

## **What should our sustainability priorities be?**

### **Other**

It is impossible to pick one focus for environmental sustainability action in Yarra over the next ten years. All of these items are essential. All are part of a move to a safe climate.

As a climate action group, YCAN's main focus is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But everything on the list contributes to the goal of a safe climate and a sustainable city.

Yarra Council has signed up to the Climate Emergency Declaration. But as yet has not put forth a plan as to how it will act to address this emergency.

Actions on greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy use, waste minimisation, resource recovery, sustainable travel and transport, sustainable development, sustainable businesses, sustainable council operations, urban agriculture, increase in street trees to reduce the heat-island effect all contribute to the overall reduction of carbon in our atmosphere that will enable the climate to stay within a safe level.

As many are saying we have passed the tipping point, and keeping temperature rises to within two degrees is already impossible, then all of these issues must be addressed with urgency. Everything within council's power should be on the Must Do list.

At the same time local air pollution must be reduced for the health of residents, water conservation is essential, as is care for our natural environment.

The responsibility of Council and Yarra residents is not only to our own municipality. The actions that we take have the potential to influence other municipalities and the Victorian government, and to shame the federal government into action.

None of the issues listed can be achieved without wide community education and maximum engagement.

## **What would significant progress in this priority area look like by 2030 in Yarra? (75 word limit)**

Progress towards the goal of a safe climate by 2030 in Yarra would include:

- Movement towards zero emissions by Council and residents, with a reduction in reliance on offsets.
- Less cars on our roads. More safe routes for cyclists. More amenities to encourage walking and public transport.
- Adequate charging stations for electric cars, and a safe way for residents to charge electric cars at home if their only option is to park in the street.
- Reduced waste to landfill.
- All residents have the means to recycle food waste.

## **What action/s should we take as a Council over the next 4 years in this priority area? (75 word limit)**

- Increase renewable energy use.
- Reduce reliance on off-sets to achieve carbon neutrality.
- Provide more safe routes for cyclists. More amenities to encourage walking and public transport use.

- Implement food waste collection system and Proudly Plastic Free Campaign.
- Set more ambitious goals around reducing organic waste in landfill.
- Model sustainable practices at all Council's buildings, venues and events by eradicating single-use plastics; removing vending machines with drinks in plastic bottles; providing adequate recycling opportunities.
- Increase the number of public water fountains and filling stations, permanent and temporary at events.
- Advocate for a state Container Deposit Scheme.
- Advocate for more demanding planning/building controls requiring effective on-site energy generation; water harvesting; and organic waste handling for all developments.

**What are the most meaningful actions you and your neighbours could take over the next 4 years in this priority area? (75 word limit)**

- YCAN will continue to inform its members about Council actions on these key issues and how they can personally reduce their own carbon footprint.
- YCAN will continue lobbying governments at all levels to act to reduce emissions and ensure a safe climate.
- Individually model responsible sustainable behaviour.

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**Please specify what elements of these additional priority areas we should focus on. (75 word limit)**

Continued from previous list.

- Advocate for more demanding planning/building controls to require all building developments to include meaningful on-site energy generation and water harvesting initiatives, and effective organic waste handling facilities
- Increase the number of public water fountains and filling stations, permanent and temporary at events.
- Advocate for a state Container Deposit Scheme.