

Boroondara's Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration

The Climate Action Plan needs more budget to be effective

- **The Council are considering allocating additional funds of up to \$1million for Plan implementation in 2021-22 at the Council meeting on October 25th**
- **We have a short window of opportunity to engage with our Councillors**
- **Please call, email or seek a meeting with your Councillor today - contacts list [here](#).**

A quick list of talking points

Additional funds would allow more programs to be expanded, or moved from development to implementation, or considered for future rounds.

These could include:

- **More funding to support bulk buys for batteries, heat pumps as well as more solar panels**
- **Increased funding to support household energy audits**
- **Increased funding for electric vehicle incentives including more charging stations at community locations and assisting residents at multi-unit developments**
- **More funding for protected bike lanes and active transport**
- **Accelerate tree cover planting**
- **Funding to support increased biodiversity, gardening and compost education**
- **Increase outreach staff to expand community climate action education**
- **Consider assistance programs for low income households for solar and energy efficiency**

From the Local Government Group

Take a bow, you lovely people, you have contributed to helping the City of Boroondara take its biggest step so far in its response to the climate crisis. At its meeting on 27 September 2021, Boroondara unanimously adopted its Climate Action Plan and also a majority voted for making a Climate Emergency Declaration.

But don't rest on your laurels; this is only the beginning. We want you to keep up the conversation with the City's Councillors and Council officers to let them know not only how glad we are to see these two initiatives but also encourage them to build on them to make Boroondara a leader in tackling the threat of climate change.

What can you do?

Do whatever you feel most comfortable doing, but **please do something!** It doesn't have to be a long and reasoned argument. In fact, **the shorter and more succinct, the better.** Don't wait for the right moment; that right moment is now.

- Write a letter or send an email to the Mayor and copy in all the other Councillors and the CEO
- Phone up your Councillor
- Attend a Council meeting
- Submit a question about the CAP or the emergency declaration

Unless we make our voices heard, Councillors will start to think that we are satisfied with what has happened so far and won't feel compelled to do more. We need to remind them that the Climate Action Plan is a good start but that it requires a lot more resources and much new thinking about the sorts of things that are particularly relevant to this municipality.

Some thoughts about things you can raise in your conversations with Councillors

It is important that you tell it the way you see it. Go to the Boroondara website here to read the [Climate Action Plan](#) and [here](#) to read about the Implementation Plan that covers the period 2021-2023. And remember, while there may be many laudable things in the CAP, it will only be as good as the decisions and actions that follow.

Think about both the commendable bits such as the Council's commitment to engage with the community and its **increased 2030 target for community emissions** and its limitations. Take note of the **limited amount of funding** set aside for implementation, the **lack of detail** as to how it will be implemented and the **reluctance to establish specific consultative arrangements**.

And don't forget to mention what a useful tool the Climate Emergency Declaration will be for progressing the CAP. It will help make people more aware of the urgency of the threat we are facing and give them more reason to tackle the task of reducing community emissions. It also provides a strong and unifying thread to assist Council in its priority setting and decision making on climate action.

If you want a few ideas of things to cover, please look at this list of suggestions we have developed to highlight what we would like Councillors to consider as they implement the Climate Action Plan and build on the possibilities that a Climate Emergency Declaration brings.

Points you could raise with the Councillor/Council officer in your conversation

Climate Action Plan

Community-wide targets: 60% by 2030, net zero by 2035

Welcome the Council's action to set targets for both Council and community emissions and, in particular the 2030 target of 60% reduction of Community emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2035.

Acknowledge that Council cannot take direct action to reduce community emissions but that it has an important leadership role in getting residents and local businesses to change their behaviour in ways that will reduce such emissions. Things you could mention here include:

- provision of EV charging stations for residences with no off street parking
- safer bicycle trails
- expansion of community gardens
- development of more circular economy initiatives

Inadequate budget - \$400,000 out of \$225,000,000

The Council's budget for implementing effective climate action is insufficient and requires much more funding than currently set aside. This funding should cover increased financial and staffing resources for existing programs and to put in place a range of new initiatives.

- The 2021-2022 budget contains an allocation of only \$400,000 for implementation of the CAP for this year. This is a paltry sum out of a total operating budget of \$255 million.
- Forward estimates for the next 3 years to 2024-2025 is only \$1 million per annum.

The Council knows the current budget allowance for the climate is inadequate. When Council approved its 2021-22 Budget in June, officers were asked to submit a report later in the year 'detailing opportunities to allocate additional funds of up to \$1m in the current financial year for implementation of initiatives included in the adopted Climate Action Plan'.

- It is expected that this report will be considered at Council's meeting on 25 October as part of the September Amended Budget.
- This provides an opportunity to increase funding allocations for this year in recognition of the need for urgent and immediate action:

Taking inspiration from a community reference group or other LGAs

There are many specific initiatives that the Council should consider as part of its Implementation Plan.

- Go to the Lighter Footprints website Resources page [here](#) and check out what you would like to see happen from the list prepared by the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance.
- You might also suggest that the Council look at other Victorian LGAs for further inspiration.

Boroondara has made a commitment to community engagement in the implementation of the CAP. It has, however decided that it will not establish any specific advisory group for this activity.

- Advisory groups and other mechanisms such as citizens assemblies are useful tools for community consultation, enabling a more informed engagement process and accessing community expertise and knowledge.
- LF has advocated for an external advisory group which includes community members. A standing advisory group has significant advantages over ad hoc consultations.

Climate Emergency Declaration

If your Councillor voted in favour of the CED, you may wish to congratulate them for supporting this important mechanism which provides a strong basis for building a cohesive Climate Action Plan:

- The 7 Councillors who voted in support of the CED are Mayor Thompson and Crs Gault, Addis, Hollingsworth, Biggar, Franco and Gilles.

The Climate Emergency Declaration is much more than a symbolic gesture.

- It is an important demonstration to the local community of the weight the Council gives to tackling the threat of climate change.
- It can provide a strong and unifying message to encourage engagement by the community in reducing community emissions.
- It will provide a central principle for establishing budget priorities, provide greater coordination and remove clashes within the suite of Council programs to address the challenge of climate change.

Appendix 1: Boroondara Council Contacts 2021

Councillors

Name	Position	Ward	Email	Phone
Cr Garry Thompson	Mayor	Solway	garry.thompson@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9278 4457 Mobile: 0417 153 512
Cr Cynthia Watson	Deputy Mayor	Maranoa	cynthia.watson@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7846 Mobile: 0419 488 204
Cr Jim Parke		Bellvue	jim.parke@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7840
Cr Felicity Sinfield		Cotham	felicity.sinfield@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7841 Mobile: 0418 793 573
Cr Victor Franco		Gardiner	victor.franco@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7842 Mobile: 0482 888 635
Cr Wes Gault		Glenferrie	wes.gault@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7849 Mobile: 0482 999 939
Cr Di Gillies		Junction	di.gillies@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7843 Mobile: 0482 999 919
Cr Lisa Hollingsworth		Lynden	lisa.hollingsworth@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7844 Mobile: 0417 908 485
Cr Jane Addis		Maling	jane.addis@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7845 Mobile: 0409 267 902
Cr Susan Biggar		Riversdale	susan.biggar@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7810 Mobile: 0482 999 959
Cr Nick Stavrou		Studley Park	nick.stavrou@boroondara.vic.gov.au	Phone: 9835 7848 Mobile: 0482 999 209

Officers

Mr Phillip Storer	Chief Executive Officer	boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au Attention: Mr Phillip Storer	9278 4455
Mr Daniel Freer	Director Places and Spaces	daniel.freer@boroondara.vic.gov.au	9278 4500