

Cool Changes: Kyneton

Community Climate Action Plan





Acknowledgment of Country

This Community Climate Action Plan has been created by the community of Kyneton and the surrounding areas, as such, we acknowledge both the Taungurung People and Dja Dja Wurrung People as the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Plan was developed.

We'd like to acknowledge the ongoing care and connection both First Nations clans have to these lands and waterways and recognise their cultures and customs, close spiritual, physical, social, historical and economic relationship with the land and waters.



Artwork by Taungurung artist Maddi Moser

Council context

Cool Changes is a Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) program that works with local communities across the shire to facilitate the development of local climate change action plans.

Cool Changes commenced in 2019 with a pilot project: Sustainable Malmsbury and has since gone on to help create community-led, place-based climate action plans in Woodend, Romsey & Lancefield and Riddells Creek.

Understanding the vital role communities play in helping everyone adapt and mitigate climate change, the actions identified throughout the program will be used to influence the upcoming shire-wide Climate Emergency Response Plan.

This plan was created in partnership with Kyneton Community House and Macedon Ranges Shire Council.



Date published: TBC





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Our 'Plan'

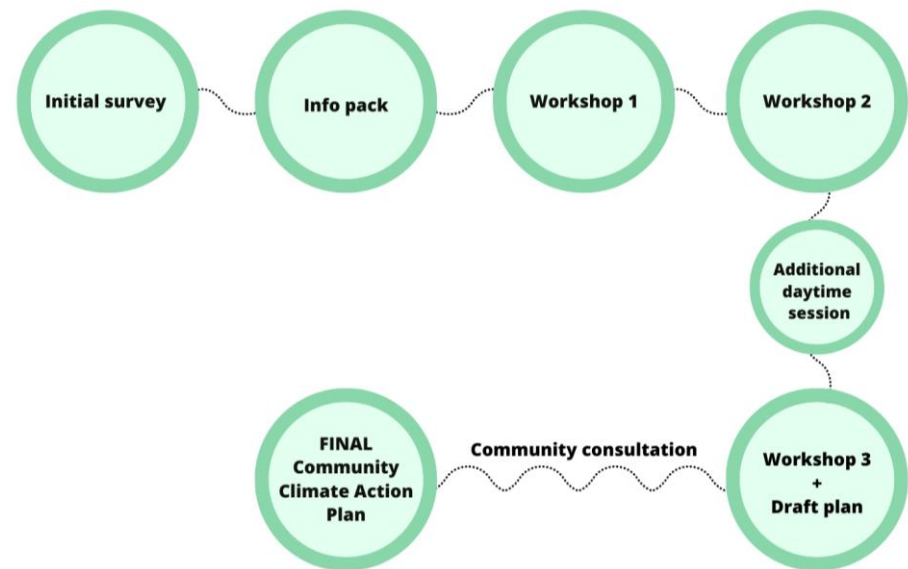
This plan aims to create a collective vision for climate action into the future for the Kyneton and surrounding area. It looks to celebrate and promote the success and hard work of Landcare groups, Friends groups, sustainability & community groups and local schools, whilst, outlining shared goals for how Kyneton can adapt to and mitigate climate change on a local level. This plan looks to provide new, passionate residents a document in which to refer to when eager to continue the care and connection to Kyneton shown by many others in years past.

Visionary plans such as these are ever evolving with new challenges and new opportunities, importantly, these plans also rely on community members to achieve. If you read of an action or idea in this plan you'd like to assist with, please reach out to MRSC Sustainability Officer, Justin Walsh (juwalsh@mrsc.vic.gov.au) or the Kyneton Community House.

How the plan was developed

The following plan was developed using multiple engagement and collaboration methods. Starting with a town-wide survey and then three sequential workshops.

Throughout these three workshops, community members explored localised impacts of climate change, township deficits & assets and decided upon a series of goals and actions to create a climate-ready Kyneton.





How to get involved

Community climate action can be performed by anyone! You do not need to be an expert, just some eagerness to participate and join the journey.

This Plan has been created by the community and will rely on the community to implement it. Through collaboration with one another, local businesses, community groups as well as local Council, each action identified is well within reach of being achieved.

To get involved, feel free to contact MRSC Sustainability Officer, Justin Walsh (juwalsh@mrsc.vic.gov.au) or Kyneton Community House.

Also, remember that this Plan captures the community's thinking at a point in time and that community goals, actions and ideas will naturally evolve over time. If you see an action on the –future action list or have other ideas for projects and the willingness to kick-start them, we encourage you to reach out.

How is this plan going to be implemented?

The exact method of implementing is yet to be confirmed. Once this Plan is reviewed for the Kyneton community, participants will come back together to discuss the best method of keeping this Plan on track. The following options will be explored:

1. Decentralised model: No overarching coordination of the Plan. Essentially the delivery of the Plan will focus on each action team managing their project. People could continue to collaborate through information communication channels and quarterly meetings.
2. Join the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSRG): Kyneton to join the MRSRG as a locality-based action group, similar to Sustainable Malmsbury
3. New place-based environmental group: Create an entirely new group with a centralised 'steering' committee.
4. Partner with already existing community groups: There are lots of environmental groups with a long history of effective climate action. These actions could be assisted by these groups

Our framework

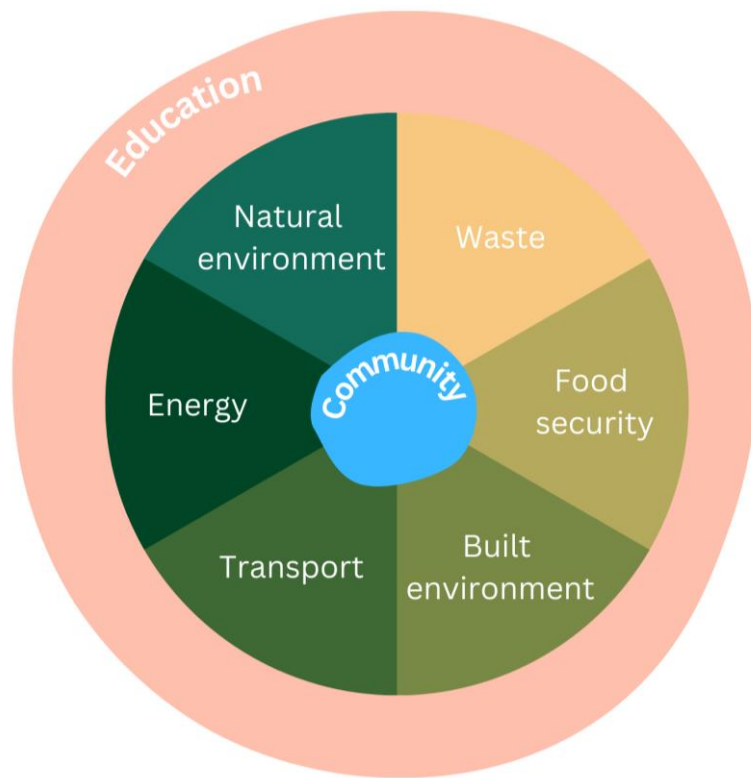


FIGURE 1: FRAMEWORK CREDITED TO KATE TRIPODI, KYNETON RESIDENT AND PARTICIPANTS

Core value: Community

Engaging and activating the wider community was identified as a core value of this Plan

Foundation principle: Education

Participants also recognised that a focus on education and awareness would be a valuable principle to guide all actions

Plan themes



Energy: Electricity currently contributes 47% to the wider Macedon Ranges emissions profile. Participants saw the transition to renewable energy as a key opportunity for major emissions reduction.



Built environment: Sustainable buildings, developments and infrastructure was identified within the community survey as a top priority for climate action.



Food security: Kyneton has a strong history of community groups addressing food accessibility and security, this plan will look to strengthen and broaden this.



Natural environment: A major township deficit identified was the lack of habitat corridors in and around Kyneton. Good quality habitat will be essential to support local flora and fauna in a climate crisis.





Transport: Increasing active transport options, as well as, rethinking current public transport fuels was identified as a major opportunity for change.





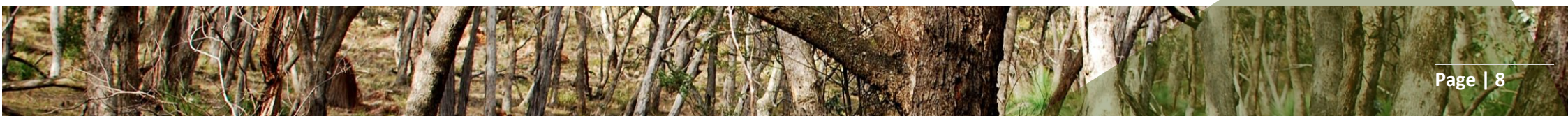
Waste: Whilst only representing a small percentage in Macedon Ranges emissions profile (2%), participants saw an opportunity in reducing broader consumption habits (particularly single use plastics and clothing).

Our actions



Theme	Goal	Prioritised action	Rationale	Future actions
Energy 	Reduce households & businesses energy usage in Kyneton and surrounds	Education campaign (via print, social media and in-person conversations)	<p><i>Education to empower behaviour change</i></p> <p>Regular articles in print media offers broadest reach for smallest cost. Regular appearance at Kyneton Farmers Market offers community support</p> <p>Articles will vary from tangible energy reduce tips to comparisons of smart energy providers.</p> <p>Behaviour change can accelerate the transition to renewables.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofitting workshops • Community solar projects • Community battery projects
Transport 	Reduce fossil fuel use through increasing alternative & active transport options	Investigate rideshare (GoGet, Car Next Door) feasibility in Kyneton and surrounds	<p><i>Tackling car emissions in Kyneton</i></p> <p>Cars currently contribute 25% to Macedon Ranges overall emissions profile.</p> <p>By increasing the options and reliability of car share in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More EV charging stations • Behaviour change campaign (promote active, healthy transport habitats) • Improve bike paths • Design bike links / networks • Community bus (electric and between townships)



			<p>area, residents will decrease to need to have multiple cars per household.</p> <p>Rideshare options also open opportunity for additional income stream for households, as well as, decrease cost of living for others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike hire service in town • Field day showcasing new & upcoming vehicle technology • Design 'cool' walks (shaded walk links) • Increase bicycle racks in town • Lobby for more frequent, reliable public transport (trains)
<p>Food security</p> 	<p>Empower all people to grow their own healthy food</p>	<p>Support Kyneton High School students to create a community garden</p> <p>Establish a community fruit and vegetables swap shop at the Kyneton Lions Community Stall</p>	<p><i>Increasing access to locally grown produce</i></p> <p>Creating a space for KHS students to learn how to grow and use produce.</p> <p>Kyneton Transition Hub helped to create the space, passionate to restore the space.</p> <p>Potential for long-term action with students which will empower them to value and continue themselves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase fruit and nut trees along nature strips • Kitchen garden program for businesses • Produce and/or seedling swap between local schools • Support local growers to use alternative transport options • Community garden space at Old Kyneton Primary School site
<p>Natural environment</p> 	<p>Engage 50 households to improve urban native biodiversity in Kyneton township and surrounds by 2024</p>	<p>Kyneton Habitat Initiative: Community program that empowers households to improve native habitat in their backyards and nature strips</p>	<p><i>Improving and enhancing urban biodiversity</i></p> <p>Provide opportunities for link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase cultural & fuel reduction burning • Increase local walking tracks








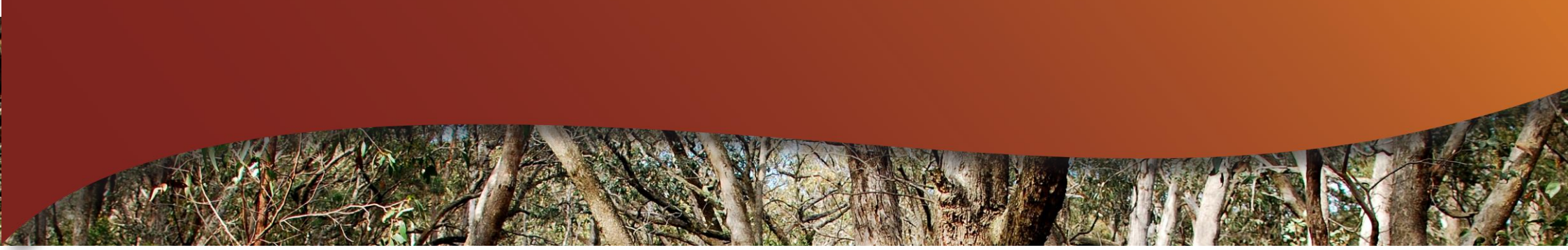
			<p>habitat corridors through Kyneton and surrounds</p> <p>Empower residents to make a positive difference to native biodiversity in a changing climate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council / community NFP enterprise (providing indigenous / native plan tube stock) • Education campaign (pest plants & animal control)
<p>Built environment</p> 	<p>Creating green, cool, adaptive building and spaces for easy living</p>	<p>Yet to prioritise</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofitting workshops • Free home energy and efficiency assessment • Community advocacy (increase energy standards for social housing) • Urban shading project
<p>Waste</p> 	<p>Yet to prioritise:</p> <p>Reduction in clothing to landfill</p> <p>Have an educated & engaged community to waste issues</p> <p>Increase knowledge and value for recycling</p>	<p>Yet to prioritise</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Shop Local' campaign • More variety of bins in townships • Educational / upskilling program (clothing repair) • Repair café • Educational campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Where does your waste go?" ○ Rethink your bin collection



Appendix 1 Community skills & knowledge inventory

Early in the process, a community skills & knowledge inventory was taken to get an idea on the current skills and knowledge that could be employed to achieve the actions listed.

	<p>Things I know something about the environment, climate change and/or sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellbeing implication of climate change • Bird I.D • Native flora & trees • Ecology • Revegetation & sustainable land use • Endangered species • Weed identification & control • Noticing seasonal changes • Permaculture & horticulture • Soil health • Habitat management • Human and societal change
	<p>Skills I have that could help sustainability projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant writing • Advocacy • Data management & analysis • Tree planting & propagation • Community engagement • Project management (& spreadsheet) • Sustainable gardening • Non-violent direct action • Composting • Food growing • Advanced first aid • Getting stuff done! • Produce swaps • Tree planting
	<p>Things I care deeply about the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling • Adaptation for vulnerable people • Resilient communities • Regenerating w/ indigenous plants • Building resilience • Ending extinction • Leaving a good world for my kids • Protection of habitat & creatures • De-growth of humanity • Food growing • Educating new residents about environment • Development in Kyneton • Sustainable building design • Increasing indigenous plantings • Reducing poison usage • Reducing plastics & recycling • Working w/ Landcare groups



Things I do to stay connected to my community



- **Volunteering**
 - Kyneton Transition Hub
 - MR Reconciliation Group
 - Campaspe River & Land Mgmt Group
 - Farmers Market
 - Keep Kyneton Country
 - Piper St Facebook
 - Biolinks Alliance
 - MRSB
 - Community gardens
- **Engage w/ neighbours**
 - Sewing classes & book club
 - Shop locally
 - Online groups
- **Coffee, sporting groups, pubs, etc.**
 - Street party/neighbours
 - Walking dogs
 - Community House
- **Reading local newspaper**
 - Seminars
 - River planting & nest box projects
 - Friend to Rotary



Appendix 2 Township assets & deficits

ASSETS			
Skilled & knowledgeable community (x2)	Kyneton Kindness Collective	Rainfall gardens	FOGO
Lots of community groups	Council commitment to climate action	Physical assets & surrounds	Walkable town
Farmers market	Public transport (but needs improvements)	Digital groups, eg. township FB	Indigenous & native plant nursery
River system	Sacred Heart's wetlands projects	Kyneton Connect	U3A courses
Swap table	The passions of residents	CFA	Kyneton Community House
Community lunch (x2)	Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group	Active community	Plenty of sunshine / solar potential
Kyneton Landcare	Kyneton Transition Hub		
DEFICITS			
Lack of environmental education & resources	Lack of young volunteers	Vulnerable river system	Lack of funding
Hard surfaces	Supermarket food waste	Non-native public tree planting	Town bus (size, timetabling & engine)
Bad housing designs	Lack of safe footpaths (especially to/from schools)	Lack of indigenous plantings	Inappropriate developments
Lack of volunteers (x3)	Cats and native wildlife	Lack of green spaces	Sewerage in river
Car culture	Lack of bike paths (x3)	Lack of habitat corridors	Lack of available space for community garden
Being in a growth corridor	Poor weed management	Use of glyphosate (by Council on footpaths, in household)	Lack of trees along footpaths in town centre