by: rationalising trips; car-pooling, etc. (Business Services)