

Climate Change Action Plan: Outcomes and Achievements 2020–2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to child safety and wellbeing, actively working to prevent abuse by identifying and addressing risks early. This work is underpinned by Council's Child Safe Statement, which guides our commitment to ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of every child.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken as part of the mid-term review of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Climate Action in Bass Coast



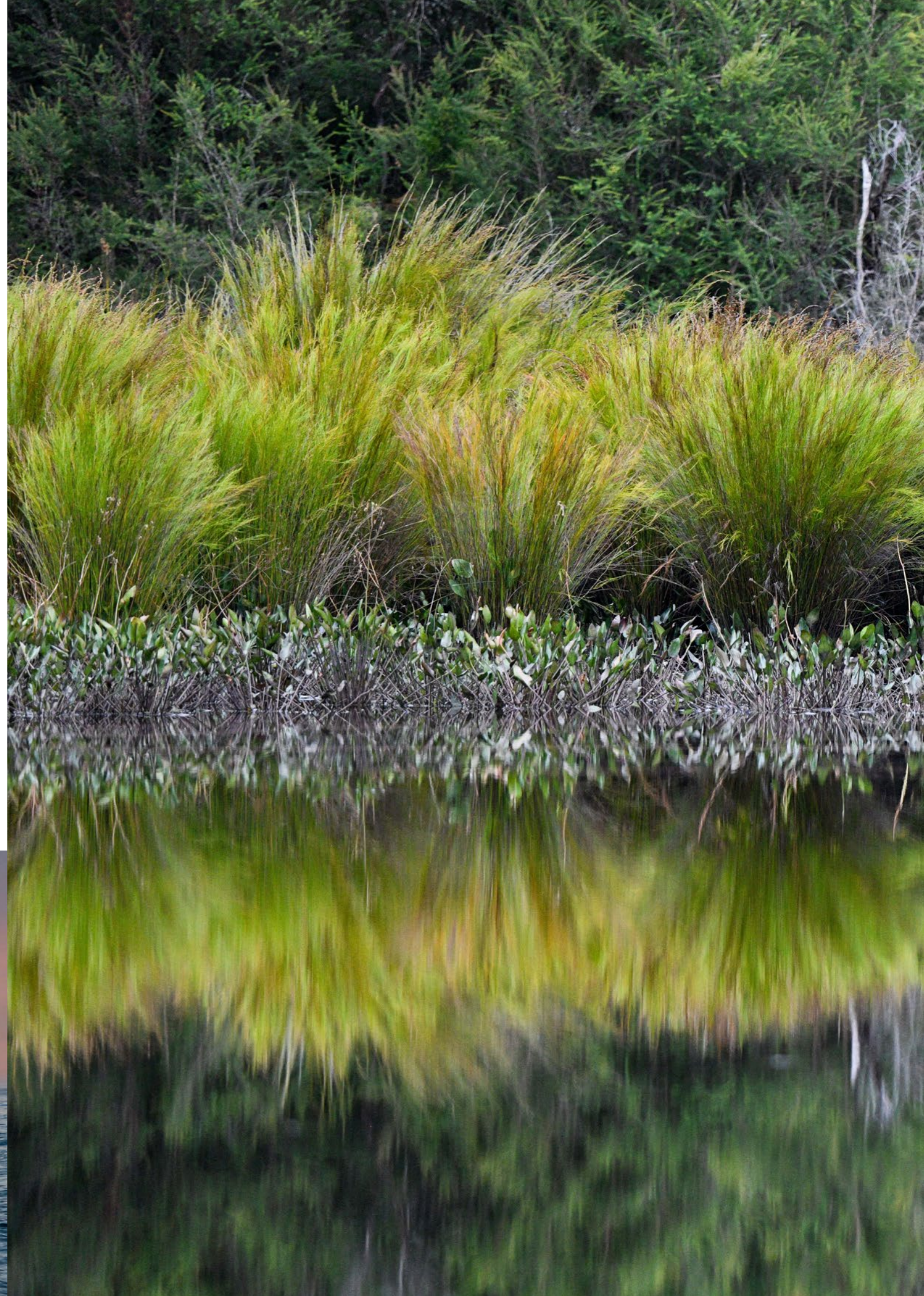
In 2019, Bass Coast Shire Council declared a climate emergency - recognising that climate change presents a very real risk to the safety, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. This marked an important moment for our Council and our community: a collective acknowledgement that we must act with urgency, ambition and care to protect the place, and people, we love.

Since then, Council and the community have been working together to deliver on the Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan. Our shared goal is bold: to reach net zero emissions across the whole community by 2030 (this includes Council operations). It's a target that reflects both the scale of the challenge and the passion of our residents, businesses, farmers and local organisations to be part of the solution.

The Plan is grounded in partnership. We cannot achieve net zero alone. That's why it outlines 29 practical actions the community can take - across households, businesses and organisations, and farming and agriculture - to help drive down emissions and build a more resilient region. Alongside this, 45 actions guide the work Council must take directly to embed climate thinking into everything we do, reduce our own corporate emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and better support our community to act.

This Outcomes and Achievements Report reflects on the first 5 years of this journey. It highlights what we've achieved together so far, celebrates the leadership emerging across Bass Coast, and acknowledges the work still ahead. Most importantly, it shows that when we act collectively, meaningful change is possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this work. Your ideas, energy and action are shaping a safer, stronger and more climate-resilient Bass Coast for generations to come.



How are we Tracking?

The Climate Change Action Plan sets 2 major targets: achieving net zero emissions for Council operations by 2030, and reaching net zero emissions across the whole community. So, how are we progressing?

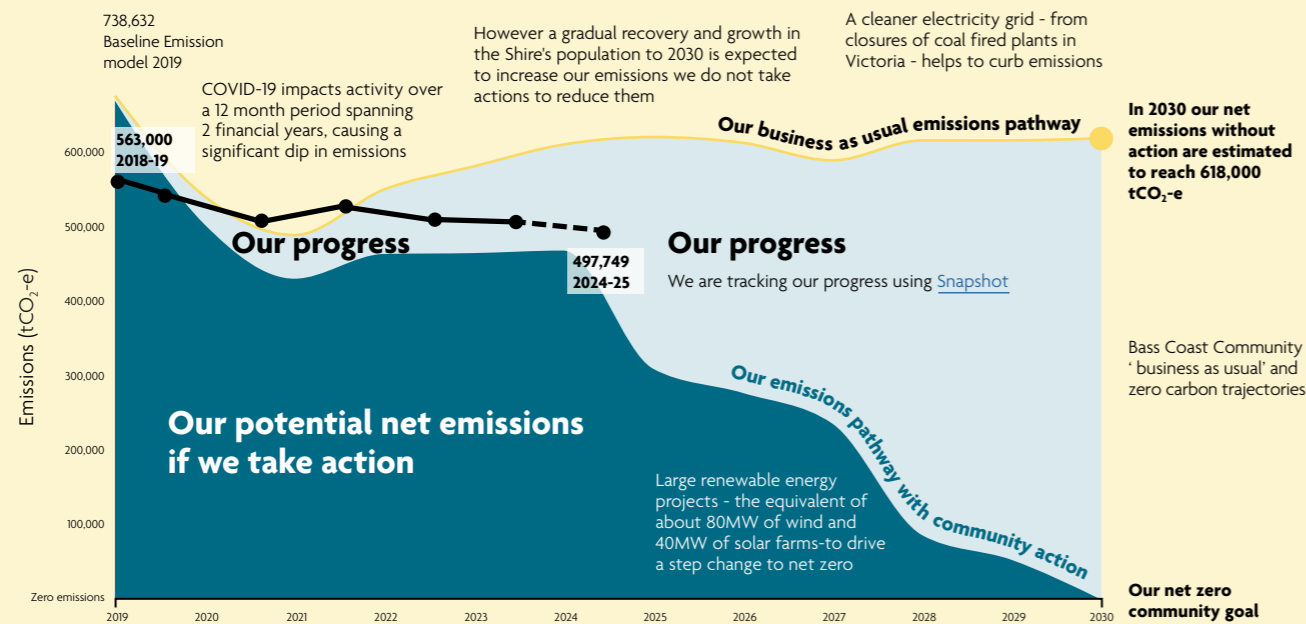
Community

Community emissions

Community emissions are trending down. The chart below illustrates our progress to date, using publicly available [Snapshot](#) community emissions data, compared against the community net zero pathway established in 2020 as part of our plan. By 2024-25, Bass Coast will have achieved a 12% reduction in emissions based on the snapshot data¹ which we are using to track our progress. This has been driven by increased renewable energy uptake, greater energy efficiency, lower vehicle activity, and changes in some agricultural commodities.

Some 30.1% of houses in the municipality now have solar, along with 16.6% of businesses. While we can't track the uptake of electric vehicles specifically in Bass Coast we know that 6.3% of households in Victoria now have an EV (up from 1% 5 years ago).

Net zero pathway – community emissions



--- Source - Community emissions profile – [BCSC LGA snapshot](#)
 * Forecast community emissions provided by Ironbark Sustainability, September 2025

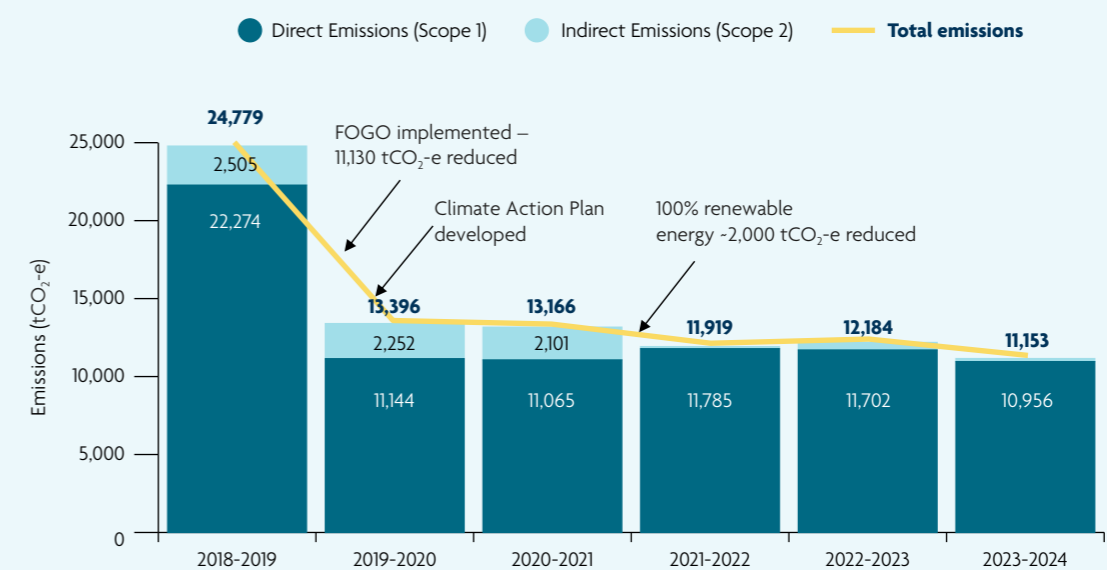
Council

Council emissions

Council's operational emissions saw a substantial reduction just prior to the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, largely due to the introduction of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. By diverting organic material from landfill, this initiative has avoided more than 11,000 tonnes of CO₂-e emissions, as illustrated in the chart below.

Since the plan was developed we have dropped operational emissions by 16% since 2020. This is largely from the 100% renewable energy contract, reducing an approximate 2,000 tonnes CO₂-e. We've seen decreases across almost all emission sources, apart from diesel, this is largely due to improvements in how our data is collected and reported.

Council operational emissions



While this is a solid start, we know we need to accelerate our efforts over the next 5 years and start to tackle emissions that are more difficult to reduce. Our biggest opportunities lie in transitioning our fleet away from diesel and continuing to reduce emissions from the Grantville landfill site.

Together, these results show that meaningful progress is happening, but there's still plenty more to do. With continued community leadership and Council action, we can keep building momentum toward our shared net zero goals.

Despite our collective progress, we've noticed that emissions reduction has started to slow recently — a clear signal that we need to step up our collective efforts.

¹Snapshot is a free, publicly available data set with community wide emissions that is nationally benchmarked. We use this data set to track our progress.

What we're Most Proud of

At the mid-point of the Climate Change Action Plan, 10 of Council's 45 actions are already complete, with many others well underway (see the [Community Action Portal](#) for progress on each action). For the 29 community-led actions, we've been gathering inspiring stories, data and insights that showcase where momentum is building across our community and where opportunities are emerging to amplify that impact even further.

Throughout this report, we share some of the standout highlights and stories from the past 5 years. But before diving into the detail, here's a snapshot of the achievements we're especially proud of — delivered with our community and partners.

Powering the energy transition

- Council operations are now powered by 100% renewable electricity, reducing emissions by around 2,000 tonnes of CO₂-e every year
- We have exceeded our solar PV targets, installing 310 kW of new solar panels across Council sites
- An additional 120 kWh of battery storage has been delivered to capture clean energy, reduce peak demand and boost resilience during outages
- Resilience hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast, equipped with solar and batteries have also been established to support communities during emergencies, contributing to both emissions reduction and local resilience

Leading the way on low-emissions transport

- Council's Integrated Transport Strategy has been endorsed to guide long-term sustainable transport planning across Bass Coast
- Our fleet is steadily transitioning to cleaner vehicles, with 18% electric vehicles and 35% low-emission vehicles
- Major public EV charges were installed in late 2025, helping residents, visitors and businesses make the shift to electric transport

Restoring nature and boosting carbon drawdown

- Since 2020, more than 1.5 million trees and plants have been established through the Biolinks Plan, drawing down an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e
- The Biolinks partnership continues to deliver exceptional value, returning around \$22 in environmental and social benefits for every \$1 Council invests
- The Integrated Water Management Plan has been delivered to help secure a sustainable water future for our community and environment
- Developed and implementing our Urban Forest Strategy - supporting greener, cooler and more biodiverse townships

Protecting our coast and advocating for nature

- Coastal protection works have been delivered at Inverloch, Cowes East and Silverleaves helping safeguard key assets and ecosystems
- Council continues to advocate for increased investment in the Western Port Ramsar site to protect critical wetlands that are internationally recognised for their biodiversity, rich birdlife, and role in supporting healthy marine and coastal ecosystems
- The Cape to Cape Resilience Plan has been completed, providing a long-term framework to manage coastal hazards and support adaptation along the coastline of Inverloch and Anderson Inlet

Embedding climate resilience into how we work

- Climate hazards have been mapped into Council's infrastructure risk models, and the AVA Toolkit is now embedded in our systems to support climate-informed decision making
- Climate responsibilities have been added to all position descriptions, ensuring climate considerations are part of everyone's role
- Staff training has been delivered so that teams across Council understand climate risks, opportunities and their role in responding

Building community resilience and preparedness

- Equipped 10 Energy Resilience Hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast with solar and batteries to support communities during extreme weather events and power outages
- Local resilience forums have helped build self-reliance, strengthen connections and support communities to plan for climate impacts



Supporting a more circular Bass Coast

- Council with support from Sustainability Victoria provided a tailored Circular Economy Business Accelerator program to support local businesses in the journey towards a more circular and resilient Bass Coast
- Council endorsed a Circular Economy Framework that considers Council leadership, sectors and local business in the transition toward a more circular and resilient Bass Coast

Supporting an active and engaged community







- The Community Action Portal is live, giving residents a central place to learn, act and track our shared progress on climate
- Council has delivered numerous workshops and information sessions, and hosted Sustainability Festivals in 2021, 2023 and 2026, showcasing practical ways to save energy, reduce waste and care for Country
- Council has supported community-led programs to help households reduce bills, improve comfort and address energy hardship — reinforcing our commitment to equity and climate justice

Strengthening governance and driving responsible investment

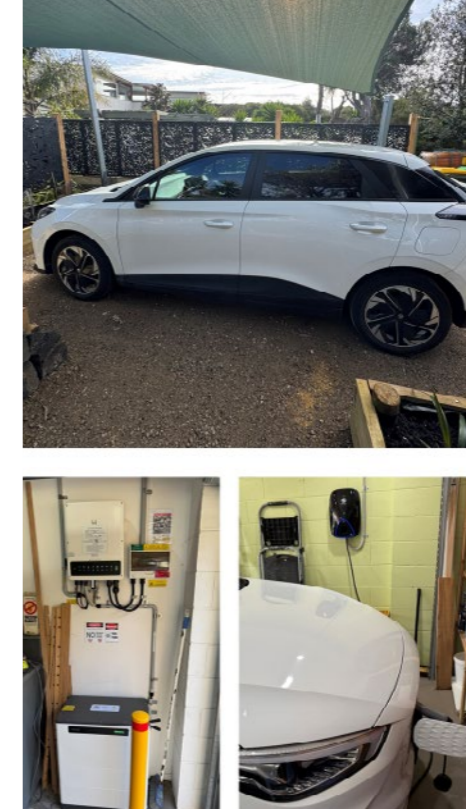
- Council's Procurement Policy has been strengthened to better align with climate and sustainability priorities, supporting a more circular economy by favouring low-waste, low-carbon goods and services
- We have moved to near-total fossil fuel divestment through Councils Investment Policy, ensuring our investments are consistent with a net zero future
- The revised Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy was endorsed in October 2025, setting stronger standards for Council assets and infrastructure across the Shire

These achievements highlight the strong progress being made — and the shared commitment across Bass Coast to a safer, more resilient, and climate-ready future.

For more details refer to the [Climate Change Action Plan - Mid-Term Review Report](#)

Action highlights	Outcomes
 Powering Council operations with 100% renewable electricity	Reducing 2,000 tonnes CO ₂ -e per year
 Exceeded our solar target, plus battery storage	310 kW of new panels and 120 kW battery storage
 Transitioning Council's fleet and equipment to electric	18% EV in fleet 35% low emission vehicles in fleet
 Leveraged partnerships, grants and co-contributions delivering more for less	For every \$1 Council invests in Biolinks, the partnership delivers approximately \$22 in value
 1.5 million trees planted through Biolinks Plan	Approximate carbon drawdown of 165,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -e
 Supporting an active and engaged community	Accessible online tools, festivals and local support to take meaningful action — together

Climate Action in Practice: Stories and Case Studies Across Bass Coast



Energy Transition

Council

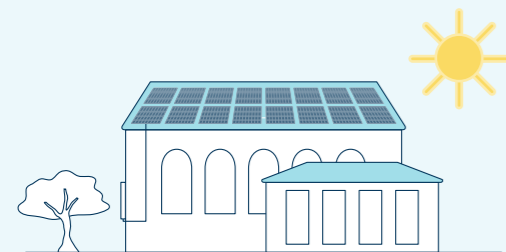
Powering Council operations with 100% renewable energy

Bass Coast Shire Council has made major progress in shifting its own operations to clean energy through Australia's largest local government renewable energy purchasing group – Council now powers all operations with 100% renewable electricity, cutting emissions by around 2,000 tonnes of CO₂-e each year.

Alongside purchasing renewable energy, Council is investing in local energy generation and storage. The Climate Change Action Plan set a target to install 250 kW of new solar, but Council has already exceeded this, reaching 310 kW of rooftop solar across key facilities. This is supported by 120 kWh of battery storage, improving resilience by enabling sites to continue operating during power outages and reducing peak energy demand.

Together, these actions demonstrate meaningful leadership in the energy transition. By combining renewable power purchasing, on-site solar generation and energy storage, Council is reducing emissions, lowering operational costs and building stronger, more resilient community services - one rooftop, one battery and one clean energy decision at a time.

Exceeded the **250 kW** target, reaching **310 kW** rooftop solar, supported by **120 kWh** battery storage



Community

Community story - electrifying at Cape Woolamai – home by the ocean, powered by the sun

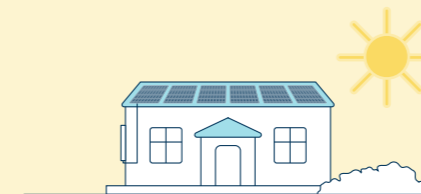
Twelve years ago, Laura and Terry moved into their home in Cape Woolamai. Since then, they've gradually transformed it into a comfortable, efficient and fully electric home – one upgrade at a time, at a pace that suited their budget and lifestyle.

Their journey began with a 4.5 kW solar system. Over time they made simple, staged improvements: upgrading to double-glazed windows and doors, replacing their bottled gas stove with an induction cooktop, and eventually switching their 2 petrol cars for electric vehicles – an MG4 named Barry and an MG ZS called Ziggy – saving them a lot of money in maintenance and operation.

In November 2024, they expanded their system to 9.68 kW of solar and added a 9.6 kWh home battery. The results have been remarkable: around \$3,000 saved each quarter, and in February 2025 they even received a \$10 credit on their electricity bill.

Laura and Terry say their home feels better – not just warmer and more efficient, but more aligned with their values. Their advice? Start small, do your research, connect with local groups like Totally Renewable Phillip Island, and upgrade as you can afford to.

Their story shows that electrification is achievable for any household, one step at a time.





Sustainable Transport

Council

Supporting the community to go electric - fast EV charging across Bass Coast

Bass Coast Shire Council is helping residents, businesses and visitors make the shift to cleaner, low-emission transport by delivering a new network of public fast-charging stations across the region. In partnership with the Victorian Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria (DCAV) program, Council secured \$290,000 in funding and contributed a further \$140,000 from its Climate Change Action Plan budget to bring four 50 kW fast chargers to Wonthaggi, Grantville, Inverloch and Newhaven – adding to the fast chargers already available in Cowes.

These chargers provide rapid top-ups — around 100 km of range in just 15 minutes, powered by 100% renewable electricity. For locals, this makes EV ownership far more practical and affordable. For visitors, it removes range anxiety and strengthens Bass Coast as an EV-friendly tourist destination.

For the whole community, it accelerates progress toward the Shire's goal of net zero emissions by 2030, with transport making up nearly 30% of local emissions.

By investing in public charging, Council is laying essential groundwork for a clean transport future — making it easier for households and businesses to choose electric and benefit from quieter, cleaner and cheaper-to-run vehicles.

Installed **4** additional **50 kW** fast chargers across key locations in Bass Coast powered with **100%** renewable energy

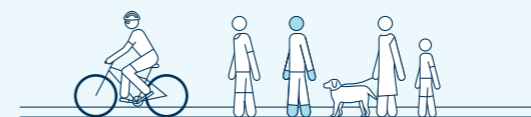


Council

Connected pathways to a resilient and healthier Bass Coast

Bass Coast Shire Council's Tracks and Trails Strategy 2022–2032 delivers a transformative vision for a connected, healthy and climate resilient community by providing the blueprint to expand and upgrade a 167 km network of tracks and trails to support sustainable, low emission transport options. The strategy streamlines more than 272 existing trails and identifies 36–40 new trail opportunities, prioritising routes that strengthen township connectivity, enable active transport, and reduce reliance on cars—directly aligning with Council's climate action goals.

By introducing a robust assessment and prioritisation framework, the strategy ensures investment in trails that enhance community wellbeing, increase accessibility, and encourage mode shift toward walking and cycling—key pillars of climate resilient transport systems. With more than \$40 million in potential new projects identified, the strategy positions Bass Coast to reduce transport emissions while supporting healthy lifestyles and fostering nature-connected, sustainable mobility for both residents and visitors.





Waste and a Circular Economy

Council

Sustainable pavement innovation

Bass Coast Shire Council is adopting smarter, low-carbon construction methods to cut waste and emissions. In a recent road renewal project, Council reused 3,181 tonnes of recycled material on site, avoiding the need for 2,558 tonnes of new materials and preventing 2,353 tonnes of potential landfill waste.

This approach also meant far fewer truck movements — reducing travel by 29,400 kilometres and saving around 16,400 litres of diesel.

The result is a stronger road with a much smaller environmental footprint, showcasing how innovative practices can save resources, reduce emissions and deliver better long-term value.



Archies Creek Road renewal where bitumen is used to bind the existing pavement, reducing the use of road materials and associated truck movements.

Leading the way in FOGO

Bass Coast Shire Council has been a long-standing leader in food and garden waste recycling. While only 159 councils in Australia offer kerbside FOGO collection, Bass Coast was among the first to introduce the service in 2017. Today, around 12,000 tonnes of organic waste is collected each year and sent for offsite processing.

By diverting organic material from landfill, the service significantly reduces methane emissions and supports a more circular approach to waste.

FOGO continues to be a key part of Council's climate response, helping households reduce waste while improving environmental outcomes across the region.

Around **12,000** tonnes of organic waste is collected each year



Business and Organisations

Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program

Bass Coast's Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program was a pioneering initiative that helped local businesses shift toward more sustainable and circular ways of operating. Delivered from August to December 2024 with support from Sustainability Victoria's Circular Economy Innovation Fund, the program worked with 12 businesses across the Shire to reduce waste, regenerate resources and strengthen long-term resilience.

Participants included the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Ecoliv Buildings, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre, and Genesta House. Each business demonstrated strong commitment to circular principles — both through what they were already doing and the new initiatives they trialled through the program, you can read more detailed case studies on each business [here](#).

While short in duration, the program sparked long-lasting momentum. Many participating businesses are continuing their circular initiatives into 2025 and beyond, laying the groundwork for broader circular action across the region.





Land, Water and Nature

Community

Council

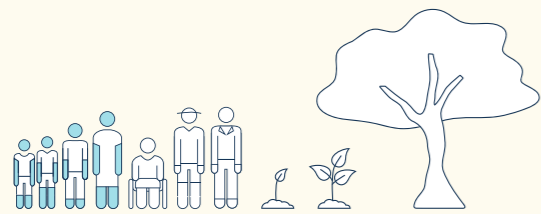
Restoring nature through biolinks

In partnership with Bass Coast Landcare Network, Council has successfully delivered its Biolinks Biodiversity Plan, a flagship initiative improving habitat, water quality and landscape connectivity across Bass Coast. Funded through the Climate Change Action Plan and supported by strong strategic partnerships, the program has planted 1.5 million trees, delivering an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e drawdown.

The Biolinks approach is recognised by the Victorian Government for its cost-effective contribution to water quality and alignment with state and local Integrated Water Management Plans. Volunteers, landholders and community groups have played a vital role, helping restore critical habitat across both public and private land.

One of the program's greatest strengths is its value for money: for every \$1 Council invests, the partnership returns around \$22 in environmental and social benefit. With this success, Council is now exploring opportunities to expand the program over the next five years.

1.5 million native trees planted through biolinks, delivering estimated **165,000 tCO₂-e** drawdown



Establishing the Nature Recovery Foundation

Bass Coast Shire Council is the first local government in Australia to establish a Nature Recovery Foundation in partnership with Biodiversity Legacy, with the ability to receive philanthropic donations to accelerate biodiversity restoration. Operating as a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation's purpose is to reverse biodiversity decline by preserving, enhancing and restoring habitat across public and private land.

The Foundation is progressing through Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement, which will enable tax-deductible donations and attract long-term philanthropic partners. Uniquely, it has the power to own land in perpetuity and appoint experienced stewardship organisations to manage it.

The Foundation will complement and amplify Council's existing initiatives — including Biolinks — providing a new, sustainable funding stream to scale up nature recovery across Bass Coast. This bold step positions the Shire as a leader in community-driven conservation and long-term habitat protection.

Growing an urban forest

Bass Coast Shire Council is delivering on its Urban Forest Strategy, increasing tree canopy across townships to create cooler, greener and healthier communities. In the 2024–25 financial year, Council planted 1,800 new street trees, supported by a dedicated watering and maintenance program to ensure strong establishment.

A Preferred Urban Tree Species List is due to be launched in 2026, guiding planting decisions based on climate resilience, ecological value and indigenous vegetation classes. Council also maintains a publicly accessible Significant Tree Register, showcasing trees recognised for their ecological, cultural, historic or aesthetic value. These trees are protected under Local Law No. 1 to ensure they are preserved for future generations.

By expanding tree canopy and protecting important specimens, Council is building a more climate-resilient urban environment while enhancing community wellbeing and biodiversity.

Community

Leading change on farms – biofertiliser innovation

Bass Coast Landcare Network is supporting local farmers to adopt innovative, low-cost approaches that improve soil and pasture health and cut emissions. Through the Bioferts Training and Mentoring Program, funded through the Australian Governments Climate-Smart Agriculture Program, farmers are being actively supported to make and apply their own Biofertilisers. The program is also nurturing a 'community of practice' in Bass Coast and beyond.

In June 2025, Bass Coast Landcare Network hosted an "Introduction to BioFerts" field day at John Carney's farm, featuring expert Daniel Hodges. Since 2024, John has been producing and applying his own biofertiliser and mentoring fellow farmers, helping spark growing interest across the region.

By replacing synthetic fertilisers with farm-made alternatives, farmers can reduce emissions from production and transport, support healthier soils, increase pasture productivity and cut operating costs. This initiative is strengthening local farming communities while delivering environmental benefits — a win-win for growers and the climate.

Protecting the Western Port Woodlands

The Western Port Woodlands are one of Bass Coast's most significant ecological assets. A rare, continuous band of remnant coastal forest, community groups understand its importance and have played a vital role in advocating for its long-term protection.

An alliance made up of Save Western Port Woodlands, the South Gippsland Conservation Society and the Victorian National Parks Association presented to the Planning Panel seeking an Environmental Significance Overlay to safeguard the woodlands from further clearing and fragmentation. The alliance presented 8 expert witnesses, supported by many community presenters — with Bass Coast Shire Council also advocating strongly for greater protection.

Their efforts highlight the power of community-led conservation and the importance of preserving the region's most precious natural places. The Woodlands Alliance continues to call for urgent action to protect this "living gem" for future generations.





Community resilience workshop at Cape Patterson Hall



Additional solar PV 25.5 kw and a 2nd EV charging station installed in Werner's home

Adaptation, Risk and Resilience

Council

Energy Resilient Community Hubs

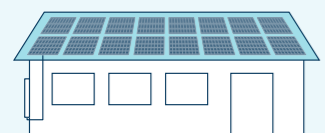
Council has supported the establishment of a [network of 10 Energy Resilient Community Hubs](#), upgrading community halls, neighbourhood houses and key facilities with solar and battery systems. Supported by more than \$200,000 in grant funding, the hubs were prioritised in areas most vulnerable to power outages and isolation during storms and emergencies.

These hubs provide safe places for residents to reconnect, charge devices and access information when the grid goes down — strengthening community response and recovery. The model proved its value during the February 2024 storm, when the Corinella and District Community Centre stayed open throughout the blackout.

The approach is now inspiring others, with several organisations seeking to upgrade their own facilities and joining the growing Waterline Emergency Network across Bass, Coronet Bay, Corinella, Tenby Point, Adams Estate, Grantville, Pioneer Bay and The Gurdies and Jam Jerrup.

10 Energy resilient hubs

installed at key locations supporting community resilience



Digital toolkits for preparedness and resilience

Bass Coast Shire Council is helping households, businesses and community groups build resilience through a growing suite of digital preparedness and efficiency toolkits.

Through a partnership with Myli, residents can borrow [Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits](#), which include tools such as a Power-Mate Lite, thermal imaging camera, energy-saving thermometer and water-flow measuring cup. These practical devices help households identify inefficiencies, reduce bills and improve comfort year-round.

In addition to these resources, the Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard offers real-time alerts, local hazard information and clear guidance on how to prepare for emergencies.

Through membership of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) Council has supported the development of two toolkits designed to strengthen local climate action:

- The [Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#), helping businesses understand climate risks and plan ahead
- The [Enhancing Community Resilience Toolkit](#), providing neighbourhoods and community groups with step-by-step guidance for preparing together

Together, these digital tools empower the Bass Coast community to stay informed, adapt early and build stronger, more resilient households, businesses and neighbourhoods.

Community

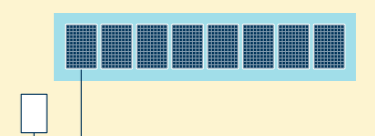
Community story - building a fully electrified, resilient home

Bass Coast local Werner lives in a purpose-built, all-electric home designed for comfort, efficiency and resilience. Housing 3 older residents (one 99 year old and two 70 year olds) the home was built with electrification in mind from the outset, continuing a long-standing family commitment to clean energy.

The house features double glazing, high-performance insulation and LED lighting, with heating and cooling provided by efficient reverse-cycle heat pumps. Solar capacity has been progressively expanded from 12 kW to 25 kW to support two electric vehicles, and a 40 kWh home battery was installed to strengthen energy resilience particularly during the winter months.

These choices proved invaluable during a 3 day power outage in February 2024, when the home remained powered and connected to the internet and phone system via Starlink.

Werner's experience shows how thoughtful design, electrification and energy storage can deliver lower emissions, greater comfort and peace of mind - even during extreme events.





Community, Equity and Climate Justice

Community

Community story - young voices leading the way –Joey and Heidi inspire climate action

Young people continue to be powerful agents for climate justice in Bass Coast. Joey Thompson, a Year 12 student at Newhaven College, has become a recognised youth climate leader — helping organise School Strike 4 Climate events, speaking at the Bass Coast Climate Action Network forum, and even appearing on Channel Ten’s The Project to call for urgent action on fossil fuels.

At the Future Council screening and panel event in September 2025, Joey was joined by 9 year old Heidi Schmutter, who spoke passionately about the future she hopes to inherit. Their insights,

alongside contributions from community leaders, highlighted the creativity, urgency and moral clarity young people bring to the climate movement.

Together, these young advocates are shaping the conversation in Bass Coast, reminding us that climate action must protect not only today’s community, but the generations who will live with the consequences of the decisions we make now.

Community story - Cosy Homes: community warmth in action

The Cosy Homes project began as a grassroots effort by Wonthaggi locals Jessica Harrison and Aileen Vening, who saw the need to turn climate commitments into real support for residents struggling with cold, inefficient homes. Recognising the impact the program could have, the Energy Innovation Co-operative quickly got behind the idea and secured support through a state government grant. The project focused on people often excluded from mainstream programs—low-income households, renters, older residents, and those facing energy stress. Their aim was simple and equitable: help people make their homes more comfortable using low cost improvements and ensure everyone, regardless of income, could access rebates, concessions, and practical advice.

What made Cosy Homes remarkable was its deep connection to local community networks. Volunteers and partner organisations—from neighbourhood houses to food banks—helped identify residents

who needed support most. Trained local volunteers conducted home assessments and offered peer to peer guidance, creating a trusted, community-led model. This approach not only delivered energy efficiency advice, but also empowered volunteers and residents with new skills, strengthening community resilience.

The project completed retrofits for 30 homes by May 2022, using simple fixes like sealing draughts, installing weather strips, insulating pipes, and adding low-cost curtains or pelmets. These modest changes often made a big difference to comfort and bills. In some cases, volunteers also helped residents switch to fairer energy plans, saving thousands. At its heart, Cosy Homes demonstrated how small, practical actions—guided by neighbours helping neighbours—can lift comfort, cut costs, and support climate adaptation in a way that centres equity and community care.

Community

Business and Organisations

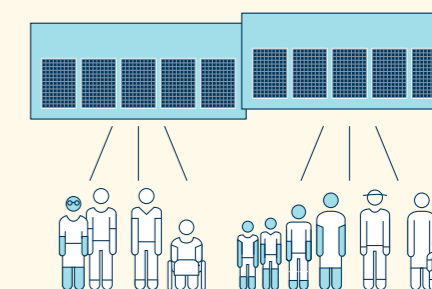
Council

Mycelia Renewables – equity at the heart of local action

Mycelia Renewables is demonstrating what climate justice looks like in practice, embedding equity into every aspect of its work. Supported through Bass Coast’s Climate Action Grants and the Partnerships Program, Mycelia delivers workshops, energy assessments and upgrades, designed to include everyone in the energy transition, with specific supports for low-income and renting households.

Local businesses are also stepping up. Mycelia has partnered with the Archies Creek Hotel and The Mill Studio to host solar systems that generate community-owned renewable energy as part of the Mycelia Energy Collective. These partnerships ensure the benefits of local energy generation — lower bills, cleaner power and community resilience — are shared across the community, not just with those who can afford to invest upfront.

Mycelia’s work is a powerful example of climate action that is fair, inclusive and community-led.





Leadership and Governance

Council

On ground change starts with the right strategic and policy setting. The Climate Change Action Plan includes a range of actions to ensure Council's policies, strategies and decision-making are aligned to reduce emissions and build a more resilient Bass Coast.

Since 2020, key governance wins include:

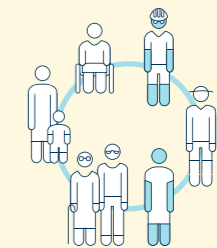
- Divesting from fossil fuels through an updated Investment Policy
- Strengthening the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy to support greener, healthier and more resilient Council buildings and infrastructure
- Establishing an Urban Forest Strategy and a Circular Economy Framework aligned with Council's Economic Development Framework
- Updating Council's Procurement Policy to prioritise more sustainable goods and services
- Embedding climate leadership and awareness into staff position descriptions and professional development plans

Looking ahead, enabling community leadership will be critical to unlocking the next phase of climate action. One of Bass Coast's greatest strengths is the depth and diversity of local leadership. A full list of the community groups involved in shaping, delivering and reviewing the Climate Change Action Plan is included in this report.



Community

For an up to date listing of our active community groups please refer to our [Community Action Portal](#)



What's next?

Bass Coast's Climate Change Action Plan has just undergone an extensive mid-term review, helping us understand what's working well and where we need to focus our efforts over the next 5 years. The review recommended that the next phase of climate action in Bass Coast will:

- Reduce the number of actions to focus on those with the greatest impact
- Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Traditional Owners
- Elevate and empower young voices in decision-making
- Deepen our focus on adaptation and resilience, alongside mitigation
- Expand support for local businesses and agriculture
- Clarify Council's leadership role in driving community-wide climate action

These recommendations, among others, are being considered as we update the Climate Change Action Plan in first half of 2026.

We look forward to continuing to work together to create a resilient, thriving, net-zero Bass Coast.





Bass Coast Shire Council

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National Relay Service 13 36 77 for people with communication difficulties

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