

Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030

Community Engagement Summary Report

Background

To inform the development of Council's Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030, we asked the Monash community for feedback on the draft plan. The plan outlines how we will work with our community to respond to the impacts of a changing climate, future-proof our places and spaces, and continue to reduce our emissions. Our goal is to ensure Monash is better prepared to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

In March 2025, Council's Sustainability team commenced a whole-of-organisation climate change risk and vulnerability assessment, supported by consultants HIP V. HYPE. The climate change risk assessment was completed in July 2025 and findings were used to inform the development of Council's draft Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030.

The Climate Resilience Plan will replace Council's [Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026](#) and [Zero Net Carbon Action Plan 2020-2025](#), and will guide sustainability and climate action for the next four years.

Community consultation is a critical part of the development the plan to ensure strategic direction is set to meet community expectations. We want to know whether the draft plan has the right focus for Council and the Monash community so we are better prepared to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

The community engagement process aimed to:

- Provide an opportunity for feedback and input on the draft Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030.
- To identify community needs and priorities in climate resilience.
- Ensure priority groups identified within the climate change risk assessment had the opportunity to provide feedback.

As a result of community feedback:

- Climate Resilience Plan goals can be revised or added to.
- How we implement community actions within the Climate Resilience Plan can change.

How we engaged

Engagement activities

Community feedback was sought through a broad range of in-person and digital channels throughout February and March 2026.

Targeted workshops were also held in late 2025 and early 2026 with the following groups to inform the engagement process for priority groups in Monash and the development of the draft plan, which includes Council's advisory committees:

- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

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Interpreter Services 普通话 4713 5001 廣東話 4713 5002 Việt Ngữ 4713 5003 Ελληνικά 4713 5004 हिंदी 4713 5005
Other languages 4713 5000 Italiano 4713 5008 한국어 4713 5010 සිංහල 4713 5020 தமிழ் 4713 5021

- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Monash Youth Committee
- Multicultural Advisory Committee
- Gender Equity Advisory Committee
- Disability Advisory Committee
- LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee
- Positive Ageing Network Forum

An online survey was open on the Shape Monash website from 1 March – 5 April 2026.

Respondents who completed the survey on Shape Monash could enter an optional random draw for a chance to win 1 of 3 \$100 waste disposal vouchers, redeemable at the Monash Recycling and Waste Centre, or 1 of 2 Free Home Energy Assessments.

In-person pop-ups, information sessions and an online information webinar were held at the following:

- Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival pop-up on 1 March, 12pm-5pm at Kingsway, Glen Waverley
- At The Corner Store Network pop-up on 3 March, 9.30am-10.30am at 30 Hamilton Street, Oakleigh
- International Women's Day dinner and panel event on 11 March, 6:00pm-8:30pm at the Monash Civic Centre
- The Great Clothing Exchange pop-up on 15 March, 10am-12.30pm at the Monash Civic Centre
- Glen Waverley Library drop-in session on 21 March, 10am-11am
- Clayton Festival pop-up on 22 March, 12pm-5pm at Clayton Community Centre
- Mount Waverley Library drop-in session on 24 March, 6pm-7pm
- Online community information webinar on 30 March, 2pm-3pm

These sessions promoted the opportunity to provide feedback, provided a forum to ask questions directly to Council staff, and promoted the Shape Monash survey and feedback incentive.

Promotion of engagement activities

Community consultation was promoted via:

- Monash Bulletin (monthly Council printed newsletter)
- Council's Sustainable Monash e-news (database of 1,600+ emails)
- Council's website and social media platforms
- A5 flyer distributed at Monash Libraries, maternal child health centres, neighbourhood houses, and community centres

The reach of promotion via various channels was:

- Monash Bulletin (85K+ households)
- Organic social media (9 posts, 5.2K reach)
- Paid social media ad (39,161 views with 991 click-throughs to Shape Monash page)
- 3 x Monash Mail eNews items (one focused on webinar promotion, >28K reach)
- Monash Newsroom (290 click throughs from Monash e-news articles)
- Monash News (translated to Chinese) communications direct to Chinese cultural and community groups in Monash (300+ emails)
- Monash eNews (cross-promotion through Library eNews, Sustainability eNews etc.) (35K+ reach)
- English and Chinese translated collateral shared direct to public.

Community feedback

Who we heard from

Shape Monash online survey

The online Shape Monash webpage was visited 1,798 times and the survey received 74 contributions from 73 contributors between 1 March and 5 April 2026.

The survey asked the following questions:

- *How would you prefer to receive information to help you be more prepared for changes in our climate?*
- *What topics are you most interested in?*
- *How likely are you to participate in the following activities designed to support community climate resilience?*
- *How important is it that Council does the following to support climate resilience?*
- *Do you have any suggestions for other actions?*
- *Do you have any other feedback on the draft Climate Resilience Plan?*

The following demographic information was provided by survey respondents.

Your age

Respondents were predominantly from an older demographic, with 70% of respondents aged 50 years or older.

Answer choices	Count	Percent
Younger than 19	1	1%
20-24	1	1%
25-29	3	4%
30-34	0	0%
35-39	8	11%
40-44	6	8%
45-49	3	4%
50-54	10	14%
55-59	11	15%
60-64	8	11%
65-69	8	11%
70-74	6	8%
75-79	5	7%
80-84	3	4%
85 and over	1	1%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
Total	74	100%

Your gender

More respondents identified as a woman than a man, but the difference is not considered a significant bias towards one gender.

Answer choices	Count	Percent
Woman	43	59%
Man	28	38%
Non-binary	0	0%
Prefer not to say	2	3%
Prefer to self-describe	0	0%
Total	73	100%

Do you identify as...

There was representation from a selection of priority groups with increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. This was likely aided by targeted engagement with Council's Advisory Committees.

Answer choices	Count	Percent
A person with a disability, long-term health condition, or impairment that affects your daily activities	9	12%
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	0	0%
A person who speaks a secondary language other than English	11	15%
LGBTIQA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning or asexual)	5	7%
Living in insecure housing or experiencing homelessness	0	0%
None of the above	51	69%
Prefer not to say	3	4%

What is your secondary language?

10 of the 73 (14%) contributors specified a secondary language other than English.

Answer choices	Count
Mandarin	3
Cantonese	0
Greek	0
Sinhalese	0
Hindi	0
Vietnamese	0

Tamil	1
Italian	0
Korean	0
Punjabi	0
Other	6
Total	10

Suburb

Respondents from Glen Waverley and Mount Waverley represented 41% of responses.

Answer choices	Count	Percent
Ashwood	4	6%
Burwood	2	3%
Chadstone	7	10%
Clayton	5	7%
Glen Waverley	14	19%
Hughesdale	2	3%
Huntingdale	0	0%
Mount Waverley	16	22%
Mulgrave	6	8%
Notting Hill	0	0%
Oakleigh	4	6%
Oakleigh East	2	3%
Oakleigh South	2	3%
Wheelers Hill	7	10%
Other	1	1%
Total	72	100%

Targeted sessions and other channels

We also heard from community members during in-person pop-ups, targeted information sessions, and an online information webinar as outlined earlier in this report. Demographic information was not collected at in-person sessions or the online community webinar.

Event	Date	No. of engagements
Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival pop-up	1/3/26	120
The Corner Store Network pop-up	3/3/26	9
International Women's Day dinner and panel	11/3/2026	30
The Great Clothing Exchange pop-up	15/3/2026	32
Climate Resilience Plan drop-in session #1	21/3/2026	0
Clayton Festival pop-up	22/3/2026	48
Climate Resilience Plan drop-in session #2	24/3/2026	1
Monash Climate Resilience Plan community webinar	30/3/2026	3
Total		243

In addition, feedback was received from 3 community groups within Monash via email.

This brought the total number of direct engagements during the consultation period (1 March – 5 April) to 319. This figure does not include members of advisory committees and organisations consulted prior to 1 March 2026.

What we heard from the community

Shape Monash online survey

In response to the Shape Monash online survey the following feedback was received.

How would you prefer to receive information to help you be more prepared for changes in our climate? (Multi choice)

Answer choices	Count
Monash Bulletin	54
Monash Mail	33
Look up information on Council's website	28
Messages on social media	28
Attend an information session	18
Get involved in group activities	13
Programs at school	12
Stop by a stall at a community event	8
Through my community group	8
Other (please specify)	4
Information in a language other than English	3
Information at a business network	2

The top 3 preferences to receive information from Council to better prepare for changes in our climate were the Monash Bulletin, Monash Mail (eNews), looking up information on Council's website, and messages on social media (tied result). One suggestion specified online information sessions.

What topics are you most interested in? (Multi choice)

Answer choices	Count
Biodiversity (plants and animals)	56
Sustainable gardening	51
Climate change	50
Water	43
Reusing and repairing items	43
Reducing home energy use and costs	41
Walking and cycling	40
Installing solar panels and home batteries	26
Preparing for emergencies (such as floods, storms or heatwaves)	25
Electric vehicles	22
Other (please specify)	4

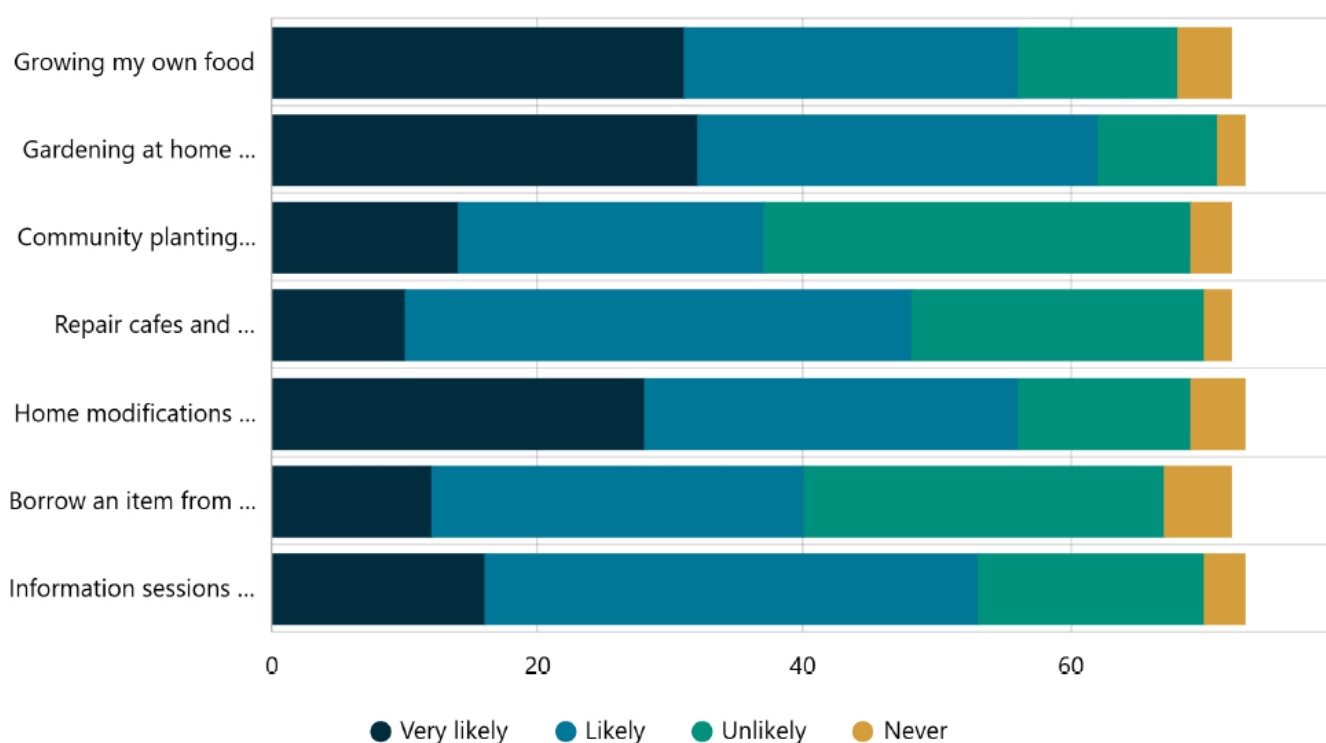
The top 3 topics of most reported interest were Biodiversity (plants and animals), Sustainable gardening, and Climate change. Other suggestions provided related to urban greening such as protection of canopy trees and nature strip planting.

How likely are you to participate in the following activities designed to support community climate resilience?

The following activities were listed:

- Growing my own food
- Gardening at home programs
- Community planting events
- Repair cafes and clothes swaps
- Home modifications to reduce home energy use including draught proofing, installing solar panels or a battery
- Borrow an item from the Library of Things (such as tools, kitchen appliances, energy efficiency kit)
- Information sessions on specific topics (such as buying an electric car, solar panels and batteries, nature strip planting, bicycle maintenance).

The following graph shows the reported likelihood of participation for each of the activities.



The top 3 activities rated as 'Very Likely' for participation by respondents were:

- Growing my own food (43%)
- Gardening at home programs (44%)
- Home modifications to reduce home energy (38%)

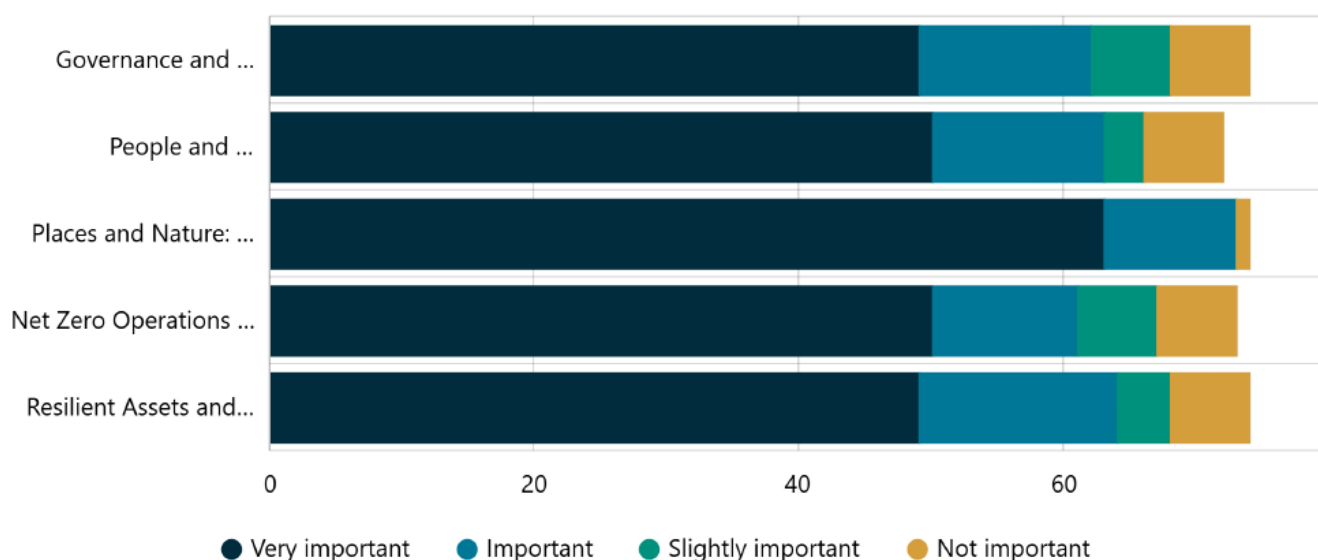
Over half of respondents were 'Likely' to participate in:

- Repair cafes and clothes swaps (53%)
- Information sessions on specific topics (51%)

How important is it that Council does the following to support climate resilience?

The 5 key priority areas of the draft Climate Resilience Plan were listed for respondents to rate:

- **Governance and partnerships** – working together to ensure a coordinated response to climate impacts.
- **People and communities** – educating the community on climate resilience and emissions reduction.
- **Places and nature** – protect and improve our natural places and spaces, enhance livability and biodiversity, and support community wellbeing.
- **Net zero operations and circular economy** – continue to reduce Council emissions through efficient operations and circular practices that avoid, reduce, reuse and repair.
- **Resilient assets and services** – design and manage Council assets so they can be more resilient to extreme weather events and a changing climate.



Over two-thirds of respondents rated all of the priority areas as 'Very Important', with the highest rated priority area being Places and Nature (85% of respondents rated 'Very Important'). Fewer than 10% of respondents rated the priority areas as 'Not Important'.

Are there community groups or organisations you think we should partner with?

One third of respondents suggested community groups or organisations that Council should partner with. Suggestions are summarised below:

- Climate/environmental groups (e.g. Chisholm Climate Action Network, Eastern Climate Action Melbourne, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Community Eastern Rosellas)
- Conservation groups/organisations (e.g. Friends groups, Urban Guerrillas, KooyongKoot Alliance, Clean Up Australia Day)

- Gardening groups (e.g. Monash and District Permaculture Group, Ashwood Harvest Share Swap, Eastern Suburbs Permaculture, Ashwood High School Community Garden, My Smart Garden, Sustainable Gardening Australia, Chadstone Food Forest)
- Church groups
- Community groups for older residents (e.g. Probus)
- Reputable companies to support electrification of homes (e.g. solar and battery suppliers/installers)
- Recycling services for difficult items (e.g. TerraCycle)
- Research institutions (e.g. CSIRO, Climate Council)
- Universities (e.g. Monash University) and local schools

Do you have any suggestions for other actions? / Do you have any other feedback on the draft Climate Resilience Plan?

Responses to the above two open text questions in the Shape Monash online survey have been summarised below.

While a small number of respondents provided feedback specific to a particular action of the draft Climate Resilience Plan or suggested a specific idea (e.g. site-specific revegetation project), the majority of responses communicated interest or concern which can be summarised under the following themes.

Tree canopy, urban greening and biodiversity

A common focus of respondent feedback related to increasing tree canopy both on public and private land. On public land, this included feedback to increase tree planting in streetscapes and within open space, in combination with other landscaping such as understorey plants. There was concern expressed by respondents with the removal of existing trees on private land and an interest in increased enforcement of any tree retention/removal regulations.

Some specific ideas shared under this theme included biodiverse plantings, tiny forests, insect-friendly gardens, nature strip gardens, the shared management of significant trees on private land, and fruiting street trees.

Note that tree canopy is primarily addressed through Council's Canopy Vegetation Strategy.

"Many more trees and green spaces. Turn every possible area for usable green space. Plant trees, shrubs, flowers in all median strips and along train lines."

"Urgent action is needed on preventing new housing developments from razing blocks and cutting down significant trees, which contributes to severe urban heat islands."

Influencing outcomes through the planning system

Another common concern was how new development within Monash could achieve improved sustainability outcomes. 'Knockdown rebuilds' were highlighted as a concern due to the perceived or observed removal of existing vegetation, with subsequent new homes having high site coverage and low surface permeability resulting in poor greening and stormwater outcomes (including use of fake grass).

The ability to influence sustainability outcomes of new buildings was also reported as an important issue, to support the inclusion of features such as solar panels, water tanks, efficient hot water, and green infrastructure.

“All new houses build must have [solar] panels, heat pump for hot water, no gas connection, a water tank for garden use.”

“Stop the state government from allowing new homes to cover so much of each block of land. It causes excess water run-off during heavy rain, there's no space to plant gardens or trees which add to heat retention and reduce local wildlife.”

Reducing financial barriers and support to vulnerable community members

Incentivising community to take action through financial support was highlighted in a number of ways including subsidies to undertake energy efficiency upgrades in the home, solar and battery bulk-buys, co-funding of solar panels for community groups who own their own facilities, free plants and food growing kits, grants for climate action in schools, and rate rebates (e.g. for greening on private land).

The limited control renters have in upgrading rental homes was raised, with suggestions that Council could play a role in facilitating the uptake of solar PV installation by landlords.

“Subsidise efficiency improvements for houses. E.G. double-glazed windows, insulation, canvas awnings, draft proofing etc. etc.”

“Provide incentives to landlords to have solar panels on rental properties. If the rental properties are a part of a body corporate, extend the incentives to owner occupied dwellings as well to make it more likely to be adapted within the whole property.”

Communication and engagement

Ongoing communication was also highlighted, with various ideas for engaging the community. Specific suggestions included an ongoing progress updates, profiling individuals and groups and their successes, and heavy promotion of priority topics (e.g. tree retention/planting).

Support to existing community groups, and for the establishment of new groups (e.g. an electrification group), was raised as an important way for those groups to help Council deliver on the plan's goals.

“Telling stories of individual and group action and success our community and about businesses contributing, providing jobs and benefiting would be welcome.”

“Support local community groups including neighbourhood houses, community centres, permaculture groups etc so that they can support your efforts more.”

A range of other topics, ideas, or opportunities were raised including:

- Increased promotion of existing initiatives/programs (e.g. the Tool Library).
- Sustainable transport (e.g. increased cycling infrastructure and electric vehicle charging stations).
- Supporting electrification (e.g. solar panels, community batteries).
- Advocacy to the State Government (e.g. planning reform; resources for adaptation and mitigation efforts).
- Sustainable procurements (e.g. local sourcing).
- Optimising Council land use / efficient use of Council facilities.
- Adequate resourcing for public realm management (e.g. open space and streetscape maintenance).

One respondent suggested that given the majority of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are from the community, the action plan may not sufficiently reflect this. We note that the draft action plan aims to balance the different roles in climate action – control, influence and concern. Acknowledging there is a limitation to Council’s level of influence on community emissions reduction, a strong focus remains on actions within Council’s direct control (e.g. emissions from Council operations), whilst also delivering support for the Monash community to reduce their GHG emissions.

A small number of responses (<5) opposed climate action or argued Council should focus elsewhere, however, these were a clear minority.

Refer to Appendix 1 for a copy the Shape Monash survey questions.

Targeted sessions and other feedback

Feedback received at in-person sessions, the online community webinar, and through other channels (e.g. via email) can be summarised as follows:

- Feedback aligned to the themes of Shape Monash survey regarding biodiversity, tree canopy cover, communication and engagement, financial and regulatory barriers to sustainable home upgrades, support for community to reduce GHG emissions, and Council influence over planning outcomes.
- Actions broadly relating to catchment-scale assessment of biodiversity and water quality, mapping, cross-functional coordination, establishment and protection of ecological corridors, and reforms to planning provisions/requirements to enhance water sensitive urban design and protection and enhancement of biodiversity and habitat connectivity.
- Comments regarding refinement of definitions, descriptions and other content in the plan to ensure clarity, ease of readability, alignment to other policy documents and the elevation of the importance of the environment.
- Suggestion for greater reference to and expansion upon the messages of the National Climate Risk Assessment and the need for urgency in climate action.
- Support and partnership opportunities for community and volunteer organisations in Monash.



How we will consider your feedback

We greatly appreciate the time and effort of those who provided feedback through this process. It has provided valuable insights for Council and the Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030.

The feedback received provides a snapshot of community sentiment towards the draft Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030, with over two-thirds of survey respondents rating the priority areas as 'Very Important'. Survey responses, written submissions, and feedback received at targeted sessions also showed areas of common concern or interest such as tree canopy and urban development.

Feedback received through the community engagement process will be considered to further to inform amendments to the draft plan. Such edits may include clarification through refinement of definitions or descriptions, or where appropriate, specific actions. These amendments will help shape an updated Climate Resilience Plan to be considered by Council for adoption.

Additionally, ideas raised may be useful during the implementation of the plan. These ideas may help shape how an action will be delivered (e.g. what, where or with who a specific community program might focus) and how Council can best engage with community.

Next steps

Council will consider community feedback to help us finalise the draft plan. The proposed Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030 is expected to be considered by Council for adoption at the May Council meeting.

Appendix 1

Shape Monash survey questions

1. How would you prefer to receive information to help you be more prepared for changes in our climate? (Multi choice)

- Monash Bulletin
- Monash Mail
- Look up information on Council's website
- Attend an information session
- Messages on social media
- Stop by a stall at a community event
- Get involved in group activities
- Programs at school
- Information at a business network
- Through my community group
- Information in a language other than English
- Other (please specify)

2. What topics are you most interested in? (Multi choice)

- Other (please specify)
- Climate change
- Sustainable gardening
- Biodiversity (plants and animals)
- Water
- Reducing home energy use and costs
- Installing solar panels and home batteries
- Electric vehicles
- Walking and cycling
- Reusing and repairing items
- Preparing for emergencies (such as floods, storms or heatwaves)
- Other (please specify)

3. How likely are you to participate in the following activities designed to support community climate resilience? (Rating of either Very Likely, Likely, Unlikely or Never)

- Growing my own food
- Gardening at home programs
- Community planting events
- Repair cafes and clothes swaps
- Home modifications to reduce home energy use including draught proofing, installing solar panels or a battery
- Borrow an item from the Library of Things (such as tools, kitchen appliances, energy efficiency kit)
- Information sessions on specific topics (such as buying an electric car, solar panels and batteries, nature strip planting, bicycle maintenance)

4. How important is it that Council does the following to support climate resilience? (Rating of either Very Important, Important, Slightly Important or Not Important)

- Governance and Partnerships: work together to ensure a coordinated response to climate impacts
- People and Communities: continue educating our community on climate resilience and emission reduction
- Places and Nature: protect and improve our natural places and spaces, enhance livability and biodiversity, and support community wellbeing
- Net Zero Operations and Circular Economy: continue to reduce Council emissions through efficient operations that avoid and minimise waste and promote reuse and repair
- Resilient Assets and Services: design and manage Council assets so they are more resilient to extreme weather events and a changing climate

5. Do you have any suggestions for other actions? (Free text comment box)

6. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Climate Resilience Plan? (Free text comment box)

7. Are there community groups or organisations you think we should partner with?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8. Which community group or organisations should we partner with? (Free text comment box)

9. Your age

- Younger than 19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70-74
- 75-79
- 80-84
- 85 and over
- Prefer not to say

10. Your gender

- Woman
- Man

- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

11. Do you identify as...

- A person with a disability, long-term health condition, or impairment that affects your daily activities
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- A person who speaks a secondary language other than English
- LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning or asexual)
- Living in insecure housing or experiencing homelessness
- None of the above
- Prefer not to say

12. What is your secondary language?

- Mandarin
- Cantonese
- Greek
- Sinhalese
- Hindi
- Vietnamese
- Tamil
- Italian
- Korean
- Punjabi
- Other

13. Suburb

- Ashwood
- Burwood
- Chadstone
- Clayton
- Glen Waverley
- Hughesdale
- Huntingdale
- Mount Waverley
- Mulgrave
- Notting Hill
- Oakleigh
- Oakleigh East
- Oakleigh South
- Wheelers Hill
- Other



14. Would you like to go in the draw to win 1 of 3 \$100 Monash Waste and Recycling Vouchers or 1 of 2 Free Home Energy Assessments?

- Yes
- No