

## **Content for community consultation brochure**

We all enjoy and have enormous pride in our beautiful beaches, pristine waters and unspoilt natural bushland. It's an important part of our local identity. The local environment is one of the key reasons we live here and why others like to come and visit.

We all have an important role in protecting these natural assets to make sure our children and grandchildren can experience the idyllic lifestyle and surroundings that we currently enjoy.

But there are challenges ahead as our climate changes. These changes are likely to have an impact on our lifestyle, our natural environment, our towns and the local economy. Creating an environment that is sustainable into the future is more important than ever.

Every one of us can help shape a more sustainable future. The choices we make each day at home, at work or school, on holidays or while out and about in the community will affect the level of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.

Therefore, we all have a responsibility to reduce the emissions we produce. There are lots of ways to live a greener life. Some simple actions could include;

- Switching to energy efficient lighting;
- Walking, riding or taking the bus rather than using private transport;
- Growing your own vegetables;
- Starting a compost bin or worm farm; and
- Reusing or recycling everything you can.

While these activities may seem minor, when we all act together, it makes a tangible difference.

And now is the time to take action. Research tells us our current behaviours – particularly burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas – are contributing to the changes in our climate.

These changes will bring higher temperatures, less rainfall and more frequent storms and droughts. Storm surges and a rise in sea level can also be expected.

While this is a global issue, it is also one that requires action from everyone, every community, every organisation. Council is already making changes within its operations to reduce emissions including;

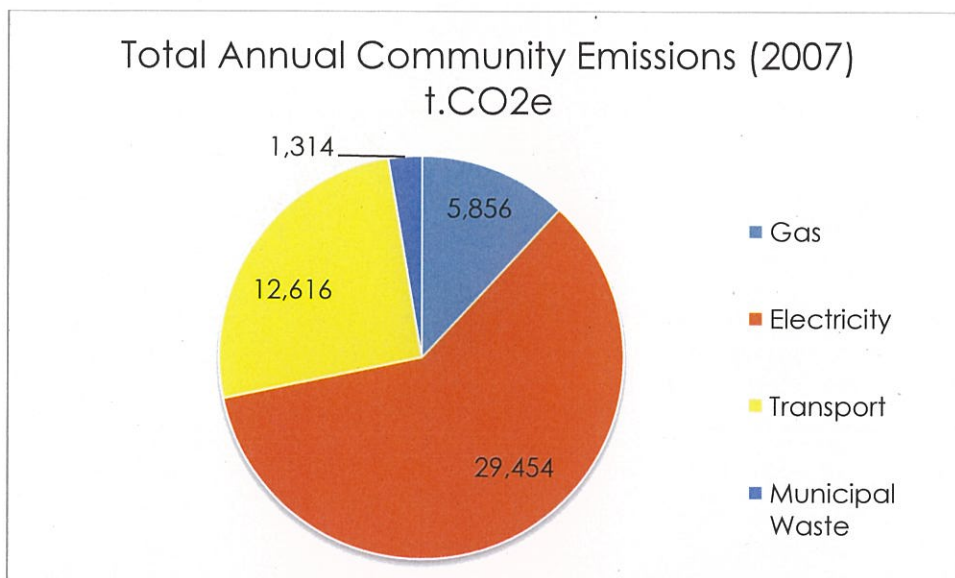
- Installing solar lighting;
- upgrading to energy efficient lighting in our buildings;
- trialling energy efficient lamps in street lights; and
- buying 100% GreenPower for our caravan parks.

With Council's journey towards a greener future well underway, it is time to look at how our community can reduce its emissions.

### **What are community emissions?**

These emissions are generated by the electricity and gas that is used in our residential, commercial and industrial sectors. It also includes emissions from vehicles and waste going to landfill.

In 2007, the Borough community generated 49,251 tonnes of carbon emissions. Electricity usage (60%) and transport (25%) were the highest emitters followed by natural gas (12%) and waste (3%).



*Figures sourced from Department of Sustainability and Environment*

#### **QUICK FACTS**

- Commercial properties (retail shops, hotels, offices, rental properties) are the highest users of electricity and gas per site

#### **Electricity**

- 2,758 residential properties consumed 55% of electricity
- 226 commercial properties used 43% of electricity

#### **Transport**

- 2,360 passenger cars registered in the Borough emitted 64% of total transport emissions

#### **Gas**

- 2,232 residential customers generated 78% of total gas emissions.
- Average consumption per commercial customer is five times the average consumption of a residential customer.

#### **Waste**

- Includes waste sent to landfill from the weekly kerbside service, the annual hard waste collection and tri-annual green waste collections.

#### **How can we reduce community emissions?**

To get started on reducing emissions, a community action plan is now being prepared. Members of the community and Council officers have worked with a consultant to develop the draft plan, which includes 45 potential initiatives that will help us work towards being carbon neutral by 2020. Carbon neutral is where emissions are effectively reduced to zero through a combination of reducing energy consumption, using renewable energy and offsetting the remaining emissions.

## **How will the plan be delivered?**

Council cannot create a carbon neutral community on its own. We need the support and involvement of our residents, businesses, schools and community groups to achieve this goal.

To this end, we shall establish a sustainability alliance that will be responsible for delivering initiatives from the final community action plan. The alliance will bring our community together in a coordinated campaign against climate change and build upon the experiences and knowledge of existing environmental groups.

To ensure everyone is represented, alliance members will be drawn from across the community. Each member will execute an initiative from the final plan that is within their area of expertise. For example, a local real estate agent may take the lead role in delivering an initiative to reduce emissions from holiday rentals.

Council's role will be to facilitate the alliance, promote its activities and secure funding to undertake projects. Council will also deliver a small number of activities from the plan.

Alliance members will meet quarterly to report on their progress and the community will be kept abreast of progress via Council's website, the rates newsletter and presentations to Council meetings.

## **We invite your feedback**

Council is seeking your comments and feedback on the proposed initiatives in the draft plan. In particular, we want you to prioritise the activities you believe should be undertaken during the new Council term of 2013 to 2017.

Please review the initiatives listed in this document and number your top 10 priorities in order of importance from 1 – 10 (1 being your top priority). The initiatives target four areas – energy, transport, waste and general. The placement of initiatives on the list is not an indication of importance.

By completing this task, you will be helping to frame an action plan to reduce community emissions in the next few years.

## **How to provide your feedback**

You can provide your feedback a number of ways including;

- Through the post to PO Box 93, Queenscliff 3225;
- Calling into Council's offices at 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff; or
- Online at [www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au)

## **Want more information?**

You can learn more about the action plan and how you can get involved by dropping in to a listening post in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale as follows;

Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House	3 Tobin Drive	10.30am-12.30pm
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Queenscliff	Field Park in Hesse Street (in between the Post Office & Library)	10.30am-12.30pm
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Point Lonsdale	Outside IGA Supermarket	1.30pm-3.30pm
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> , January 2013	Queenscliff	Field Park in Hesse Street (in between the Post Office & Library)	10.30am-12.30pm
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Point Lonsdale	Outside IGA Supermarket	1.30pm-3.30pm

The deadline for feedback is Friday, 1 February 2013.

## ENERGY

- Assist residents to measure their own household energy usage by providing home energy assessment kits on loan through Council offices.
- Acknowledge the actions of residents and businesses who have installed solar panels and solar hot water systems by;
  - Providing homes and businesses with a small sticker/sign promoting their actions to reduce emissions
  - Promoting the total number of homes and businesses within the Borough using solar energy
- Investigate opportunities for a bulk-buy program for solar hot water, solar panels and water tanks.
- Provide residents in long-term rental properties with information on how to improve energy efficiencies.
- Explore funding opportunities to conduct research into the levels of energy usage in empty homes.
- Provide residents with information/fact sheets on the installation of solar panels for their homes.
- Acknowledge the actions of residents and businesses using 100% Green Power by;
  - providing homes and businesses with a small sticker/sign promoting their actions to reduce emissions
  - promoting the total number of homes and businesses within the Borough using 100% Green Power.
- Purchase 100% Green Power for the Point Lonsdale Christmas Tree and promote action to the wider community.
- Publicise the total amounts of energy and water used by the Borough community and the associated carbon emissions.
- Develop a Council policy to ensure all providers of recharge points for electric vehicles source 100% Green Power.
- Investigate opportunities for the bulk-buy of Green Power for Borough residents and businesses.
- Provide users of community buildings with information on becoming net producers of electricity through energy efficiency measures and the installation of solar panels.
- Provide residents, businesses and caravan park users with information/fact sheets on how GreenPower is created and audited and its environmental benefits.

## TRANSPORT

- Continue to upgrade bicycle pathways throughout the Borough and introduce bicycle infrastructure at suitable locations.
- Encourage and support businesses to establish a bicycle hire program at prominent tourist locations across the Borough.
- Publicise usage figures from public transport and community bus transport by Borough residents and visitors.
- Promote and encourage public transport options to residents and visitors
- Support and promote a local Walking School Bus for school students.
- Continue to support the delivery of a high quality taxi service for Borough residents and visitors
- Investigate opportunities to introduce a shared car scheme for Borough residents.
- Investigate opportunities to introduce and administer a car pool scheme that enables residents to book seats via the internet and telephone.
- Develop a Council policy ensuring that major event organisers in the Borough work with public transport providers to include free public transport from Melbourne and Geelong for event ticket holders.
- Establish a travel awards program encouraging residents to walk, cycle, take public transport or car pool for at least one trip more than usual per week.
- Advocate for the development of a bicycle path between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale



## WASTE

- Continue working with the City of Greater Geelong to locate a suitable long term disposal site for green waste that would enable the introduction of a kerbside green waste bin for Borough residents.
- Design and deliver an education program to divert recyclables from landfill by increasing residents' knowledge of items that can be put in kerbside recycling bins
- Establish a register of the amounts of waste and recycling generated by the Borough community.
- Investigate the feasibility of disposing of green waste within the Borough and providing residents with compost material for use on gardens.
- Investigate the establishment of a program for the collection and distribution of excess food from local restaurants and cafes to charities.
- Increase community skills in establishing and managing 'at home' composting and worm farming to assist in diversion of organics from landfill.

## GENERAL

- Provide residents with information to reduce water usage in the home and at work
- Inform residents and businesses of rebate programs for energy, solar hot water and water saving products
- Advocate actions taken by the Borough community in working towards carbon neutrality using the following tools;
  - signage
  - posters/ stickers
  - Council website (case studies)
  - newsletters/fliers
- Develop a behaviour change program for users at domestic holiday homes and initiate a 'Sustainable Holiday House' awards.
- Continue to investigate the establishment of a Sustainability Hub incorporating;
  - a building showcasing environmental sensitive design and operation
  - a community vegetable garden
- Support local primary schools to monitor their greenhouse gas emissions and increase student awareness of environmental issues.
- Support local farmer's markets by providing stallholders with relevant information and advice on selling produce/products.
- Continue to engage with regional bodies including Future Proofing Geelong and neighbouring councils to;
  - Advocate for changes to policies, laws and programs to enable the Borough community to reduce its carbon footprint;
  - Investigate opportunities to establish project partnerships.
- Promote home vegetable gardens by supplying residents with free seeds and seedlings.
- Improve the operational sustainability of a local tourism event and use this event as a key community engagement activity.
- Establish an awards program involving local businesses that provides residents who can demonstrate carbon neutrality (eg. using 100% Green Power) with a local shopping discount card for purchases at participating businesses and events.
- Encourage the inclusion of environmentally sustainable design features in building developments by creating and distributing fact sheets on solar hot water, solar panels, rain water tanks, grey water systems, window glazing etc.
- Consider the introduction of fruit trees at appropriate locations within existing parks and reserves.
- Provide information to the community vegetable garden on requirements for supplying locally grown produce to local supermarkets and residents.
- Investigate the establishment of a program for residents to share garden equipment and hand-tools.