

Climate Action Grant 2022 Round 3 Program Summary



Empowering our community to reduce emissions Successful Applicants of Climate Action Grant Round 3

The Climate Action Grants Program was developed to support projects that help reach our Climate Emergency targets, as outlined in our [Climate Emergency Plan](#). The second round of the grants was open 13 July – 12 September. Twenty-three applications were received from a range of community groups, schools and small businesses.

A total of \$86,486 was awarded to 15 community-led initiatives.

Crib Point Primary School – Sustainable Bush Tucker and Native Garden \$5,000

Create an indigenous garden and have the students actively involved in this process to further enhance their understanding of indigenous local plants. We are hoping to consult with Willum Warrain and have their support in choosing appropriate local plants. We would like to develop a bush tucker garden, and in turn, teaching our students how they can use the various edible plants. We would like to add a small water tank so that we can teach our students about the important aspect of harvesting rainwater and the impact that this can have on their environment.

Benefits:

- Connection of students to Indigenous Culture and Practices
- Water tanks to capture rainwater, resulting in reduced mains water use
- Increased carbon sequestration through indigenous plantings

Flinders Christian Community College – New Internal Primary Bins System \$5,164

We are seeking help to purchase new bins for our Primary classrooms, which will help communicate the difference between our waste, paper, and mixed recyclables bins. The College's goal in this project is to reduce the amount of landfill and increase the amount of recycling at the College.

Benefits:

- Increased community awareness of circular economy
- Reduced waste to landfill

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Flinders Zero Carbon Community – Community Engagement Program

Funding allocated: \$3,000

FZCC has recently received a 'Flinders Community Battery Feasibility Report' from Yarra Energy Foundation, commissioned through funding from DELWP. The report indicates that a community battery is feasible and outlines various pathways to delivery. A major recommendation is to implement a comprehensive Community Engagement Program. This project will achieve this. Furthermore, FZCC is in the process of incorporating as an Association in its own right and a website will be essential for providing information about programs including funding pathways and enabling program facilitation.

Benefits:

- Community members will understand more about the benefits of a Flinders community battery as well as a pathway for battery coverage for the whole town.
- Greater engagement with the community regarding community energy initiatives

Hastings Primary – Waste Management Sorting Activity

\$4,225

We are wanting to bring waste sorting facilities to our school. We have noticed how much organic waste and soft plastics are in our school every day and want to bring a change into our community regarding these waste products.

Benefits:

- Increased community awareness of circular economy
- Reduced waste to landfill
- Reduced carbon emissions through reduction of food waste to landfill

Mornington Secondary – Wetlands Restoration Project

Funding allocated: \$4,617

The Mornington Secondary College Wetlands restoration project is a collaborative, whole community initiative that will be utilised by many students and enjoyed by residents of the Mornington Peninsula Shire

Benefits:

- Increased resilience of natural systems by restoring habitat and allowing local flora and fauna to thrive within the designated area. Seeing a return of local species that have been moved out of residential areas due to the clearing of important ecological vegetation classes.
- Increased awareness of cultural heritage and connection to land and waters.

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Mt Eliza Secondary College – Think Globally, Act Locally

Funding allocated: \$4,798

Improving knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours around reducing waste, recycling and repurposing

Benefits:

- Reduced waste to landfill, less litter pollution, staff and students will be more aware of recycling and more willing to reuse, recycle and reduce waste.

Red Hill Consolidated School – Solar Project.

Funding allocated: \$10,000

Installation of solar panels to reduce the school's dependency on fossil fuels.

Benefits:

- Reduced carbon emissions, education opportunity for students

RePower Mornington Peninsula Inc. – Repower Satellite Group Development

Funding allocated: \$4,577

To further the initial work of the Repower Core Group by driving the further establishment of Repower satellite groups across all postcodes on the Mornington Peninsula to allow committed locals to lead the transition to renewables and promote decarbonisation within their specific communities. This grant will fund marketing and promotional materials to allow the Repower core team to host in situ community events to inform, educate and unite postcode-based residents and thereby recruit community members to join the two satellite group that are already established.

Benefits:

- Supporting formation of community energy initiatives

St Josephs Catholic Primary School – Climate Action through Water Stewardship and Habitat Creation

Funding allocated: \$3,500

Water Stewardship actions including an audit of the current water capture and storage on site because the tanks aren't functioning. The school would like to use them to irrigate garden beds and flush prep and junior toilets. St Joseph's is in the process of becoming a water steward through the international Water Stewardship standard process. This project would assist in achieving several of the actions identified as being necessary to improve water conservation and preservation. Planting for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and water stewardship. This aspect of the project has been designed to reduce and prevent erosion from runoff from top of school towards the wetlands, and to reduce water pooling and boggy areas around oval. Project would address some of the needs school has identified to improve sustainability practices and value for biodiversity, including water capture, storage and recycling, planting for water management and habitat, as well as the carbon sequestration benefits of planting.

Benefits:

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St Marys Primary School – Connecting to Country for Culture, Biodiversity, and Water Stewardship

Funding Allocated: \$7,113

This project aims to take climate action by focussing on conserving water, increasing habitat for biodiversity and connecting the school community to the local environment. Students will be engaged throughout with activities in the wetlands, helping with planting and learning about climate action. St Mary's has committed to creating a Water Stewardship plan and aim to meet the Water Stewardship standard through water capture and storage, planting to reduce water pooling, and creation of wetlands to create habitat for frogs and other aquatic species.

Benefits:

- Increased resilience of natural systems including greater connectivity.
- Permanent water source with pump to water vegetable gardens. Use of innovative technology: The underground tank is only 760L but is of a special design that allows it to capture ground water as well as rainwater coming through the wetlands.
- Increased resilience of natural systems including greater connectivity
- Indigenous fauna supported with creation of habitat and wildlife corridor to move through.
- Erosion and water logging issues mitigated.
- Increased awareness of cultural heritage and connection to land and waters

Saltbush Balnarring Beach – Project Zero Gas - Hot Water System Replacements

Funding allocated: \$10,000

Saltbush would like to install three electric heat pump hot water systems and become a gas-free site, reducing our carbon footprint and providing an example of climate action for our local community. Our solar panels will power the heat pump hot water systems.

Benefits:

- Reduced carbon emissions through the removal of all gas systems
- Becoming a gas-free site, and be able to share our project with the community through social media/newsletters/communications to encourage the community to make carbon neutral changes where possible

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Sorrento Golf Club – Food waste – Circular Economy

Funding allocated: \$10,000

Invest in a Soil Food dehydration system to process over 10,000kg of food waste per year and transform into fertilizer for golf course and surrounds.

Benefits:

- Reduced food waste to landfill, create fertiliser to be used onsite

The Revillaging Project

\$6,062

The project seeks to create a community composting system that will be at the heart of a no-till, regenerative, family-focused educational farm that works in permacultural harmony with the Tootgarook Wetland and the Landcare initiatives there. The project will fund a large-scale worm farm. This will be open for the community and local businesses to use as a tool to recycle their own food waste.

Benefits:

- The project seeks to create a community composting system that will be at the heart of a no-till, regenerative, family-focused educational farm that works in permacultural harmony with the Tootgarook Wetland and the Landcare initiatives there.
- The project will fund a large-scale worm farm. This will be open for the community and local businesses to use as a tool to recycle their own food waste.

Toorak College – Indigenous Revegetation Project and Creation of Native Fauna Sanctuary

Funding allocated: \$1,500

This project will remove invasive vegetation species at our school and replace with entirely indigenous plant species. The renovated and revegetated area will be designed to maximize carbon capture, revegetate responsibly and sustainably and create a safe habitat in an effort to attract local fauna through the implementation of bird boxes.

Benefits:

- Carbon sequestration, increased resilience of indigenous flora and fauna through landscape connectivity

Wool 2 Yarn – Textile Waste Circularity

Funding allocated: \$6,930

This project will reconstitute textile waste fibres into spun yarn, knitwear and other fibre fill products without the use of water and chemicals.

Benefits:

- Expediate full scale production of unwanted textiles and prevent them from ending up in landfill