



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2021-2026

SUMMARY



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



VISION

The Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 has been designed to align with the community vision for Greater Bendigo.

COMMUNITY VISION:

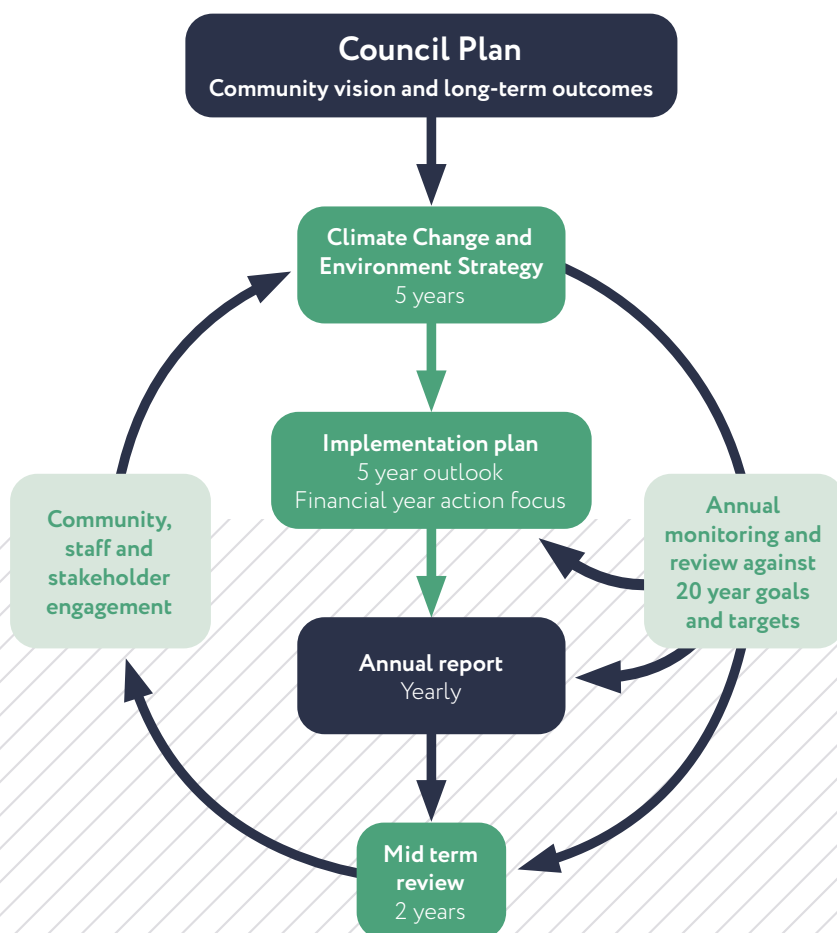
Greater Bendigo celebrates our diverse community. We are welcoming, sustainable and prosperous. Walking hand-in-hand with the traditional custodians of this land. Building on our rich heritage for a bright and happy future.



FLAGSHIP PROJECTS 2021-2026

The following six flagship projects have been chosen for this strategy to lead and inspire municipal-wide action to achieve the goals of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy. Each project will have multiple benefits for our environment and communities.

Climate Change and Environment Strategy implementation



Flagship Project 1 Reimagining Bendigo Creek

Restoring the creek, celebrating culture and creating connections

Flagship Project 2 Healing Country Together

Enabling Traditional Owners and agencies to heal Country using traditional knowledge and practices

Flagship Project 3 Be the Change

Transforming the City of Greater Bendigo to become a leader in climate and environmental action

Flagship Project 4 The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration

Driving community climate action to achieve net zero emissions by 2030

Flagship Project 5 Showcase Sustainable Developments

Partnering with developers to build cutting-edge buildings and precincts

Flagship Project 6 Building a Circular Greater Bendigo

Harnessing and repurposing the region's wasted materials to create local industries and jobs

ACTION AREAS

The Climate Change and Environment Strategy has six action areas, which collectively contribute to all seven outcomes in the Council Plan.

The goals and targets in each action area has been set by council in consultation with community, business and agency partners to ensure we can achieve our community vision.

This section outlines the 2036 goals and targets for the life of this strategy in each action area.



BIODIVERSITY AND REGENERATION

	2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS	
COUNCIL	2036 GOAL A: Council projects regenerate landscapes and ecosystems			
	A1	Council has a 'net vegetation gain' plan completed	150% net gain in vegetation and biodiversity from Council projects	
	2036 GOAL B: Native habitat and areas of important biodiversity are protected for future generations			
	B1	Completed required investigations and consultation to increase controls under the planning scheme	Important environmental assets have formal protection under the planning scheme	
	B2	Baseline biodiversity assessment completed	No net loss of native habitat in the municipality from 2016 baseline	
COMMUNITY	B3	Indicator species selection and baseline dataset established	The population of indicator species (determined by 2026) has increased from the baseline	
	2036 GOAL C: Connected and flourishing urban and rural landscapes and ecosystems			
	C1	No net loss of tree and shrub cover across all Greater Bendigo	Tree cover in Greater Bendigo has increased to 35% from the 2016 baseline (23%) and shrub cover has increased to 10% from the 2016 baseline	
	C2	Fragmented vegetation identified and plans developed for linking them	No patch of native vegetation over 20 ha within the municipality is fragmented from other native vegetation	

2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS
C3	Completed a baseline assessment of local biodiversity	No vulnerable or near-threatened species will have become endangered
C4	Reintroduce the 'Magnificent Six' native fish into Bendigo Creek and establish a baseline of their population	The 'Magnificent Six' native fish have a sustained and viable population in Bendigo Creek
2036 GOAL D: Strong community connection to, awareness of and care for our ecosystems and biodiversity		
D1	25% of all Greater Bendigo's residents have actively participated in stewardship of the natural environment	50% of all Greater Bendigo's residents have actively participated in stewardship of the natural environment.
2036 GOAL E: Respectful and effective partnerships with Traditional Owners to regenerate ecosystems		
E1	Two public land areas are identified to be solely managed by Traditional Owners and current management arrangements are shared, if suitable.	Two additional public land reserves or parks managed by other agencies are solely managed by Traditional Owners (from 2021 baseline)
E2	Management framework and, if required, collaborative governance arrangements with other agencies are developed.	Management framework and, if required, collaborative governance arrangements with other agencies are developed.



ZERO CARBON

	2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS
COUNCIL	2036 GOAL F: Zero carbon from Council operations by 2030		
	F1	No new gas connections in new council buildings built after 2021	All council owned buildings powered by 100% renewable locally generated electricity
	F2	60% of council small and medium-sized owned and operated buildings transitioned off-gas	No gas connections to council owned buildings
	F3	90% of Council owned buildings have solar systems installed	
	F4	35% of lightweight fleet is electric	100% electric lightweight vehicle fleet
	F5	Five heavy plant vehicles are electric or powered by a sustainable fuel source	100% of the heavy vehicle fleet is electric or powered by a sustainable fuel source
	F6	Program for local regenerative offsets established in partnership with North Central CMA	
	F7	Offsets purchased to reach 2026 net-zero target	Purchase 25% fewer offsets than in 2031
	F8	More than 60% of Council’s funds are invested with financial institutions that do not lend to fossil fuel industries, or invested in products that reduce carbon emissions	100% of Council’s funds are invested with financial institutions that do not lend to fossil fuel industries, or invested in products that reduce carbon emissions
	F9		Leverage \$100 million investment in local regenerative projects that bring Greater Bendigo community beyond net zero

2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS	
COMMUNITY	2036 GOAL G: Zero carbon across Greater Bendigo community by 2030		
	G1	40% households and commercial businesses have solar system installed	50% community ownership of local renewable energy (including commercial solar and wind and community generation)
	G2	50% of region’s 2021 energy demand is generated through local renewable energy	500% of the region’s 2021 energy demand is generated through local generated renewables
	G3	No gas connection in new subdivisions (e.g. no option to connect)	Community and business don’t use fossil fuel for their stationary energy
	G4	One zero carbon new development	
	G5	20% of all passenger vehicles sold in Greater Bendigo are electric or hybrid	95% of Greater Bendigo’s passenger vehicles sold are electric or hybrid
	G6		100% of public transport is powered by a sustainable fuel source



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

	2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS	
COUNCIL	2036 GOAL H: Zero recoverable waste from Council operations			
	H1	35% reduction in Council's 'general waste' production (baseline of 3420t/y general waste from 2020)	90% reduction in Council's 'general waste' production (baseline of 3420t/y general waste from 2020)	
	H2	Zero organics to landfill from the Council	Zero organics to landfill from the Council	
	H3	25% reduction in the 'embodied carbon' footprint of Council operations	50% reduction in the 'embodied carbon' footprint of Council operations	
	H4	Reused and recycled content products and materials are a standard part of project design and service delivery	Council use reused and recycled content products and materials in all projects	
COMMUNITY	2036 GOAL I: A well-established circular economy with zero recoverable waste to landfill			
	I1	Zero organics to landfill from the region	Zero recoverable resources (including organics) sent to landfill from the region	
	I2	72% of region's 'waste' diverted from landfill	Reduce material consumption to .2 tonnes per person per year (baseline in 2020 was 34.8 tonnes per person per year)	
	I3	Council has established 'Circular Economy Hubs'	All products and materials in Greater Bendigo have recycled or reused content	
	I4		Exceed Victorian Government's targets of 80% waste diversion from landfill and 15% per capita reduction in waste production	



SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

	2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS	
COUNCIL	2036 GOAL J: Council staff use active, public and low carbon transport			
	J1	20% of staff trips to work are by active, shared and public transport	66% of staff trips to work are by active, shared and public transport	
	2036 GOAL K: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network			
	K1	Priority gaps in the walking and cycling network have been reduced by doubling the new footpath program (baseline 2.2km in 2020)	All priority gaps in the footpath network have been addressed (as identified in the 10 year walking and cycling infrastructure plan)	
	K2	10-year walking and cycling infrastructure plan developed and implementation commenced	The shared path network (as identified through the Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy) includes strategic connections in Bendigo city centre, Regional City Trail, Ironbark Gully Trail, Bendigo Low-line, University to City Centre, Eaglehawk to city centre, Huntly to Bendigo, Maiden Gully to Bendigo	
COMMUNITY	2036 GOAL L: Greater Bendigo community uses active, public and low carbon transport network			
	L1	A commuter rail service is servicing Goornong (via Huntly and Epsom), Raywood (via Eaglehawk) and Kangaroo Flat to Bendigo	A commuter rail service is servicing Goornong (via Huntly and Epsom), Raywood (via Eaglehawk) and Kangaroo Flat to Bendigo	
	L2	10 kilometres of additional shared paths installed in new developments	60 kilometres of additional shared paths installed in new developments	
	L3	Urban bus service is servicing Marong, and adjusted bus services to reach growth areas in Maiden Gully and Huntly	Bus stops within 400m of 90% of dwellings within the urban area of Bendigo and 15-minute frequency on priority routes	
	2036 GOAL M: Greater Bendigo has a safe and well-connected active transport network			
	M1	10% of trips are by active transport	One third of all trips are by active transport, and one third of all trips are by public transport	
	M2	Car sharing program established	50% of the population are using car and/or bike sharing programs	



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

	2026 TARGETS		2036 TARGETS
COUNCIL	2036 GOAL N: Council is a leader in sustainable food procurement, practices, and policy		
	N1	30% of relevant City contracts, leases and tenders include clauses related to sustainable food practices	All relevant City contracts, leases and tenders pertaining to food include clauses related to sustainable food practices
COMMUNITY	2036 GOAL O: Sustainable food production systems are viable, resource efficient and regenerate natural ecosystems		
	O1	20% farms are on the sustainable agriculture rate	60% farms are on the sustainable agriculture rate
	O2	20% primary producers involved in a Landcare group or similar	60% primary producers involved in a Landcare group or similar

2026 TARGETS		2026 TARGETS
COMMUNITY	2036 GOAL P: Communities are aware of the resources required to produce food and know how they can influence the food system	
	P1	80% of early childhood education settings, primary and secondary schools incorporate sustainable food system education into the curriculum
		All early childhood education settings, primary and secondary schools incorporate sustainable food system education into the curriculum
	2036 GOAL Q: Enable Traditional Owners to grow and harvest indigenous food and fibre plants	
	Q1	Annual target area of land to plant and harvest, as set by Traditional Owners, is achieved
		Annual target area of land to plant and harvest, as set by Traditional Owners, is achieved



WATER SENSITIVE BENDIGO

2026 TARGETS		2026 TARGETS
COUNCIL	2036 GOAL R: Council operations are water efficient and utilise diverse water supplies	
	R1	Council's total use of potable water reduced by 5% from the 2016 baseline (307 ML)
		Council's total use of potable water reduced by 30% from the 2016 baseline (307 ML)
	2036 GOAL S: Flood risk in Greater Bendigo is reduced through flood mitigation infrastructure and planning	
	S1	A 5% reduction in flooding occurrence affecting properties (2020 baseline)
COMMUNITY		A 30% reduction in flooding occurrence affecting properties (2020 baseline)
	2036 GOAL T: Investment in water projects is secured through collaborative partnerships	
	T1	The Water Sensitive Bendigo partnership has leveraged \$0.5 million investment in water initiatives and infrastructure
		The Water Sensitive Bendigo partnership has leveraged \$50 million investment in water initiatives and infrastructure
	2036 GOAL U: Waterways in Bendigo are healthy, connected and nurturing places	
	U1	Three large WSUD infrastructure projects are designed and approved
		All Bendigo catchments have WSUD infrastructure that reduces peak flows and average nutrients and suspended solid loads by 60%
	U2	Design and approvals for 5 kilometres of new shared paths along waterways of Bendigo
		20 kilometres of new shared paths along waterways of Bendigo
	U3	50 new meeting places located along waterways of Bendigo
		150 new meeting places located along waterways of Bendigo
	2036 GOAL V: Waterways in Greater Bendigo are collectively managed by Traditional Owners, agencies and community	
	V1	Two waterway reserves are co-managed by the Djaara or Taungurung and relevant agency
		Two waterway reserves are solely managed by the Djaara or Taungurung

