

Tips on the Boroondara Climate Action Plan Survey

The Boroondara Council has now released its long-awaited [draft Climate Action Plan](#) for consultation. You can complete an on-line survey [here](#) or email your views to boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au.

The closing date for survey responses and submissions is Wednesday 4 August 2021.

Tell the Council what you think!

We will be living with this plan for a long time, so please read it, form your own view and tell the Council what you think. The survey provides only limited opportunity to provide feedback, so **it is good to make a personal submission** if you can. However, the Council will be gathering statistics about community views from the survey results, so **even if you make a submission, please also complete the survey**. It doesn't take long!

Some suggestions for the survey

Note that for the greatest impact, it is best to personalise your response, so it's best not to just copy and paste our suggestions. There are four introductory questions, followed by five questions about the content of the draft plan.

Q5 Overall, how would you rate the draft Climate Action Plan?

There are a variety of views within Lighter Footprints as to what overall rating to give this plan. The survey allows you to slide the ball from 1-5 giving a rating from poor (1) through to excellent (5). The plan's strength is that it puts in place science based zero emission targets for Council and Community which is a big step for the City of Boroondara and Council should be applauded for this.

The plan's weaknesses include that the community target is "aspirational", the plan lacks interim sector based targets and the 2030 target for community leaves too much of the heavy lifting to later years. The plan is generally "high level" and lacking in detail. We understand there is a two year implementation plan being developed which will hopefully resolve some of these issues. Crucially, the plan does not address any budget and we are concerned that inadequate funding will inhibit plan implementation.

Having said this, we think the Council is on the right path and with the support and encouragement of the community we think this plan offers great potential.

Q6 Can you tell us why you gave the draft Climate Action Plan this rating?

You have 400 characters to answer this question. Points you could consider include:

- On the positive side, the targets for zero emissions for Council and community are consistent with what the climate science tells us needs to be done
- The 2030 emissions targets for both the Council and the community should be strengthened
- The community emissions targets are only 'aspirational'
- There is a general lack of urgency and the detail needed to show how the targets will be achieved
- There is no timetable or budget specified in the plan and the 2021-2022 allocation for the plan in Council's budget is inadequate

Q7 Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are the top three actions or parts you think are most important to be included?

You have 1,200 characters here. High priorities you could consider mentioning include the following (not all of them are in the draft plan):

- A climate emergency declaration
- Emissions targets for Council operations and the community
- Detailed targets to track the effectiveness of individual actions
- An implementation timetable and expenditure commitment
- A strong advocacy program for better State and Federal climate related policy
- Engaging and partnering with the community to drive change
- Incentives (e.g. access to finance) for household energy efficiency and renewables upgrades
- A community bulk buy program for solar panels, batteries and heat pumps
- Program to help households transition from gas
- Provision of free comprehensive energy audits to households
- Incentives (including additional infrastructure) to increase use of active transport, public transport and electric vehicles
- Increasing tree canopy cover on public and private land

Q8 Regarding the draft Climate Action Plan, what are the top three actions or parts you think are least important to be included?

You have 1,200 characters to answer this question. This is a very difficult question to answer, because it is hard to identify anything in the plan which is not worth doing. We suggest that responses should focus on actions that will have limited impact on emissions or climate adaptation (though important for other reasons).

- Eliminating single-use plastic at Council events
- Business focused programs to reduce food and packaging waste
- Workshops to enhance community capacity to use water sustainably
- Supporting increased home food gardening

Q9 Is there anything you think is still missing from the draft Climate Action Plan that you feel needs to be addressed? Please suggest up to three actions you feel are missing from the Draft Climate Action Plan.

You have 1,200 characters to answer this question. Points you could consider include:

- A climate emergency declaration
- A timetable and budget providing a clear framework for plan implementation
- A stronger sense of Council leadership and commitment (including e.g. removing the description of community targets as 'aspirational')
- Strengthening of the targets for the supporting measures (e.g. canopy cover increase is only 2% by 2030)
- Additional targets related to specific programs and actions (e.g. for reduction in community gas use, reduction in emissions from major emitters)
- Additional resources for further development of the plan and implementation
- A representative community advisory group on the environment/climate (well resourced, calling experts)
- Greater engagement with the community to promote change (including e.g. an outreach program, more frequent reporting, greater involvement in reviews/updates)
- Provision of comprehensive energy audits to households at no cost
- Provision of access to finance for residents for sustainability upgrades (energy efficiency, solar panels, heat pumps), to be paid back via rates
- A program to help residents and businesses transition from gas
- A community bulk buy program for batteries and heat pumps
- Electric vehicle incentives (e.g. parking concessions, free charging stations)
- Incentives to increase tree planting on private land

Please note that, other than Question 5, these tips were created with the assistance of the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance.