

Climate action

The People's Panel Community Vision Report Principle 2 establishes the need to take climate action and commit to a net zero emissions target. This has emerged as a priority topic for discussion with the People's Panel at the Panel Reconvene on 8 May 2021.

There is comprehensive scientific evidence that confirms the climate is rapidly changing, with catastrophic consequences. These changes are mostly due to human activity which release greenhouse gases that trap heat in our atmosphere.

Climate change is a global issue with local impacts.

In early 2020, Stonnington experienced the devastating effects of climate change, highlighting how the way we live is already being affected.

While the COVID-19 pandemic was a significant feature of 2020, so were bushfires and hazardous air quality due to smoke and extreme storms that had widespread impact on both Council operations and service delivery and our community.

It is not just environmental. Acting on the climate emergency and reducing emissions will deliver a range of health and wellbeing benefits for our community.

In February 2020, Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the need for immediate and urgent action on climate change. Council's climate emergency declaration outlined a commitment to act immediately and urgently on climate change.

Council is preparing a comprehensive Climate Emergency Action Plan to outline our pathway towards 2030 and a zero carbon future for our city, centred around five strategic priorities.

- Zero carbon Stonnington
- Leading action and advocating for change
- A cool, climate adapted city
- A resilient, connected community
- Towards zero waste and a circular economy

The Plan will outline our climate adaptation and mitigation priorities and steps for immediate and urgent action on climate change over the coming years.

Addressing climate change requires collective action. Council, residents, schools, businesses and state and federal governments all need to work together in our approach to tackling climate change.

Questions for discussion

- As a community, what should we be focussing on to take climate action in the next four years?
- What role does Council play? What role should the community play?
- What barriers might we encounter?

Supporting materials

NAGA Guide- Embedding Action on Climate Change in Your Council Plan -
<https://www.naga.org.au/council-plans.html>

Victorian Climate Projections - <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/adapting-to-climate-change-impacts/victorian-climate-projections-2019>