

Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28 – Feedback summary

Have your say (HYS) demographics

- 4 formal submissions
- 30 unique contributors
- 17 female, 13 male
- Heard from all suburbs except Albert Park, Ripponlea, Southbank and Windsor
- Most responses from St Kilda East (8)

Age

18 to 24 years	25 to 34 years	35 to 49 years	50 to 59 years	60 to 69 years	70 to 74 years	75 to 79 years
1	4	5	6	7	5	2

Accelerated Initiative Prioritisation

Eight initiatives identified for potential acceleration were presented to the community, who were asked to rank them in order of preference (1 being most preferred, 8 being least preferred).

Community emissions reductions was ranked as the highest priority to the community.

Initiative 16. Reducing emissions, energy use and increasing electrification in Council buildings and assets	Initiative 19. Accelerated transition to a lower emissions fleet	Initiative 20. Energy efficient lighting upgrade	Initiative 23. Community emissions reductions	Initiative 28. Neighbourhood batteries (solar energy storage)	Initiative 29. Library Sustainability Hub	Initiative 30. Electric vehicle uptake	Initiative 35. Community Resilience Plans
3	6	7	1	2	8	5	4

Initiative effectiveness ranking

The community were also asked to rank how effective they thought each initiative would be in achieving the outcome of the priority area.

The community was asked to choose from 'extremely effective', 'very effective', 'somewhat effective', 'not so effective', and 'not at all effective'.

The following initiatives received the highest ranking of 'extremely effective':

- Initiative 22: EcoCentre redevelopment and EcoCentre programs
- Initiative 24: Industry and business emissions reductions
- Initiative 26: Sustainable solutions for apartment buildings and low-income and rental households
- Initiative 28: Neighbourhood batteries (solar energy storage)

- Initiative 31: Sustainable transport initiatives
- Initiative 40: Emergency Management Planning

No initiatives received a ranking of 'not so effective' or 'not at all effective'.

Additional Actions Identified

Community feedback identified several additional actions. Many of the additional actions are already included in the draft Strategy as investigative pieces requiring further analysis and feasibility prior to greater commitment; an essential stage that cannot be skipped to ensure initiatives are implemented successfully. The request from community was to edit this to stimulate faster action. Following on from the investigation/trial/feasibility phase, any potential actions identified for further implementation would be considered through future Council Plan and Budget processes.

Five of the proposed actions were not included in the draft Act and Adapt and are to be discussed by Council prior to final document approval. Many of the HYS responses were aligned with these suggestions.

1. Develop a community reference group to guide the implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
2. Initiate a program to broker power purchase agreements and similar bulk purchasing projects (micro-grids, virtual power plants, solar farms etc.) for commercial and industrial users in Port Phillip to reduce emissions.
3. Initiate a program to broker power purchase agreements and similar bulk purchasing projects (solar panels, batteries) for the community.
4. Partner with aged, social and community care providers to upgrade the homes of at least 30 vulnerable community members in the first year of the Plan, an increasing thereafter – for those experiencing energy/financial hardship, with health conditions, frailty and additional needs – to reduce the stress of high energy costs and improve health outcomes. To include energy retrofits such as insulation, lighting, draft proofing, door and window seals, fans and blinds.
5. Update the Water Sensitive City Plan to reflect whole of Council integrated water management planning.

Detailed feedback

Comments	Officer Response	Draft 2.0
Feedback regarding 'Many actions address council operations, but should address community actions' was noted for the following initiatives: • Investigation and trials for water efficiency • Data tool • Electrification • Green leases • Stormwater harvesting • Recycled water • Water sensitive urban design • Permeability • Sustainability reporting • Council building emissions • Council fleet emissions • Energy efficient lighting	Both Council and Community facing initiatives are included in Act and Adapt	No change
Feedback regarding 'Call for stronger action and implementation; and less investigate, trial, support' was noted for the following initiatives: • Investigation and trials for water efficiency • Stormwater harvesting • Water sensitive urban design • Council fleet emissions • Community climate resilience • Sea level rise	Trials and investigations are essential before the implementation of any action	No change

Feedback regarding ‘Utilise existing NGOs (e.g., Eco Centre) to implement action’ was noted for the following initiatives: • Recycled water • Community water use • Storm water harvesting • Water sensitive urban design • Sustainability reporting • Community emissions reductions • Environmental upgrade agreements • Community batteries • Library sustainability programs • Community climate resilience • Flood awareness • Coastal vulnerability • Sea level rise	The Eco Centre's involvement in future initiatives will be decided through the Eco Centre funding agreement, not Act and Adapt	No change
Feedback regarding ‘Increase community engagement’ was noted for the following initiatives: • Community water use • Fishermans bend – water • Recycled water • Sustainability for apartments • ESD • Community batteries • Library sustainability programs • Community climate resilience • Coastal vulnerability • Emergency management planning	Noted – Feedback will be incorporated during planning and implementation of each action	No change
Feedback regarding ‘More detail required to understand the initiatives’ was noted for the following initiatives • Investigation and trials for water efficiency • Planning and developments	In order to keep Act and Adapt a concise document, in depth detail on each action has not been included.	No change

• Stormwater harvesting • Community water use • Fishermans bend – water • Recycled water • Water sensitive urban design • Permeability • Green leases • Carbon offset policy • Community emissions reductions • Business emissions reductions • Environmental upgrade agreements • Sustainability for apartments • Community batteries • Sustainable transport • Community climate resilience • Cool spaces strategy • Flood awareness • Coastal vulnerability • Sea level rise		
Feedback regarding ‘Further support for most vulnerable members of community’ was noted for the following initiatives: • Community water use • South Melbourne Market • Sustainability for apartments • Community batteries • Electric vehicle uptake • Community climate resilience • Flood awareness	Noted – Feedback will be considered during planning and implementation of each initiative.	No change
Targets need to include a time frame	Disagree – the targets table includes a timeframe	No change
Focus on greening and open spaces	All feedback provided on greening and open space passed on to Greening and Open Space team	No change

Focus on active transport	All feedback provided on active transport passed on to Strategic Transport team	No change
Editorial changes • Updated numbers for EcoCentre program attendance • Updated number of initiatives within Strategy • Grammar changes throughout • Include 'flood' within 'A water sensitive city' introduction • WSUD initiative description updated to reflect implementation of additional opportunities • 'NA' included for indicators in the 'target 2028' section, as there is no target for an indicator • Initiative 35 combined with initiative 32 due to similarities • Drainage infrastructure renames Stormwater infrastructure • Heatwave Sub Plans added to Emergency Management Planning	Editorial changes suggested throughout the document were generally accepted	Suggested changes made to document