

Climate Action Grant 2022 Program Summary



Empowering our community to reduce emissions - Successful Applicants of Climate Action Grant Round 2

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 Monday 7 Feb - Friday 18 March. Thirty applications were received from a range of community groups, schools and small businesses.

A total of \$142,315 was awarded to 19 community-led initiatives.

Balnarring Primary School – Balnarring and Balbirooroo Indigenous Education Funding allocated: \$10,000.00

Project funding to be used to add indigenous plants to the school, along with information about the plants and their uses. The project aims to teach children and the community about the significance of indigenous plants and their connection to First Nation Peoples with a guided tour of the Balnarring Community Wetlands, narrated by students, to provide an asynchronous, educational online tour that can be enjoyed by any community member at any time.

Benefits: Indigenous planting will create habitat for local native fauna and improve biodiversity. Students will develop cultural awareness of the land, plants and their traditional uses through the creation of the self-guided tour. This tour will increase community cultural awareness and result in greater visitation to the Balbirooroo wetlands.

bfe hire – Reduce Carbon Output \$10,000.00

Installing solar panels, batteries and invertors to the food van to operate without the use of a generator.

Benefits: This project will reduce the carbon output of a food van. It currently uses 40lt of fuel a week to run generators for approximately 35 hours which creates around 5000kg of carbon a year. Installation of solar panels and other equipment will reduce this carbon output.

Bittern Pre-School – Vegetables for Vision- Little People, Big Responsibility. \$5,000.00

Project includes creating a raised garden bed to grow vegetables for the community and add an additional solar powered pump system for the rainwater tank.

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Benefits:

- Give children an understanding of where food comes from. Awareness establishes the start of healthy questioning and choices.
- Achieving food supply in a sustainable, low carbon emissions and planet friendly manner: Helping the children to develop healthy connections to food, sourcing it and growing it in a sustainable way.
- Encourage families to participate and continue the rewards of growing their own produce: Spread the awareness to the community.
- Understanding power (solar pump), the impact it has on the planet and how to mindfully reduce human impact on the planet: Choosing wiser energy sources.
- The value of sharing and providing for those in need in a community: sharing excess produce and creating less waste.

eMPower Community Decarbonisation Inc. – Community Decarbonisation Education and Engagement Strategy **\$10,000.00**

To create a peninsula-wide series of satellite groups with a focus on Awareness, Education, Consideration and Action to empower them to take a local, informed, community driven response to decarbonising energy use.

Benefits:

- Greater community understanding of the need for climate action
- Strong community leadership driving local climate action
- Renewable energy options tailored to specific local area needs
- Reduction in both home and business energy consumption through efficiency measures
- Increased take-up of rooftop solar for homes, non-profit organisations, and commercial premises
- Reduction in fossil fuel-based transport and heating with transition away from household gas and greater uptake of electric vehicles.
- Increased capacity for electricity storage across the Peninsula, including both domestic and larger scale batteries.
- Renewable energy sharing opportunities for residents without the capacity to install their own solar panels.
- Annual reduction in CO₂ emissions across postcode areas where action is being taken.

Grow Corp – Farm Solar Installation **\$5,000.00**

A regenerative farming collective where small scale farmers lease land to run their own enterprises, all with the shared vision of regenerating the land. Phase one of this project is to install solar on the shed to support current operations on site.

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Benefits: This project will deliver one main outcome in phase one: to be operationally powered by 100% renewable energy by 2025. Phase two will enable a more powerful narrative that allows for increased energy production and distribution of this excess to the local community and ideally to those in low socioeconomic situations. Finally, our goals is to track our journey, share this with others and encourage them to adopt a similar model for their own circumstances.

Hickinbotham of Dromana – Regeneration of Native Open Woodland \$10,000.00

Project includes treating the soil by mulching, and planting 1500 indigenous plants including ground covers, shrubs and trees. The project will initiate a cold burn to the 'Land for Wildlife' block in stages, to improve the diversity and assist in the removal of various weed species.

Benefits:

- Improved biodiversity, reduced fuel load, enhanced habitat value and reduction in weed species.
- Carbon sequestration from installation of 1500 plants
- Community awareness of benefits of cool burn
- Increased landscape connectivity
- Better shading of ground and livestock, reduced wind damage,
- Soils will be improved in organic matter

Mornington Men's Shed Inc – LED Powered Work Sheds \$4,613.00

To purchase and install a large set of high technology LED based lights to replace fluorescent and filament-based lighting systems.

Benefits:

By reducing our electricity usage by over 75% with fully applied LED lighting, we will reduce the amount of electricity used. This will result in reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide generated.

Mornington Rotary Club – Active Transport Map of Mornington \$3,500.00

This project is to produce a map in printed and digital format to encourage the use of existing and proposed safe walking and riding paths in Mornington and to neighbouring townships of Mt Eliza and Mt Martha. The map will show existing, and proposed, safe walking and cycling paths connecting major community destinations.

Benefits:

- Our community, and especially students, will be more likely to walk or ride rather than drive because they are more aware of safe options.

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- Will provide a model for other regions of the Mornington Peninsula to encourage active transport
- Reduced transport emissions

Mt Eliza Fifty-Five Plus Club – Replace Non-Compliant Electric Hot Water Storage Unit

\$6,600.00

The project scope is to replace the existing hot water service with a heat pump option and upgrade to a higher amp circuit.

Benefits:

- Reduced power consumption and costs
- Reduced carbon emissions

Mount Eliza North Primary School – Waste Sorting

\$5,000.00

This project will be a school and wider community educational program, promoting behavioural change by installing the necessary infrastructure such as bins, signage and education to reduce waste and ensure that all waste is correctly sorted, aiming for zero waste.

Benefits:

- Sorting of compost, paper, soft plastics and e-waste will be made easier with the provision of bins
- Signage throughout the school will educate both students and the wider community on waste sorting principles
- Opportunities for student leadership will be enhanced through students educating their peers and the wider community

Net Zero Heroes Incorporated – Establishing Net Zero Heroes Inc: Pilot Community Renewable Energy Project

\$2,200.00

This project will initiate building and energy efficient testing and reporting with local youth housing community organisation Fusion Mornington Peninsula. NZH is looking to reduce carbon-based energy use by undertaking a specific Community Renewable Energy (CoRE) pilot project.

Benefits:

- A business case for installing solar PV panels at the FMP site will be developed including making solar available without upfront outlay

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- A range of effective complementary energy-saving initiatives, upgrades and energy/emissions reduction technologies will be identified

Padua College, Mornington – Indigenous Plant Revegetation Corridor and Meeting Space Project

\$10,000.00

The project seeks to restore our ecosystems with interpretative indigenous plant identification trails, bush tucker and an indigenous meeting place surrounded by indigenous plants that will be a practical project to sequester carbon, and also increase flood resilience, provide a habitat corridor for native animals and mitigate the effects of erosion and land degradation on the site.

Benefits:

- The project will develop cultural awareness and a greater understanding of our indigenous plants by providing an avenue for the Aboriginal people on the school's board to work with students in connecting with country.
- Students can take positive action regarding climate change through participating in the plantings
- Students will learn about climate change mitigation by measuring the current carbon in trees and seeing an increase in total carbon being captured over time through their plantings.

Polperro Dolphin Swims & Charter Service Pty Ltd – Cool Changes

\$8,015.00

1. Education and Inspiration: Whole day free workshops including a bay tour and visits to local sites to discuss and demonstrate potential impacts of climate change including coastal erosion, rising sea levels and alterations to the marine ecosystem.
2. Action: Participants will undertake climate actions that educate the wider community about climate change and develop and implement a community-based climate action that showcases strategies that mitigates or allows adaptation to climate change.

Benefits:

- Enhanced community understanding of the local impacts of climate change
- Opportunity for local Aboriginal organisations to offer their perspective on the importance of land and water and climate change.
- Participating schools will embed climate change and actions into their curriculum and inform their wider community about local climate issues.
- Community groups will include climate change action in their strategic documents and develop further information sessions for their wider community
- Opportunity for local environmental groups to showcase their programs and develop partnerships.

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- Participating schools/organisation will feel empowered through undertaking a community-based action program that informs the wider community about local climate issues and the need for action and either mitigates or encourages adaptation to climate change
- Increased community resilience.

Rye Community House – Rye Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle \$10,000.00

Establish a Repair Cafe alongside developing a philosophy and practice within the House of educating community about reducing waste and landfill, auditing our practices to establish how we can reduce waste both within the house, with those who participate in the House and the general community using a community engagement approach and audit tools to raise awareness and implement waste reduction practices.

Benefits:

- Reduced rubbish put in our rubbish bins and those of our members
- Reduce the amount of goods that are thrown out instead of looking at the possibilities for repair
- Increase the awareness of our members and the general community including families attending occasional care and playgroups about the need for and strategies to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle

Southern Seagreens P/L – Establishment of Seaweed Reproduction Nursery (Lab) \$10,000.00

We propose to develop an aquaculture hatchery within the Dromana Industrial Park, to enable the controlled reproduction of native species seed lines, ready for transfer to aquaculture sites within Port Phillip and Westernport Bay. Aquaculture scientists at the University of Melbourne and University of Tasmania have agreed to support the set-up and monitoring of the project.

Benefits:

The establishment of the R&D hatchery is expected provide a collaborative focal point for the creation of a regenerative seaweed industry on the Mornington Peninsula similar to successful communities that have developed on the NE and NW coasts of America.

Somerville Primary School – Waste Sorting Facility \$9,690.00

The activity is to develop a waste sorting area where community can drop waste items for students to sort and recycle to reduce landfill waste in our community and accurate sorting of waste materials. Funding will purchase waste sorting bins, equipment for waste sorting, composting equipment and resources to establish a waste sorting zone within our school.

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Benefits:

- Students engage with waste sorting education.
- School community is engaged in waste education.
- Installation of composting system.
- 70% reduction in frequency of landfill bin collection
- Reduction in contamination of co-mingled recycling bins through educating the community.
- 100% diversion of food waste ending up in landfill through SubPod composting systems.

St Joseph's Primary School Sorrento – Fire Carrier Program, Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity Values in Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Environments.

\$2,500.00

The project includes a Fire Carrier program to develop cultural awareness and connection to land and waters, Indigenous culture and practices with an indigenous speaker to highlight how the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people cared for and managed the land and environment. Indigenous plants will be grown and used in conservation work and plantings with the Nepean Conservation Group Inc. to enhance biodiversity values in the coastal and terrestrial environment and increase animal habitats and food sources.

Benefits:

- This project will develop cultural awareness, contribute to the reduction of carbon dioxide and increase carbon stored.
- Students will work with the Nepean Conservation Group on planting activities

Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation – Water Stewardship and Blue Carbon in Schools: Reducing Impact on Waterways Through the Catchment

\$10,000.00

To design and deliver a pilot program into schools to teach students about human impact on water catchments from source to estuary and to raise awareness of the Mornington Peninsula as part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, its Ramsar status for migratory shorebirds, and blue carbon ecosystems and their importance in the face of climate change. To provide an in-depth program to fully immerse the students in these concepts and provide skills in environmental (water) auditing, project/action planning and land conservation and restoration.

Benefits:

- By raising awareness of the Mornington Peninsula as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Ramsar zone, students will learn about the significance of the area from an ecological perspective.
- By overlaying this with learning about human impact on hydrological systems, the impacts of a changing climate, and affecting positive change through interventions such as indigenous planting schemes, ponds and frog bogs, swales, rainwater capture,

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students would feel empowered in the face of degraded landscapes and climate impacts.

- Increased resilience of natural systems to impacts of climate change: By working with students to implement some of the water stewardship actions, school grounds would be enhanced to support wetland wildlife, providing important habitats for species threatened by climate change and land degradation.
- Enhanced biodiversity values in coastal and terrestrial environments: Biodiversity value of school grounds will be enhanced through implementation of Water Stewardship actions.
- Providing students with scientific knowledge and skills in blue carbon ecosystems is the starting point for understanding the importance of these areas for biodiversity and climate change mitigation, fostering conservationists of the future.

YSAS Pty Ltd (operating as Bunjilwarra) – Solar System Project \$10,000.00

Installation of a solar package consisting of 54 panels to reduce carbon emissions and to educate residents and staff of best practice relating to the efficient use of energy. Solar power can support our cultural place providing a sustainable energy resource that allows Bunjilwarra to facilitate cultural programs and projects which further minimises our cultural footprint on country.

Benefits:

Our expected include:

- Reduced carbon emissions through increased energy efficiency by using the power of the sun's energy to power all of our facilities.
- Education of Aboriginal youth accessing the Bunjilwarra service. Youth will be better informed on green energy solutions and best practice relating to the efficient use of energy.