




# MASTER ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

## Climate Action – Adaptation, Mitigation and Renewable Energy


Yarriambiack Shire Council is currently preparing its Master Environment Strategy. The Strategy will set a clear direction that we will use to guide our planning and decision-making to meet community expectations regarding environmental sustainability for the next 10 years. We are seeking your input on a range of matters, including climate action – adaptation, mitigation and renewable energy, to guide the development of this Strategy.

The effects of the change climate are being felt in Yarriambiack Shire, and these effects will continue to intensify. As the climate changes, the Shire faces increasing threats of various emergencies such as fire, extreme heat and flood. The maximum and minimum daily temperatures are expected to increase in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region while it is also expected that rainfall will decline, and extreme rainfall events will become more intense.

<p><b>Adaption</b></p> 	<p>Climate adaptation is critical to ensure Yarriambiack Shire prepares for and adjusts to the effects of a changing climate. One of the key climate threats facing the Shire are heatwaves, which are likely to become more intense and frequent. Some measures are already in place to help people address this risk in their own homes or find cool places during a heatwave. Council has a Heatwave Plan which aims to reduce illness and death caused by heatwaves and provide support and recovery assistance during heatwaves.</p>
<p><b>Mitigation</b></p> 	<p>The Victorian government has emission reduction targets of 75-80% below 2005 levels by 2035, and net zero by 2045. Yarriambiack Shire is committed to playing its part in mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing its emissions and supporting others to do the same. The first step to managing greenhouse gas emissions is to ensure that they are accurately measured and understood where they come from and how emissions from those sources can be reduced. This starts with Council measuring its emissions and then we can track reductions.</p>
<p><b>Energy</b></p> 	<p>The Victorian Government has a target of 65% of the State's electricity coming from renewable energy sources by 2030, and 95% by 2035. There is one operating wind farm in the Shire and several more on the drawing board. There is clear potential for more windfarms in the Shire, however these are reliant on upgrades to grid infrastructure such as interconnectors. Council's role is to identify how it can best capitalise on the energy transition for the benefit of its community.</p> <p>Council can save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by installing rooftop solar, improving the energy efficiency of its facilities and considering battery power at its sites. Council has already installed solar at some sites, and has been looking at community battery programs. Members of the community can also support emissions reduction efforts and save on energy costs by pursuing renewable energy opportunities. Council will also need to replace its vehicle fleet over time with zero emission vehicles to reduce and eventually eliminate its transport emissions.</p>

**Goal**

Work towards net zero emissions and enhance community resilience in the face of a changing climate.



- Actions**
- Educate the community about how they can reduce their emissions, how to be more climate resilient and how they can make the most of renewable energy opportunities.
  - Undertake additional emergency management planning and ensure infrastructure is well equipped to handle the increased stress of more extreme events.
  - Identify key risks posed to the Shire by climate change. Start measuring, tracking and reporting Council's emissions and use this as a basis to set realistic emission reduction targets.
  - Facilitate transport emission reductions by investigating the provision of charging stations and opportunities to transition Council's fleet to low emissions vehicles.
  - Investigate how Council and the community can capitalise on the energy transition.

Complete the survey online by scanning the QR Code

